ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As a student of post graduation I became interested on the issues of Economic Reform and its impact on the social sector. I am pleased to pay my humble respect to Teja Adhikari who was instrumental in stimulating my thoughts in this direction.

In the course of my M Phil study it was pleasure to make an attempt to make some progress on this field with Prof. Imrana Qadeer, as my guide. Again for my Ph.D. work I feel myself fortunate enough having the privilege of working with Prof. Qadeer and it is only with her emotional support I could take up this task. It is indeed a matter of delight to work with her good self whose suggestions, constructive criticisms, judgment & constant encouragement brings elixir of life to march forward.

I am equally indebted to Dr. Ritu Priya who has kindly taken me to her fold on the retirement of Prof. Qadeer from the service of JNU.

I express my gratitude to all the faculty members and staff of Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health and my colleagues there for their constant attention and valuable assistance. JNU Library, CSMCH documentation centre, National Library, Kolkata, Secretariat Library, Writers Building- Kolkata, Labour Dept., West Bengal and the district libraries deserve special thanks for their co-operation & assistance.

I am glad to express my sincere gratitude to the Principal Secretary, Health Department, Government of West Bengal- Kolkata and the officers & staff of the Swastha Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata for granting permission for field work in district hospitals and medical college & hospitals. The MSVPs of Calcutta Medical College & Hospital and Nilratan Sarkar Medical College & Hospital, Kolkata, the Superintendents of the district Hospitals of South and North 24 Pargana, Howrah, Hooghly & Nadia and also to the officers and the staff of all these institutions who remain anonymous, deserve thanks for extending their all out co-operation and service in connection with a good number of searches, information and various data in spite of their pressing demand for time and keeping very busy schedules. I was overwhelmed by their patience, and unfailing courtesy many a time against my wearisome enquiries.

No word is sufficient to thank Dr. Gouripada Dutta - the Eminent Gynecologist, social worker and Chairman of the Subject Committee on Health and Family Welfare, Calcutta and Member of State Planning Commission and Dr. Malini Bhattacharya, ex-Professor Jadavpur University and former MP were of great help from time to time. My thanks to them. Besides, I am thankful to Dr. K.C. Saha, Dr. N.C Sukul, Shri Kaushik Ghosh, Basu Jethu, Shri Debayut Ghosh Thakur and Shri. R C Saha (Boro Mama) for their advice & directions. Shri Sankareswar Dutta and Smt. Gita Dutta, Managing Trustee, Suvendu Memorial Trust, are required to be specially mentioned for their hospitality and support at the time of my fieldwork in Nadia district hospital.
I owe thanks to Indian Council of Social Science Research, for their timely support of my field work.

It is a pleasure to record appreciation of my friends who have extended their helping hands on many occasions. I want to acknowledge the encouragement of Sumita Di. Soma deserves a special mention who stood by me patiently through the years of research. I thank Mithun for our friendship, and the time we had spent together conversing on our famous ‘puliya’. My special appreciation for Anita’s everyday 4 o’clock rejuvenating afternoon tea! I also thank Ruma, Gargi, Veena, Sima, Kamolini, Dilip, Alifiya, Abhina and Mohita for they were of great help at the needed time.

Although he is small in age, my nephew-Bholu has never been small in wishing for my journey to success. He even helped me in typing some of my papers. I have my warmest thanks for him along with his parents-my elder brother and sister-in-law for their encouragement time to time. Last but not least, I can not forget Ranen dadu, an ever cheerful grand old man of 84, a well wisher and family friend of about 60 years standing who would have been too happy to see me come out successful in this endeavour.

Finally, my heartfelt gratitude to Ma and Bapi who have stood by me, guided and encouraged me and tolerated me for my eccentricities.

Finally, I am solely responsible for any shortcomings and errors in the study.

Date: 20.07.2007
(Bijoya Roy)