**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

With a deep sense of gratitude, I would like to acknowledge the valuable guidance, wholehearted support, inspiring discussions, encouragement and help of my guide Dr. J.W. Dkhar, Department of Anthropology, NEHU, Shillong. He has been very kind each and every stage of the preparation of my study that resulted into this thesis. It was a good learning experience during last couple of year during which, Dr. Dkhar, helped me not only as a guide but also as mentor and true friend. He always found time for me whenever required. Without his support, this work would not have been completed. Truly, it has been a privileged to learn under you, Sir.

I express my thanks to the faculty and staff members of Anthropology Department for their valuable help and advice towards shaping this thesis.

I am truly indebted to the Meitei people residing in the urban areas of Lamphel subdivision, Imphal for their co-operation and readiness to help during fieldwork. Further, I am very grateful to all my field guides who help me in collecting data.

Many thanks to all my friends for all the help and support at different stages of research process, with particular mention to Jelle J.P. Wouters for his help in various ways. Thanks to all my well-wishers who made my research days a growing experience.

Lastly, I express my greatest gratitude to my family for their support and encouragement, and help me in various ways.

Shillong
July, 2013

Maibam Samson Singh