PREFACE

The study on rural-urban interactions and linkages is almost absent for study region in particular and for entire North-Eastern region in general. The author felt that study of rural-urban interactions and linkages will provide useful information regarding rural-urban flow of goods and people - which would be useful for planners and Geographers. As data required for the study region was not available readily, the present work is mainly based on field studies, which took more time than anticipated.

Firstly survey work in the study region which is characterised by hills posed some problems. As some of the selected villages were found without accessible roads and we have to walk a long distance to conduct our field studies. Secondly the climate of the region is characterised by fairly long and heavy monsoon and severe and prolonged winter seasons which considerably restricted the mobility particularly in the rural areas. Thirdly some times villagers who normally go out to the fields early in morning and get home only after dark compel the author to wait for long to interview them. Similarly the problem of response was also felt as they were not used to such type of survey works. In some remote village (Muktapur) we found people did not have precise ideas regarding weight and measures.

As the region is isolated from the rest of region-books, periodicals, research materials and data's are not available which restricts the scope of our study.

The difference between a rural and urban areas cannot be made by isolating rural or urban area as there is always some type of interaction as the cities are concentration of people who do not grow their own found and they have to depend on farmers, on the other hand farmer looks to urban areas for market.
And it is in this process that the movement of goods i.e. agricultural surplus takes place which gives rise to interactions and Linkages. It is in this context that study of rural-urban interaction and Linkages has been conducted for united Khasi-Jaintia Hills districts of Meghalaya. The problem was studied in the economic background and due care has been taken to understand the problems of the region such as communication, transport, infrastructure, environment and industrialisation. Corrective measures has been suggested as and when it was found appropriate.