

Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to record my sincere thanks to my thesis supervisor Professor Dipak K. Midya, Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore for his insightful and valuable guidance and constant encouragement during the entire course of my research. My sincere thanks are also due to Professor Abhijit Guha, Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University for his valuable suggestions in completing this research work successfully.

I am grateful to the authority of the Vidyasagar University for giving me the opportunity to carry out this research work.

I also take this opportunity to thank the people of Chhotopelia, Kashitoria, Shimuldanga and Aushabandhi villages, in particular, and the people of Junglemahal in general for their kind cooperation. This research work could not be completed without their cooperation and support. I would like to extend my thankfulness to all the respondents who agreed to share their experiences during the fieldwork.

I am grateful to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi for providing me the financial assistance in the form of a Doctoral Fellowship, which enables me to carry out my fieldwork and subsequently to write my dissertation.

I also convey my sincere thanks to all the teachers and research scholars of the Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University for their kind support while I was carrying out my Ph.D. work.

I would like to thank Dr. Akoijam Milan Meitei, Subhandu Patra, Arghya Santra, Banibrata Giri, Kaustav Dhar, Sukumar Murmu and Swarup Pratihar for their whole-hearted support and inspiration to complete the thesis writing.

My special thanks go to Dr. Salil Kumar Dutta, Dr. Suman Nath, Dr. Mohan Chandra Dolai and Dr. Abhijit Ghosal for their continued interest towards the completion of my thesis.

And last, not the least, I express my gratefulness to my father and other family members who always stood by me to complete this work.

Ashim Das.

(ASHIM DAS)

Date: 03.04.2019

Place: Midnapore

Registration No. 741/Ph.D/(Sc.)
Department of Anthropology
Vidyasagar University