ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Working on the doctoral programme has been a wonderful and often overwhelming experience. In the completion of this doctoral programme, I have been assisted by many people and the list of the people I need to thank will not fit to a single acknowledgement section. I just mention some people whose contribution is obvious. It is a great pleasure to express my sincere appreciation to those who have contributed to this thesis and supported me in one way or the other during this amazing journey.

First and foremost, I would like to express my admiration and deep sense of gratitude to my Supervisor Professor Ranju Rani Dhamala, Department of Political Science, Assam University for her constant support and encouragement. She has indeed oriented and supported me with promptness and care. She patiently provided the vision and advice necessary to proceed through the doctoral programme. She has always given me great freedom to pursue the work independently and shared her expertise whenever required.

In course of my study, I had been in contact with many government officials of both Assam and Arunachal Pradesh particularly officials of Directorate of Panchayat and Rural Development and SIRD, G.P Secretaries, staff of Zilla Parishad Offices as well as Deputy Commissioners’ Offices. Their valuable contribution and interaction has served me well to develop my understanding and I owe them my heartfelt appreciation.

I must express my thanks to all the Presidents/Chairpersons and Members of Gram Panchayats (under study) for their active co-operation and providing the information required for my research work.

In addition, I have been very privileged to get to know and to collaborate with many other persons who became close over the last several years. My sincere thanks goes to Shri Jyotirmoy Bhattacharjee, Research Officer,
Department of Social and Family Welfare, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Naharlagan, Itanagar, and also his family members for extending their cooperation and assisting me to collect necessary facts and information from various government offices of Arunachal Pradesh.

I would also like to sincerely thank Dr. Dibyojyoti Bhattacharjee, Associate Professor, Department of Business Administration, Assam University, and Mr. Sudarshan Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Radhamadhab College, Silchar, for extending their necessary help and guidance whenever required.

I owe a lot to Professor Debasish Bhattacharjee, Department of Political Science, Assam University for his encouragement and thoughtful guidance during the entire period of my study. My ideas and discussions with him frequently led to key insights. I also wish to express my sincere thanks to Professor Tanmoy Bhattacharjee (Retd.) and other faculty members of the Department of Political Science, Assam University whose co-operation and insights have throughout been a source of my inspiration.

I would also like to place on record my sincere appreciation and thanks for Mr. Debaganshu Chakraborty of M/s Nicety Graphics, Silchar for his untiring efforts and co-operation in setting the chapters and giving a final shape to the thesis.

I also wish to thank my Parents, Wife, Brother and Sister-in-law for their love and inspiration which have always been the driving force towards the completion of this research work. They were always there cheering me up and stood by me through the good times and bad.

Finally, my sincere thanks are also due to all those who have directly or indirectly have lent their helping hand in the completion of this doctoral programme.

Dated, Silchar

Debotosh Chakraborty
The 9th July, 2012