ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am deeply grateful to my research supervisor, Prof. Archana Sharma, for her encouragement and constructive criticism of the research work. Despite her busy schedule I cannot thank her enough for lending me quality time and the much needed support during the most challenging hours. The thesis would not have possible without her guidance. I owe my most sincere gratitude to Professor Madhurya P. Bezbarua, Head of the Department, Department of Economics, Gauhati University, whose suggestions and methodological hints have decisively influenced the shape and orientation of this thesis. I am genuinely grateful to Prof. Dilip Nath and Prof. Kishore K. Das of the Department of Statistics, Gauhati University for their methodological insights and guidance. Special thanks are due to Prof. Gautam Mazumdar, Department of Economics, Cotton College and Dr. Subrata K. Mandal, NIPFP, Delhi. I would like to thank the NIPFP library, Delhi for extending easy access to their voluminous collection of books and papers. Thanks are also due to the K.K Handique Library, Gauhati University, Guwahati. It gives me great pleasure in thanking the members of the Departmental Research Committee, Department of Economics, Gauhati University, for their valuable inputs and suggestions. Sincere thanks are due to the Pollution Control Board Assam and the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Assam, for their ready cooperation. I owe my special thanks to the people of Guwahati who patiently cooperated during the field survey. Without their cooperation, this study would not have been possible. My warm and sincere thanks to staff members and former colleagues of the Women’s Studies Research Centre, Gauhati University - Sakira, Jaya, Jyotisikha and Anil for their support and friendly help. I am extremely grateful to Bansari and Biswajit Nag for their graciousness and geniality during my
research related work in Delhi. Special thanks are due to my cousins Ramyanshu and Sujay for their cooperation. I owe my deepest gratitude to my parents, without whose encouragement and constant support the thesis would not have materialised. Loving thanks are due to my husband Pankaj for his unwavering support and help. During the course of my research work I have collaborated with so many people, each of whom has contributed in one way or another. Regrettably, though it is not possible to mention all of their names, I am indebted to each one of them.

Date: 
Place: Guwahati
Signature: 
Name: Debabani Chakravarty