DECLARATION

I declare that the research work incorporated in this thesis entitled **"Identification of the Poor: A Case Study of Cachar District of Assam"** has been carried out and interpreted by me in the Department of Economics, Assam University, Silchar for the award of the Degree of **Doctor of Philosophy in Economics**, under the supervision of **Dr. Alok Sen**.

The content of this thesis did not form basis of the award of any other previous degree to me and the work has not been submitted earlier for award of any other degree/ diploma to this university or any other university / institution.

Date:

(Sandip Debnath)

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Date: **Sandip Debnath**

PREFACE

Poverty is one of the most serious and persistent problems facing in the world. Everyone has some knowledge of, or experience of poverty and it continues to have adverse effects on individuals, households, communities and societies. Poverty reduction is a top priority of international policy and agenda as evidence by United Nations Millennium Development Goals in which, eradication of extreme poverty and hunger is the first goal. In India, poverty reduction is one of the major objectives of economic development programmes. Since the first plan onwards, the Government of India has been making concerned efforts to raise the growth rate of the economy and thereby to reduce the extent of poverty. Consequently, the extent of poverty has reduced from 53% during 1951-55 to 21.9% in 2011-12. However, there is no sign in the reduction of the number of poor people. This may be due to the methodological weaknesses in the identification of the poor. The wrong identification of the poor can also create the problem of inclusion and exclusion errors in the poverty list. As a result, the benefits of poverty elimination schemes cannot reach to the actual poor households and therefore, the problem of poverty remains unsolved.

The present study entitled **"Identification of the Poor: A Case Study of Cachar District of Assam"** is an attempt to measure the inclusion and exclusion errors in the poverty identification of Cachar district. The study analyses the extent and magnitude of inclusion and exclusion errors in the identification of the poor. The study also assesses the relative significance of various factors on the poverty estimate in the study area.

The study is organized in six chapters. The chapter I deals with introduction including statement of the problem with reference to the poverty identification, the relevance of the study, the objectives and hypothesis, profile of the study area and conceptual and theoretical framework of the study. The chapter II is devoted to review of literature. The review of literature has been done at state, national and international level. We reviewed the studies directly or indirectly conducted on poverty identification. The chapter III deals with methodology and database. The chapter IV presents general profile of poverty and sample households in Cachar district. The chapter V deals with analysis of the objectives and hypotheses formulated in this study based on the primary and secondary data. Tabular analysis and econometric models like logistic regression have been used in testing the hypotheses. The regression models have been estimated using the advanced statistical packages. The final and sixth chapter is devoted to findings, suggestions and conclusions.

The outcome of the study may be greatly useful to economists, policy makers, planners, researchers, students, Government Authorities, Food and Civil Supplies Department, Economics and Statistics Department and other related organisations to take policy decisions on the minimization of inclusion and exclusion errors in the poverty identification of Cachar district.

Date:

Place: Silchar   **Sandip Debnath**