

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My humble prayers to the omnipresent almighty for bestowing upon me blessings, for being kind to me and guiding me in all my endeavours.

*“Gurur-Brahmaa Gurur-Vissnnur-Gururdevo Maheshvarah /
Gurure-va Param Brahma Tasmai Shrii-Gurave Namah ||”*

I thank the almighty for bringing me closer to wonderful souls who provided me with meaningful learning experiences and guided me towards my accomplishments.

I am using this opportunity to express my gratitude to everyone who supported me throughout this research study. I am thankful for their aspiring guidance, invaluable constructive criticism and friendly advice during the course of my work.

First and foremost, I sincerely thank my guide Prof. Karanam Pushpanadham, Department of Educational Administration, The Maharaja Saiyajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara for his constant support and help in shaping up this research study to its meaningful conclusion. His valuable supervision, excellent guidance and advice throughout the progress of this work, his calmness and ingenuity were constant source of inspiration to me.

I extend my humble gratitude to Prof. R. G Kothari, Dean, Faculty of Education and Psychology, The Maharaja Saiyajirao University of Baroda; Prof. S. C. Panigrahi, Head, Center of Advanced Study in Education; and Prof. N Pradhan, Head, Department of Educational Administration, Faculty of Education and Psychology, The Maharaja Saiyajirao University of Baroda; for their administrative support and encouragement.

I owe my sincere thanks to Dr. Anjali Khirwadkar and Dr. Parvin Akhtar for introducing me with my friend, philosopher and guide Prof. Karanam Pushpanadham.

My sincere thanks to Prof. S. Kumar, Prof. D. R. Goel, Prof. R. S. Mani, Prof. H. J. Patadia, Prof. D. Ojha, Prof. S. Srivastav and all respected teachers of the Faculty of Education and Psychology, The Maharaja Saiyajirao University of Baroda for their valuable inputs during the course of this study.

I am also thankful to the Librarians at CASE and Hansa Mehta Library, all the non-teaching staff of the Faculty of Education and Psychology, The Maharaja Saiyajirao University of Baroda; for their administrative support.

I also take this opportunity to thank Mr. V. Seshan (Mission Director, RMSA-Assam), Mr. D. R. Rajbangshi (i/c Mission Director, RMSA-Assam) for their administrative support during the course of my field study.

My special thanks to Mr. R. Das (State Consultant, Planning, RMSA-Assam), Mr. A. Zaman (Project Engineer, RMSA-Assam) and Ms. C. Borkotoky (State Consultant, Teacher Training, RMSA-Assam) for their valuable support during this study. I also owe my sincere thanks to my friend Mrs. Deepali Mahanta from the Office of District Gazetteers, Assam.

My sincere gratitude to the school principals who played an active part in making this study arrive at its conclusive form. Special thanks to Smt. B. C. Garodia (Retd. Principal, Dhemaji Govt. Girls H.S. School), Dr. J. Sarma (SCERT), Smt. J. Laskar (Principal, Nagaon Govt. Boys H.S. School), the Inspector of Schools and District Coordinators RMSA for their support and necessary inputs from time to time.

My sincere gratitude to Fr. Johnson Parackal (Executive Director, Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati) and Sr. Molly Kaniampadickal (Deputy Director, Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati) for their kind blessings and support during the course of this study.

I owe my sincere thanks to Mr. M. Hoque (Chairman, ERD Foundation and Chancellor, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya) for providing me with all necessary support enabling me to march ahead with my endeavour.

My sincere gratitude to Prof. S. K. Choudhury (Founder Vice Chancellor, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya) for being a constant source of motivation and inspiration during my study. I also owe my thanks to Dr. P. G. Rao (VC, USTM) and all teaching and non-teaching colleagues of mine from the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya; for their constant support. Special thanks to my colleagues Harimal, Rasmi, Gautam, Hrikisheshs, S. C Das, Nurujjaman, and Dibakar; and my beloved students of USTM and other institutions under ERD Foundation.

My special thanks to Dr. Meera Subramaniam and her family, Mr. Raghuraman and Family for accommodating me with all their warmth during my initial days in

Baroda. I also thank Mr. P. V. Joshi, Santosh Joshi and family for their warm and homely accommodation.

During the course of my study and stay at Baroda, my constant source of encouragement were from my co-scholars who made me feel at ease and offered their valuable inputs during the course of my study. My special thanks and best wishes to Jayalakshmi, Meera, Sakesh, Swaleha, Jaison, Brijesh, Pallavi, Jatin, Srinivas, Manisha, Arti, Asit, Sandeep, Pinkal, Ramesh, Meghavi, Bharti, Vineetha and Tara.

My sincere thanks to Pallavy Dutta Borah for helping me develop the software for the e-learning program.

I owe a lot to my wonderful parents Shri. Ajit Kumar Choudhury and Smt. Biva Choudhury, whose love, care, concern and continuous encouragement influenced me and inspired me to move ahead in life. Also, i owe my thanks to my in-laws, Late Dr. C R Das and Smt P Devi. I express my deepest gratitude to my caring wife Dr. Daisy Nath Choudhury, for her constant support and help. I thank my lovely son Krishanu Bikram Choudhury for his understanding and love.

I thank my sisters, Capt. Papory Choudhury Barman and her family Dr. Dipam Barman and Himank; and Dr. Deepshikha Choudhury Shukla and her family Dr. Shaleen Shukla and Neor for their constant support. Also my love and gratitude to our Aabu, and a host of relatives; Jetha, Jethi, Akan Khura, Mama, Mami, Moha, Mahi, Jubu, Baba, Mitu, Ritu, Lanu, Biju, Riju, Mamoni Ba, Popy ba, Bhanti ba Birinchi Bhindew and Bipul Bhindew, Rishi, Richa and Riya and their families.

I am thankful to The M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara for permitting me to conduct my Doctoral Research at CASE, Department of Education, Faculty of Education and Psychology, The M. S. University of Baroda, Vadodara.

Amit Ajit Choudhury
Researcher