ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This work is a culmination of the help and encouragement of many individuals which needs to be gratefully acknowledged.

I am deeply indebted to my Supervisors, Dr. Mrinal Jyoti Goswami and Professor Birinchi K. Medhi for their guidance, support and invaluable suggestions.

I acknowledge with deep gratitude, the cooperation I received from the various mobile theatre groups and the inviting committees, where I conducted my field work. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Gauhati University, Cotton University Library, District Library, Guwahati, Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies, Guwahati, Assam Legislative Assembly Library, Dispur, Nedfi Library, Dispur, Srimanta Sankardeva Kalakshetra, Guwahati and of course, the K.K Handiqui State Open University.

I must extend my heartfelt gratitude to my colleagues in the department of History, Arya Vidyapeeth College, for their moral support and encouragement. Mention must be made of my friends, Ms. Madhulika Singh and Ms. Manisha Sarma for the constant support and moral boosting as fellow research scholars in KKHSOU.

A special thanks to the various personalities who gave me time for interviews to help my work, Mr. Achyut Lahkar, Mr. Ratan Lahkar, Mr. Dharani Dhar Barman, Mr. Mahananda Sarma, Mr. Robin Neog, Mr. Krishna Roy, Mr. Champak Sarma, Mr. Dasarath Das, Mr. Subodh Mazumdar, Ms. Garima Hazarika, Ms. Manju Borah, Ms. Moni Bordoloi, Mr. Upakul Bordoloi, Mr. Nayan Prasad, Ms. Prastuti Parashar, Mr. Gopal Jalan, Mr. Pulu Kr.Sarma, et al, to name a few. Thanks is due to Mr. Rupak Goswami of M/s. Anweshan Publications, Bhangagarh and Mr. Sanjeeb Saikia of M/s R.D Printers, Mirza for being my saving angels, to Mr. Jogananda Bora of Assam Legislative Assembly,

Mr. Khagendra Talukdar and Mr. Guna Das for all the help they extended to me.

I must extend my heartfelt gratitude to veteran singer of mobile theatre, Ms.

Renu (Dutta) Phukan and renowned mobile theatre critic, Mr. Atul Mazumdar for

the special effort and encouragement they put in to help me.

Among my family, no words can suffice to thank my mother, Ms. Dibya

Kakoty, for always being my Rock of Gibraltar. But for her untiring

encouragement, I would not have achieved anything in life. During my research,

from finding books, articles and anything relevant for my work, she was as much

a scholar as me. Her contribution in my life is beyond words. My Father, Mr.

Pradip Kakoty and my two brothers, Gautam and Sauray, have always supported

me in life, and this was no different. My sisters-in-law, Monalisa and Jayanti also

boosted my moral. My two lovely nieces, Anaya and Ariana always revive my

spirits.

I must extend gratitude to my entire extended family, particularly my elder

sisters-in-law, Ms. Indira Bezbarua and Ms. Krishna Barua, for their blessings

and encouragement.

Last, but not the least, I take this moment to specially thank my husband,

Mr. Pradip Pathak, for always being there. He has always been my shadow and

without hisupportive shoulder to lean on, I cannot imagine I could have

completed this work. His encouragement in all my ventures has always been

more in deed than in words.

Date: 26/07/2018

ii