

PREFACE

The intent of this thesis is to study top rankers in-depth to find out cluster of reasons contributing towards their success. As through review of related literature it was not made clear that which one factor or combination of factors were the ground for high academic achievement. For wholistic study, suitable approach was case study as it provides scope to investigate from different perspectives. Few top rankers of Assam Secondary Education Board were selected for case study. There was no presumption made before the study was conducted and a neutral approach was made while data collection. Data was collected through in-depth interview of cases and different related persons as well as researcher's observation contributed to gain more knowledge about these top-rankers. Data analysis was made in two phases viz, data reduction and data display with the help of expert. Further through triangulation of facts, focus was made to gain a better understanding of path ways followed and support system enjoyed by these high achievers. Contribution of different factors in congregated way is accomplished through this study. It can be said here that it is hard work, educational aspiration, sincerity, punctuality, motivation, parents' and teachers' support, confidence of the children, good family background, good peer-group, concentration in studies and intelligence of the children helped them to be toppers in Assam Secondary Board Examination.