This research work namely ‘ Good Governance and Panchayat Raj : Role of Women in Tripura’ has been an impartial effort to understand the concept of good governance and its relation with panchayat raj and also to unearth the nature of role being played by the elected women members in grassroots governance system. Good governance in the context of panchayat raj system is all about the process of how local government bodies ensures that they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a right time with accountable, participatory and transparent manner.

Women are the new actors in the system of good governance especially in rural areas, who play their role through the grassroots institution like panchayat raj. Women are now being elected to local panchayat raj system in an unprecedented numbers as a result of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment which has mandated the compulsory reservation of seats and many other advantages for women in local government. Since the year 1994, the country has experienced several rounds of panchayat elections. So, now it is the need of time and situation to assess the impact of women’s entry into the formal structure of panchayat raj from the point of view of good governance.

So, in view of the above, this research work mainly highlights the issues under two broad heads - Good Governance and the Role of Women under the umbrella of 73rd Constitutional amendment in the light of Indian experience with especial reference to the situation in Tripura. Keeping in conformity with the logic of the research work, two hypothesis have been made, which are - firstly; absence of active and affective participation by women in panchayats will deteriorate the dreams of the 73rd Amendment to make them productive human resource in the society. Secondly, in a given opportunity women can play a significant role in rural governance in terms of economy and social development.
Similarly, the objectives are; firstly, to assess the extent to which the state of Tripura has devolved political and administrative reforms to ensure women participation in the process of decision making through panchayat raj. Secondly, to gain knowledge about the socio-economic and political backgrounds of the women members of Gaon Panchayat (GP). Thirdly, to assess the nature of role which women members play to promote good governance in local panchayat mechanism. Fourthly, to identify the problems faced by women members of Gaon Panchayat (GP) in discharging their given responsibilities and to record their perceptions in this respect. Finally, to give suggestions to the academicians and policy makers in order to ensure good governance at panchayat level and administrative efficiency of the women representatives of panchayats.

The plan of work has been designed into five chapters. The first chapter starts with a background of the research describing the ‘statement of the problem’, two statements of hypothesis, objectives of the research, an account of research gap, significance of the study, methodology, source material of the research and a brief description of the review of literature. The second chapter discusses on the conceptual analysis of the issues of ‘good governance’ and ‘panchayat raj’. It also points out the macro and micro characteristics of good governance giving an account of how this concept is related with the system of panchayat raj. Governance of women in India from National Parliament to rural panchayat has been a major premise study at present. The third chapter gives an account of how women have involved themselves in the political governance of India. The fourth chapter focuses on the changing patterns of women governance from the time of ruling Tripura by princely dynasties, before and after Independence and the situation after 73rd Amend of the Constitution. This chapter also contains the field realities concluded out of field survey about women governance in panchayat raj in Tripura. On the basis of field analysis and secondary information, concluding comments / observations have been made in the fifth and last chapter. Pertaining to the findings of the research, some suggestions / policy prescriptions have also been made.
It may be noted here that the research work is mainly based on primary and secondary data. Interview and questionnaire method have been used in order to make comprehensive survey. Statistical method and comparative method have also been followed whenever required.

However, on completion of the thesis, the researcher never claims any finality of the process and outcomes of this research work. The researcher also honestly admits that there may be further scope of making new strategies to work on the similar issues in similar areas. Although, it is expected that the findings of this thesis will help Government Organizations (GOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), development agencies and new researchers to take appropriate measures to make or remake operational strategies and programs to promote good governance ensuring women’s active and energetic participation in every development initiatives of over all panchayat governance in Tripura.