Acknowledgement

This thesis is the culmination of years of perseverance and research, and would not have fructified without the consistent support of many people from different areas and different walks of life. Doing a PhD programme tests the patience of the family members as well. I am grateful to my parents, my sisters and my younger brother who motivated me and held me whenever I felt down and low. They have remained the source of inspiration throughout my course of this journey.

Apart from my family, my foremost gratitude is to my teacher and my Guide Dr. Mrinmoy K. Sarma, Professor, Dept. of Business Administration, Tezpur University, for his unending support and invaluable guidance. It is due to his constant encouragement that has helped me complete this work successfully. He has been the guiding light in this long journey of my research. I am equally indebted to my Doctoral Committee members, Prof. Chandan Goswami and Dr. Anjan Bhuyan from the Dept. of Business Administration for their constant encouragement and counsel. I am thankful to all my teachers from the Dept. Prof. Papori Baruah, HoD, Prof. Chandana Goswami, Dean, Prof. S. S. Sarkar, Prof. Debabrata Das and Dr. Tridib R. Sarma, and all other faculty members for their enormous assistance and support. Sincerest thanks are also due to the non-teaching staff members of the Dept.for their help and assistance. I am especially grateful to Tezpur University for providing me a congenial environment to successfully complete this work. My special thanks go to Prof. Birinchi Medhi (Retd.), Gauhati University, for his insightful direction.

Enormous thanks are due to all the artisans from different places where I undertook my field work who showed their warm gesture and gave time to answer all my endless questions out of their daily busy schedules. Whilst many artisans and their families were visited, special thanks goes to ShriNavin Chandra Baishya, Shri Narmohan Das, Shri Ganesh Karigar, Shri Tilak Deka, Shri Dilip Deka, Shri Dhirendranath Paul, Bishnu Pada Paul and Shri Niren Thakuria for sharing their invaluable perspectives and memories of craft production with me.

I had the pleasure of meeting many officers and staff from various Govt. and semi Govt. establishments as well as members of NGOs and other individuals. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of them for sharing their vast insights. One of the special aspects of this thesis is the colorful representation of crafts for which I am thankful to Assam State Museum, Guwahati, Kalashetra, Guwahati, M. C. Goswami Museum, Gauhati University, Vastra Udyan, Sualkuchi and Smt. Nilima Barua Museum, Dhubri for allowing me to take photographs.

Whilst largely self-supported, this research has also benefitted partially from the ICSSR sponsored Project "Commercialization of Traditional Crafts in Post Independent Assam: A Study on Select Items" under the supervision of Principal Investigator, Prof. Mrinmoy K. Sarma, Dept. of Business Administration, Tezpur University for which I worked as a Research Assistant. Thanks are hence due to ICSSR, New Delhi.

Lastly, my sincerest thanks are due to all those people and individuals whose name could not be mentioned here in this acknowledgment but without whom this research could not have been possible. I offer my gratitude to all artisans, entrepreneurs and individuals who helped me with the data collection during my survey.

Date:

Lakhimi Jogendranath Chutia