

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**COTTON WEAVING INDUSTRY OF NADIA : 1773 - 1977, A CASE STUDY OF SANTIPUR AND PHULIA**, the research is aimed to explain the ups and down of the handloom industry of Nadia over a span of 200 years that has touched the social, economic political aspects of life. Despite all barriers and crises the weavers of Phulia and Santipur have survived and retained their identity. At present it has evolved as the epitome of exquisite design and quality earning accolades from all over the world. I have tried to highlight the incessant, long struggle of the weavers of Santipur and their indomitable courage and spirit. Whereas their counterparts at Phulia has shown equally responsible and committed in 1977 when they formed the cooperatives and added a different dimension to the weavers' struggle for existence in Nadia.

Being a resident of Krishnanagar since childhood the clitter clatter sound of loom and rich textile of Santipur and Phulia has been a part of my life and in due course has developed a unique bonding with it. Out of that emotional bonding and feeling I have felt attracted to the history of handloom industry of Nadia and delved into the history of the weavers struggle and their protests.

I have been fortunate enough to get a committed supervisor, Professor Ratna Roy Sanyal at the Department of History, North Bengal University, who despite her busy academic and social assignments and responsibilities curbed out long hours to lend me persistent guidance and direct me over the last six years, responding to my calls even at odd hours. I wish to express heartfelt and sincere gratitude for her active supervision and constant help, encouragement, advice and patience throughout the course of my research work.

I would like to express my special gratefulness for cooperation and valuable suggestion made by Dr. Samita Sen (Professor, University of Calcutta), Dr.

Kanailal Chattopadhyay (Retired Professor of History, Uluberia College), Sri Mrinal Roy (Santipur), Sri Haripada Basak (An important person of the co-operative Samabay Samity of Phulia), Dr. Purnendu Nath Nath (Santipur), Sri Mihir Khan (Santipur), Sri Madhab Bhattacharya (Editor of Sahitya Saikat Partika), Sri Ananta Kumar Ghosh (Santipur), Smt. Deepika Chakraborty (Secretary of D. R. D. C., Krishnanagar), Sri Ashok Roy (Dumdum), Sri Ajoy Misra, of North Bengal University.

In this work I have accumulated debts to many people and Institutions and I am grateful to all of them. I have benefited from a number of source in preparing this dissertation. I am extremely grateful to the authors whose work I have extensively consulted during the course of my study. I would like to put on record my sincere thanks and gratefulness to all of them. This work could not have been possible without the cooperation of a large number of persons from various fields. I take this opportunity to express my thanks to all of them.

During the long period taken in the making of this work, I had to utilize many traditional sources, relevant records preserved in the West Bengal State Archives, Kolkata; National Library, Kolkata; Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Kolkata; Asiatic Society, Kolkata; North Bengal University Library, Public Library, Krishnanagar; District Library, Krishnanagar; Public Library, Santipur; Akshay Pathagar, Santipur; Kabi Krittibash Library, Phulia. I express my sense of gratitude to the staff of these institutions, specially Sri Kesablal Chakraborty (Ex-Librarian of Kabi Krittibash Library) for rendering valuable help and cooperation in connection with my research work. My sincere thanks are also due to a good number of weavers of Santipur and Phulia with whom I had the opportunity to discuss various issues pertaining to the subject of the present study.

I have received encouragement and help from several of my colleagues of Raniganj K. C. High School (Malda), specially Sri Sajal Roy, Sri Khagen Sarkar,

Late Panchananda Sarkar, Late Utpal Sarkar & Chitrasali Vidyaniketan High School & my friends and relatives. I therefore express my heartfelt thanks to my friend like sisters Miss Aparajita Ray, Arpita Ray, Anindita Ray, Nilanjana Hazra & Smt. Debjani Singha Roy, Smt. Piyali Banerjee, Smt. Pampa Saha (Krishnanagar) & special thanks to Smt. Urmil Pal Choudhury, Kolkata (President of two important N. G. O.'s), for their encouragement and cooperation.

I must also acknowledge my gratefulness to my father Sri Dhiren Mukherjee, sister Dr. Rakhi Mukherjee, Assistant Mistress of Sakhawat Memorial Govt. Girls' High School, Kolkata, who encouraged me to start this work and my brother Baban, for their constant inspiration to complete this work.

I extend my special thanks to Mr. Prajesh Kumar Sanyal, who has inspired me for this work since its beginning.

Not the least, my heartily thanks go to Sri Susmit Basu for composing and formatting the thesis.

Moreover, I must add that any shortcoming for my work are entirely my own. I pay my deepest regard to my mother, who had been inspiring me for this work since its beginning. I would also sincerely like to acknowledge that the present work could not have come to success without her help.

I dedicate this thesis to my mother.

Krishnanagar

Date : 06 - 06 - 2011

*Debashre Mukherjee*

(Debashre Mukherjee)