ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The thesis is the result of immense encouragement, invaluable guidance and enthusiasm of my supervisor, Professor V.C. Jha. It was his foresight and support that a completely obscure yet intriguing study area was selected for study.

The Geological Survey of India at Kolkata, Guwahati and Shillong, The Office of The Working Plan Officer, Hill Areas, Diphu, Karbi Anglong, Govt. of Assam, have extended all possible help by way of published maps and literatures which have been consulted and referred to. The officers Soil Range Office, Deithor, Karbi Anglong and at Koilamati Sub – Centre (FW), P.O. Chowkihola, Karbi Anglong, Assam under the National Rural Health Mission have extended all possible help during my field trips of the study area. The Department of Agriculture, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Hill Council, Diphu, Assam has facilitated my investigations further.

I sincerely acknowledge the unreserved help offered by Raju Gogoi, Lecturer at Diphu Govt. College - Diphu, Assam for helping me source local literature about the study area. I also sincerely acknowledge the invaluable suggestions and discussions offered by D.K. Saha and Dr. O.P. Mishra of Geological Survey of India, Kolkata; Dr. Balen Basu of Opsis Systems, Kolkata with relevant digital maps for my study area.

Finally I would like to thank my family and friends for their encouragement.

I am grateful to my husband Somit Mandal for his patience and in preparation of all my maps, collecting data during my field trips, corroborating field evidence with previous literature and holding animated discussions regarding the study area which helped me assimilate and obtain a clearer picture ultimately.

Sucheta Mukherjee  
(Research Scholar)  
UGC - NET, WB – SLET  
Dept. of Geography,  
Visva Bharati  
Santiniketan  
(Research Scholar)  
UGC - NET, WB – SLET  
Dept. of Geography,  
Visva Bharati  
Santiniketan