ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Inefficiency in penmanship is a hurdle on way to expression of thought. Admitting weakness in art of writing I wish to be excused for any lapse. At first I expresses my profound sense of gratitude to respected supervisor Dr. Devadas Bhorali whose able guidance enabled me to complete Ph. D. work in time. It is he who inspired me to work on “women-issues” paving the way to “Centrally Administered Doctoral Fellowship of ICSSR”. It also gives pleasure to express my respect to madam Bhorali and thankfullness to both Neor and Polash for taking care of me during the whole period of my work. Being closely associated with such decent family it will always remind me of the adage “Charity begins at home”.

The simple words of gratitude are inadequate to define benevolence of ICSSR family who has not only smoothened my process of Ph. D. work by bearing whole expenditure but also gave supreme satisfaction to work under the banner of ICSSR. Without kind and sympathetic cooperation of the Council, the work would not have completed in due time.

As next step I would like to express my sincere respect to Principal of my College for extending needful help. Simultaneously I admit cooperation of my colleagues, librarian and other members of college without whose blessings and good wishes the work would have remained incomplete.

I would express my deep sense of respect to “Faculty Members of Commerce” of Gauhati University who were constant source of inspiration to me. The Faculty members helped me tremendously in upgrading my knowledge. I am indebted to all the Faculty Members namely – Dr. H. K. Baruah, Dr. S. Sikidar, Dr. G. Deka, Dr. N. Das, Dr. H. Gautam, Dr. N. Baruah, Dr. A. P. Singh, Dr. D. Das, Mr. S. Mahapatra, Dr. B. Bora, Dr. P. L. Hazarika and Dr. A. Barkakati for giving encouragement. I'm also thankful to office bearers for extending cooperation whenever necessary.

I also convey regards to Dr. B. Nath – the then Academic Registrar for helping me at initial stage. Whenever there was scope to meet, he would like to know progress of work, which also boosted up moral support. I duly convey my respect to Registrar Dr. M. C. Sarma for extending needful help.

I am extremely thankful to all personnel of Registrar’s Office, Treasurer’s office, Finance department, UGC branch and Ph. D. section without whose help smooth sailing
in Gauhati University would have been impossible. My thanks also goes to office bearers of each section, for getting work done on priority basis proving that honesty still prevails. I'm specially thankful to Mr, Ajit Kumar and Mr, Khagin Deka for extending best help at every step. I record help rendered by Mr. Dilip Sarma and Minakshi with thanks.

I'm extremely thankful to Ms. Lipi Banerjee Mahanta - Assistant Professor of the Institute of Advance Study in Science and Technology, Khanapara, for statistical assistance and getting printers in time. I'm also thankful to Dr. Arup Saikia, Department of Geography for getting cartiography in time. I shall always remember generosity of Lipi and Dr. Saikia, which one can enjoy only in friendly relationship.

I convey my thanks to Dr. Jeuti Baruah, Director, Legal Research Cell Gauhati High Court, for giving suggestions. I also convey my deep regard to Dr. Archana Sarma Director i/e Women's Studies Research Centre for extending cooperation. I convey my sincere thanks to other members of the cell.

Acknowledgement remains incomplete if references are not made about National Social Science Documentation Centre, (New Delhi), Centre for Women Development Studies, (N. Delhi) V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (N. Delhi), UGC Office (N. Delhi), National Library (Kolkata), Centre for Studies Social Science and Women's Study Centre, Jadavpur University, J.N. Library of Mumbai University, SNDT University and SEWA Trust Ahmedabad I convey my sincere thanks to all the librarians, xerox section of respective institute for providing study materials in time. Here with gratitude mention may be made about Prof. Yosodhara Bagchi for giving suggestions during visit to women's study centre - Jadavpur University. I would like to convey thanks to Mrs. Neera Baruah of SNDT University for extending best cooperation in getting related information. I am personally grateful to Mr. K. G. Tyagi, then Director of NASSDOC and Dr. M.R. Prabhu of ICSSR, Western Region Mumbai for extending best cooperation during my stay in Delhi and Mumbai. I am extremely thankful to Sri Sanjay Karnik, Office Assistant of ICSSR Western Region for taking full care of my family during stay at the Guest House.

Institutional support provided by Guwahati based libraries namely - OKDISCD, NEIBM, NEDFi, Administrative Staff College and District Library is also recorded with thanks.
It is to be mentioned here that sincere help extended by Directorate of Economics and Statistics will always be remembered with gratitude. I am personally indebted to Mrs. Jayanada Mahanta for providing latest statistical information. The help received from Offices like NSSO, Planning Department, Labour and Employment Department (RC), Office of the Labour Commissioner and NGO personnel is being acknowledged with thanks.

My sincere thanks goes to Mahesh, Monika Dihingia for typing out the manuscript in due time. I am thankful to Rajib and Rahul of DTP for extending cooperation at the time of typing. I also convey my thanks to Mr. P. Guha of Franchise for taking pain at the last phase of my study. I record the contribution of Mukta with thanks. I will always remember with thanks the help rendered by Mr. S. P. Bharali and Mr. H. A. Rashid of Girls’ Polytechnic in down loading information whenever it was necessary. I will be doing injustice if contribution of neighbours, Moni, Kamal and domestic helpers is not recorded with thanks.

Since without infrastructural facilities higher education is not possible so in this regard at first I would like to convey my deepest respects to my parents for their forbearance, understanding and taking all pain for my children during course of my study. I also admit blessing of my mother-in-law with gratitude. I will always remember the pain taken by Anjanda, Chitra and Monty during my stay in Kolkata, and for taking care of my children.

I am specially grateful to Bablu and Brinda for their constant moral support. I will always remember Tublu and Saumya for giving company to my children.

Last but not the least I sincerely admit cooperation and moral support of my husband without whom carrying out of higher studies after graduation would have never been possible. His contribution in my studies shows his deep belief in women empowerment. I feel extremely guilty thinking that how I neglected my daughters MOM and POM in all aspects during course of my study. Hope they will excuse me when they grow up. I will always admire their lovely cooperation with affection. Lastly I’m ever grateful to the Almighty for showing me “path of knowledge”.

Date: 04.10.2002

Jayoshree Dam Paul Choudhury