PREFACE

Research is a journey and as a researcher I have just began my journey. My thesis is a product of my critical engagement with the discipline "Sociology", my empathy with the women who are suffering, and my opportunity to watch the functioning of police - the enforcement machinery of a democratic state, from a close quarter.

In my journey; fortunately I have received spontaneous supports from different people that reinforced my faith in the eternal goodness of human being.

During my journey, most profound help came from my supervisor Dr. Avijit Pathak, who was always there to stimulate and organize my thoughts. He has provided me with the much-needed "space" as a budding researcher. He has not only helped in growing intellectually, he was understanding and sensitive towards my family responsibilities and thus helped me in balancing my private life and my academic pursuit as a researcher and as a mother.

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SUDESHNA ROY