ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is really a great opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to my Supervisor, Dr. Surendra Singh, Professor and Head, Department of Geography, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, whose generous guidance and valuable suggestions have made the Dissertation a success. I am also grateful to him for providing necessary facilities in the Department for smooth functioning of the present research work.

I express my thankfulness to Dr. Anjana Chaliha, Principal, J.B.College, Jorhat, Assam for giving me the chance of doing research. I am equally thankful to Mr. K.K.Gogoi, Head of the Department of Geography, J.B.College, Jorhat for encouraging me in different directions.

My sincere gratitude also goes to Dr. S. Sarma and Ms. J. Pyngrope, the Senior and Junior Cartographic Assistants of the Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong for lending me necessary equipment in time.

I am really indebted to Mr. P.P.Dey of the Computer Centre of NEHU, who helped me a lot in tabulating and processing data.

I am also thankful to all the teachers and office-staff of the Department of Geography, NEHU, Shillong and the faculty members of Geography Department of J.B.College, Jorhat.

Last but not least, I owe a great deal to my parents, brothers, and my wife Dipa and daughter Abheepsha, for rendering help in various ways and, in fact, they have been the constant source of inspiration throughout the course of the present study.

Lastly, I express my sincere thanks to the Head, Department of Geography, J.B.College, Jorhat for giving permission to use the computer of the Department for typing out of the present Dissertation.

Date: 24-11-12
Place: Jorhat

( BIMAL BARAH)