PREFACE

Mass poverty and widespread unemployment are the two most pervasive phenomena common in third world countries. The mounting problem of unemployment has brought into focus the importance of entrepreneurship development in the field of small scale, agro and rural industries.

In India, women constitute about 48 percent of the population but their participation in economic activity is only 34 percent. During the last few years, a lot has been done in the country to develop women entrepreneurs through training, and at present most of the states are involved in WED (Women Entrepreneurship Development) programming and SEP/IGP (Self Employment and Income Generation Programmes). A number of institutions/agencies are rendering assistances to women entrepreneurs by giving training, providing financial assistances and marketing assistance.

The present study is an attempt to analyze various problems faced by the women entrepreneurs in a tribal area in Udalguri district of BTAD, Assam.

The thesis has been divided in nine chapters. **Chapter One** includes introduction, review of literature on entrepreneur, entrepreneurship and women entrepreneurs, concept of women entrepreneurs, function of women entrepreneurs, need of the study, objective of the study, hypothesis of the study, research methodology of the study, chapterisation scheme etc. **Chapter Two** covers growth of women entrepreneurs, socio-economic condition of the women entrepreneurs, tribal women entrepreneurs in Assam, potentials of women entrepreneurs in a tribal area. **Chapter Three** discusses the problems faced by women entrepreneurs in the district of Udalguri, identification of problems, general and specific problems faced by women entrepreneurs in the district. **Chapter Four** discusses the profile of women entrepreneurs and analysis of data of women entrepreneurs, their age, marital status, educational qualification, family structure, caste composition, type of activities and motivational factors. **Chapter Five** describes the role of Government and non-Government organisations for promotion of women entrepreneurs. **Chapter Six** describes the role of Institutional and Non Institutional Financial Assistance for the promotion of Women Entrepreneurs. **Chapter Seven** discusses the marketing of products produced by women entrepreneurs, issues relating to
prices and transporting of products to marketing centres, problems associated with the market. Chapter Eight describes the prospects and contribution of women entrepreneurs in Udalguri district. Chapter Nine is the concluding chapter, which includes the summary, conclusion, suggestions and recommendation have been given on the basis of the major findings of the study.

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