ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my gratitude to my Supervisor Dr. Y. Yodida Bhutia, Department of Education, North Eastern Hill University, for giving me an opportunity to do this research under her guidance, patience, motivation, immense knowledge, useful comments, remarks and constant encouragement throughout the course of this thesis. The blessing, help and guidance given by her from time to time shall carry me a long way in the journey of my life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Head and faculty members of the Department of Education, North-Eastern Hill University for their support and valuable inputs and guidance, which helped me in completing this thesis through various stages.

I am also thankful to the staffs of central library North-Eastern Hill University.

I would like to thank the ICSSR (MHRD, Delhi) for awarding me the ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship. Receiving this scholarship has helped me in reducing my financial burdens and provides assistance in doing the research.

I express my sincere gratitude to the ICSSR, NERC, Shillong, for providing me with financial assistance to visit different libraries like Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, NCERT, NUEPA, NIE Delhi, Manan Kendra: Sikkim and Sikkim Archive.

I would also like to express my gratitude, to Principals/Headmasters/Headmistress who agreed to be a part of my research and provided primary information and also to the officials of Human Resource Development Department: Sikkim, & Lekha Pariksha Bhawan, Deorali for their gracious support and worthwhile information which helped me in completing this thesis.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to my parents, sisters and brothers for their personal support and encouragement without which this thesis would not have been possible.

I am indebted to my friends for their co-operation, inspiration and prayer.

Lastly, my special thanks go to ‘God’ for the wisdom and perseverance bestowed upon me in my life especially during this research work.

Nar Maya Subba