ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the very outset, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my Supervisor Dr. Manjit Das for his constant inspiration and the valuable time and efforts that he provided in supervising my Ph. D. Work. His efforts not only helped me to carry forward the study but also enriched my understanding in the concerned filed. I am indebted to him for his guidance and generous support while undertaking the work.

I express my gratitude to Dr. Binoy Kumar Brahma, Principal of Kokrajhar Government College, for his support in my work. My sincere thanks also go to Dr. Shickna John Wary and my department colleagues for rendering help at times of need during my research work.

I convey my thanks to UGC-NERO administration for providing me study leave under Faculty Improvement Programme (FIP) to complete the work.

I convey my sincere gratitude to all the faculty members of the Department of Economics, Bodoland University and the office staff of the library of Bodoland University for their help in my research work.

I express my thanks to all my research scholar friends, who helped me in the collection of primary data, and all the respondents who shared their opinions.

I am grateful to the office staff of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Guwahati, Assam; Rashtriya Maidhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, Guwahati, Assam; Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kokrajhar, Assam; Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Baksa, Assam; Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Guwahati, Assam; Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Kokrajhar, Assam for their kind cooperation and help in supplying the necessary data when I approached them.

I express my sincere thanks to all my relatives who directly or indirectly helped me during my research work.

I am grateful to my parents Mr. Rameshwar Basumatary and Mrs. Sushila Basumatary, whose priceless efforts have made me to reach this stage of my life. I am also grateful to my husband Mr. Hangkhrigiri Brahma who encouraged and helped me during the whole period of my research, and my three children, Naija Sona, Girvaan and Sonakshi Sona, who without complaints accepted the discomforts caused by my inability to give them sufficient time as a mother during the hectic period of my work.

Above all, I thank the Lord Almighty for his blessings upon me.

Roselin Basiematary.

Place: Bodoland University Date: 05/09/2017 (Roselin Basumatary)

xii