Preface

The present work is the outcome of an adventure in the realm of Group Dynamics of opposing groups engaged in rivalry, competition and conflict. Negatively approached phenomenon was challengingly viewed by Dr. L.S. Misra (D.B.S. (P.G.) College Kanpur), my research supervisor, in a creative manner. His queries, in simple terms were how the tremendous development in rural social organization was possible in the presence of factions conflicting with each other? How for the factional leadership was responsible in contributing to the development of rural social organization? How the group actions were initiated and group decisions were taken? How the factional leadership motivates, guides and controls the concerted group action in the development processes of the rural social organization? These questions formed the focus of discussion with me and the other social researchers who were working with him. He inspired me to work upon this challenging issue.

I plunged into the activity and worked in close supervision of Dr. L.S. Misra, my research supervisor, who guided me in the field work on the spot and also supervised the writing of the report. He suggested many improvements and discussed with me the subtle points which might have been missed otherwise. The explorations in this virgin area of research revealed that the factional leadership plays a positive role in the development
activity of rural social organization. The rivalry, competition and conflict very often latently produce positive contribution to the development processes and organizes, controls and channelizes the group action. I shall be grateful to him throughout my life.

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(Uma Shanker Agnihotri)