

Acknowledgement

"उद्धरेदात्मनात्मानं, नात्मानमवसादयेत्।
आत्मैव ह्यात्मनो बन्धुरात्मैव रिपुरात्मनः॥"
(Bhagavad Gita 6.5)

This thesis is dedicated to the dignity of the Deaf, who, to this day, are often unjustly referred to as "dumb." It is a humble attempt to uphold and maintain their dignity. We believe in humanity and service for humankind, and this work is a reflection of those beliefs.

The thesis is a journey, with halts at Deaf institutes across eight states: Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Odisha, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh. Such a pan-India research project would not have been possible without the Pilot of this Journey—my Guru, **Professor Anjali Pahad**.

"गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः।

गुरुः साक्षात् परब्रह्म तस्मै श्री गुरवे नमः॥"

On a personal note, I lost my mother before embarking on this PhD journey, but I found a mother in my Guru. She became my **Guru Maa**, embodying valor and strength, as she fought and survived cancer during this very journey. Even during her chemotherapy sessions, she was always there for me. She is a woman of immense humility, and it is her teaching of humility that forms an integral part of this study.

This thesis is **of the Deaf, for the Deaf, and about the Deaf**.

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- Deaf Biblical Ministry, Dimapur, Nagaland
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