

## **Acknowledgement**

During the course of my study, I have got assistance, encouragement and inspiration from many well-wishers. I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of them.

First, I express my deep sense of gratitude to my esteemed supervisors, Prof. Pinaki Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics with Rural Development, Vidyasagar University for their scholarly guidance and supervision. I feel proud and privileged to have worked under his supervision.

No words are adequate to express my sincere gratitude to Late Dr. Raj Kumar Sen, Former Professor, Department of Economics, Rabindra Bharati University for his constant motivation and encouragement.

Thanks and gratitude and also due to the officers and employees of the relevant Central and State Government offices, Panchayat Offices, Block Offices and Police Stations for extending their co-operation for this work.

I also put on record the help that I took from the works of many eminent authors of various books, reports, research papers and articles, etc. without which I would not be able to complete my thesis.

I acknowledge the immense benefit that I have derived from the librarians and the members of the Central Library of the University of Calcutta, Central Library of Indian Statistical Institute of Kolkata, National Library and Central Library of Vidyasagar University.

I am also indebted to all the respondents of the survey areas for their valuable co-operation during the course of my field survey.

I express my gratitude to my respected teachers, parents particularly my dida and dadu and other family members for their constant inspiration. The chief driving force behind my sustained effort to complete the thesis is the inspiration from my respected mother.

Lastly, thanks are also due to all my friends for their unflagging inspiration. I express my heart-felt affection to my beloved students, whose continuous effort to take me away from my work kept me on high alert.