Acknowledgement

The work is the culmination of the help and encouragement of many individuals which needs to be gratefully acknowledged.

I am deeply indebted to my supervisor Dr. I. S. Mumtaza Khatun, Associate Professor, Department of History, Gauhati University, for her constant guidance, motivation and valuable suggestions. I am also thankful to the Department of History, Gauhati University for giving me the opportunity to carry out my research work.

I am greatly indebted to late Dr. Dipankar Banerjee for his encouragement and support.

I acknowledge with gratitude the co-operation I had received from various offices and libraries, where I had collected invaluable references for my work. Mention may be made of Namgyal Institute of Tibetology Gangtok, Sikkim State Archives Gangtok, National Archives New Delhi, Asiatic Society of Bengal Kolkata, National Library Kolkata, K. K. Handique Library Gauhati University, ICHR Guwahati, North Bengal University Library, Tribhuvan University Library Kathmandu, Department of Law, Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, and Department of Ecclesiastical Affairs, Government of Sikkim.

In this process I would like to thank the support received from friends Tasvina Bora and Rizwanul Helim. I offer my thanks to Dr. M. P. Kharel, Principal of Sikkim Government College, Dr. S. Kharel and K. Jaishi for their valuable advice. In this regard I would like to thank Lama Dup Tshering, Head Lama of Old Rumtek Monastery, D. K. Rai, OSD Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Government of Sikkim, Uday Chandra Basistha, retired officer, Phur Tshering Lepcha, ex village headman, for their valuable informations. I am thankful to Sashi S. L. Chettri, Principal of Deorali Girls Sr. Sec. School, Laxuman Neopaney and Dharnidhar Khatiwara for their help and support.
I offer my thanks to HRD Department, Government of Sikkim for giving me permission to carry out this work. I am thankful to the Principal, Vice Principal and colleagues of Biraspati Parsai Sr. Sec. School, Ranipool, East Sikkim for their help and support. I also offer my thanks to Binod Sarmah, Indraneeel Pegu and Chomu and my student Rajen Upadhayay for their help. I am thankful to Bipul Das for his effort in typing, printing and binding my thesis.

Lastly, I offer my heartiest gratitude to my grandmother late Hari Maya Pokhrel and my late parents Bishnu Prasad Gautam and Yashoda Gautam. I offer my gratitude to my father-in law Parshuram Neopaney, mother-in-law Indira Neopaney and my entire family for standing behind me. Last but not the least I offer my heartiest gratitude to my life partner Usha, and my son Utsav for standing behind me and offering all the peace and happiness that is required for research.

Date: (Keshav Gautam)