ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My greatest debt is to my supervisor the late Dr. D.N. Majumdar for his patient and meticulous examination of my work, and his penetrating criticism and valuable suggestions. His encouragement was an asset to me. Unfortunately he died on the 25th July, 1990 when I was almost completing my thesis. I deeply mourn his death. In his death I lost a kind hearted teacher and guide without whose help it would have not been possible to complete this work.

I am also grateful to Dr. N.N. Bhattacharyya, Professor at the Department of Geography who offered me constructive suggestions to improve the material of the thesis.

I should like to record any sense of gratitude and appreciation for my numerous students and friends who helped me in collecting the data of the city of Guwahati. The friends and students are too numerous to mention their names here. I should, however, be failing in my duty
if I do not mention the names of Dr. Md. Maswood, Dr. H. C. Sharma, Mrs. Gitanjali Sharma, Md. Arabuddin Ahmed, Mrs. Anumara Ahmed, Mr. Amer Das, Mrs. Tife Bordolei, Miss Gitanjalee Goswami, Miss Tilettama Baruah, Miss Digita Goswami, Mr. Prankrishna Das, Mr. Nripendra Kumar Roy, Mr. Prabin Lahkar, Miss Sandhya Das, Mrs. Hiranmayee Kalita, Mr. Girija Saikia, Mr. Bichitra Narayan Das, Ms. Barada Patgiri, Miss Jonal Devi and several Assamese families of Guwahati. Without the help of these people I could not have completed the process of data collection for my thesis.

I am grateful to all the members of the staff of the Department of Anthropology, whose stimulus and encouragement have helped me enormously in completing the thesis. I am grateful in particular to Dr. Sankar Kumar Roy and Mr. Sushil Sinha of the Department of Anthropology for their technical help and assistance towards my work.

I am grateful to Mrs. Jayasree Kalita of the Department of Anthropology for preparing the maps and also to Mrs. Aalna Barkataky of the Department of Computer Science for preparing the graphs.
I am thankful to Mr. Rati Kanta Das for typing out the manuscript of the thesis.

I am also grateful to my husband and my two children whose encouragement and cooperation have gone a long way towards the completion of my work.

Lastly I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the Almighty God who gave me so much patience and persistence to carry out the work to its completion.

(Rani Hanerika Kakati)