ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am extremely grateful and indebted to my supervisor Dr. Bhaskar Kumar Chakravarty, B.Sc. (Hons), LL.M., Ph. D., Principal, University Law College, Gauhati University, Guwahati-14, for his able guidance, valuable suggestions, tremendous inspirations and unending help in course of the execution of the present research work right from the beginning, inspite of his preoccupation with onerous academic responsibilities and assignments.

I must acknowledge my profound gratitude to Professor (Dr.) N. Sannjaoba, LL.M., Ph. D., Head of the Department of Law, Gauhati University for his valuable help and guidance in the execution of the present research work. I must also acknowledge my thanks and gratitude to Dr. Jogen Ch. Kalita, M.Sc., Ph. D., Reader, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University and to Dr. Prasanta Kumar Saikia, M.Sc., Ph. D., Reader, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University for their valuable help and guidance in the execution of the present research work.

I must also acknowledge my thanks and gratitude to Professor (Dr) A.N.M.Irshad Ali, M.Sc., Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, G. U. and Professor (Dr) B. Chaudhury, M.Sc., Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, G.U. for their valuable help and suggestions.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Suresh Chakravarty, M.D., Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Gauhati Medical College, Guwahati-5, Dr. Pankaj Lochan Sarma M.D., DPM, Guwahati Psychiatric Hospital, Guwahati-37, Dr. P.K. Nath, M.D., Mahendra Mohan Choudhury Hospital, Gauhati-1, Dr. S. I. Ahmed, M.B.B.S., Monaliv Clinic
and AIDS Research Centre, Zoo Narengi Road, Guwahati-3, Sjt. Goutom Sharma, Secretary, Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati-37, Professor (Dr.) M. N. Karna, M.A., Ph.D., Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hills University, Shillong, Meghalaya, Dr. (Col) Manjul Khanna, M.D., Project Co-ordinator, Community Wide Drug Demand Reduction in N.E. India (MSJE & UNDCP), Shillong, Meghalaya, Dr. J. R. Rana, M.B.B.S., Psychiatrist, Home for Mentally Ill People, Mawlai, Shillong, Meghalaya, Dr. Syendi Syiem, M.B.B.S., Psychiatrist, Sanka Rehab. Centre, Mawroh, Mawlai, Shillong, Meghalaya, Mr. L. Meru, Convenor, Nagaland State Task Force on Prevention of Drug Abuse & AIDS (TAFOPDA), Dimapur, Nagaland, Dr. V. Negi, M.B.B.S., Naga Hospital, Kohima, Nagaland, Dr. Sashi Ao, M.B.B.S., Paramedical Institute, Kohima, Nagaland, Dr. Thupu O Nyekha, Youth Counselling Centre, Kohima, Nagaland, Mr. Tialiba, Asstt. Director, Social Security and Welfare, Nagaland, Kohima, Professor (Dr.) G. Gnyaneswar Sarma, M.D., Department of Psychiatry, RIMS, Imphal, Manipur, Dr. J. Manikanta, M.B.B.S., Drug De-addiction Centre, Old Hospital, Imphal, Manipur, Dr. Khumdorn Singh Leisam, M.B.B.S., Project Director, State AIDS Control Society, Manipur, Imphal, Dr. N. Surajit Singh, M.B.B.S., Centre for Social Development, Langol, Imphal, Manipur, Mr. T. Geet Chandra Sarma, Kuarkithal, Imphal, Manipur, Ms. H. Nandini Devi, Naoremthong Leikai, Imphal, Manipur, Dr. Lalnunthara, M.A., Ph. D., Chief Executive Officer, Mizoram State Social Defence and Rehabilitation Board, Saltlang, Aizwal, Mizoram, Dr. John M. Ralte, M.B.B.S., Nodal Officer, Directorate of Health Services, Mizoram, Aizwal, Mr. K. Alinantheta, Sinners Friend Rescue Home, Siphire, Aizwal, Mizoram, Dr. Srilekha Roy, D.M.S. Voluntary Health Association of Tripura, Agartala, Dr. J.C. Das, M.B.B.S., Project Director, Tripura State AIDS Control Society, Agartala, Dr. Sunil Dhar, M.B.B.S., Krishna
Nagar, Agartala, Tripura and Dr. Rabi Kripa, M.B.B.S., Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh for their help and guidance in making field survey/assessment in the North East Region in the execution of the present research work.

I must also thank those persons whom I met and interviewed in the state of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh in course of my survey and assessment work in the aforesaid states.

I am also thankful to the staff of the K.K. Handique Library, Gauhati University, University Law College Library, Gauhati University and North East Council Library, N.E.C., Shillong, Meghalaya for their kind co-operation and helpful attitude.

I would also like to express my deep sense of appreciation to Mr. Prafulla Bhattacharjee and Mr. Ramen Haloi of Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati-37 who have taken the trouble of typing this thesis.

I shall fail in my duty, if I do not record my indebtedness and appreciation to my wife Mrs. Pooja Kalita Pathak and my son master Barnam for their constant inspiration and help without which the completion of this research work would not have been possible.

Dated Guwahati
The 20th June, 2005

(Tarani Pathak)