ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author expresses his deep sense of gratitude to Shri Jayanta Kumar Roy Chowdhury, Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Kalyani, not only for his valuable help in the planning of this work but for providing guidance during the course of field investigation and in the preparation of the thesis.

Also, the author expresses his sincere thanks to the authorities of the University Grants Commission for awarding him a Junior Research Fellowship to carry out the work described in the thesis.

Lastly, the author wishes to put on record a sense of appreciation and sincere thanks to the villagers of Kalipur and Kapileswar who rendered their help and friendly co-operation during the course of field investigation.

Presanta Kumar Mandal
( Presanta Kumar Mandal )