ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the present study, I have attempted to study the status of tourism and tourism associated developments in the Nilachal Hills, Guwahati, Assam. However, the study will remain incomplete if the help and cooperation extended by the well-wishers during the period of research is not acknowledged.

First of all, I want to express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. Bhaben Ch. Kalita, Head of the Department (Rtd.), Geography, Cotton College, for his guidance, valuable suggestions and cooperation throughout the course of the work.

I extend my gratitude to Dr. Anup Saikia sir (Professor and HoD), Geography, Gauhati University and Dr. Prasanta Bhattacharya sir, Dept. of Geography, Gauhati University, for their gracious cooperation and expert supervision for the accomplishment of the research work.

I also extend my sincere thanks to Dr. Rupali Phukan Bhuyan, HoD, Geography, Cotton College, Dr. Arup Hazarika sir, Dept. of Zoology, Cotton College and my respected teachers from Geography Dept. Gauhati University, Dr. Bimal Kar, Dr. Madhushree Das, Dr. D. Sahariah, Dr. A.K Bhagawati, Dr. A. Bora, Ujjal Deka Baruah, for their valuable suggestions to complete the research work.

I also offer my sincere gratitude to Monjit Borthakur, Research scholar, Dr. Joydeep Baruah, Professor, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Six mile, Guwahati for helping me in preparation of the GIS based maps. I am also grateful to Abani Borthakur, Census of India office, Nabakanta Sarma of Nilachal Hills, Ghanakanta Mahanta of PHE, Govt. of Assam, Utpal Sarma and Jyotish Kalita, Kalipur, Guwahati, for their support in carrying out the research.

I am thankful to Sri Nityananda Pathak, Asstt. Librarian, K.K.H. Library, Gauhati University and its entire staff, Mrs. Manabi Baruah and staff of Directorate of Library Sciences, Assam, staff of District Library, Guwahati, for extending their cooperation.

My research work would have not been possible if I would not have got the full support, inspiration and best wishes from my higher authority [of the Finance(Taxation)]

I also offer my gratitude to my friends and well wishers Pratyashi Phukan, Sonashree Brahma, Luit Sourabh Mahanta, Dr. Bibeka Nanda Gogoi, Dr. Lakhimi Gogoi, Shankar Das, Dr. Bhargab Medhi, Nitu Sharma, Mrs. Benu Pal, Sri Bikramjit Pal, Smt. Kajal Das Gupta, Mrinmoyjit Saikia, and Mrs. Kabita Bhuyan for their help and cooperation.

Last but not the least, I offer my heartiest indebtedness and gratitude to my father, Sri Dhireswar Mahanta, my mother, Smt. Bulu Mahanta and my brother Gauravjit Mahanta, without whose continuous inspiration and cooperation, it would have been difficult to complete this research work in time.

Date: - (Juthika Mahanta)

Place:-