# <u>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</u>

With a deep sense of esteem, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. J.W Dkhar, Dept. of Anthropology, NEHU, Shillong under whose supervision the present study was undertaken, for his inspiring guidance, help, encouragement and incredible patience. Truly, it has been a privileged to learn under you, Sir

I express my thanks to the faculty and staff of Anthropology Department, for their valuable help and advice towards shaping this thesis.

I am truly indebted to the people of the three villages, Shangpung, Mookaiaw, Mootyrchiah, and all my respondents for their co-operation and readiness to help. My gratitude to the Rangbah Shnong of Chutwakhu Jowai who had introduced me, the DC of Jaintia Hills who had given me permission to carry out my work in Jaintia Hills. I am grateful to the BDO of Laskein block who had given me information and granted me permission and extending whatever help he could offer in collecting the data.

To my hosts, Mrs. B. Rabon and family, Mr. S. Rymbai and family, Mr. L. Lyngdoh and family, Mrs W. Tang and family, my heartfelt to you all for your warm and hospitality and for accepting me as a part of your family while I was in the fields, I am truly grateful to Miss E. Rabon, Mr. M. Wann, Mr. R. Kamar and Mr. D. Tang for their assistance and accompaniment during the data collection at various time inspite of their busy schedule and lastly to my father (L) Mr. K. Tang and mother Mrs. S. Kamar and Mr. Damewan Suching for enlightening me about the villages

Many many thanks to all my friends for all the help, support, you gave me through, I am forever grateful to you all. Thanks to all my well wishers who made my research days a growing experience.

To my family, my internal gratitude for your selfless support and encouragement and my thanks to all my cousins who helped me in various ways too. Last but not the least, I express my greatest gratitude to God who had enable me to complete this research.

Shillong

17<sup>th</sup> December, 2011                                                                 Pyngngad Kamar

ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF MEGHALAYA

LEGEND

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NATIONAL HIGHWAY | | INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY | | STATE HEADQUARTER |
| STATE HIGHWAY | | STATE BOUNDARY | | DISTRICT HEADQUARTER |
| STUDY AREA | | DISTRICT BOUNDARY | | BLOCK HEADQUARTER |
| | | BLOCK BOUNDARY | | TOWN |

0   12.5   25   50   75   100
KMS

THADLASKEIN C.D. BLOCK

MUKROH

A

S

S

S

N

W            E

S

FROM NARTIANG

THANGBAN

SNONGWAH

NOOKALAW

MOOTYRCHIAH

LASKEIN

CHIDNINO

HOOKDI

SAPKAI

A

FROM NONGBAH

KYNSHENG TUBER

PARIYH

PAWANNK

RALIANG

SHANGPUNG MOISYIEM

SHANGPUNG POHSHNONG

SHANGPUNG MISSION

SHANGPUNG KHLIEHMOOCHUT

THADMUTHLONG

FROM JOWAI

FROM SILCHAR

KHLIEHRIAT  C.D. BLOCK

SAIPUNG  C.D. BLOCK

M

SKETCH MAP OF THE STUDY AREA

| LEGEND | | NOTATION | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ROAD | | VILLAGE OF STUDY – | ● |
| RIVER | | AREA OF STUDY | |
| VILLAGE | ○ | | |

0  1  2  3  4  5  6 km

v