The thesis on 'The Assamese Muslim Social Structure: Study in a Goalpara Village' is a modest exercise for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy from North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong. The village study is based on first hand information collected from the respondents in the field. Secondary source materials were consulted at the various libraries at Shillong, Guwahati and Goalpara. Many persons in their different capacities helped in multitude of ways towards completion of the thesis. Hereby, I acknowledge a deep sense of gratitude to them.

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 express my sincere gratitude to Prof. M.N. Karna of the Department of Sociology, NEHU, Prof. Imdad Hussain of the Department of History, NEHU, Dr. P.S. Dutta, Joint Director of North-East Indian Council of Social Science Research, Shillong and Prof. D.N. Dhanagare (Visiting
Professor to NEHU) for offering valuable suggestions and guidelines when the findings were presented in the Pre-submission Seminar for this thesis.

I am particularly indebted and express my thanks to Mr. A. Rahman of Goalpara and Mr. N. Ahmed of Guwahati for providing accommodation besides offering valuable suggestions and guidance. I express my thanks to Mr. M. Hussain of the Goalpara Municipality Office, Shri M. Das of Goalpara Mahakuma Parishad Office, Shri S. Nath, a literateur of Goalpara and Shri A.C. Sarkar, Principal of the Bongaigaon College, Goalpara for their valuable suggestions. I owe a special debt of gratitude to all my respondents; without their co-operation, success in this venture would not have been possible. I appreciate the sincerity and remain grateful to Ms. Saida, a little girl of the village who made my access to the village easy.

I express thanks to my colleagues Ms. U. Sewa and Ms. M. Mazumdar, of the Department of English, St. Mary's College, Shillong, for making necessary correction in the language of my work. Thanks are due to Ms. K. Sinha, Department of Geography, St. Mary's College, Shillong, for helping me in drawing out the maps.
I gratefully remember Shri B.N. Mishra, Department of Sociology, St. Edmund's College, Shillong, for helping me in doing the substantial task of proofreading and collating with much care and diligence. I wish to acknowledge my debt to my sister Dr. (Mrs.) S. Nessa of Department of Political Science, St. Edmund's College, Shillong, who stood by me throughout the research work and offered constant encouragement.

My thanks are due to Dhiraj Chakraborty of NEHU for typing the thesis. Thanks are due to Shri K. Sharma of NEHU for cyclostyling the stencils. Thanks are also due to the librarians of the different libraries for providing me with all the facilities and source materials for the study.

Dated Shillong, the 24th December 1988.

(Saifun Nessa)