ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the preparation of this study, I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my talented and inspiring research Guide Sir Subhabrata Dutta for his guidance. The Magic touch of his beginning character has given me courage and conviction, strength and vigour, honesty and uprightness, which are essential for everyone in the world. Thank you sir, for the motivation which guided my way forward leading to the completion of this study.

Most importantly, I want to express my grateful to the respondents of this study who co-operated with me wholeheartedly, inhibitions notwithstanding, shared the most emotional accounts of their lives, their trial and tribulation, their anxieties of living in a society fraught with prejudices and how they just failed to check the relentless march of destiny.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to the large number of NGOs worker/staffs and whom I interacted with all during my field survey. Furthermore I am grateful for their roles to NGOs whom has given me constant inputs during my study period. Without their support this study would not have happened.

A heartiest thanks to all my friends, Jennifer Kipgen, Dr.Sukhdeva Sharma, K.K Kanarei, Ph.Sanathoibi, Beda, Da Nanda, N.Dadina, P.Gungapou, G.Abon for the much needed discussions and for the critical suggestions which added to the content of the text.

I must acknowledge the many colleagues and Faculty members of Department of Social Work, Assam University who assisted, advised and supported my research and writing efforts over the years. Thanks are also due to all my research Scholar for their active co-operation. I wish to gratefully acknowledge the helped received from several people while conducting the study.

A special thanks to Prof. Swapan Guruin of TISS, and my cousin Khamguilu for facilitating my library work at the TATA Institute of Social Sciences and in Panjab University.

I would like to acknowledge the debt I owe to my family specially my mummy and daddy who were the backbone of this pen and paper battle of mine to win over by rendering all kinds of help with utmost love, affection and sincerity which were really irreparable assets for me in the journey and to my Uncle Simon and Aunt Felicita who have been a constant source of inspiration throughout my life and who always supported my dreams and aspirations.

I also thankful to the following Libraries and number of sources and I offer my thanks to them,

- I.C.S.S.R Documentation Centers, New Delhi.
- Panjab University
- Manipur University
- S.K Women College, Nambol, Manipur.
- TATA Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.

For financial support, I am indebted to the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship, without which it would not have been possible to conduct the study.

I owe my heartfelt thanks to my parents specially, and to my brothers and sisters for their unaccountable help in my study and dedicate the present work to my parents, who prepared me for life, constantly inspired and guided me through different phases of my life.

Kamei Beejn Kamei Beeju