

Acknowledgement

The present Ph.D thesis has been carried out under the mentorship of Dr. Alaka Desai Sarma, Professor, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, USTM and Dr. Kanak Haloi, Professor, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati. I feel myself privileged enough for receiving their able guidance in carrying out the study. I express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to both of them, for without their continuous guidance, this thesis would not have been completed.

I also deeply acknowledge the participation and cooperation received from the respondents of the sample micro enterprises who spared their valuable time during the field survey.

I must also acknowledge the services received from the library of the Gauhati University, Guwahati and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati whenever required.

I take this opportunity to thank my parents, sister and brother who have extended continuous encouragement and support towards completion of the thesis. My wife has been a constant source of inspiration and her support in editing the chapters of the present study is quite immense. No words of gratitude can ever match her care and endless patience, and encouragement when it was most required.

Last, but by no means the least, I thank all those who have helped me directly as well indirectly in carrying out the study.

(Santanu Mohan Deka)