Acknowledgements

Working on my thesis I have traversed through different paths. Now, I have reached a stage where I want to go back down my memory lane to thank all those people who have helped me. Nevertheless, the constraints of space and time make me mention explicitly only a few of them. Hence, at the outset I apologise to all those whom I fail to mention. The present study would not have been possible without the co-operation of the people of Dighi and Narayanguda who not only shared their personal and public lives with me but also considered me as one among them. I am indebted to all of them.

My unstructured way of going about in the villages and collecting ethnographic information was not only structured but also given an economic dimension by the constant and constructive criticisms of my supervisor Prof G N Rao. He also put in that extra effort whenever required that not only made me finish my thesis but also set an example for meeting deadlines - my heartfelt gratitude to him.

There are many persons with whom I interacted and benefited. Prof T Krishna Kumar introduced me to game theory. My initial interaction with him was more to avoid monotony in academics. But I learnt from him that game theory, as a tool, can be used to analyse human interaction - be it in tribal societies or elsewhere. However, it was Prof Kaushik Basu who first suggested that I might benefit from the evolutionary game theory developed by the biologists. Dr Ajit Mishra pointed out that my formulation of looking at something that happens again and again could be referred to as a recurring game. Dr Achin Chakraborty's criticism that I went about developing all this in a very round about way made me become self-critical. Discussions with Prof Sakti Padhi in between my field surveys brought forth many interesting points. At Bangalore, I had benefited from discussions with Prof M V Nadkarni and Prof M R Narayana, among others. Dr G Omkarnath's comments on reading my draft were quite helpful in putting forth my analytical points more explicitly. I thank them all.

I also received comments on my working paper from a number of people. Prof N Krishnaji's suggestion that the grain drain would be accompanied with a fall in the consumption levels of some households did reveal some interesting insights, which I might have otherwise overlooked. Prof Otto van den Muijzenberg and Sri Sudip Mohapatra have pointed out my lack of clarity in the paddy transactions. Prof Prasanta Patnaik put it in his characteristically polite way that the framework that I proposed there was not commensurate with the empirical questions I raise. However, it was Prof Amit Bhaduri who not only discussed my problem at length, but also categorically mentioned that I should address issues that are either relevant to economics or economic anthropology - but not both. I also benefited from discussions with Prof D Narasimha Reddy, Prof K Nagraj, Prof Abhijit Sen, Dr Pradip Chaudhry and Dr Gautam Gupta. I am thankful to all of them for their advice and comments. I thank Sri P K Michael Tharakan and Sri Tilak Baker of the Centre for publishing my initial observations as a working paper and then sending it to the above mentioned people.

The comments that I received from presentations at Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Bangalore, Jadavpur University, Calcutta and Nabakrushna Choudhury Centre for Development Studies (NCDS), Bhubaneswar were also helpful. More particularly, the post-seminar discussions at CDS that goes on over lunch or tea or in the usual kathi sessions were very useful in developing my arguments. In particular, Ram Mohan's displeasure was as challenging as was Sudhakar's encouragement not to mention of the queries raised by Pulak, Ramakanta and many others.
I benefited immensely from the constructive criticism and invaluable suggestions made by Prof G Parthasarathy and Prof Nirmal Sengupta. Their comments helped me in sharpening the arguments and providing some clarity to the formulations presented in the study. I sincerely thank both of them.

Staying on campus in the hostel at CDS has its own charms. It is here that academic discussions and debates are not only prolonged late into the night but also get infused with more mundane aspects of life – the development of interpersonal relationships with co-residents. It is in this regard that Dennis needs a special mention because it is through him that I saw myself evolving from a fresher to one of the older residents. It is in the hostel that I had the opportunity to share kunuks with Bhaskar, Jaychandran, Kurup (who used all pretexts to be away from Deepa andGovind), Sanjith (whose success in being a truant from his better half would describe the present status of kunuks) and Suresh, among others. I also have much to cherish with Pinaki, nothing of course that Lekha should be jealous of! I enjoyed discussing my thesis with Mihir who looked into agrarian relationships in his own village in Orissa; Rajib, a sociologist by training; Tripati, who hails from one of the regions I surveyed and Sarbeswar, a young man with plenty of intuition. Sarbeswar in collaboration with Baidyanath added bhang to the kunuks. I also enjoyed discussions with Antonyto, Arvinder, Babu-Neetha and Murugan. Anand (M.R. and -raj) and Christopher’s concern and interaction with Ashok, Gopinath, Madhuri and Srinivas took the heat off. However, Rajesh needs a special mention for annotating two figures.

