Acknowledgement

At the outset, I express my respect and gratitude to my father Bahar Uddin Choudhury who passed away on 22nd January 2011, when I was on the verge of completion of my research work. He underwent immense pains and sufferings in educating me since my childhood. Without his blessings and sacrifices it would have been impossible to complete the present work fruitfully.

It is also my pleasure to keep on record the love and affection, moral support and encouragement that I received from my mother, father-in-laws Abdul Basir Choudhury, DSP and Abdus Sahid Choudhury, retired Principal Nehru College, Pailapool, Cachar for completing the work in time. I cannot forget my mother Smt. Qureisha Bibi, who has been a constant source of inspiration throughout my work.

I am highly indebted to my respected Ph.D Supervisor, Professor Sumanash Dutta, Dept. of Economics, Assam University, Silchar for his fruit bearing advices, carefully and sincerely supervising my Ph.D work. I have had the fortune of being a research scholar under his guidance. He has been providing necessary inputs and knowledge since the inception of this work. His active help, inspiration and guidance have enabled me to complete the work.

I am also thankful to Paritosh Das, Gobindapur Part -I, Soiful Ahmed Laskar Ujan Badripur, Choudhury Wahidul, Kazirgram, Sahab Uddin Choudhury, Gobindapur, all from Cachar District, Yeahia Ahmed Laskar, Lakshirbond, Muhibur Rahman Chodhury, ALC College from Hailakandi and Zakir Hussain Choudhury, Hatirgool, Abdul Quayum, Ahmedpur and Badrul Ahmed, Hadargram from Karimganj for their active co-operation in the household survey. It deserves to be mentioned that without their sincere and active co-operation, the work would not have been completed as early as expected.
My special thanks are also due to Sudip Roy of West Bengal, Subhash Rai, Kokrajhar, Ahmed Hussain, Dolugram, Cachar, Mizazur Rahman Talukdar, Katigorah, Cachar and Ahmed Hussain Barbhuiya, Hailakandi for extending their invaluable help and co-operation during the survey of literature in Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

My thanks are also extended to Ziawur Rahman Choudhury, proprietor NiceInfosys Banskandi, Sahe Jamal Kazi, proprietor N.E. Computer, Banskandi and Gianando Singh, LCC, Labok Road, Pailapool for assisting me in computer related works.

I, deeply acknowledge Prof. Niranjon Roy, Prof. Alok Sen, faculty members and Office Staff of Assam University, Silchar for all sorts of help in the completion of the work.

I acknowledge S. C. Ray, Deputy Secretary and Office Staff, University Grant Commission, North Eastern Regional Office, Dispur, Assam for granting financial assistance for a research project on Children’s Education.

I also express my gratitude to Mrs. Champakali Sen (Dutta), wife of my Supervisor Dr. Sumanash Dutta and her daughter Kathakali Dutta for their warm hospitality whenever I visited their residence.

Lastly but not the least, I am deeply indebted to my wife Jebun Nesa Chowdhury, who patiently put up with all kinds of sufferings and inconveniences with my son during the process of completing this work. Without her sacrifice it would have been impossible to complete the work as desired.