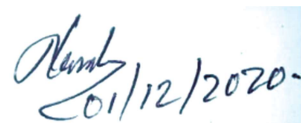


## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The thesis entitled, “***BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN MEGHALAYA: A STUDY OF THE ROLE OF RURAL LEVEL BUREAUCRACY IN NON-PANCHAYAT AREAS***”, is carried out with much hard work. This work has been made possible by the help and cooperation of many persons. My gratitude and appreciation to my supervisor Dr. A.C. Talukdar, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, for his constant guidance, encouragement, patience and the amount of time and energy he spent throughout this research.

I profoundly express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Md. Nazeer Hussain, HOD, Department of Political Science, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, for being a source of encouragement and I would like to thank all the faculties of the Department of Political Science for helping and supporting me throughout my work by rendering guidance due support.

I would also like to thank my family members, Block Development Officers, Staffs and the respondents from the various Block of Garo Hills and more especially, the members of Village council, the President, Secretary, and the Council members for rendering me their encouragement and constant support. And to my well wishers and friends for their love, support and cooperation in completion of this work. Special thanks to Dr. Zacharias Tirkey, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Assam Don Bosco University for his constant help and support. Above all, I am thankful to God Almighty for His constant blessings which helped me to complete this work without difficulty.



**(NICHOLAS A. MARAK)**