ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. A. Henia, Department of Education, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, who amidst her busy hours, took genuine and personal interest at each and every stage of my study. Her constant supervision, scholarly guidance and continuous encouragement, acted as a guiding force behind the successful and timely completion of my research work.

I am also thankful to all the teachers of Department of Education, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong; Prof. K.S. Lyngdoh, Prof. P.K. Gupta, Prof R. Wangu, Dr.S.Sungoh, Dr.C.Nongbri and Dr. K.M.Warjri who have extended their help in critically reviewing the research proposal during selection and in offering their intelligent remarks and valuable suggestions at the pre-submission seminar presentation. Their constant encouragement and enquiries made during the various stages of my study have been a driving force for me to complete the work in time.

My sincere thanks to all the Principals, Teachers and Students of the different colleges/institutes of Sikkim for their active co-operation and valuable assistance in furnishing the needed information while filling up the questionnaire, without their help this study would not have been completed.

I am equally thankful to all the officials of whole Human Resource Development Department, Government of Sikkim, officials of Home Department, officials of Finance Department, Directorate of Economics and Statistics who were most co-operative and provided the required information for my study.

I would like to express my admiration to all the non-teaching staff members of the Department of Education, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for their unfailing support and availability at all stages of my study.

I am thankful to the Library staff of North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, North Eastern Council Library Shillong, State Central Library Shillong, State Central Library Gangtok, District Library of Namchi, Sikkim Legislative and Parliamentary Affair Department library Gangtok, library of Indian Council of Social Science Research Shillong, library of Manipur University and Jawaharlal Nehru University Delhi, for the free and easy access of books and information.
I am grateful to my parents and my sisters for their unconditional support, love and encouragement.

I would also like to thank all my friends and well wishers at Shillong (Meghalaya) and Sikkim who were directly or indirectly responsible for making this piece of work a reality.

Shillong
The 16th December 2005

(Yodida Bhutia)
Research Scholar
Department of Education,
North Eastern Hill University,
Shillong,