ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Study of urban geography is increasingly becoming more and more important. Realising the importance of the subject, I have attempted this thesis. In fact, the present work was taken up at the suggestion of my supervisors Prof. Parbati Nandi and Prof. Uma Sanker Malik, Department of Geography, Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan. I express my greatest indebtedness to them under whose guidance and personal care this study has been completed in its present form.

I wish to express my deep sense of gratitude to all members of my family especially to my father for constant inspiration, encouragement and keen interest in the work. All of them sacrificed a lot while I remained engaged in my work.

I am obliged to record my thankful appreciation to the authorities of West Bengal Census Office, Kolkata, and the authorities of Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Kolkata and Murshidabad Office, all the Chairman of the municipalities of Murshidabad district, Librarian, Murshidabad District Library for their co-operation in collecting useful data.

I also owe heartily to my colleagues for their inspiration while I remained engaged in this study.

Last but not the least, I acknowledge my gratitude to my wife, brothers, sisters and close friends for their constant effort and encouragement to complete my work.

Limitation of space narrows down the scope for acknowledging my thanks individually to host of other institutions and persons who have helped me enormously in this research work and for which I may be excused.