Acknowledgement

The inspiring man behind the successfully completion of this work is my supervisor Professor (Dr) C.L. Imchen of the Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hill University, for his cheerful, patient and inspiring guidance throughout the work. He patiently bore with me in my effort to bring home the importance of intensive analytical study of the social phenomena and problems for my work. Besides direct guidance and supervision in my field work his critical assessment of my work gave a new dimension to my work and further enriched by new ideas. For his whole-hearted sympathy, sacrificing spirit, his bountiful generosity and love, I gratefully acknowledged my gratitude and indebtedness to him. Indeed my gratitude for all help he given me can hardly be expressed in words.

I must also express my thanks to all the respected teachers of the Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hill University for their kind help and for evincing a deep understanding of my research work.

The computer programming has been done entirely by my cousin sister Miss Dari Melody Tryte, to whom I owe, a great debt.

I express my deep sense of gratefulness to the UGC, New Delhi, for the award of “Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST” which enable me to do extensive fieldworks to complete this Study.

I am indebted to my close friend Dr John H.Pulamte, and David Traite for all the assistance he has rendered in the collection of study materials, without whose trouble and pain the present work would not have seen the light of day in time.

I also want to thank all my respondents and informants without whose cooperation this study might not have been possible. The list would be too long for individual acknowledgments.

I also express my heartfelt gratitude to my parents Mrs. and Mr. H.S Dokhum, the backbone of my student career for their untiring support and patient endurance during the course of this work. I am also thankful to my wife Smt Hounsiempui for her patient understanding and moral encouragement which I received in ample measure and also for shouldering the responsibility of the home front – taking care of my daughter Rosie and master Alfred while I was engrossed in the preparation of this work.
My brother Larothang, who helped me through thick and thin during his lifetime could not see the completion of this study due to his untimely demise on the 13th of February, 1998. I dedicate this thesis in his fond memory.

Shillong
The 2nd Nov. 2010

(CROSSTHANG SANATE)