ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The present PhD thesis has mentorship from Professor Madhurjya Bezbaruah, Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Gauhati University. I feel myself fortunate and privileged enough for receiving his able guidance in carrying out the study. My heartfelt gratitude and thanks go out to Professor Bezbaruah, for without his patience and able guidance, this thesis would not have been completed.

It goes without saying that a number of persons extended enormous help at different stages of the study. To mention all of them without fail with a note of thanks and gratitude is a pleasant task.

Professor Sanjib Baruah, then Senior Fellow, Centre for North East India, South and South East Asia Studies (CENISEAS) and Dr Saswati Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development (OKDISCD) merits special mention and gratefulness for encouraging me to begin my PhD work.

I take this opportunity to specially mention Professor Anuradha Dutta, then Professor of Peace Studies, OKDISCD and Professor Abu Nasar Saied Ahmed, Visting Professor, IIT-G who have been a constant source of inspiration and lead beacons throughout my research period. No words of profound gratitude can equal their giving unequivocal support throughout.

Special thanks to the respondents of my study area for their help and support. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Enya Riba and Mr. Nyayi Riba, Mr. B Pertin, Mr. Chiranjan
Mukherjee, DRDA, Pasighat and Mr. Barem Borang for their assistance in carrying out the field work in the West Siang and East Siang district respectively. I am equally thankful to the respondents of my study area.

I must also acknowledge the service received from the library of the Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati whenever required. Special thanks are extended to Shri G. B. Devchoudhury, Librarian, OKDISCD. I must also thank Mr. Rustam Ali, Programmer, OKDISCD for painstakingly working out the tables in SPSS.

I must also mention Mr. M Kazi and Mr. Chandan Goyal for helping me in every way possible. My heartfelt thanks to both of them.

Back home, my parents, sister and brother who have not only provided me with a loving home but also an academic environment aiding my work has extended unstinted support in my struggle to complete the thesis. No words of gratitude can ever match their love, care and endless patience and encouragement when it was most required. I shall ever remain indebted to them. I must rightfully acknowledge my father and brother taking all pains and accompanying me for data collection in the study villages in Arunachal Pradesh and supporting me with all necessary help.

My husband, has been a constant source of inspiration. His singular most help in developing the database in MS Access in the beginning had shaped up the data collected into useable forms. Besides, I owe my unfailing acceptance of his expertise in working in software packages like Excelstat, SPSS and STATA. My earnest thanks to him. My sincere gratitude is due to my parents-in-law, for their words of encouragement.
Last, but by no means least, I thank all those persons who have helped me directly as well indirectly in carrying out the study.

(Ratna Bhuyan)