Acknowledgements

Research never been an individual task there had been lot of people around me who have guided, supported and encouraged me throughout this pilgrimage, hence the soul express my gratitude to all those who gave me the possibility to complete this thesis. First and foremost, I would like to express my in-depth gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Milap Chand Sharma, whose valuable guidance, depth of knowledge on the subject and constructive comments on the earlier drafts of this thesis helped me immensely in producing this work. Throughout my thesis-writing period, he provided encouragement, sound advice, good teaching, good company, and lots of good ideas. I would have been lost without him.

I would also like to thank Prof. Amitabh Kundu for his valuable comments and suggestions at the preliminary stage of my thesis writing. I would like to acknowledge the timely help and support I received from the family members of the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU throughout this study.

I was delighted to interact with Prof. G. K. Panda, Dr K. C. Rath and Dr Sk Md. Equeendin for their generous advice and suggestions. Talking to them, though for a few hours, was intellectually refreshing for me.

I am thankful to the staff of the libraries of Jawaharlal Nehru University, State Pollution Control Board, Orissa for providing me the necessary facilities. During my field work in Orissa, my thanks goes to Santosh Sethy, Pratap Parida, Rajesh Parida and other villagers of Ersama block. Moreover, I especially want to thank all of my respondents who answered my survey. I am indebted to University Grant Commission (UGC) for awarding me the Research fellowship to carry out the research smoothly with financial support.

I wish to thank my friends and well wishers for helping me to get through the difficult times, and for all the emotional support, camaraderie, entertainment, and care they
provided. My deepest gratitude goes to my family for their unflagging love and support throughout my life; this dissertation is simply impossible without them. My brother Dr Chittaranjan Mishra, who had been a role model for me to follow unconsciously when I was a teenager and has always been one of my best counselors.

Lastly, and most importantly, I wish to thank my parents. They raised me, supported me, taught me, and loved me and never complained in spite of all the hardships in his life. To them I dedicate this thesis.

Finally, having received such valuable guidance and supervision from my supervisor; love, support and encouragement of friends, family members and well-wishers; and an exposure to a suitable environment for higher academic research, I acknowledge that, I alone shall remain responsible for all sorts of errors, omissions and limitations in this work.

19 July 2009
New Delhi

[Signature]
MANORANJAN MISHRA