ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am extremely grateful to the Centre for the Study of Regional Development which gave me an opportunity to work under the guidance of Dr. Murali Dhar Vemuri who inspite of his busy schedule supervised my work thoroughly. His valuable advice helped me to develop the ideas of research methodology. His constant guidance and timely help in all aspects, academic as well as non-academic, ensured that I encountered no obstacles in the course of writing this thesis. I am grateful to his generous support which has led to the successful completion of this work.

I also thank to Ashutosh Bose Roy, library staff, Institute of Local Government and Urban Studies, Calcutta and Sailendra Pal, librarian, Calcutta Municipal Corporation and to all the library staff of Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi for their assistance during the collection of references. I am also greatful to all the persons who helped me during the survey work in the slums of Calcutta.

My special thanks are due to Minati Ghosh, Deputy Registrar General, Mahesh Ram, Research Officer, Map Division, ORGI, New Delhi, and to Dr. Krishna Kumar, Dr. R.C.S. Taragi, Pooran Singh, Prem Chand and Zile Singh for extending their assistance at different stages of this work.

I am indebted to Rajkumar Ghosh, Anil Das, Pranob Mukherjee, Soumen Chatterjee, Krishnendu Kes, Aruna Padmanabhan and Dharmendra Kumar for their help to finish my work in time.
I express my gratitude to Ms. Bhaswati Gangopadhyay whose help and encouragement throughout the work has made it possible for me to complete the work.

Finally, I also express my gratitude to all my family members, especially my parents and brothers who shouldered all the responsibilities, giving me enough time and freedom to concentrate on my work.

DIPENDRA NATH DAS