ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First and foremost, my heartiest thanks are due to my supervisor Prof. Chongham Budhi Singh, for his potent guidance in each step of research process, his appreciation, critical reviews, corrections and careful sculpting of the thesis. He has guided me with a lot of patience and understanding. His support can never be forgotten. I also extend my gratitude and pay respect to my teacher, Prof. W. Nabakumar, my co-guide, for the areas he had rendered to me since the start of my research work, without his help the thesis would not have assumed the present shape.

My sincere gratitude also goes to my departmental teacher Dr. M.C. Mun for his inspiration, blessing and support extended to me in many ways.

Gratefulness is to my respected Prof. T. Shyamacharan Singh, Head, Department of Anthropology for taking care of all the official proceedings with respect to my research work up to its final stage. I gratefully acknowledge to my Departmental non teaching staff, Sri. R.K. Chiranjit Singh, Smt. R.K. dyapati Devi, Smt. Th. Bimola Devi and Sri. K.D. Mikhao for their support and encouragement. I would like to acknowledge my gratitude to my knowledgeable friends and individuals especially Research Scholars, whom I have been testing many ideas, set out here, for years together.

I also express my sincere thanks to the authorities of the Manipur University for awarding me University Fellowship, which helped me immensely in my research work.
My deepest thanks go to the large number of women of the Moirang valley, who contributed their mile information during interviews and information discussion and who shared their joys and sorrows with me.

Lastly but not the least, I greatly acknowledge my deep indebtedness to my revered family members who provided me with moral support and inspiration throughout the period of my research work.

I also would like to mention Ima Nupimacha (maibi), Urmila, Bheigyabati, Bembem, Gulu, Thoibi, Premila, Abungo and Rokendro for allowing me to use photographs in my thesis.

(Thongam Somola Devi)