Acknowledgements

This study represents my journey in life through the past four years. I grew along with this research. This study has been made possible because of innumerable cooperative efforts. I am deeply indebted and grateful to my supervisor, Dr. Sachidanand Sinha, who since he kindly agreed to take over my research supervision has given me constant support and encouraged all my endeavours. The space that he provided for me to develop intellectually and personally is a realm that has shaped me. Without his invaluable guidance and active cooperation, this study would not have evolved.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all my teachers and professors at the Centre for the Study of Regional Development and Centre for the Study of Social Systems, who have been extremely generous with their time whenever approached for help.

The financial support provided by the ICSSR/CSDS Doctoral Fellowship has been invaluable. Without it, this study would not have reached completion. I thank my co-supervisor Prof Suresh Sharma of the Centre for the study of Developing Societies for having facilitated my research and providing constant moral and intellectual support. Especially at times when the world seemed bleak he has remained a constant guiding force allowing me to attain goals that seemed impossible.

I thank the staff of Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, New Delhi, Nehru Memorial Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi, CSDS Library, New Delhi, National Library Calcutta, Centre for the Studies in Social Sciences Library, Kolkata, and the Asiatic Society Library Kolkata who have been extremely helpful in locating materials necessary for this study I express my gratitude towards the staff of Centre for the Study of Regional Development and Centre for the study of Developing Societies who have gone out of their way to help me with all kinds of work.

I take this opportunity to thank all the State and Central Government Officers, Estate Office BCCL, and Bokaro Steel Plant who have provided me with information and data whenever approached. Herein, I especially thank all the Block Statistical officers in the C.D. blocks where I worked, both in Chaibasa and Dhanbad. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to all the V LWs who helped me in the field. To those innumerable others who made field work possible for me even in difficult circumstances my gratitude knows no bounds.

My thanks to my friends and seniors cannot be expressed in these few lines. They have lived along with me, we have laughed and cried together. They have always been there for me. Anita, Tina, Poulomi, Sreoshi, Barnali, Ticy, Marianne, Sona, Keya, Parthoda, Mahesh, Anjula, Praveen (2), Shikha, Arpitadi, Jay, Surajit, Aynish, and Rituparna. Thank you. The study remains incomplete without the mention of my brother Sumitro who has dragged me through ill health and good times pushing me to complete this research. I also thank all the help provided throughout by my family I do not have enough words to thank all my respondents in the field without whose active encouragement and generous time sharing this work would have been impossible.

Most of all, I owe my mother for the guidance and encouragement to complete this research. A heartfelt gratitude to all of you.

Bashabi Gupta