ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the outset, my head leans bound in front of Almighty God. I am grateful to Him that my research work is under the kind guidance of my supervisors and I express my most sincere gratitude to my respected supervisors, Prof. Buddhadeb Chaudhuri, Honourary Member of IUAES and Retd. Dr. Ambedkar Chair Professor in Anthropology, Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India, and Dr. Samar Kumar Biswas Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of North Bengal for their constant guidance, valuable suggestions, inspirations and constructive advices during my research period. Without their loving care, meticulous guidance and priceless supervision, it would have not been possible for me to bring this research work to the present shape. I also express my profound sense of gratitude to Dr. Madam Sumita Chaudhuri, Retd. UGC Research Scientist, Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata. From them I have learnt true research and lesson of honest academic study. I shall ever remain grateful to them throughout my life. I am extremely grateful to the Honourable Vice Chancellor Sir of Assam University Silchar, Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor Sir, Administration of Assam University Silchar, Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (I/C) Sir of Assam University Diphu Campus Prof. Amalesh Bhowal, Prof. Vinay Kumar Srivastava Sir, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Delhi, Prof. B.K. Medhi Sir, Dept. of Anthropology, Gauhati University, Prof. Bani Prasanna Mishra Sir of University of North Bengal, Prof. Tapodhir Bhattacharjee Sir, Dept. of Bengali Assam University Silchar, Prof. Anil Bhuimali Sir of Dept. of Economics University of North Bengal, Prof. Niloy Roy, Principal of Hoogly Mohsin college, Prof. Scott Simon, University of Ottawa, Canada, for their academic inspiration in different phases of my life.

I am grateful to my respected teachers of Department of Anthropology, University of North Bengal for permitting me to conduct the research work and for their every possible co-operation. I am extremely grateful to the University of North Bengal for providing me the Junior Research Fellowship and Senior Research Fellowship during the tenure of July 2007-May 2010 and for give me the permission to access the academic resource of library as well as all sorts of academic and administrative support to conduct the research work smoothly. I am extremely grateful to the Documentation officer Sri. Ajay Mishra of Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal for his all sorts of academic co-operation to me.
I express my sincere thanks to the people of Balasan Colony whom I approached for several helps to conduct my research work. My special thanks are also due to Sri. Bijoy Krishna Roy, Sri. Phanibhusan Roy, Sri. Jaguna Barman, Sri. Jotin Barman, Sri. Ashis Das for their valuable assistance and cooperation during my research work.

I keenly express my thanks to my research scholar friends, Binay Kumar Patel Rajib Biswas, Biswanath Gan, Ganesh Ch. Mallik, Dibakar Chowdhury of University of North Bengal for their generous assistance and co-operation in my research work.

I also express my gratitude to Dr. Palash C. Coomar, Directorate of Census Operation Government of India, Dr. Prasenjit Debarman, Director of Cultural Research Institute, CRI, Kolkata, for their kind assistance, suggestion and continuous inspiration during the course of my research work.

No word is enough to pay my deepest sense of gratitude to my father, Sri Tapan Kumar Bhattacharjee my mother, Smt. Jaya Bhattacharjee, all my cousins, my respected school teachers, Sri. Soumen德拉 Prasad Ghosh, Sri. Ranjan Bhattacharjee, Sri. Sukdev Nath and specially to my friend Alakesh Roy, Avik Dey for their contribution to my career building and constant encouragement during my research work.

Their inspiration went a long way to the completion of my research work.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not express my deep sense of gratitude to my parents-in-law, Smt. Monomita Roy and Mr. Dilip Kumar Roy for their constant encouragement during my research work.

Finally, I would be amiss if I do not mention the contributions of my wife Mrs. Raka Bhattacharjee Roy because her ceaseless inspiration, whole-hearted cooperation and every possible support helped me to complete the research work. In every moment of this work during completion I am energised with the sweet smile of my cute little son Diptarko Bhattacharjee.

\[\text{Somenath Bhattacharjee}\]