ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr. Nisamani Kar, professor, Department of Geography, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar without whose proper supervision, insightful guidance, timely and valuable suggestions and constant encouragement at every stage of the research would not have been possible.

I am also thankful to all the faculty members of the Department of Geography, Rajiv Gandhi University for their inspiration and valuable inputs to carry out the study.

I wish to express my gratitude to former principals Mrs. Jayashree Devi and Mr. Haladhar Talukdar, Dr. Jogen Chandra Kalita, College Inspector and other members of the expert committee, members of the Governing Body, Pragjyotish College for their recommendation which helped me in getting UGC Fellowship.

I would like to extend my gratefulness to the Director of Higher Education, Kahiligara and Joint Secretary to the Government of Assam, Education Department (Higher) for permission to carry out the work.

I am immensely grateful to the Joint Secretary and the staff members of UGC office (NERO), Housefed Complex, Beltola, and Guwahati for fellowship under Faculty Development Programme which helped me to pursue my study in arena.

I convey my heartiest thanks to Directors and other staff members of the various offices like Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Agriculture Department, and the Department of Economics and Statistics and Dairy Development Department, Assam who helped me by providing relevant secondary data for the study.

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. Ainul Haque Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, Pragjyotish College, L. Hangsing, and Run Meka, students of Geography, Pragjyotish College, Anjan Deka and R. Hanse, Research Scholars, Gauhati University who helped me to conduct the field survey for data collection.

I am also grateful to the villagers of surveyed villages for their kind co-operation during field survey. I also express my thanks to Dr Ajay Bhattachrjee, Guest Faculty, Rajiv
Gandhi University and Monjit Barthakur, Omieo Kr Das Institute who helped me in preparing necessary map for the work.

I express my sincere gratitude to Dr Ripunjay Choudhury, monitoring officer, Assam Livestock Development Agency (ALDA), Dr Musaraf Hussain, Veterinary Officer and Mr Jogen Thakuria, Dairy Development office, Mr. Basav Bhuyan, Assistant Teacher, Jamuguri Academy and Mrs. Tulika Buragohain Das, PHED- UNICEF, Assam for their valuable help and suggestions in preparing the report in various ways.

I am extremely grateful to my colleagues Dr Jagannath Patgiri (Retd., HoD), Dr Paramananda Majumdar, Dr Jogesh Chandra Deka, Mr Pradip Kalita, Mr Jyoti Prasda Das and Mr Bhrigu Kr. Nath, Department of Geography and the non-teaching staff of Pragjyotish College. It is for their cooperation, support and inspiration which have pushed me to pursue and complete my research.

I also take the opportunity to express my thanks to all the authors, editors, journals, newspaper, newsletters, periodicals that provide relevant literature for the thesis. I would like to express my thanks to the office staff specially to Mr C.R.Knowar, Geography department of Rajiv Gandhi University for his kind co-operation in preparation and submission of the thesis.

This study would not have been possible without the constant inspirational backup and sacrifice of my husband, Dr Prasanna Saikia Veterinary Officer, BCPP scheme, Govt of Assam and son Siddhartha, my father Mr Lokeshwar Barooah, Retired Project Officer, Non-Formal Education, Sonitpur, mother and all my family members. I would like to offer my gratitude to all of them.

Dipali Baruah