ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Apart from me you can do nothing; John 15:5. Indeed, You are the author and fulfiller of my justification, sanctification and ultimate glorification; Romans 8:29-30. These and inexpressible others including Your grace make me to present all gratitude, praise, glory, thanks, homage, reverence, awe and marvel I might have possessed entirely to You forever LORD JESUS CHRIST! Next to You in my life, both in academic and non-academic ways, is my darling and gorgeous spouse Taliilee Dhaabaa (Taluu). Without her perseverance and willingness to abide in all the ups and downs of taking care for our children, daughter Ayyaantuu and son Ayyaanaa, during my long absence from these solitude kids for this study abroad, it would have been more than impossible to bring this PhD thesis to a reality. Taluu, you have been serving me both as my esteemed spouse and strong personality behind my undergraduate and postgraduate studies. That is why I would like to dedicate this work to you. I shall also never forget the enormous encouragements you have been receiving from my mother in-law, Baqqaluu Tuggee.

Research is usually a messy process. It requires earnest partaking of experienced and helpful supervisors on the part of the researcher such as me who has been a mere junior canvasser throughout the present research. Professor (Dr) Anil Kishore Sinha has been humble, insightful, cooperative, helpful and fatherly during my PhD work under him as my supervisor. Sir, your scholastic directions and earnest facilitating of successful completion of this essential exertion, both as my supervisor and current chairperson of the Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, has been of immense help for me. Sinha sir, you have played extraordinary roles in shaping and overseeing the research from the outset as a supervisor, and the efforts you exercised as chairperson so that the thesis could be completed before my fellowship would expire has been inestimably etched in my mind. Your fatherly handlings, humility as well as meekness have remained consistent and encouraging throughout my stay in the research process. Words may seldom express the tremendously vital ingredients you have contributed for the success I have achieved in producing this thesis.

It was Professor (Dr) Krishan Sharma, my co-supervisor, who has played the initial pavements for my success. Sir, I could hardly be able to describe the fundamental and critical contributions you engraved in my PhD research life. Sir, it was because of you that I was able to get humble and helpful supervisor, Sinha sir. Above your sympathetic, attentive, considerate,
thoughtful nomination of Sinha sir as my PhD supervisor, the fact that you were the chairperson
of the Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh during my admission period
has helped me have you as the co-supervisor and overcome the primary and crucial institutional
processes and requirements for enrolment and registration as well as fieldwork permissions to
carry out my PhD research. You have also remained helpful and encouraging during my stay in
the research process. It is particularly because of your professional supervision that I was able to
get five papers accepted for publication, one of which was checked and accepted by you as guest
editor of the 2011 special issue of the Indian Journal of Physical Anthropology and Human
Genetics; and other three were accepted, still by you, to be published in the books that you are
currently working on. One article was seriously edited by you and thus accepted for publication
in the Journal of Oromo Studies, an international multidisciplinary journal stationed in the USA.
Sir, you very well knew that producing, and then getting accepted or published, at least one
article for publication in a referred journal is a requirement to submit PhD thesis as per the
Panjab University, Chandigarh PhD study rules and regulations. Along with Sinha sir, you have
been encouraging me towards achieving this decisive target. I better say in brief, I am short of
words to explain the scholarly and intimate relationships you have developed with me
throughout my stay in the research, for which I have got the earnestly desired success.

Just from the same Department, Professor B.G. Banerjee has been cooperative, especially
in helping me read and use some of the theses produced under his supervision. Beldeu Singh has
been helpful in sharing me some relevant experiences and his articles which he has published on
referred journals. Dr. Abhik Ghosh has been helpful in reminding me to critically study and
document some of the disappearing and extinct sacred forest grounds which otherwise I might
not have been considerate to reflect them in my research. The administrative staffs of the same
Department including Kanta madam, Dr. Harendra Singh and the Department’s librarians Tilak
Raj and Ranjana have been helpful in matters which concern their realm of authority during my
stay in this research.

The fieldwork situation was initially full of qualm and trepidation, particularly for lack of
felt pertinent informants. Peg of ideas in due course emerged out as I had persevered to spend
couple of months among the villagers to get at least one key informant. Gist of matters which
paved the way out was then obtained from Gaddafaa Toleera, head of a local non-governmental
organisation named Education for Development Association, Horro Guduru Branch Office. He has become the most unstinting and sole informant to show the pioneer willingness to engage in the research process, later serving as one of the key informants and snow-balling other key informants. If there has been something easy to do or pleasant to experience during the seventeen months long fieldwork period, the picnic has been due to the role played by the key informants. I owe them all categorical gratitude. I also appreciate the peasant informants who spent their otherwise precious time to engage in the interview processes; they also helped me in locating some deforested and degraded forestlands. Fikru Lammeeessaa and his spouse Dammituu Dimaa have been helpful in locating me some important informants and covering my accommodation costs during the traumatic fieldwork period in Abee Dongoro district. Shibiru Baay’isaa and his spouse Kumashii Filee have covered the living and accommodation expenses I spent in Horro district for more than four consecutive months.

