DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my beloved father, P.C.Lalduha, who had left us and this world on the ninth of May, 2011. This thesis is here today only because of my late father, whose dearest wish had always been for me to fully accomplish my academic pursuit with a Ph.D degree. I remember his joy and enthusiasm when I finally joined Ph.D programme under Mizoram University and also his appreciations and constant encouragements during my research works, although, sadly was not able to see me through to the end of this journey. The desire and the determination to fulfill my father’s dream had been the constant source of inspiration for me, giving me the strengths to overcome difficulties and hardships in my research endeavor, to finally present this thesis. I thank God for blessing me with such a loving, inspiring father who had taught me the values of life and hard works. My deepest sorrow and only regret this day is that he did not live to see me with this thesis, and my greatest joy is to be able to finally accomplishing his wish! Although he is no longer of this world, his loving memories will continue to be the guiding star in my life for the days to come.

‘So, with this thesis, dear father, I thank you with all my heart and you will always be lovingly remembered with smiles and tears. We love you’

Lalramngthaki Pachuau