I take this opportunity to express thanks and indebtedness to those who have helped me directly or indirectly for the preparation of this Thesis.

My most sincere gratitude go to Prof. A.S. Patel who supervised the present work with keen interest throughout. His ungrudging attitude, personal creativity and generosity and capacity of bringing order out of chaos is reflected on these pages.

I take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to my teacher Dr. Jaganath Pathy who has been a fountain of inspiration to me right from my Post-graduate study. Even in the present undertaking I have been immensely benefitted by thought provoking discussions with him.

I wish to record my thanks to many, mention may be made, to late Professor I.P. Desai; Prof. D.N. Dhanagare; Prof. S.P. Punalekar; Prof. H.C. Doshi; Mrs. Suguna Pathy and my friends Shri Umesh Sahoo; Ms Suprava Samantaray and Ms Shyama Patnaik - all Ph.D. students of Sociology - for their suggestions and deep interest in my study.

My warmest thanks go to the villagers of the two sampled villages, without whose co-operation, kindness and extension of hospitality, this study could not have taken the present shape.
I extend my thanks to the authorities of the libraries of Sardar Patel University, Vallabhbh Vidyanagar; South Gujarat University, Surat; Centre for Social Studies, Surat; Madras University, Madras; Utkal University, Bhubaneswar; Berhampur University, Berhampur; and the Superintendents of Tamil Nadu Archives, Madras and Orissa State Archives, Bhubaneswar for providing me access to these resources.

I acknowledge the financial support of University Grants Commission, New Delhi, in the form of a Research Fellowship for the year 1982-86, to undertake this study.

Last but not the least, I thank Shri Paul Macwan for typing the manuscript with great care and commitment.

Bishnu C. Barik