Acknowledgements

It's a privilege for me to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor, Dr.

Sandeep Gupta, 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 that has resulted in the thesis. I am really thankful for his scholarly

inputs in the thesis and all the help and encouragements extended to me throughout the

research work.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Dr. Maqbul Ali, who has guided me in

the initial part of the research work; I will be always indebted to his overall contribution

in my research work.

I am also indebted to ICSSR for the financial support that is extended to me in the guise

of the ICSSR Doctoral fellowship.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to my parents, for their financial and moral

support. I also forward my thanks to my beloved brothers, sister and my wife for their

support all through the study as they support with their love, sacrifices, patience,

encouragements and all the necessary help. I am ever grateful to them.

My thanks also extend to all offices that have cooperated in providing me relevant material

for doing this research. I am also indebted to all respondents for their willingness to be

participants of the study in sharing of their thoughts and experiences with me that made this

study possible.

Finally, my deepest appreciation and thanks go to all the faculties from the department of

Sociology, USTM for sharing ideas for this research.

Above all, I give all the tributes to the Almighty God for everything.

Date:

Place: Phungreishang Chithung