ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Without exaggeration, I have to submit myself to my mentor Prof. Sujit Sikidar, Dean, Faculty of Commerce, Gauhati University, who made sincere and untiring effort to upgrade the quality of my present research work. Only by his scholarly guidance, meticulous care, inspiring suggestion and perceptive criticism, the work could be completed.

I carry a deep sense of gratitude in the core of my heart to Prof. D. Bhorali, Professor of Commerce, Gauhati University, who had so generously gone through the earlier draft of the thesis and suggested its improvement.

I am also grateful to Prof. N. C. Das, Dr. H. C. Gautam, Prof. Hem. Barua, faculty member of Gauhati University for cheerful diligence provided during the course of the study.

There is a special section of heaven for those who are willing to trudge through early drafts and provide comments. Thanks very much to Dr. R. K. Raul, Reader, Department of Business Administration, Assam University, Silchar and Dr. G. S. Lal, Lecturer, Department of Commerce, Berhampur University, Orissa.

I am equally beholden to Dr. Kishore Kr. Das, Lecturer, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam, for his hard work and
useful suggestions regarding electronic data processing through the software package in particular.

I am thankful to my colleagues especially Sri P. R. Acharjee, Sri A. Kar, Dr. Th. B. C. Singh, Sri S. Das and Dr. N. B. Dey (presently working as Reader in the Department of Commerce, Assam University, Silchar) for their co-operation in carrying out this study. In the same manner I am indebted to Dr. P. N. Choudhury, Principal, G. C. College, Silchar, for granting me leave to undertake this study.

The work would not have been accomplished without the systematic support rendered by the officials of the National Library, Calcutta; Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta; American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad; British Council Division Library, Calcutta; Parija Library, Vani-Vihar, Utkal University; Hare Krishna Mahatab State Library, Bhubaneswar; K. K. Handique Library, Gauhati University; Reserve Bank of India, Bhubaneswar and C & A. G. Office, Bhubaneswar.

I am equally beholden and enriched by writings and ideas of many authors in this discipline of study and the bibliography attached at the end of the treatise bears testimony of the same.

The work could not have seen the light of the day without the blessings of my parents and senior members of the family and good wishes of the youngsters
who have so kindly relieved me from discharging other family responsibilities
during the study period.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not record my deep sense of
appreciation for ungrudging support and extreme patience with which my wife
Asima put up with the neglect of my family responsibility during the period of
study.

Last but not the least thanks are due to Miss Rinju Das for taking pains in
typing the manuscript.

Date: Guwahati

Suvendra Kr. Das