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DECLARATION

I, Akhil Borah, bearing Ph.D Registration No. Ph D/ 1632/2011 dated 20-09-2011, hereby, declare that the contents of the thesis titled SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND MOBILE COMMUNICATION: A STUDY OF THE RURAL YOUTH IN JORHAT DISTRICT OF ASSAM is a record of work done by me and to the best of my knowledge the contents of this thesis haven't been a basis for award of any degree to me or anybody else. The thesis has not been submitted to any other university/ institute and, therefore, it is submitted to Assam University for award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology.

Place: Assam University, Silchar
Date: 25th April 2016

(Akhil Borah)
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PREFACE

This study entitled “Social Structure and Mobile Communication: A Study of the Rural youth in Jorhat District of Assam” attempts to analyze the different communication architectures of mobile phone, its different use patterns and social functions played by it on the rural youth. In India, the endless promos on the wayside, shops, restaurants or in electronic media confirm the increasing fascination for mobile among the people. The mobile phone is often perceived as an emblemize technology of space- time compression, touted as a tool for anytime and anywhere connectivity. Discussion of young people’s mobile phone use in particular often stresses the laboratory effects of mobile media, and how it enables young people to escape the demands of existing social structures and parental surveillance. In India as well as all over the world form an attractive constituency of the mobile communication by its extent, practices and impact among them. Then, its ever increasing use among rural youths has potential for transforming social structures. So, in this study attempt has been made to analyze how the rural youths of Assam use the different communication architectures of mobile and in what purposes and how they are affected positively or negatively by it.

The present study is divided into seven Chapters. Chapter 1 titled *Introduction* which discusses the statement of the problem, review of related literature, objectives of the study, research questions, methodology (including sources and types of data, universe and units of study, selection of the units and tools of data collection), and organization of the study and the significance of the study. The chapter 2 titled *Field of the Study* which presents a comprehensive survey of various aspects (including population, caste structure, income and occupation, social, cultural, educational and political organizations, transportation and communication, industry, medical facilities, electric and drinking water facilities etc.) of selected villages in general and special depiction of mobile phone and youth in the four villages. The Chapter 3 titled *Social Background of the Respondents* discusses the socio-cultural factors like age, sex, education, religion, caste, community, income, and occupation etc of the youth that intermediate the effectiveness of mobile phone. The Chapter 4 titled *Social Bases of the Mobile Architectures* gives an account of the mobile communication architectures (phone, audio, video, camera, internet, face book,

calendar, torch, clock, calculator, ring tones, wall papers, games, extra memory, bluetooth, mobile TV, map, screen saver, mobile lock etc.) used by the rural youth in different social and cultural settings. The Chapter 5 titled *Use Patterns of the Mobile Communication* discusses the way, purposes and the extent of using mobile communication (thought/opinion expression, social networking, internet surfing, banking, navigation, reading news, music listening, playing games etc.) among the youths of the four villages. The Chapter 6 titled *Social Functions of Mobile Communication* analyses the social functions among rural youths, which is positive (integrative) as well as negative (dysfunctions) for the society. In this chapter it is tried to focus on the changes (both positive and negative) in personality and social participation of the youth as a result of mobile phone uses. The Chapter 7 titled *Summary, Findings and Conclusions* summaries the discussion and presents findings and conclusion of the study. The findings of the study show that the youths are the most enthusiastic users of mobile phone which gives different facilities and with these facilities the youths use it in different purposes or various manners. For all the youths the manners or the use patterns of mobile are different. Some youths use it regularly, some sometimes and others rarely. On the basis of use patterns some outcomes appear that affects not only the youths but the society as a whole. From one side, it has brought positive changes in education, communication, business, agriculture, banking, navigation and in many aspects of human society. On the other hand, it has badly affected on human health by creating some diseases like brain cancer or brain tumor, gland tumor, vision problems etc. It also has turned the youths towards the habit of anytime engage in mobile avoiding the face to face talk. This habit has made the youths instable and unrest. Thus, on the basis of the result of the study it can be said that one who use the mobile phones appropriately, they will be benefitted by it. And those who do not use it appropriately, they would not better benefit.

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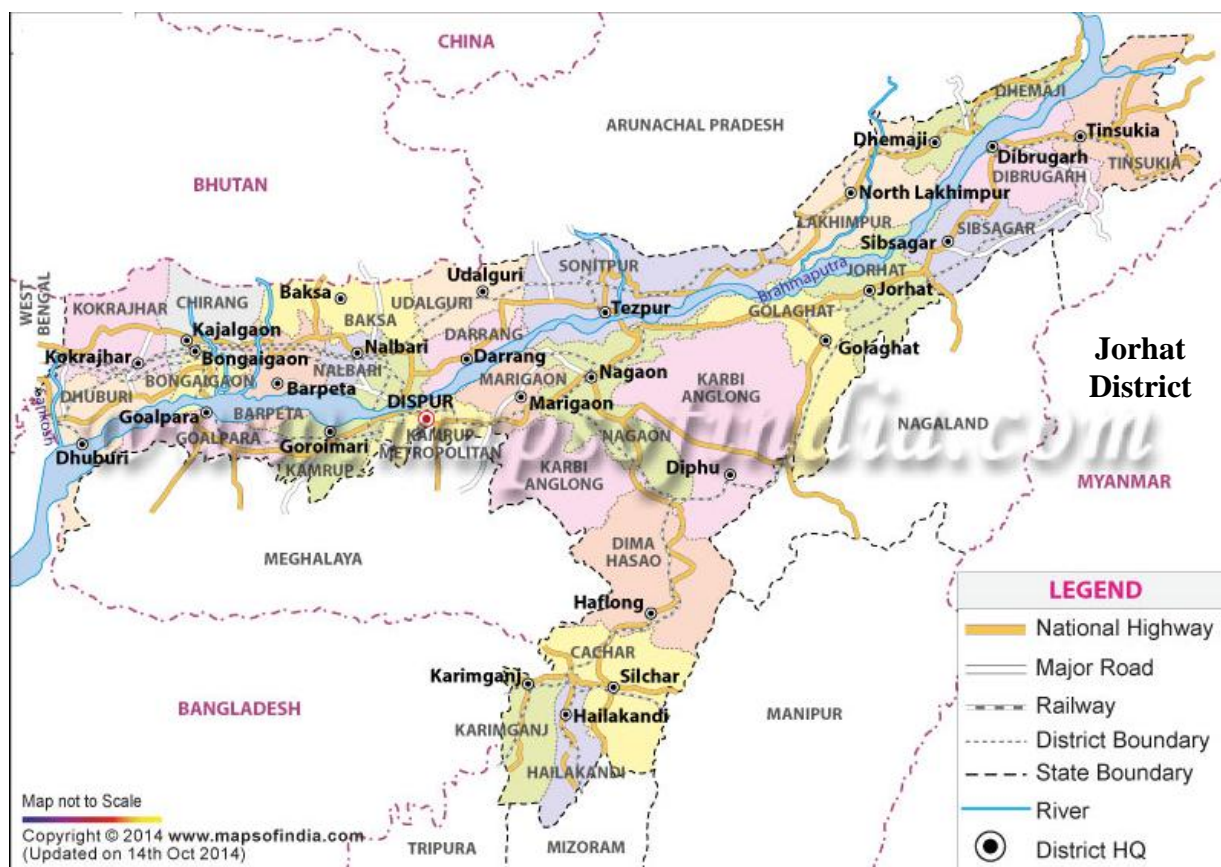
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Map 1: Assam



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