This thesis would not have seen the light of the day without the kind support of my teacher and research guide Prof. Bishnu N. Mohapatra. Despite heavy workload and several pressing engagements, Prof. Mohapatra went through the entire draft keenly, distilled the arguments embedded and suggested many ways to improve the thesis. His comments were incisive, his approach pragmatic and kindness worthy of him. It is difficult to measure the quantum of time Prof. Mohapatra spent for me in discussing, clarifying and refining my half backed ideas. Without the necessary corrections he made in the chapters it would have been impossible to complete the thesis. I am deeply touched and honoured by his genuine concern. I express my sincere regards and reverence to Prof. Bishnu N. Mohapatra.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere regards to the teachers of Centre for Political Studies, who have been a source of encouragement and intellectual support for me. I think myself extremely fortunate to be a student of the exemplary teachers at the Centre. In this regard, I wish to recall Prof. Sudha Pai, Prof. Niraja Gopal Jayal, Prof. Rahul Mukherji, Prof. Zoya Hassan, Prof. Kuldeep Mathur and Prof. C.P.Bhambhri, who took deep interest and utmost
care while this research was taking shape. Their valuable suggestions helped to take the study in the right direction.

I have been quite fortunate to receive the suggestions and helps in connection with this study from Prof. Jean Dreze (Delhi School of Economics), Prof. Jayati Ghose (JNU), Prof. Rama Baru (JNU), Prof. Amitabh Kundu (JNU), Prof. S.K. Thorat (JNU), Prof. R.K. Tiwari (Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi), and Prof. R.K. Barik (IIPA, New Delhi). Their valuable suggestions enriched the study.

I am extremely thankful to Dr. Bibhu Mohapatra for editing the draft chapters of this thesis. Without his kind help the thesis would not have got the present shape. I am touched by his encouragements.

I am thankful to all my interviewees in the villages of Sandhuriam and Bhatlaida. Their frankness and hospitality touched my heart. I am extremely thankful to Mr. Prafulla Behera, who arranged my stay during the field work. I would like to thank Banamali Kisan and my brothers Niranjan Bhim and Chudamani Bhim who accompanied me to the villages and different offices. I am thankful to Lankeswar Bhim for helping me get many official data due to his association with the officials. I am also thankful to Mr. Melak Patel (Panchayat Secretary, Niktimal Gram Panchayat) and Mr. Libru (contractor, Bhatlaida) for
divulging many secret information regarding the manipulation of official process in developmental projects. I am thankful to all the villagers of both the villages, who spend time and interacted with me during the field work.

I acknowledge my debt to all the staffs of the Block office, Laikera; District Rural Development Agency, Jharsuguda; Labour office, Jharsuguda; Civil Supply office, Jharsuguda; office of the District Collector, Jharsuguda; Jharsuguda district hospital and office of the District Inspector of Schools, Jharsuguda. They were kind enough to provide me the necessary data for the study.

I am thankful to the University Grants Commission for providing me the fellowship to pursue the study. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staffs of the following libraries:

Central library Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
SAP library, Centre for Political Studies, JNU
DSA library, Centre for the Study of Social System, JNU
DSA Library, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, New Delhi
Exim Bank library, JNU
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murty, New Delhi
Central library, Delhi University
Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) library, New Delhi

Orissa Information Centre, New Delhi

Orissa Niwas, New Delhi

World Bank library, New Delhi

I acknowledged my debt to Dr. Pancha Bhoi, who shouldered the cumbersome task of synthesizing ideas in correcting the footnotes and formatting the pages. I am also thankful to Vasim Akhtar, who made the typing corrections. I received so many help from my friends. I acknowledge my debt to Pankaj, Sitaram, Jagannath, Rajkumar, Byasa, Surendra, Laxman, Zainul, Sujit, Pritpal, Sanjay, Nishikanta, Niranjan and Manoj. I also acknowledge my debt to Rama Bhai who helped me in a multitude of ways.

I would like to express my indebtedness to my parents who are always with me in times of need.

New Delhi

August 22, 2005

Dinamani Bhim