ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I deem it to be solemn duty on my part to express my deep sense of gratitude to my guide Dr. N. N. Bhattacharyya, Professor in Geography, Gauhati University for his guidance and sustained inspiration in completing the research work. I owe a special debt of gratitude to him for his involvement in the extensive field works carried out in the study area in course of this research and providing opportunities to undergo necessary training and presenting papers in various seminars.

I am greatly indebted to Late Pramila Devi, ex-principal, Gopal Boro H.S. School, who helped me in getting permission to do my research work.

I would like to extend my deep sense of gratitude to my husband Dr. Pradip Sharma, who is my friend, philosopher and guide of every steps of my life. He and my two loving kids, Praschaya & Prachuryya who offered helped and inspiration in various ways during the period of study.

Besides, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Pradip Sarma, retired Joint Director of Archaeology, my father Sjt. Jaranath Bhattcharyya and my mother Sjta. Nilima Bhattcharyya without whose blessings and encouragements the study could not have completed.

My sincere thanks are due to Mr. Bhaskar Kaushik and Mr. Tridib Bhagawati, who took enough pain in collecting information and helping me in doing survey works.
I am thankful to Dr. Abani Kr. Bhagawati, Head of the Department of Geography, Gauhati University and Dr. P. K. Bora Rtd. Prof. Assam Engineering College for their help and inspiration. I extend my sincere gratitude to Sri Prasanna Baruah, Sri Sandeep Bhattacharyya and Sri Narayan Chetry for their immense help in drawing maps and figures of the thesis. Mr. Ramen Bhagawati who took ample pain to type the thesis with considerable care also deserves my grateful thanks.

I acknowledge the help extended to me by the officials and scientists of various agencies and departments like Assam Remote Sensing Application Centre, District Transport Office, Guwahati Municipal Corporation, Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority, Pollution Control Board, Assam, Society for Research Development and Communication and Department of Geography, Gauhati University for their help in collecting data for the thesis and valued cooperation and encouragement in preparing the thesis.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the various authors, publishers, organisations and Institutions for using their learned papers, journals, reports and scientific data in connection with my research work.

Lastly I reserve a word of appreciation and gratitude for all those countless individuals including Namitabaidew, Manisha, Champak and Jayanta and institutions who have directly or indirectly contributed towards completion of my doctoral research.

Date: 7/1/05

(CHAYANIKA SHARMA)