Acknowledgement

The development of India as a nation depends on so many socio-economical and politico-religio-cultural factors. The comprehensive developmental process of India now seems to be endangered due to an important demographic variable. Sex ratio of any country is not just a demographic variable but an important indicator of country’s gender development index. Sex composition of the population is one of the basic indicators, which is extremely important for any meaningful demographic analysis. The adverse Sex ratio has been linked with the low status of women in both Hindu and Muslim communities in Indian society. This micro-level study on the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in Nadia District, West Bengal has been taken out of a concern for the alarming demographic trend indicated in the Indian Census records. The study is an attempt to locate the phenomenon of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) within the larger structure of patriarchy and normative construction of the position of a girl child in the existing social structure.

The study has framed a few distinctive objectives. Following these objectives the researcher has organised the thesis in eight chapters.

Chapter One -Introduction deals with different relevant information relating to the various aspects of Sex ratio and Child Sex Ratio.

Chapter Two - Research Design of the thesis deals with different steps of research process along with methodology. A well planned
research design has been framed to complete the thesis systematically, scientifically and rationally.

Chapter Three deals with *Sex Ratio and Child Sex Ratio: State and District Wise Trends on the Basis of Census Data.*

Chapter Four deals with the *Socio-Demographic Profile of Hindu and Muslim Population.*

Chapter Five – *Child Sex Ratio of Hindu and Muslim Population: Nature, Trends, Causes and Consequences* deals with the Child Sex Ratio and Sex ratio of the sample population on the basis of different factors.

*Impact of Existing Socio-Cultural Belief Patterns on Changing Nature of Child Sex Ratio* has been discussed in Chapter Six.

Chapter Seven has dealt with *Opinions and Attitudes of the Rural Hindu and Muslim Parents towards Their Girl Children and Their Future.*

Finally, the thesis ends with *Conclusion* in Chapter Eight.

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Place: Kalyani

Dated: 

(Aritra Ghosh)