

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I would like to thank Almighty Allah for enriching me with the strength, knowledge and wisdom to pursue my research study successfully.

My sincere and heartfelt gratitude goes to my supervisor, Professor Thagi Ram Gogoi, Department of Sociology, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya for the patience that he took in supervising and guiding me at every phase of my research work. His constant advice and encouragement was a great source of energy that helped me to give the final shape to this research work.

I would like to express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi for the award of ICSSR Full-Term Centrally-Administered Doctoral Fellowship which financially helped me a lot to do my research work in a smooth manner.

I am wholeheartedly thankful to Mahmudul Hasan Laskar, Assistant Professor of the Department of Sociology, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya for providing his valuable help to identify various aspects in my research study. I also express my gratitude to the faculty members and staff of the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya for their valuable suggestions and assistance.

I am highly thankful to the experts who have attended my PhD presentations and interposed with significant comments that helped me a lot in improving my research work. Special thanks to Prof. Chandan Kumar Sharma, Department of Sociology, Tezpur University for directing me to incorporate some of the meaningful issues in the study. I am also immensely thankful to Prof. Sambit Mallick, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati for the generous help that he provided with the valuable suggestions.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to my brother, Adilur Rahman, for becoming my support system throughout this whole journey, and my

mother, Alifa Rahman, for her unconditional love and motivation. I am also thankful to all my family members, relatives, friends and well-wishers who constantly encouraged me in doing my research work.

And most importantly, I would like to express my deep sense of indebtedness to my father, Mozibar Rahman, who passed away in the middle of this research work, for his strong belief in me. His inspirational words have always been working as the pillar of strength in my whole research work.

Place: USTM

Date: *20-09-2021*

Rizuwana Sultana
(Rizuwana Sultana)