Acknowledgement

I express my deep debt of gratitude to my supervisor Prof. A. C. Sinha of the Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hill University for his inspiration, guidance and assistance which he provided me in every step of my research work. I would also like to thank Prof. P. M. Chacko, Head of Department of Sociology North Eastern Hill University, for his valuable help and cooperation. I will be falling in my duty if I do not thank all my teachers for their support.

My sincere thanks to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (NERC) for giving me the opportunity to visit Osmania University, Hyderabad under the study scheme grant. I would also like to thank Mr. Gideon Kharkongor (Lecturer, Geography Department, St. Edmund’s College, Shillong for his outstretched hands in drawing out the required maps in this research study.

My special thanks go to Mr. Tosan Kharsati for helping me in collecting data from the field. Thanks are due to Mr. Surajit Chakraborty for helping me in statistical work and to Mr. Rupert Momin who extended all the possible help from time to time for completing this work. I am grateful to the authorities of Urban Affairs Department, Census Department, and Municipal Department, Government of Meghalaya for helping me with available information from time to time.
I am extremely thankful to my loving parents for standing by me through the period of my tension and stress with endurance and cheerfulness. I also wish to express my love and indebtedness to my dear brother and sister who were a constant source of support and inspiration and affection throughout the period of my struggle. I also wish to express my heartful thanks to my friends and relatives for continuously and constantly encouraging me to carry on the task I had undertaken.

Thanks are also recorded in favour of all those who positively responded to my Questionnaire schedule-too many to be named – who have in many ways helped me in enriching my work. My indebtedness lies also to the staff members of various libraries and institutions for providing me the timely access to the research material therein.

I express my gratitude to Dr. U. Sewa, of the Department of English, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong who was kind enough to read the draft. Last, but not the least, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Ksan K. Kharshiing, who without hesitation, and within a very short period of time amidst his busy schedules was able to print this research to the best of his ability.

Department of Sociology
North Eastern Hill University
Shillong – 793 022

Surojit Sen Gupta