ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I deem it a great pleasure to express my sincere thanks and deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Tanmay Bhattacharjee, former Professor in Political Science, Assam University for supervising my research work and thank him for his co-operation towards the completion of the present thesis.

I record my sincere thanks to Professor Debashish Bhattacharjee, Head, Department of Political Science, Assam University and Professor R.R. Dhamala for their encouragement and co-operation.

It is my proud privilege to thank Professor Tapodhir Bhattacharjee, Vice Chancellor, Assam University for providing necessary infrastructural facilities.

It is difficult to repay the immense help and moral support, I received from my esteemed colleagues, Dr. Arundhati Mazumder of the Department of Economics, Mrs. Tapati Dhar, Head of the Department and Dr. Mandira Dutta Choudhury, both of the Department of Political Science of Women’s College, Silchar for their most valuable suggestions and words of encouragement throughout the course of this study.

I express my gratitude to the staff of different libraries in Guwahati and Silchar.

Deep sense of gratitude is due to the members of the Deshbandhu Club, for affording me facilities by providing to me their recorded information. In many occasions, the members enriched my studies by narrating their own experiences in the NGO work in the constituency and elsewhere. I express my sincere thanks to the citizens of the Katigorah Constituency who stood by me in my humble efforts to
meet them through personal contacts and they always obliged me with whatever information they have and unhesitatingly shared these information with me which had greatly helped me. Without their ungrudging assistance, the work would not have seen the light of the day. Thanks are, also, due to the members of different Gaon Panchayats under the Katigorah Constituency and the Zilla Parishad, Silchar.

I express my deep sense of appreciation for the co-operation extended to me by my husband, Dr Sanjib Sikidar and my children, Pavel and Shrimayi and all other family members.

Finally, I express my gratitude to Debangshu Chakraborty of Nicety Graphics, Silchar for extending all help regarding the computer typing of the thesis.

Place: Silchar
Date: 02/10/2009