Acknowledgement

The past four years has been one of the most trying years of my life. Some times my work fascinated me; other times it was a mundane affair. The successful completion of this PhD work depended upon numerous people who helped me intellectually, and others who were important part of my life. I am deeply indebted to my supervisor Prof. Prakash C Sarangi for taking me under his wings. Besides teaching me the nuances, intricacies and rigorousness of research, he allowed me ample space to juggle with various ideas and theories while at the same time keeping me focussed to my study. Secondly, I would like to acknowledge the help given by members of my Doctoral Committee viz. Prof. K C Suri, Prof. G Sudarshanam and Dr. Sanjay Palshikar. Their insightful comments and incisive critiques made me aware of the limitations of my study and I did my best to overcome these limitations. I convey my gratitude to present head of the department, Prof. I Ramabrahmam and the office staff.

I would also like to convey my immense gratitude to the following people who helped me in data collection and offering their valuable advises. Subendu Debbarma for always being there for me during data collection, Dr. Sukhendu Debbarma, Tripura University, Sunil Koloi, Tripura University, Dr. Khakchang Debbarma, NEHU, Bijoy Dhanwar, NEHU, and Anthony Debbarma (BPHRO). I also extend my gratitude to staff of following libraries: Tripura University Library, Tripura Legislative Assembly Library, Tripura Tribal Research Institute and Library, Indian Council of Social Science Research (NEHU Campus), Ratan Tata Library (New Delhi), Nehru Memorial Library (New Delhi) and IGML (University of Hyderabad).

I acknowledge the following people for their constant support: Nandalal Debbarma who kindly allowed me to stay at his house, Abhijit Debbarma, Subendu Debbarma; Lalzarzoa (researcher at the department of history, University of Hyderabad), Bimal Debbarma; all my friends in DSP Gang, UKMQ, Bastenga and Misfits. Most importantly, my girl friend, Salle. To many other friends with whom I spent hours talking politics and academics at shopcom I say, I enjoyed the conversations and learnt many things.

I would like to acknowledge the financial support from University Grant Commission. I was selected for UGC JRF (2006) which enabled me to pursue research.

Finally, I owe everything to my family for the enormous sacrifices they made to support my education. Without your boundless love and sacrifices all these could not have been possible. This work I dedicate to you all.