A mere thanks will not suffice to Prof K Narayan Nair who not only allowed me to avail of the facilities in the office but also by obliging in many other ways when he was the PhD co-ordinator. I also benefited from the matured advice of Prof K K Subrahmaniam. Prof Chandan Mukherjee had obliged me in administrative and academic matters whenever I went to him. The Administrative, Computer and Library staff members at CDS were very co-operative and helpful. It is difficult to mention each and every one of them. Nevertheless, I may mention that Mr M Phil Roy obliged all requests. Sujanabai at the Computer Centre and Ameer, Gopakumar, Krishnakutty, Shobha Kannan, Sunil and all others in the Library never refused me help. I thank them all.

I received help from others who sent material that was not available at the Centre. Anita-Kashi, Ramakrushna, Sada, Sudha and Vibha from Bangalore, Sridhar from Bombay and Sambasiva Rao from Hyderabad did the needful. Viswanath’s frequent visits formed a pleasant change. So were Mohsin’s and Sushant’s e-mail letters.

During the survey I also benefited from the discussions I had with the government officials at the Block headquarters of Jamda and Ramnaguda. In particular I should mention Sri Abdul Alam Khan and Sri Sethi, BDOs of Jamda and Ramnaguda respectively. In Gunupur I had discussions with Sri I Gopala Rao and Sri Nagabhushan Pattnaik. The hospitality provided by Sri Dharanidhara Behera of the Horticulture Department at Rairangpur helped me overcome the inconveniences while travelling.

In CDS Niluda (Dr U S Mishra) was like an elder brother. He with Mala bhabi and Ashwin were my hosts. Another place where I forced myself as a guest was at Devyani’s (Dr Amitabh and Gayatri). Both Niluda and Amitabh gave advice on professional and personal matters. Amitabh’s suggestions after going through my working paper were also very helpful. Uma akka’s (Mrs Omkarnath) concern and Nitya’s playfulness on those Saturday evenings were a welcome change. I also had a nice time with Ajay, Manas, Sanat and Saroj who stay down the Prasantha hill.
One of the most important aspects of research is finance. For pursuing my doctoral research at CDS I received scholarship from the Reserve Bank of India and Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund. I am thankful to both the organisation and their good offices for the same.

After I took up the job at NCDS, Bhubaneswar I have tried to fulfil my official obligations but, nevertheless, I would like to apologise for any lapses. I also take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues for their concern. In particular, I would like to thank Prof Baidyanath Misra for allowing me a grace period of three months for taking up the job. At Bhubaneswar I also benefited from the company of Chinu-Titi, Sarat-Sarita, Satya and Srideb.

I will be unjust to myself if I fail to acknowledge Budhi Ayo, Mousa (Sri Ram Chandra Hansdah), Mamus, Mamis, Mausis, Smita, Ramesh, Raghunath and the children at Dighi and Yaan, Ganga, Jamuna and Nani at Narayanguda who made me feel at home. In particular, I should also mention that Mousa’s letters from Dighi and Ganga and Pitambar’s letters from Narayanguda kept me abreast of the happenings there even after I left the villages. It was Bidu who not only took me to Narayanguda but also said that I consider their home as mine. Dharam also made the necessary arrangements for my stay at his maternal uncle’s place in Dighi. However, thanking the above mentioned mentioned would be an insult to the bond that has developed between us.

I thank Amma for her concern and loving care for me all through my stay on campus at CDS and thereafter. I will also take the opportunity to thank Raja-Supriya and Rambabu for their concern for me.

Munni, my little chitter, who has also taken to academics, understood pretty well why I am not able to be in touch with her. My apologies to Vikal are implied. Munna, my brother, showed his concern through his actions. My parents (Nana and Bou) have allowed me to be what I am. I hope that I have done justice to their hopes and aspirations.

My wife Nandini has been with me all through. Without her care and support it would not have been possible to tide over the pressure. She would undoubtedly be the happiest person to see the completion of this work.

Srijit Mishra
February 28, 1999