ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me great pleasure to express my deepest gratitude to my research supervisor Prof. D.K Pandiya, Department of Commerce, Assam University, Silchar, for the constant inspiration and invaluable guidance throughout the course of this research work. It would not have been possible for this work to see the light of the day if not for his dedication to academics and patience with me. I take this opportunity to thank the family of Prof. Pandiya, especially Late Mrs Pushpa Pandiya and all three sons of Prof. Pandiya for the help given to me from time to time.

I also express my heartfelt gratitude for the academic guidance extended to me by Prof. N.B.Dey and Dr.P.J.Goswami during the course of this work. I offer my sincere thanks to Dr.Brajesh Kumar, Dr Parag Shil, Dr.Kingshuk Adhikari, Dr.Joyeeta Deb and Dr.Soma Roy for encouragement and guidance throughout. Special mention must be made about Dr Kingshuk Adhikari for his guidance during my analysis.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr Ramanand Singh and Dr D Bhattacharya, faculty from the Department of Management, Assam University and Dr K. Barman, Associate Prof., Dept of Statistics, Cotton College, Guwahati for their invaluable guidance during the initial part of this work. I would be failing in my duty if I didn’t mention the support and encouragement of my fellow scholars in the department, Mr Jewel Mayur Phukan, Miss Priyanka Pegu, Dr N Dadina and Mr C.Khum throughout the course of this work and I would like to thank them all, specially Mr.Jewel Mayur Phukan for his constant support and academic help.

I also extend my thanks to the non teaching staff of the Department of Commerce, Assam University, Silchar, for extending their cooperation all throughout the course of my work. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all others who helped me, directly or indirectly, in completing my work and a special thanks to all those unnamed persons.

I also take this opportunity to thank my family, namely my husband, Dr Bibhu Priyo Das, Asst Prof., Department of Surgery, Silchar Medical College, Silchar, my son, Shonit Das for their patience, help and encouragement throughout the period of my work. I would also like to thank my parents, Late Robin Borah and Mrs Sabita Borah, and my in laws, Mr T P Das and Mrs Gitika Das for constantly encouraging me in completing my research.

Last but not the least; I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Almighty, for His blessings in letting me complete my work.

(Smita Borah Das)