Preface

There is a gap in knowledge on the history of modern healthcare system in Arunachal Pradesh. Rich historical studies on topic related to the state exist like those on Ahom-tribal relations, British-tribal relations, their nature and effects, constitutional and administrative growth and others. In these studies, the British-tribal relations is seen in terms of interventions. As a result of the limited intercourse between the indigenous people of the state with the Brahmaputra Valley based colonial administration as compared with other hill regions of the North East India, the possibility of use of medicine and healthcare in British frontier policy in the state was not speculated. This research study is a humble and sincere attempt to contribute a new domain of knowledge in the history of British interventions in the state by exploring the medical aspects of colonial interventions and its legacy. Development of modern healthcare system or western biomedicine in tribal societies cannot be genuinely assessed without understanding the ethno-medical practices and healing systems of the various tribes of the state. Since major part of the labour invested in this study went into reconstructing the development of healthcare system in both the pre- and post-Independence period, rigorous work and interpretations on the indigenous cure and healing systems could not be accomplished. Being a work which focussed on generating a new domain of knowledge within an existing genre of historical research, empirical and theoretical lacunae are bound to decorate the pages of this research work. With this background, I would like to hope that expert and general readers of this work will be kindly indulgent to point out mistakes and
transgressions they notice in this work to complement the specific or general
strength their survey of it might discover.

About five years ago when approached, Prof. Tana Showren suggested to
me a theme similar to the title of this doctoral work. Not clear about what theme
to pursue for doctoral research, as many beginners in research are, the suggestion
made my task in choosing a topic rather easy at a time when the professional
requirement of a Doctoral degree was getting delayed in my academic career.
Prof. Showren, who is my Supervisor, with his rich and wide experience in
handling and interpreting archival records and the ethno-history of Arunachal
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