ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have seen, experienced and studied the selfless way in which the communities often come forward to assist the flood victims in different parts of the Assam. In spite of several constraints, communities reach the affected people after a flood promptly, help in the establishment of temporary relief camps, and contribute to building community resilience to face disasters. They explore innovative ideas in preparing the community and mitigating the flood risks. The communities are increasingly advocating for the cause of marginalized and vulnerable section of the society to ensure that their rights are safeguarded before, during and after floods.

The study have been carried out to facilitate greater coordination amongst Communities, NGOs and Government institutions during various phases of the flood management cycle and within the framework of the Community Based Flood Management (CBFM). I have tried my level best to study and record the flood coping mechanisms innovated by the community people of Cachar District. I have explored the scope, potential and opportunities for the communities to mainstream flood risk reduction into their developmental activities. I hope that the study will immensely benefit the NGOs, Government Organisations, Academician, Research Scholars to further work in the field of Community Based Flood Management (CBFM) which will further improve the efficacy of flood management in India.

I have great pleasure in expressing my appreciation for the contribution in my study by all. First of all, I am extremely grateful to my beloved Parents and Almighty for providing me the tremendous strength and courage to undertake this research work successfully.

I am extremely grateful to my worthy Supervisor Dr. M. Gangabhushan, Associate Professor, Department of Social Work, Assam University, Silchar, who has been a valuable source for my research work by being available at anytime, despite of his busy schedule. I am indebted to him for giving me his expert guidance. I do express my deep sense of gratitude to him for extending me all the documentary support.
I am deeply grateful to my Honorific Co-Supervisor Dr. B. S. Gunjal, Associate Professor & Chairman, Department of Post Graduate Studies and Research in Social Work, Kuvempu University, Shimoga, Karnataka for patiently supervising me and always guiding me in the right direction. He continued to give encouragements, personal and professional guidance and help which has supported me immensely throughout my research work.

I am deeply obliged to Prof. Gopal Ji Mishra, Professor, Department of Social Work Assam University, Silchar and Dr. Subhadrata Dutta, Head, Department of Social Work, Assam University, Silchar who has been an source of inspiration to carry out my research work whole heartedly. I am equally thankful to the other teachers, research scholars, and library staff of this University for their selfless cooperation.

I feel proud to express my sincere thanks to my Superiors and Colleagues who worked with me while working as District Project Officer (Disaster Management), Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Government of Assam in the Offices of the Deputy Commissioner, Hailakandi, Cachar and Karimganj Districts of Assam. They helped me to overcome the difficulties arising during the study. My sincere thanks goes to Shri. V. K. Pipersenia, IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management, Co-operative, Irrigation, Agriculture etc., Government of Assam who has been a treasured source of inspiration to carry out a research work in community based flood management in Assam. By virtue of his long and splendid record in civil services and disaster management his every word inspired me to bring to the public the irreplaceable innovative qualities of community based flood management of the people of Assam in dealing effectively with flood. His words also enthused me to link the theories of Social Work Discipline and Flood Management into practice and make the outcome of research more practical. My heartiest thanks goes to Shri Harendra Kumar Deb Mahanta, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Shri Debeswar Malakar, ACS Deputy Commissioner, Karimganj, and Smt. Madhumita Choudhury, ACS, Project Director, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Cachar for giving their worthy guidance to make the study more practical rather than confined to books. My sincere thanks goes to
Circle Officers, District, Sub-Divisional Level Officers and Field Level Officers of the Department concerned, Engineers, and Block Development Officers of Sonai Development Block who offered their valuable support and cooperation during the course of my study.

I am grateful to **Prof. Bhabananda Nath**, Professor & Head Department, Community Medicine and **Dr. D. Chutia**, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, **Silchar Medical College**, Silchar for inspiring me to carry out research work on community and it’s innovative and indigenously developed coping mechanisms for flood management. Their guidance helped me in generating greater involvement of the community people in my research area. I would like give my gratitude to the Gram Panchayat President, PRI members and Secretary of the Sildubi and Rangirghat GPs who always helped me in collecting the information and conducting scientific social surveys at the grass root level. I feel happy to the NGOs who supported me in carrying my research work through PRA and FGD.

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks to all my friends, well wishers whom I contacted and met, for conducting this study. I must say all of them helped me so nicely that it can not be expressed in words.

Date: 09/09/2014

Place: Silchar.

Neelam Brasad Yadav