ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Right from the beginning of my research work till the final output, I am indebted to several scholarly minds and reputed institutions for completing my work. Sincere gratitude to Prof. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, in the Department of Cultural Studies, who took all the pains in supervising my work and leading to its present stage. It was a rewarding experience to work under his guidance.

Heartfelt thanks to Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri, Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University, for being the mentor and a guiding force throughout. I am particularly grateful to Prof. S.K. Dutta, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr. D.P. Nath, Associate Professor and currently Head, Department of Cultural Studies, Dr. Parasmoni Dutta, Assistant Professor in the Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University for their constant encouragement and advice rendered at different stages of my research. My sincere thanks are due to Prof. B.K. Danta, Prof. M.M. Sarma, Prof. A.K. Nath, Prof. C.K. Sharma for their valuable suggestions and critiques when needed. I also convey my special thanks to Mr. Jayanta Vishnu Das, Assistant Professor in the Department of Cultural Studies for many sided help.

Before my thesis got a final shape, a big void was created by the sudden and untimely demise of one of my respected teachers, Dr. Parag Moni Sarma whose critiques and comments proved so much beneficial in my initial stage of work. In my silent prayers, I thank you Sir, whole heartedly.

I duly acknowledge the help from the library staff of Tezpur University, University of Hyderabad, Dibrugarh University, NEHU (Shillong), Gauhati University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), NECTAF Library (Tezpur University), Šānkara-deva Research Center (Bardowa, Nagaon) for giving me the scope to use their archival resources for my literature survey. I sincerely extend my
gratitude to the Tezpur University authority for providing me the Institutional Fellowship during the tenure.

A special thanks to one of my esteemed teachers at Hyderabad Central University, Dr. M.N. Rajesh who had been the constant source of inspiration, my dear seniors, friends and co-research scholars at Tezpur University. I am indebted to Sri Narayan Muktiār of Bardowa Thām and the family of Smt. Lily Bhuyan of Koliabor for their hospitality during my field visits, Dr. Naren Kalita, Sri J. Goswami, Dr. K. D. Goswami, and Sri Tilak Chandra Mazumdar from Nagaon for their encouragement and for providing me the valuable informations relevant to my area of research.

I would also take the opportunity to thank from the bottom of my heart all resource persons and informants from inside and outside the Sattras for their help in collecting data and necessary informations and without whom my thesis would not have taken the final shape.

Finally, without the constant support of my family especially my parents, my brother and my sister who have put in me the zeal to come up to this level, my in-laws without whose encouragement and prayers this work would not have been completed. I whole heartedly thank my spouse, Manmit for his ungrudging co-operation and for bearing with my long absence from home.

Date: 13.12.13

Place: Tezpur