Acknowledgements

Reaching the stage of writing the acknowledgement for the doctoral thesis is the dream of every research scholar. It is the stage when their hard work for years together takes the final shape. While I thankfully look back, I realise how the love, care, affection, thoughtfulness, hand holding and mentoring of a lot of my friends, teachers, relatives, family members and others have contributed in shaping up my research while I nurtured Aman and my doctoral dissertation in the past six years.

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Institute of Development Studies, University of Mysore and Institute for Social and Economic Change for allowing me to undertake my Doctoral work as well as for providing a scholarship for the same. May I also place on record my sincere thanks to Prof. N. Jayaram and Prof. R. S. Deshpande former Directors and Prof. B.K Pattnaik, Director, ISEC for the kind encouragement and support throughout my study.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Professor K. S. James, Director, Population Research Centre, Institute for Social and Economic Change for mentoring me through the various stages of the dissertation. Working with him is a learning experience which, I believe, will help me throughout my research career. His illuminating thoughts and professional approach have been of great help in conceptualising and executing the work and ensuring quality and rigour. He has been kind enough and patient to accommodate me as I struggled to strike a balance between personal and professional spheres in the course of the thesis. It is my privilege to have Prof. James as my research guide. Thank you Sir!

I gracefully recollect that the critical inputs on each piece of my work from Dr. T.S Syamala, Dr. Sivakami, Dr. Lekha Subaiya and Dr. Dhananjay W. Bansod, my Doctoral Committee Members have been immensely useful in refining the approach as well as arguments. I am highly indebted to the external experts Prof. P. H. Rayappa and Prof. K. N. M. Raju who always encouraged me through their constructive criticism on the overall quality of the work.

I wish to place on record my gratitude to K.S. Narayana, former Assistant Registrar (Academic) who was always very caring and motivating. My special words of thanks
go to Vimla, who took the pain to keep me informed about the administrative procedures in the best possible way even after I left Bangalore in 2011. I also extend my sincere thanks to all the staff in account section, library and computer centre for their help in various stages of the work.

I am highly indebted to Bidhubhusan Mahapatra, who has been my walking encyclopaedia for building my capacities. I have been fortunate enough to have such a wonderful brother who has always been resourceful and who stretched his level of tolerance answering my trivial questions. I would also like to convey my heartfelt thanks to Koushik Basu, my batch mate at ISEC, for his timely support during the course of my analysis.

I have no words to express my gratitude to Dhanya Rajesh and K. Rajesh, who are great friends in true sense. I still remember Dhanya, quickly finishing her day’s work and finding time to play with Aman every afternoon so that I could concentrate on writing the proposal of my thesis. Rajesh, I recollect your struggles to entertain the kid when I was busy with the thesis work. You have been the one who counselled me to maintain my composure at times of stress. The evenings before the Bi-annual seminars when we used to discuss all our doubts among ourselves are still vivid on my mind. My friends Sandhya, Kanchan, Sancheeta, Priyanka, Ayan, and Moumita also helped and motivated me during different phases of my work. Sandhya especially has been by refuge most of the times I struggled for compliance of procedures, particularly when we had to move away from Bangalore. I cherish the wonderful times we all had together in Bangalore. I would also like to thank Mahesh Nath Singh for his help in getting some crucial research articles from IIPS as well as from TISS Library and also for being a good friend forever. Thanks to my colleagues at Centre for Socio-economic and Environmental Studies, Kochi for providing me time and space to manage work and study towards the fag end of the submission of the thesis.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Jessmol Mathew and Joseph Julian whom I could always lean on at different critical stages of my life. Thank you for accommodating me as part of your extended family. Also I am thankful to Sivram Sir, Savithri Didi and Hema di for making me feel at home in Nagarabhavi far away from home. My sincere thanks go to Dr. Lingaraju, our family friend who has been a great support and motivation for me.
My family has always been a continuous source of support behind all my academic initiatives. My father, Mr. Sanjib Goswami and my sister Chaitali Goswami have been a fathomless source of encouragement for me; we learnt together to take up challenges in life, even when the environment is not that conducive. My husband Benoy Peter kept me motivated in the best possible way throughout the journey of my work. Without his constant monitoring and timely interventions it would have been impossible for me to finish this huge task. Both Benoy and Chaitali took pain to offer comments for refining my dissertation for which I am thankful to them. A very special note of thanks to my mother-in-law Mary Peter who not only supported me at different critical junctures of my work but also for remaining very motivating throughout the entire process. Besides them, I thankfully remember my Mamoni, Mrs. Ratna Goswami, Father-in-law Mr. K. V. Peter, Rency and Bejoy, Linu and Bisni and many others in the network of my relatives especially Mr. Purnendu Bhattacharya, Dr. Ashok Bhattacharya and Rumani Bhattacharya whose love and encouragement kept me on tract.

I would like to convey a very special thanks to Soniya, popularly known as my “Bodyguard” and Kanak for their silent but very crucial support to me to in managing home which eased me out to find time finishing the thesis. May god bless both of you!

I would like to mention about my children, Aman and Ishan, who grew up with my thesis, and I painfully recollect that many a times they have been deprived of my undivided attention. I would like to thank them for their cooperation amidst of all difficulties. Finally, when I submit this doctoral dissertation I bow down before the vivid and fond memories of my beloved mother Swapna Goswami who departed to the heavenly adobe when I was a little girl. I must say the sparks she gave through her words and deeds during those thirteen years have been my beacon and shall remain for ever.

Once again thanking one and all,

Sincerely

Baishali Goswami