ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset, I place on record my deep sense of gratitude to my revered teacher and supervisor of this work, Dr. B.D. Nayak, Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, North Eastern Regional institute of Science and Technology, Nirjuli, Arunachal Pradesh, whose able, constant and promotional guidance, numerous insightful suggestions have resulted completion of this work. His constant inspiration, personal care and kind consideration make me ever indebted to him. I must express my gratitude to the Head of the Department, all the faculty members and all the members of DC and DPGC of the Department of HSS, NERIST Nirjuli, for their encouragement and valuable suggestions during the research work for completing this study.

In the process of completion of this thesis, I tried to explore many scholarly works undertaken by various eminent scholars of the country and abroad, for which I express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to them. I am grateful to the following persons and institutions for the help and assistance I received during the period of my study- the Liberian and the staff, Dibrugarh University, Director of Economic and Statistics, Assam, Director of Census Operation, Assam, Project Directors and Staff, DRDA, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji, BDOs and Staff of Narayanpur, Karunabari, Machkhowa and Dhemaji Development Block, Staff, District Agriculture office and DIC Lakhimpur, Librarian, Madhabdev College Library. In addition, I am also grateful to all the members of the sample MGNREGS and non-sample MGNREGS households who extended immense help and assistance at the data collection stage.

I am also grateful to Dr. Iswar Sharma Bharali, MSc, Ph.D., Principal (of my college) of Madhabdev College, my colleagues Dr Gagan Behari Das, Dr Mohendra Hazarika, Sri Ramesh Hazarika, Dr Khirud Phukan, and Sri Mukul Hazarika who helped and supported me to carry out this work. I recall my deep sense of gratitude to my wife Ms. Iva Saikia and my relatives, friends and well-wishers for their encouragement. They have made me sense that I do not neglect this work.

Sarat Hazarika