ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the outset, I thank God Almighty for the strength, knowledge and wisdom in enabling me to pursue my PhD study successfully.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to Professor (Dr.) Alaka Sarma, Dean School of Social Science & Humanities, University of Science & Technology (USTM), Meghalaya, for her expert guidance, advises and encouragement which was a great source of inspiration that helped me to give final shape to this research work.

Dr. Rama Kanta Sharma, MD. PhD, Professor & Head, Deptt. Of R.B.S.K Government of Ayurvedic College, Guwahati. My grateful acknowledgement is extended to him for his expert opinions and advises.

My profound gratitude to **Dr.** Abu Nasar Saied Ahmed, formerly, Professor of Political Science at Dibrugarh University, Visiting Professor at the IIT Guwahati and currently he is heading BanikantaKakati Research Institute at the KK Handiqui State Open University, Guwahati, for his constant valuable advises, patience and guidance all throughout my study.

This acknowledgement would remain incomplete if I do not express my deep sense of indebtedness to my loving husband **TemjenLongkumer** and my three wonderful children **Longrilong**, **Entinoba and Chentisangla** who have always been supportive, understanding and a pillar of strength.

Last but not the least, I convey my sincere gratitude to my dear friend Rachel Aofor being there for me through thick and thin and also a big 'Thank You' to all my family members and well wishers for their good wishes and support.

SENTINARO AO