ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At the very outset, I would like to acknowledge my debt and deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Asok Kumar Sarkar, my research guide, without his constant support, encouragement and cooperation, it would not have been possible to complete the present study. His ideas and critical suggestions were always a constant source of challenge and inspiration to give final shape of this thesis. I am equally grateful to Prof. N. B. Biswas, my research co-guide, for his valuable advice, guidance and encouragement throughout the work. Any acknowledgement of gratitude to Dr. Sarkar and Prof. Biswas in words will not be sufficient here.

I extend my deep sense of gratitude to the key informants who provided primary data and to the higher level authorities of various NGOs who replied to the mailed questionnaires. I also gratefully acknowledge the cooperation and support of six NGOs such as Society for Community Intervention and Research, Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust, MANAS Bangla, Human Development Research Institute and Society for Positive Atmosphere and Related Support to HIV/AIDS, who have been the main source of information in case studies. In absence of their help, this study would not have been completed.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Dr. K. Mishra and Dr. (Mrs.) I. Mazumdar (BPWT), Dr. D. P. Mallick (HDRI), Prof. R. Chakraborty and Mr. Sanjib Chakraborty (MB), Dr. P. Roy (DMSC), Mr. Rehman and Mr. Simon (SCIR), Dr. S. Panda and Mr. Subhajit Banerjee (SPARSHA), Mr. Suresh Kumar, Dr. R. Shukla and Ms. Sohini Banerjee (WBSAP&CS), and Mr. Mahesh Nathan (WBPSU), without their support data collection of the study would not have been possible. I am also thankful to Mr. K. Bhuyan (UNICEF), Mr. M. N. Roy (Save the Children), Mr. S. Neogi (Action Aid), Mr. S. Pandey (CARE India), Mr. P. Dhal (SAATHII), Mr. S. Ghosh (CCF), Mr. Partha Roy (Kolkata Konsultant) and Dr. D. Bhattacharjee (CII).

I am obliged to the librarians and their helping staff of Indira Gandhi National Open University, Voluntary Health Association of India, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Visva-Bharati University, Assam University, SAATHII (Kolkata) and American Library (Kolkata) for allowing me to consult the necessary documents and resource materials.
I shall remain ever grateful to Prof. Tapodhir Bhattacharjee, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Assam University for his encouragement and granting me the study leave to complete the present work.

I extend my sincere thanks to Prof. G. Mishra, Dr. B. S. Gunjal, Dr. S. Dutta, Ms. M. Tineshowri Devi, Mr. S. Roy, Mr. M. Singh, Mr. M. Gangabhusan, Mr. Amalendu Chakraborty, Dr. Prajit Palit, Dr. Niranjan Roy, Dr. B. R. Choudhury, Dr. Bela Das, Dr. Vinay Rao and Dr. Ravi Patil for encouraging me to complete this work. I am also grateful to Dr. M. M. Mukherjee and Dr. S.S. Choudhury, my teachers for their never ending support. I am also thankful to Mr. Alok Chakraborty, Mr. Dipak Acharjee and Mr. Pulak Dhar for their active cooperation.

Without the support and encouragement from friends, colleagues and family members this work would not have been possible. My heartfelt gratitude goes to my parents and other family members. without their support and inspiration, this work would have never seen light of the day. I find no appropriate words to express my warm appreciation to my wife who is the main source of my motivation and strength. I regret for not giving enough time to my daughter, Tinny during the course of study, but she is a nice helping hand. I consider myself fortunate to have had such a loving family support. The strength of this work belongs to the efforts of all these people, while the weaknesses are of mine alone.

December, 2008

(Tarun Bikash Sukai)