ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my sincere gratitude to my respected guide Dr. Parbin R. Akhtar (Retd.), Selection Grade Lecturer, Department of Education, Cotton College, for her valuable guidance, support, encouragement and constant supervision throughout the entire course of this work. Her tolerant and friendly attitude has contributed immensely in the overall progress of my research. The present stage of my work is because of the inspiration she provided. I fall short of words to express my gratitude towards her.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Rupa Das Borboru, Head, Department of Education, Cotton College for her encouragement and valuable advice provided to me. I would like to specially mention my colleagues for the different books they provided during the course of my work. I also thank Dr. Lutfun Rasul Saikia, Head of the Department and faculty members of the Department of Education, Gauhati University for their advice in producing my research work.

I would not have completed the work without the help of the officials of the Bokak Circle Office; my sincere thanks to them. Again, my heartfelt thanks also goes to my aunt Mrs. Deepali Goswami and sister-in-law Mrs. Pronita Goswami as they accompanied me to the rural areas of Kamrup District to collect the required data for my work. Mr. Rustam Ali from the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati helped me to process the raw data for analysis of the study. I am extremely thankful to him.
I also offer my sincere thanks to the Librarians and officials of the different libraries I visited without whose help and cooperation I could not have completed my work. They are the K. K. Handique Library, Gauhati University, Women’s Studies Research Centre, Gauhati University, Department of Environment Science, Gauhati University, and S. K. Bhuyan Library, Cotton College, Administrative Staff College Library, Khanapara. I am also thankful to the officials of the office of Deputy Commissioners of Kamrup (Metro), Kamrup (Rural), Districts, Block Development Office, Boko, and office of the Directorate of Census Operations, Government of India. I also thank my husband Mr. Debajit Chowdhury, my son Aditya and daughter Ananya for their constant encouragement. I also thank Mr. Rabin Sarma for taking the responsibility of producing the printed work on time.

Date: 31/8/10

(Sadhana Goswami)