PREFACE
Human rights have become a global concern in the contemporary world as people have started showing their feeling towards the miseries and humiliations suffered by fellow human beings. Today, the importance of contemporary international relations is attached to the promotion and protection of human rights. Various movement for more freedom and autonomy by different ethnic groups and their counter-movements by the States have made imperative to the question of human rights issues both in more developed and developing countries including India.

Nagaland has been one of the States in India where there has been a lot of human rights violations. The extent of human rights violations in the State following the Naga Movement for freedom particularly before signing of the Cease-Fire Agreement (1997), ranges from raping of women, torturing of men and children, moving people into concentration camps burning of villages, destruction of crops and many other forms of inhumane activities which are against the provisions laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
The kind of human rights violations that have taken place in Nagaland since the enforcement of Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1958 has been the driving force for me to undertake this vexed issue. Infact, several individuals, numerous Non-Governmental Organisations at the state, national and international level have voiced their grievous concerns with respect to the state of affairs pertaining to human rights violations in Nagaland. However, very little in depth academic research work were undertaken and hence not shedding much light on this issue. Thus, the issue has generated an interest to make an attempt for in depth research study to find out the genesis of the whole problem of human rights violations in Nagaland.

As far as possible and within many constraints, this work attempts to examine the rationale leading to the enforcement of Armed Forces Special Powers Act 1958 in Nagaland, the after effect of this enforcement that has led to gross human rights violations, the role of some prominent Non-Governmental Organisations operating in the state in their endeavour to protect and fight against all forms of human rights violations.
An objective analysis was carried out with an intention to bring out suggestions on the basis of the findings that I am sure will make many readers particularly the policy makers to have a better understanding of the whole issue and thereby coming up with some practical policies and programmes that would solve the problems. The study covers the period between 1950s to the signing of the Cease-fire agreement in 1997.

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Shillong,

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Miss Nzanbeni Patton