ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation is a product on the advice taken, both substantive and bibliographic from several friends and teachers of the North-Eastern Hill University. That advice was generously and freely given by Professor M.N. Karna, Dr. V. Xaxa, and other teachers of the Department of Sociology; Professor J.B. Bhattacharjee and Dr. D.R. Syiemlieh of the Department of History; Professor B. Pakem and Dr. L.S. Gassah of the Department of Political Science; Dr. Ali Ahmed and Dr. R. GopalaKrishnan of the Department of Geography; Dr. C.R. Agera of the Department of Philosophy; Dr. P.S. Dutta, Deputy Director, NERC-ICSSR; Professor D.N. Dhanagare of the University of Poona; Professor T.N. Pandey of California University; the members of Hynniwtrep Endeavour Society (HES); Bah L.G. Shullai, Bah T. Cajee IAS, and Kong M.R. Mawlong IAS. I am grateful to all these persons for having shared with me the benefit of their expertise.

I am also grateful to the people of Pdengshnong in Cherrapunjee, the staff of Sociology Department, the staff of Central Library NEHU, my friends and the Education Department, Government of Meghalaya for the Research Fellowship which partly met my expenses during my re-search.

I thank Bah Joseph F. Khongbuh for typing the final draft of my manuscript with an admirable blend of swiftness and accuracy.
Finally, my Guide Dr. N. Kumar, was an educator in every way. Like a true Sociologist, he created an aesthetical sociological ambience during the period of my research. It was truly a dynamic reaction of ethnography and theory.

SHILLONG

THE 28 NOVEMBER 1990

(A. KYRHAM MONGKYNRIH)