Preface

This work has been made feasible and complete only with various kinds of help received from a host of friends and well wishers and a very big number of informants belonging to different parts of Sonitpur district. I am taking this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to all of them. As the production of a full list of all of them is almost impossible for me, so, I have mentioned below only a few of them.

My foremost and heaviest debt is to Dr. Nabin Chandra Sarma, Professor and Head of the Department, Folklore Research, but for whose reassuring encouragement this project would possibly not have been started and without whose inspiring guidance it would certainly not have been completed. My humble words are insufficient to carry the weight of my profound indebtedness and obeisance to him who has spared time and energy to guide me inspite of his works.

I shall be undoing my duty if I donot mention the valuable helps obtained from Dr. Ashok Kumar Bora, Department of Geography, G.U., Punya Prasad Saikia, Retired Head Master, Chatia Girls' High School, Dr. Kashi Kumar Karan, Deptt. of English, N.L.College and the members of Istantic Club, Chatia. I also acknowledge the assistance from Hemendra Kumar
Gogoi, Principal North Lakhimpur College, Prof Dibyajyoti Phukan, Vice-Principal, N.L. College, Prof G.M.Deka, Dr. S.Phukan, Prof(Mrs.) A. Rajbongshi, Prof Biren Kalita and Chitta Ranjan Bora of North Lakhimpur College, Dr. M.Rajbongshi(Principal) and Prof.(Ms.) Deepanjali Dutta, Vice Principal of Lakhimpur Girls' College.

A few other names I feel I must mention are, Dr. K.K. Bhattacharjee, Lecturer, Deptt. of Folklore Research, G.U., Dr. D.K. Bora, Deptt. of Research, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Dr. P.C. Das, Director, Students welfare, G.U., Prof Anil Boro of Dimoria College, Prof. Kanak Saharia of Handique Girls' College, Prof(Mrs.) Krishna Barman of L.C.B. College, Prof. Mrinal Borah of Chaigaon College, Prof. Indra Prasad Saikia of T.H.B. College, Akhil Ch. Das of Chatia and Ali Hyder of North Lakhimpur who inspired and encouraged me during the long period of five years.

Other major acknowledgement must go in favour of Amal Haloi of Jamugurihat, Rajeev Baruah of Tezpur, Keshab Khound and Pradip Saikia of Chatia who have helped me in taking photographs and my brother Arup Kr. Ozah and Nabajyoti Dutta of North Lakhimpur who have helped me drawing some figures for my thesis.

My heart still echoes the acute financial hardship suffered by my mother and sister when I have engrossed myself in the work. I am grateful to them. I am grateful to the family members of Bipin Ch. Ozah of Noonmati, Mahendra Katak of Parvati Nagar, Tezpur and Mridul Baruah of Kundarabari for their enthusiastic co-operation and help to me.
I must admit that, I owe a special debt of gratitude to my wife Ms. Bomali Ozah, Lecturer IBM Academy, North Lakhimpur who has taken the liveliest interest in my work inspiring and encouraging me to her best.

Last and never the least, I acknowledge Mr. Bhupendra Goswami, M.Sc.M.Phil and Ms. Sebika Neog who have taken the responsibility and pain to type the thesis and typed neatly within a very short time.

Guwahati, December, 1997

(Anjan Kr. Ozah)