The thesis titled, “Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council: A study of its structure and functions” is a modest attempt to make a critical analysis of the significant aspects of the council. Rabha is one of the nine Scheduled Tribes in the plains district of Assam. They are widely scattered but mostly concentrated in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup and Darrang. Besides Assam, Rabhas are also distributed in Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bangladesh and Nepal. As per 1991 census, the total population of the Rabhas are 2,36,931, where 1,20,139 is male and 1,16,792 is female and the literacy rate for male 47.36% and for female it has been recorded as 31.19%.

In post independent India problems of regionalism has become very significant feature of the body-politic of the country. The ailment like social divisions, ethnic conflicts and alienation, tension, suspicion has been deep rooted in our society. The problem of autonomy is a complex phenomenon. In the context of tribal society, it is the most critical socio-political phenomena, especially in multi-ethnic, multilingual and multi-cultural situations in Assam.

The ethnic upsurge among the Rabha tribes who were once known as the most simple and peace loving people, deserves special attention from
academic as well as administrative point of view. The study of autonomy and socio political changes among the Rabha tribes of Assam is relevant in the context of present day political development of Assam.

The feeling of negligence, deprivation exploitation and the sense of insecurity are deeply rooted in the mind of the people of Assam in general and the members of different ethnic groups in particular. It causes tension between centre and state relation and state local or state interest groups relations resulting demands for more state Autonomy and Autonomy for ethnic group with the state.

The thesis is divided into six chapters.

The first chapter is ‘Introduction’ and it deals with origin, occupation, social and religious life, movement for ethnic autonomy etc.

The second chapter is ‘Origin of Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council’. In this chapter discussion is made on efforts through their demands and movements for the all round development of the Rabha community.

The third chapter is ‘Structure and Jurisdiction’ and it deals with the creation of Rabha Hasong Autonomous Council and of its Jurisdiction.

The fourth chapter is ‘Power and Functions’ and it deals according to the provisions of the Accords and the Acts.

The sixth chapter is ‘Conclusion’. It summaries the research finding and observation without any bias.