Traversing through a myriad landscape of vibrant culture and people, over the last couple of years brought to the fore the complexities that are inherent in the North Eastern region. This journey was made possible with the invaluable help of several people.

I am particularly indebted to Professor Anuradha Dutta, my supervisor, who has always been a source of inspiration for me, and who, through her patience & valuable insights, helped me to delve deeper into the psychological worlds and the lived realities of the individuals within the context of a complex socio-political landscape.

The Kikon family in Dimapur/Kohima gave me invaluable support during my stay in Nagaland. I am extremely grateful to them. I would also like to thank Apace, for helping me out with the field work in Nagaland.

I would like to thank my family for their unfailing love & support. I would like to especially thank my mother for all that she has done for me and for her constant encouragement and support. I would also like to thank my husband and my friends for always having stood by me.

I am thankful to the librarians of the various Institutes for allowing me access to the materials in their custody.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the participants in this study, without whose help and cooperation this work would not have been possible.

Date: Triveni Goswami Vernal