

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The researcher wishes to express her deepest gratitude to all those who had directly or indirectly help in the successful completion and compilation of this study.

The researcher is indebted to her supervisor and guide Dr. M. Tineshowri Devi, Associate Professor, of Department of Social Work, School of Social Sciences, Assam University, Silchar, Assam, India, for her untiring support and keen guidance to shape up this work.

The researcher is also indebted to her co-guide, Dr. N. Heramani Singh, Head of Department, Department of Psychiatry, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Lamphelpat, Manipur, India, for his valuable guidance and insight throughout the research work.

The researcher acknowledges with gratitude, the valuable suggestion rendered by the following persons at different stages of this work. Professor M.C. Arun, Department of Anthropology, Manipur University. L. Sadananda, retired Head of Department, Manipur College. Professor Kf. Bimola, Head of Department, Department of Political Science, Manipur University. Professor L. Roshan Singh, department of Psychology, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Manipur.

The researcher is thankful to Prof. R.K. Narendra, Head of Department, Department of Statistic, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Lamphelpat, Manipur for the timely help and suggestion for the statistical analysis of the data.

Sincere thanks to the librarians and office staff of the Assam University, Silchar; Department of Psychology, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences,

Lamphelpat, Manipur; Department of Psychiatry, Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Lamphelpat, Manipur; ICSSR, Shillong, TISS, Mumbai; NIMHANS, Bangalore and Manipur University, Canchipur; for providing the necessary facilities for collection of literature.

Special thanks to Irom Beet, (Journalist) for editing and proof reading of the manuscript.

Sincere thanks are also to Tayenjam Kokilshwar Singh (Bhagerat Enterprises, Singjamei Chingamakhong Near Traffic Point) for word processing and photocopying of this thesis on time.

Researcher wants to express her gratitude to all the family members, friends and relatives who support directly or indirectly in completing the work.

Heartfelt thanks to ASHA worker of Imphal-West district for helping the researcher in data collection. Thanks to all the elderly respondents who spent their valuable time with co-operation during interview.

Irom Shirley
IROM SHIRLY