ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset I would like to thank the Almighty for giving me the strength, courage and necessary wisdom for writing a Ph.D thesis. I want to express heartfelt gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Sekhar Brahma for encouraging me and providing me with his valuable suggestions throughout the research work. Without his inspiration, constant support and help, this study would not have been possible.

I am thankful to all the faculty members of the Department of History, Bodoland University for their encouraging words, which helped me to a great extent to complete this work.

I wish to thank the existing family members of Bijni Raj family specially their daughter-in-law Tomalkusum madam for her help by providing me some valuable information and rare documents. I also remain grateful to the Dharmapur Satra Management committee for their necessary help and assistance.

I am also grateful to the library staff of Kokrajhar Govt. College, Bodoland University, Gauhati University and Assam State Archives for their help and untiring cooperation.

I owe fervent and enormous gratitude to my parents for their countless blessings which encouraged me to carry on my research work even during unfavourable situations.

My sincere gratitude goes to my husband Mr. Sunayan Choudhury because he is the source of motivation behind this research. He has been a constant companion providing me with undeviating cooperation, assistance and encouragement throughout the entire research period.

Rajasree Das.

(Rajasree Das)

Place: Bodoland University Date: 02/04/2018