

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This thesis would not have been a real fulfilment without the backing and cooperation from various individuals through various means.

First and foremost I would like to thank the Board of Research Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai for giving me the opportunity to carry out the doctoral work from the institute. I am also thankful to both Academic Council and the Research Council for providing me necessary guidance and support during the course.

I offer my deepest and sincerest gratitude to my guide, Dr C J Sonowal, who has supported me throughout my thesis work with his patience and knowledge. I would also like to mention that my doctoral work is the result of his continuous encouragement and efforts, without which this thesis, too, would not have been completed. I gratefully acknowledge his advice, supervision, and crucial contribution, which made him a backbone of this research and so to this thesis. His involvement with his originality has triggered and nourished my intellectual maturity that I will be benefited from, for a long time to come.

I am heartily thankful to Prof. R. B. Bhagat, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, my M. Phil guide who is the main source of support and inspiration for me to choose this topic and complete the work successfully. His constant encouragement and support from the preliminary stage enabled me to develop an understanding of the subject.

I am indebted to the renowned demographer Prof. K Srinivasan, Former Director and Emeritus Professor, International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai who helped me to focus my dreams into a roadmap to where I wanted to go. I worked directly with him as a Research Officer for about three years and during this period he has provided me all sort of moral as well as academic support to develop

my proposal. His constant encouragement and invaluable suggestions guided me towards successful completion of my thesis. In true sense he is my mentor.

I would like to thank Prof. S Siva Raju, Prof. T Rajaretnam, and Prof. J J Roy Burman of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai for their valuable support and suggestions provided during the course of work.

Sincere thanks are extended to my senior Dr. U V Somayajulu, CEO and Executive Director, Sigma Research, New Delhi who made it convenient for me to complete my doctoral thesis work in time. The numerous ideas and useful suggestions given by him helped me a lot to organise this thesis in a professional way.

I am very much thankful to all my friends and colleagues who helped me in completing this thesis. I would like to thank especially my friends Dr. Manas Ranjan Pradhan, Dr. Nihar Ranjan Rout, Nihar Ranjan Mishra and Soumya Mohanty. This thesis would not have been possible unless their help.

My keen appreciation goes to Rakesh, Suwendu, Jaganath, Lokesh, the then post graduate students of Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, Orissa, who render their valuable assistance during my field work. Without their help, the field work would not have been accomplished in time.

My warm thanks are due to all those Juang and Lodha young respondents, the head men of villages, the priests, the ward members and the entire community to give me the love, affection and the opportunity to understand their culture. I am also thankful to the Juang Development Agency and Lodha Development Agency officials and the block level officials of Banspal Block, Kendujhar district and Muruda and Suliapada Blocks of Mayurbahnj district, who helped me in many ways to locate and to establish a rapport with the both the primitive tribal groups.

I owe my most sincere thanks to the library and computer centre staffs of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai and library staffs of International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai for providing me all necessary support and cooperation for completion of my work.

My special appreciation goes to Mr. Balakrishnan and Mrs. Manju, Meeting Section, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai for their kind support and affection. Both of them helped me a lot in terms of timely communication of the decisions made by the Board of Research Studies, Academic Council and Research Council.

Where would I be without my family? My parents deserve special mention for their inseparable support and prayers. My Father, in the first place is the person who put the fundamental of my learning character, showing me the joy of intellectual pursuit ever since I was a child. My Mother is the one who sincerely raised me with her caring and gently love. I am also thankful to my brother and sister-in-law, without whose encouragement, the entire study would not have been completed.

I would like to thank everybody who was important to the successful realisation of this thesis, as well as expressing my apology that I could not mention personally one by one.

Finally, I give thanks to God, without whom none of my dreams would prosper.

February 5, 2010

Purujit Praharaj