

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest sense of Gratitude to my Guide **Professor (Dr.) Alaka Sarma**, Dean, School of Social Science & Humanities, University of Science & Technology (USTM), Meghalaya, for the systematic guidance and great effort she put into training me in the scientific field and molding my final research study.*

*Similar profound gratitude goes to my Co-Guide **Dr. Ramakanta Sharma**, MD. Ph.D, Professor & Head, Deptt. of R.S.B.K. Govt. Ayurvedic College, Guwahati, who has been a truly dedicated mentor. I appreciated his continuous and encouragement throughout the course of this thesis. I am very grateful for his patience, motivation and enthusiasm.*

*I would like thank **Dr. Abu Nasar Saied Ahmed**, formerly, Professor of Political Science at Dibrugarh University, Visiting Professor at IIT Guwahati and currently he is heading Banikanta Kakati Research Institute at the KK Handiqui State Open University, Guwahati, who has patiently gone through all my mistakes and corrected them meticulously and whose encouragement and expert guidance from the initial to the final level enabled me to develop an understanding of my research work.*

*I extend my heartfelt thanks to **Mr. Abu Mere**, Director of Kripa Foundation Nagaland, Kohima, for granting permission to conduct the study in the Kripa De-addiction centre. I thank to all the participants who had extended their kind co-operation in this study and have contributed to the successful completion of this endeavour.*

*Special thanks to **Manik Shah Mazumdar** and **Bijit Debbarmann** whom I consider my good luck friends, through them I picked up the skill in SPSS which has been the most essential in my analysis.*

*My heartfelt thanks to my lovely friend and colleague **Ms.SentinaroAo**, she formed the core of my research time in USTM. We both have been there for one another into the journey to USTM as a research scholar.*

*I extended my deepest thanks to my husband **Mr.WatiNokdir**, who has been taking care of children in absence of me and whose love and concern I would like to cherish lifelong! I am thankful to my two beautiful children **Ollenna** and **Limhaar** who had patiently endured my long absence from home and deprived of mother care, but love me unconditional. Here, I would also like to thank my **parents** and **siblings** for their constant support and love.*

Lastly, I offered my regards to all of those who supported me in any respect during the completion of my research study.


Rachel Ao