ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Encouragement, assistance, and support from my family, friends and guidance from academic community motivated me to continue my efforts to achieve my dream of completing this thesis. Every piece of help I received during this long haul of study is significant to the successful completion of the thesis.

In the first place I would like to record my gratitude to Dr. Niranjan Roy, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Assam University, Silchar, for his supervision, advice, and guidance from the very early stage of this research as well as giving me extraordinary experiences through out the work. Above all and the most needed, he generated interest in me to choose teaching (perhaps the best job in the world) as my profession, and thus put the first pillar of this work. His truly scientist intuition has made him as a constant oasis of ideas and passions in academics, which exceptionally inspire and enrich my growth as a student, a researcher and a scientist want to be. I am thankful to him for his guidance throughout the whole period of candidature, his patience about my progress, his comments at different stages and his understanding of my personal and family circumstances. His encouragement and support in motivating me to continue this study are unforgettable. I am indebted to him more than he knows.

I owe an academic debt to the economists and authors of scholarly texts and articles quoted and referred to in the thesis. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr Sudip Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Dr. Uday Sankar Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics, of Assam University Silchar, Pinak Pani Nath, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, Golab Chandra Nandi, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Yageshar Deb, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, of S.S College, Hailakandi for being very encouraging and reassuring me time and again that I can do it. I am grateful to my colleagues and fellow teachers who have encouraged and helped me in doing this work. I acknowledge support from Monoj Biswas (Godu) for being with me during downswing and upswing of my life. I am thankful also to my students who have been the ultimate source of my knowledge building. I learned a lot from them.

I would like to acknowledge support from Anjan Saha (Sanku Sir), Principal, Budding Roses School, Hailakandi, who introduced me to the highly exciting, controversial and
challenging world of economics and Dr D. Sahoo, Assistant Professor, IIT Bhubaneswar, who whetted my interest in the subject. If Sanku Sir sown the seed of economics in me, Shaoo Sir molded that grass of economics and helped them grow. I could never have embarked and started all of this without their prior teachings in economics and thus opened up unknown areas to me. Thank you.

Words fail me to express my appreciation to my Borda (elder brother Nihar Ranjan Debnath) who bore the greatest burden to look after the family and to keep the family responsibilities away in order to help my studies. I have been imposing such difficult tasks on him for several years now; he always extends tireless support and encouragement to me. However, I will not be so presumptuous as to thank him. My parents and sisters deserve special mention for their inseparable support and prayers. Finally, I would like to thank everybody who was important to the successful realisation of this thesis, as well as expressing my apology that I could not mention personally one by one.

Avijit Debnath, 2010