ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my deepest gratitude to my ever revered supervisor, Professor G. Ram, Department of Sociology, Assam University, Silchar, for his honest guidance, constant inspiration, encouragement and valuable advice that has immensely flown in completing this work.

I am thankful to Prof. B. K. Behera, Head, Department of Sociology, Assam University Silchar, for his kind support and to all the teaching and non-teaching staff (Ajoy Roy & Ranjit Nunia) of the department for their cooperation and support extended during the course of the work.

I also express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the villagers of Charal, Bhuyan, Lahdoigarh Mishing and Borbahoni for their cooperation with me during the collection of empirical data. Without their cooperation the data base for the study could not have been built. I also extend my gratitude to my parents, sister Rimi & Juri brother Kaku, friends: Dolly, Anjal, Partha and officials of agriculture, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) of Amguri in Sivasagar district.

I am thankful to Joydeep, Panmei Gungapou Rongmei, Sujata, Swapnali, Ayesha, Nabin, Mitali, Binku, Mallika, Devajit, Lalit Chakradhari and Nepo for their help and support which I received in the course of this work.

I acknowledge the cooperation of the library staffs of Assam University, Silchar, and different government offices of Assam, which I required during the secondary data collection for the research work.

At last, I can't be oblivious of my indebtedness to my family, relatives and neighbours for their constant inspiration and emotional support throughout the work.

Assam University, Silchar
Kanchan Gogoi

Date: 07-09-2013