My parents, Margoo Bultoo and Badhaatuu Damee, had put the necessary cornerstone for my current academic status in the midst of their poverty. My brothers Dessalegn Margoo, Namoomsaa Margoo, Alemayehu Margoo, Shibiru Margoo and my sisters Loomituu Margoo and Dingee Margoo have also been beside me in various ways. There were other resource personalities and colleagues that space could rarely allow to mention. Temesgen Lammeeessaa and his spouse Abebech Dhummaa, Gammadaa Akkumaa and his spouse Huluagerish Namoomsaa, Alemayehu Raggaaassa and his spouse Latii Getachew, Hailu Baay’isaa and his spouse Lalisee Dhaabaa, Gaddaaf Abdiisaa and his spouse Birqi Gaarii, Azeb Tekle, Mana Tekle, Dinke Tekle, Solomon Tekle, Alemash Tekle, Abrihet Tekle, and many others were sincerely cooperative and have been encouraging me psychologically, morally and materially. Rabbumaa, Badhaasaa, Tsegaye, Dhummaa Gammachuu, and Shantamaa Workineh have been helpful in prayers for my health and success in my academic career.

Research is a learning process. I learned a lot how to find out some of the major factors for deforestation in Horro Guduru from informant Tesfaye Galataa. Informative books and articles as well as vital archives have been located by several colleagues. Jiraa Mekonnon and Dheeressaa Dheebuu of Jimma University (Ethiopia), Bulaa Sirriiqaa of Calgary University (Canada), Lammi Baqqalaa of Minnesota (USA), Dejene Teshome of Andra University (India),
Dessalegn Toleeraa of Wallagga University (Ethiopia), Geremew Haile, and Qanaatee Nagaasaa have been helpful in contributing relevant and informative books and archives for my study.

I am grateful to the local authorities and experts at Horro Guduru zone, especially Birhanu Jiraa, Tolasaa Jabcessaa and Taye Dhugaasaa for granting me permission and providing me essential information for the research. Authorities and experts at Horro, Abee Dongoro and Jaardagaa Jaartee districts, particularly Fekadu Qinaaxxii, Tariku, Dessalegn, Bezu, Gaddafaa Baqqalaa and other resource persons deserve my gratitude. Addunyaa Fenta has facilitated my fieldwork in Horro district with motor bike transport and Miskir Lammii did the same in Jaardagaa Jaartee district.

I thank Jimma University for financing the fieldwork project phase and lending me some important equipment for fieldwork. I thank the Ministry of Education, Ethiopia, and Ethiopian Embassy at New Delhi for facilitating the study. Dereje Fufa and Wondimu Legesse, colleagues at Jimma University, have been helpful in facilitating some essential parts of the fieldwork. My PhD classmates at the Department of Anthropology, Panjab University, Chandigarh, particularly Reetinder Kaur and Gurinder Kaur were extremely cooperative and helpful throughout my PhD study. From the same Department, other helpful PhD students were Tejinder Kaur, Sapam Ranabir, Reza Mohammed, Bhegari Vajihollah, Rohit, Sumit Goyal, Baljeet Singh, Shruti Chopra, Shruti Jain, Anu Gupta, Ankita, Avance, Neelam, Sandeep, Vijay, and others were helpful in several respects.

Ethiopian research scholars at Panjab University, Chandigarh, Dr. Tenna Dawoo, Tesfaye Kassa, Fantahun Woldesenbet, Dr. Abaine Munshea, Gammachuu Araarsaa, Friew Chekol, and Letenah Ejigu have all been helpful and cooperative. Most of these individuals have familiarised me with the earlier days of my untried academic stay in India. Jiraa Mekonnon, Wondimu Legesse, Gammachuu Araarsaa and Alemayehu Raggasaa have keenly engaged in editing some parts of this thesis. Abebech Dhugumaa and Alemayehu Raggasaa have provided me with important stationery materials for the research.

Both my supervisors of research have painstakingly gone through the thesis and exerted meticulous efforts to edit and check it. Albeit, errors or mistakes (if any) in the thesis are exclusively mine.