

**Acknowledgement**

I feel great pleasure to express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide and supervisor Mr Abdul Mannan Siddiqi, Reader, Department of Economics for his valuable guidance and fruitful suggestions. I rather find words short to express my gratitude and thanks to him. His knowledge, confidence and personal interest have enabled me to complete the task.

I wish to thank Prof. Abdul Wahab, Chairman, Department of Economics, for extending facilities to carry on the work successfully.

I have no words to express my gratitude to Prof. Ashok Mittal (Ex- Chairman), Department of Economics, AMU Aligarh for his support and good deal of interest in my research pursuits.

The other members of the Department Dr M Izhar Ahmed, Dr Sheroz Rizvi, Dr Abdus Salam, Dr Saeed Khan, Dr S M Jawed Akhtar and others—I owe a debt of gratitude. They willingly offered their advice whenever it was sought for.

I have collected the materials from several institutions, viz the National Library, Kolkata, Maulana Azad Library, AMU, Aligarh, Calcutta University, Bureau of Applied Economic and Statistics, Govt. of West Bengal and last but not the least the Seminar Library of Economic Department, AMU, Aligarh. I feel much beholden to the
authorities of these institutions for their academic support to me during my work.

My sincere thanks also due to Capt. (Dr) M Zakaria, Principal, Karim City College for his keen interest and constructive suggestions. Thanks to my colleague and faculty members in the department for their encouragement.

I am very much thankful to Dr Ahmad Ali, Dr Zaki Akhtar, Mrs MN Hussain, Mrs Savita Goal and others research colleague for their encouragement and support from time to time.

My thanks are also due to Mrs Rubi Mujimdar, Deputy Director, Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistics, Govt. of West Bengal, for her cooperation in providing me data related to the study.

I received constant encouragement from my parents and family. My wife, Benezir Shagufa, look after the family besides taking care of my son, Yusuf, for quite a long time while I remained busy in writing my thesis.

For the rest, myself deeply indebted to the inspiring roles of SAR Barkati, for his very kind interest and encouragement extending always.

(Fakhruddin Ahmad)