Acknowledgement

It is my privilege to acknowledge the help, guidance, support and co-operation given to me from those institutions and organizations which helped me while carrying out the present research work.

Firstly, I owe a great debt to Prof (Dr.) Sanchari Roy Mukherjee, Professor of Economics, North Bengal University for guiding me step by step to follow the procedures in preparing the thesis. Especially she simplified the issues and helped me to prepare each aspect of the chapters in sequence and coherent manner. Moreover, she was very consistent in responding to every call with regard to the concerned research being carried out and this gesture enabled me to cling on to meet the goal. Willingly and patiently she had planned for the completion of the work. I am also very grateful to Prof. Jeta Sankritayanant for humbly motivating and inspiring me to press on to the goal till the last moment of the work. I am thankful to Prof. K. K. Bagchi, Prof. Anil Bhuimali, Dr. Govindo Chowdhury, Dr. Kanchan Datta, Mr. Tamas Ranjan Mazumdar, Mrs. Sudhaskhina Ray and Mr. Karan Tamang.

A word of thanks to the concerned Libraries of North Bengal University, Women’s Study Centre, North Bengal University and the UGC for providing Rajiv Gandhi National Scholarship as a fund to meet the required expenses.

I shall remain thankful to all the respondents while conducting the field survey in providing me willingly the required information as a primary source of data.

I am very delighted to express my sincere gratitude to both my brothers, and parents and parents-in -law for their untiring support and good wishes toward successful completion of the work.

Finally, I would like to express my appropriate appreciation to my dear wife, Arpita Bairagee and my loving son, Arush Gerald Murmu for constantly reminding of my goal to reach.

Last but not the least; I extend my thanks to Dr. Bethika Moni Dutta for initially encouraging to pursue the research work.
Lastly, I would feel delighted if I learn that this work is useful and helpful to policy makers in prescribing the relevant policy to empower the communities chosen for the study.

At the end I shall sincerely look forward for constructive criticisms and suggestions from the learned scholars for improving the work in near future.

Johnny Murmu
University of North Bengal