Preface

This book provides a synthesis of some recent issues and an up-to-date treatment of some of the major important issues in distributional analysis that I have covered in my previous book *Ethical Social Index Numbers*, which was widely accepted by students, teachers, researchers and practitioners in the area. Wide coverage of on-going and advanced topics and their analytical, articulate and authoritative presentation make the book theoretically and methodologically quite contemporary and inclusive, and highly responsive to the practical problems of recent concern.

Since many countries of the world are still characterized by high levels of income inequality, Chap. 1 analyzes the problems of income inequality measurement in detail. Poverty alleviation is an overriding goal of development and social policy. To formulate antipoverty policies, research on poverty has mostly focused on income-based indices. In view of this, a substantive analysis of income-based poverty has been presented in Chap. 2.

The subject of Chap. 3 is people's perception about income inequality in terms of deprivation. Since polarization is of current concern to analysts and social decision-makers, a discussion on polarization is presented in Chap. 4.

A very important development of inequality and poverty research in recent years is the shift of emphasis from a single dimension to a multidimensional structure. The reason for this is that the well-being of a population and hence its inequality and poverty depend on many dimensions of human life, such as health, employment, shelter, education and life expectancy, and income is just one such dimension. In this framework, poverty is defined as a human condition that reflects failures in these types of dimensions. Multidimensional inequality and poverty are analyzed respectively in Chaps. 5 and 6. The *Extended Bibliography* goes someway towards guiding the readers in more details.

Since the publication of *Ethical Social Index Numbers* in 1990, I have worked jointly in this expanding area with Walter Bossert, Francois Bourguignon, Nachiketa Chattopadhyay, Conchita D'Ambrosio, Joseph Deutsch, Wolfgang Eichhorn, Ravi Kanbur, Amita Majumder, Patrick Moyes, Diganta Mukherjee, Pietro Muliere, Ravi Ranade, Sonali Roy, Jacques Silber, Swami Tyagarupananda and Claudio Zoli. I am grateful to them for the benefit I derived from the direct interactions with them as

my coauthors. During the period, I have also interacted with Sabina Alkire, Yoram Amiel, Tony Atkinson, Charles Blackorby, Frank A. Cowell, David Donaldson, Udo Ebert, Gary S. Fields, James E. Foster, Nanak C. Kakwani, Serge-Christophe Kolm, Peter J. Lambert, Amartya K. Sen, Tony Shorrocks, Kai-Yuen Tsui, John A. Weymark, Shlomo Yitzhaki and Buhong Zheng. I express my sincere gratitude to all of them.

Amita Majumder, Chiranjib Neogi and my young friends of the Computer Maintenance Corporation (CMC) Limited were always available for computer advice and help. Satyajit Malakar has drawn all the figures. It is a pleasure for me to acknowledge their support. My wife Sumita sat through some sessions of proofreading. I must thank Sumita and my son Ananyo without whose cooperation this book could not possibly have been written.

http://www.springer.com/978-0-387-79252-1

Inequality, Polarization and Poverty
Advances in Distributional Analysis
Chakravarty, S.R.
2009, X, 182 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-0-387-79252-1