ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It's a privilege for me to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Professor Thagi Ram Gogoi, Department of Sociology, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya for the patience that he took in supervising and guiding me at every phase of my research work. I shall always remember my supervisor for hisuntiring service rendered to me in checking the work and for this I am grateful to him. I am also thankful to Dr. Moynul Hoque, Associate Professor and Head, Department of History, G.C. College, Silchar and late Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, Ex Principal and Head, Department of History, Karimganj College, Karimganj for their inspiration as preceptors to do the research work and they also extended to me their helping hand by supplying various study materials relevant to my research work.

I also convey my gratitude to the faculty members and staff of University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya for their valuable suggestions and assistance. Thanks to Dr. Maqbul Ali, my former supervisor, (USTM) and Assistant Professor Habibullah Mazumder, Assam University, Silchar along with many of my colleagues, friends and relatives who constantly encouraged me in doing my Ph.D research work. I am highly thankful to the experts who have attended my Ph.D. presentations and suggested me various creative advice and have helped me much in my research work.

My thanks also goes to those authors whose works I have consulted and to the concerned authorities of various institutions like the Assam State Archives, Dispur, Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Panbazar, Office of the Deputy Commissioners of three districts of Barak Valley, USTM Library, Meghalaya, Gauhati University Library, Jalukbari, Assam University Library, Silchar, Nilambazar College Library, Nilambazar, Karimganj College Library, Karimganj, Dr. Kamaluddin Memorial Library, Kanishail, Raushanara Educational Foundation Library, Lakhtokia, and Managing Committees of various Mosques and Dargahs of Barak Valley for providing me important and relevant documentary sources for my research work and all local respondents for their information. Finally, I express my heartythanks to Print Point (USTM Campus) for binding of my thesis.

Place: USTM (Dilwar Hussain Talukdar)

Date: 20.06.2019