ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Right at the beginning I very humbly express my heartfelt gratitude to the highly respected Dr. Sankar Bhattacharjee, Retired Principal, Women's College, Silchar, who, while a teacher in Assam University, Silchar, agreed to become the supervisor of the research project, encouraged and inspired me to undertake the research project. Later on, after repatriating to Women's College, Silchar as the Principal, he continued to guide me as the co-supervisor of the project. I also express deep gratefulness to Late Prof. Haripada Chakraborty of Assam University, who so kindly agreed later on to become the supervisor and helped to carry on with the project. I am also indebted to Dr. Shanti Pokhrel of Assam University who acted as the supervisor after the sad demise of Prof. Haripada Chakraborty.

I take the opportunity to express my gratefulness to Prof. Swapna Devi, Dean, school of languages and Head, Department of Sanskrit, Assam University, Silchar and other teachers of the department who continued to encourage and inspire me till the completion of the project.

I sincerely express my gratefulness to Assam University Library, Calcutta University Library, Jadavpur University Library and National Library, Kolkata, Tripura University Library, Agartala, Women's College, Silchar, M.B.B. College, Agartala, Saraswati Book Depot, Agartala and Geeta Press, Kolkata. The help I received from the authorities and men of these institutions shall remain imprinted in my mindset. At the same time, I express my gratefulness to the other research scholars of the Sanskrit Department of Assam University, who always stood by me. I am dutybound to express my gratitude to 'Rashtriya Samskrita Sangsthan' which helped me greatly by granting me national scholarship. My acknowledgments are also due to the learned authors, whose works I have consulted.

Finally, I acknowledge with thanks the contribution of the proprietor and other employees of Silchar Sunographics for printing and binding the thesis within a limited period.

Place: Assam University, Silchar
Date: (Tripti Saha)

(iii)