CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, LIMITATIONS & SUGGESTIONS
SUMMARY

The present study was undertaken to investigate the loneliness of middle class women of Assamese Society. Loneliness is studied in relation to three independent variables: age, marital status and employment status.

The dependent variable was loneliness.

Three hypotheses were tested:

4. Married women will not differ from unmarried women in the level of loneliness experienced by them.

5. Employed women will not differ from unemployed women in the level of loneliness experienced by them.

6. (a) Young adult women will not differ from middle age women in the level of loneliness experienced by them.

(b) Young adult women will not differ from old aged women in the level of loneliness experienced by them.
Middle aged women will not differ from old age women in the level of loneliness experienced by them.

The sample consisted of 1080 middle class women of Assamese Society from six urban areas of Assam. These six urban areas are:

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<tr>
<th>Lower Assam zone</th>
<th>Central Assam zone</th>
<th>Upper Assam zone</th>
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<td>1. Dhubri</td>
<td>1. Guwahati</td>
<td>1. Dibrugarh</td>
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Three tools were used for the present study.

i. Perceived Loneliness Scale by Dr. P. K. Jha (1997) to measure the level of loneliness.

ii. Socio – Economic Status Scale by Dr. G. P. Srivastaa (1999) to identify the socio – economic status of each woman.

iii. Personal Data Sheet, to gain additional information which was not covered under SES Scale.

ANOVA was used on the scores of loneliness to study the main effects and interaction effects between the three independent variables of age, marital status and employment status. This was followed by Tukey's test for H.S.D. on all the significant main effects as well as the significant interaction effects. $X^2$ test was applied on behaviours of social interaction and participation in entertainment activities.
The following results were obtained:

**Significant main effects:**

Age is the main significant effect of the findings.

i. The young adult women experience highest level of loneliness.

ii. The level of loneliness experienced by middle aged women is less than the young adult women.

iii. The loneliness level of women of old group is least.

iv. The young adult group differed most from old age group of women in their loneliness level.

v. There is no significant difference in loneliness level between old age group and middle age group of women.

No significant main effect was found for marital status and employment status.

**Significant Interaction effects:**

Age and marital status showed a significant interaction effect.

The highest difference is between young unmarried and old unmarried women. The next highest difference is between young adult unmarried
women and old married women. Both these differences were significant, as found through Tukey's test for H.S.D.

The least difference in loneliness was found between the old married and the middle age married women. This difference was not significant.

Age and employment interaction effect was found significant. The highest difference of loneliness level was shown between old employed and young unemployed groups of women. The next highest difference was found between old unemployed and young unemployed women. Tukey's test for H.S.D. showed these differences to be significant.

The least difference in loneliness was found between young employed and middle aged employed women. This difference was not significant

**Social interaction and entertainment activities:**

When social interaction was studied in relation to age level, $X^2$ was found to be significant. This shows that amount of social interaction differed with age level. The old age group engaged in highest social interaction and the young adult group the least.

Social interaction did not show any significant difference for the two levels of employment status. Marital status also did not show significant difference in level of social interaction.
X² on responses related to entertainment activities also showed significance for age level. Here it was found that it was the young adult group of women who reported highest engagement in entertainment activities. The old age women reported least engagement in entertainment activities.

LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

• The present study was limited to only women from urban areas. Further studies may include subjects from both urban and rural areas.

• The study was limited to middle class women. Upper class and lower class was not included in this study.

• The study considered the sample from different age levels broadly. Study may be limited to one age group. So that in-depth investigation may be carried out within the particular age group.

• The study included all married women under one group. All categories of married women, i.e. widowed, separated, divorced, etc. may be studied as separate groups.
FURTHER SUGGESTIONS:

The present study was conducted to investigate the loneliness level of middle class women of Assamese society. Further studies may be done in some related areas as suggested below.

- It would be useful to conduct a similar study on feeling of loneliness in men of Assamese society.

- Other factors which may affect loneliness such as family type, income, status, marital span etc. may be included in further studies.

- Employment status too needs to be investigated further.