

Acknowledgements

At the outset, my biggest ‘thank you’ goes to my supervisor, Dr. Uttam Kr. Pegu, who has been very supportive and helpful throughout the preparation and submission of my thesis. I am equally grateful to Dr. Sunil Kanta Behera, Professor of Eminence, Tezpur University who has provided me with timely suggestion to improve my work. I am obliged to Yusuf Kalyango, Jr., Professor at Ohio University for the insightful remarks and perceptive ideas which made my work a presentable one. I am very much thankful to the Vice Chancellor of Tezpur University, Prof. Mihir Kanti Chaudhuri who has been constantly inquiring about my progress and encouraging me to complete my work.

I am pleased to offer my thanks to the Department, which provided me with timely assistance to complete this work. Sincere thanks to Head of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism and members of Departmental Research Committee who have been encouraging me to finish my work soon. I also thank my respected colleagues and dearest students of the Department for their good will.

I greatly express my gratitude to my friends Shiraz Sheikh, Gaurav Kumar, Dr. Ajita Pandey, Ms Vrinda Sharma, Sangeeta Devi, Karthick Venkatraman, Vidhya Viswanathan, AP Chivanuja Indu Hari who assisted me to enrich my field experience. I am grateful to my co-workers, Anita Medhi, Moni Saikia, Ananta Nath and Mahadev Nath who assist me to accomplish the data gathering in Sonitpur District.

Thanks must go to all who had supplied me with the available secondary information. I am equally thankful to the participants in this research who gave time to share their responses and experiences. The research is essentially based on participant’s experiences and reflections.

My mother, Kumkum Das Malakar has been constantly encouraging and co-operating with me to make steady progress. My 10 months old twin kids, ‘Kiaan’ and ‘Narkissa’ have inspired me to finish my work soon so that I could give them some quality time. I am thankful to Saleha, Anjali, Dharani, Reshma for household cooperation at different period of

time. I am equally thankful to my dear husband and my in-laws for their kind co-operation whenever needed. And lastly, my father, Late Birendra Malakar has been a source of inspiration to me. The support and affection which I received from my father during the course of my research work has been of immense help to me.

Kapou Malakar

*THE THESIS IS DEDICATED TO MY BELOVED
FATHER*

LATE BIRENDRA MALAKAR