ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is a pleasure to convey my gratitude to one and all who have contributed in making of this thesis. In the first place, I would like to express my deepest regards and gratitude for my supervisor, Prof. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, for his constant guidance and encouragement throughout the course of this study. Being a relatively new area of work, it required a lot of will and scholarly guidance; and he provided both. He provided me unflinching encouragement and support in various ways. I am indebted to him for showing a consistent patience with my errors and supervising my writing with his scholastic suggestions. His truly continuous and constructive view inspired and enriched my growth as a student, researcher and as a person. I learned much more than I can thank for and I am indebted to him more than he knows. Thank you sir!

I am grateful to Dr. Minati Panda for providing me scholarly suggestions and helping me clear many of the concepts related to study. She provided her precious insight in the study. The other faculty members of Zakir Husain Center for Educational Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Geeta Nambhisani, Prof. Binod Khadaria, Dr. Dhruv Raina, Dr. S Srinivas Rao, Dr. Shoumen Chattopadhyaya and Dr. Arwind Mishra have always come forward to provide any needful support from the centre. I also must acknowledge that it was Prof. Deepak Kumar’s interesting ways of explaining the process of historical analysis which led me to take so much interest in the psychology of history. I express a special gratitude to all our office staff, Mr. Ghani Haider, Mrs. Sneh R. Asiwal, Rajendra Kumar and our librarian Ms. Seema who were always willing to help us, in their best forms and with their affectionate behavior.

I extend my sincere thanks to National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for proving the NCERT Doctoral fellowship to assist present research work.

I am grateful to Mr. Rohit Dubey who introduced me to Mr. Rajendra K. Singh, then head, Tribal Cultural Society, Jamshedpur. Mr. Singh helped me to find an accommodation and vehicles for visiting the fields. During my stay in the field, he always came forward to provide any information and logistic help for the study. I
also, extend my deep sense of gratitude to all the staff of the Tribal Cultural Society (TCS), Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum. My stay in the field became an enjoyable and enriching one due to the researchers whom I met in during my field work. Sudhir, Kasturi and Arif deserve my deepest gratitude and warmth. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Jagu Soren, for providing me with the excellent of knowledge about Santal culture and society. The Santali adults, teachers, and the principal of the schools I visited, deserve a special thanks for their cooperation and assistance. My special thanks goes to all the children who participated in the study with a great zeal.

My friends have always made me feel blessed by their presence in all the ups and downs of my life. I am thankful to Sushil, Priya, Manisha and Aparna for reading my proofs and patiently listened and corrected my mistakes. Thank you for being the same old friends! I am grateful to Ruchi and Manish who have always come forward and offered any help and precious suggestions. My special thanks are due for Amita and her family who provided accommodation and a family during the pilot study of the this research.

No words are enough to express my deepest gratitude and indebtedness to my family, papa, mummy, my sisters Ranu, Simple and brother Manit, whose presence have always been a source of immense support and strength. And last but most important, my work would have been simply incomplete without the support and help provided by my parent-in-laws and my husband.

The sweetest, crucial and most innocent support has been provided by my son Agrim, whose coming has been a source of joy and fulfillment for me. The completion of study has been a journey with many big and small hazels and spring backs. The almighty has carried me when I could not stand on my own. Lastly, this acknowledgement would be incomplete if I do not thank the Sun who has lighted my spirits with its light. My hereby is only a small expression of my deepest gratitude to one and all (including those whose names I could not mention) who directly or indirectly encouraged in several ways.

Dated: July 30, 2010

Shikshiti Dixit