

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At first, the author would like to express his wholehearted gratitude to the Almighty for each and every achievement of his life. Human being can try his best to utilize the tools within reach, but the outcome depends on the resultant affect of different factors way beyond control. It would not be possible for the author to complete the thesis within a limited period of two years without the favor of the combined affect of these factors, despite his work efforts.

The author has the pleasure to state that, this study was supervised by Dr. Pranee Tinakorn, Professor, Faculty of Economics. The author is very lucky to have her as his advisor and the chairman of the thesis committee. Her excellent knowledge in the relevant area and her profound experience in research helped the author to have a clear understanding of the issue. In fact, her previous research on Thailand in the same area was a major source of encouragement for the author to conduct a similar study on Bangladesh. Noteworthy is her help to plan the study in a timely manner. It would not be possible to finish the work without her constant encouragement and invaluable guidance throughout the study period.

The author is indebted to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somnuk Tubpun, for his proper guidance, especially in the analytical aspects of the study. The author is also thankful to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Wilaiwan Wannitikul for her affectionate assistance and enthusiastic encouragement. The author faced huge difficulties during the workshop of the thesis due to huge limitations in the data set. Her previous thesis on Thailand at a very early stage of Thailand's development was a special source of encouragement in this respect.

The author likes to express special gratitude to Dr. Md. Jobair Bin Alam, Assoc. Professor of Department of Civil Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. The author is greatly indebted to him for providing access to the database on capital stock for the regions and also for the guidance provided by e-mail on different aspects of application of Data Envelopment Analysis. The author is also thankful to Dr. Sayid H. Sikder, Senior Assistant Secretary of the Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh, for the guidance and assistance provided by him. He was the person, who obtained the capital stock data from

government offices for his own study and later published a paper on the topic with Dr. Alam and Dr. Goulias in Transport Research Record. It would be impossible to conduct this study without this database on capital stock, since this was the only source of information on capital stock for the regions of Bangladesh.

The author would like to thank specially Asian Development Bank for providing fund for two years of studying in the highly reputed Master of Arts in Economics International Program of Thammasat University through ADB-Japan Scholarship Program. Besides the tuition, the fund provided a modest amount of living allowance, special medical allowances and a round-trip air-fare, making the study period easy.

The author is also indebted to his father Dr. Liaqat Husain Khan for his kind help in collecting data for this study. He managed time from his very busy schedule and undertook the tedious job of collecting different sorts of data from national statistics offices and sending all documents to the author in the minimum possible time. The author also acknowledges the contribution of his brother Dr. Sayeed Husain Khan, who also involved himself in the data collection process several times despite his busy work schedule. All the classmates were very helpful all the times, but the author received special care from Golf and Aim.

Last but not the least, the author would also like to admit the inspiration and wholehearted support by his wife Syeda Mehrin Mahfuza Huq, who showed a high level of patience in a difficult time of pregnancy during this study. My sons, Tahmid and Ahmad, were sources of inspiration for my thesis all the time.

All these acknowledgements notwithstanding, responsibility for the materials in this study is author's alone. Any comments or suggestions regarding this study will be highly appreciated by him.

Thammasat University
Bangkok, Thailand

Mainul Husain Khan
May, 2007
E-mail: mainulhusain@gmail.com