ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am thankful to the Authorities of Anthropological Survey of India for the award of a Junior Fellowship to me, which enabled me to conduct and complete the present study among the 'Rauts', a cattle-herder group of Chhattisgarh, in Madhya Pradesh, and submit the results of my investigations, in the form of a Thesis. I also accord my gratitude to Dr. Surajit Sinha and Dr. N.C. Chowdhury of Anthropological Survey of India, for initiating me in this difficult task and providing valuable suggestions and encouragement, from time to time.

I am deeply indebted to Professor Prabodh Kumar Bhownick, M.Sc., Ph. D., D.Sc., under whose kind guidance I had the privilege of conducting this study. In fact, anybody coming in contact with him must be impressed with the originality of his ideas and his deep knowledge of culture and society of rural India. But for his constant supervision and encouragement, this work would not have seen the light of the day.

I take this opportunity of expressing my sense of veneration for my teachers Prof. T.B. Naik, Ph. D. and Surendra Parihar for their kind guidance and critical advice during my study. I can not forget my colleagues V.P. Patel, I.C. Agrawal, P.K. Jha, P.K. Sharma, N.K. Das and V. Bhatt who inspired and helped me to complete this work within a short period. Naturally, I am also thankful to them. I also acknowledge gratefully the debt I owe for the various facilities extended to me by Dr. C.S. Singhrol, Professor & Head