PREFACE

The present work is a comprehensive and humble attempt to shape the volume "Impact of Kangsabati Dam in some Selected Mouzas of Puruliya and Bankura District, West Bengal." The main objective of the present study has been to investigate into the question, whether the dam constructed across the river Kangsabati around Mukutmonipur in the district of Bankura in west Bengal has created environmentally, socially and economically discriminatory effects upon the communities living in the immediate upstream and downstream sections of the Kangsabati dam in one hand, and to explore the possibilities that whether such large scale interventions in general could be replaced by any viable alternatives. The study also aims at making the pavement for better planning and suggestion so that an economically weak area can avail the benefits of the dam and can prosper with its available resources.

The present work is systematically divided into 9 chapters covering different aspects of the dam and the immediate parts influenced by it.

In Chapter 1, an attempt has been made to introduce the basic structure of the work (Ch-1.0.0) and its purpose (Ch-1.1.0). The main objectives of the present study have been projected to orient the proper directions (Ch-1.1.1.) and the broader implications related to the objectives have been stated (Ch-1.1.2). Conceptual issues on dams (Ch-1.2.0) have been presented in brief. Dams in short historical perspective (Ch-1.2.3) and dams in the 20th century have been stated in short. Decision and planning for large dams (Ch-1.3.0), positive aspects (Ch-1.3.1) and negative aspects of large dams have been stated. A brief introduction of the study area with
its rationale for selection (Ch-1.4.1) has been given. Relevance of the present study (Ch-1.5.0) has been analyzed. A detailed account of the data base (Ch-1.6.0) and its limitations have been given. A due stress upon various approaches and methods has been detailed in methodology (Ch-1.7.0) for working of the basic framework of the present study. Literatures published in various times have been reviewed (Ch-1.8.0).

Chapter 2 deals with physical and socio-economic background of the Kangsabati dam and its surroundings. The Physical components like the river and its basin, geology and structure, surface elevation and topography, climate, soil and vegetation are the determinants of the social and economic activities of an area. The characteristics as well as effects of the physical components on the economy and society have stated in detail. Different aspects and characteristics of the heterogeneous group inhabiting in the area have been analyzed which include the density, growth and sex ratio of the people. These aspects help understand and evaluate the status of their socio-economic environment.

Chapter 3 deals with the physical and social problems of the Kangsabati project. The history of the project and its salient features are analyzed. Various aspects like stream flow, the dam and the reservoir, irrigation potentiality and realization, canals and flood control capacity are essential factors to measure the problems and benefits. Cost of construction of pick-up barrages, reservoir submergence area, displacement of population are essential parts of a dam. Therefore, these aspects are analyzed in this chapter. Chapter 4 describes in detail the physical and socio-economic characteristics of the upstream area of the dam. The study area has been divided into two: the immediate upstream
section and the immediate downstream section for micro level analysis. Besides, these two areas bear marked differences in their location and characteristics, the dividing line being the dam. The surface elevation and forms, climate, drainage, soil, vegetation and ground water characteristics have been described in detail. The socio-economic aspects like population, land capability, land utilization land occupancy, occupational structure, literacy, caste composition and income level are analyzed to evaluate the relationships between the physical and socio-economic components of the upstream section. The effects of the dam on the upstream and downstream mouzas are logically different in character, because the dam is considered a divider of the environment once integrated. Thus, the downstream area is expected to experience different effects.

Chapter 5 deals with the physical and socio-economic characteristics of the downstream section. The elements of physical, social and economic environment analysed for the upstream area, have also been considered to evaluate the effects and interrelations in the downstream section.

Chapter 6 has been devoted to analyze the types and magnitudes of impact of the dam on the physical, economic and socio-cultural environment of the area. Physical, economic and social impacts of the dam in the upstream and downstream section of the dam have been analysed separately in detail. Due importance has been given on the social impacts of the dam highlighting displacement, rehabilitation, compensation and stress and strain.
Chapter 7 is structured to study the impact of the project on catchment and command areas. It is natural that the major shares of the benefits of a dam are received by its command area. Catchment area has to sacrifice much for the betterment of the command area. But the command area has to share some negative impact of the dam along with the positive ones. Due to inequality in the share of the benefits, catchment-command contradiction is also unavoidable. This chapter has been devoted to analyze the positive and negative impact in the command area and catchment-command contradiction. In Chapter-8, various general and specific suggestions for planning in the interest of the land, water, forest and people of the Kangsabati Dam and its surroundings have been presented with identification and discussion of several general specific constraints of economic and human resource development. Finally, in Chapter 9 an attempt has been made to sum up the details of each chapter. The study has been enriched with 63 maps, 43 diagrams and 14 plates of photographs. Illustrations have been given for their direct and clear impact. Photographs have been selected carefully to illustrate precisely the subjects under discussion.

References and classified bibliography have been placed at the end of discussion. List of abbreviations have been attached for understanding and clarification.