ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset I take the pleasure to express my deepest sense of gratitude to all those persons, whose advice and co-operation made this work possible. I am highly indebted and grateful to my supervisors, Dr. Abani Kumar Bhagabati, Department of Geography, Gauhati University, and Dr. Padma Kanta Bora, retired Head, Department of Civil Engineering, Assam Engineering College, Guwahati, for their valuable advice, supervision and guidance in all aspects of this work. I am also greatly thankful for their encouragements. I am also grateful to various authors, whose writings and ideas were either quoted or used in my research work.

I convey my gratitude to the Department of Geography, Gauhati University for giving me the opportunity to undertake the work. My hearty thanks and gratefulness go to the Principal, Tezpur College, Tezpur and all my colleagues of the Department of Geography, Tezpur College, Tezpur for their co-operation, advice and suggestion. I also express my deepest sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Late Dulal Ch. Bhuyan, ex Deputy Director, Town and Country planning, Tezpur, for his valuable suggestions and his kindness in presenting me one of the valuable books for my work (the book of Kadiyali that he bought from Delhi for me).

I owe a special word of thanks to my parents, my wife Rupali and children (Anwesha and Abhigyan) who spent their valuable time and always inspired and constantly encouraged me in my work.

I must express my gratitude to officers and employees of various offices and departments, especially the office of the Town and Country Planning Organisation, Tezpur, Municipality Board, Tezpur, Director of Census, Guwahati, Tezpur Circle office and DTO, Sonitpur, Tezpur for their helping hand in supplying different kinds of data and information. I am also happy to acknowledge the help received from my student Nekibur Rahman and his group in my field work and Banjit Kr. Deka for his help in the cartographic works.

(Prakash Jyoti Saikia)