CHAPTER II

RELATED RESEARCH
CHAPTER- II
RELATED RESEARCH

It can be assume that problems like loneliness, alienation and dehumanization etc. also emerge faster in the society of developing countries like India due to globalization, industrialization and revolution of IT. Thus, loneliness is a recent topic of research among the social psychologists. Although many studies have been carried out by western researchers, it is a new field of research in India. So, relatively few studies are available in India. Probably no research has been carried out on loneliness in Assamese society. Some of the relevant studies on loneliness are given bellow.

- **Ravi Sidhu (2006)** studied about adjustment and loneliness among aged. Result indicates that adjustment of males was better than their counterparts for health, home, social, emotional and functional adjustment. The loneliness among females was higher than males. In his study he found that loneliness was also significantly related to health adjustment, emotional adjustment and functional adjustment of both males and females.

- **Frances M. Mc.kee-Ryan, Zhaoli Song and Connie R, Wanberg, Angelo J. Kinicki (2005)** they studied the satisfaction level among employed and unemployed workers. Study found that unemployed workers
had significantly lower mental health, life satisfaction, marital or family satisfaction and subjective physical health than their employed counterparts.

- **Shaw C. Ellen (2004)** standardized indices were used to compare frequency of interaction outside the household with various types of kin and with friends for 131 married, widowed or never-married older women who had retired from professional or clerical employment. Widows from both occupational backgrounds had the highest levels of interaction with friends and with primary relatives (parents, siblings and children). These results call into question earlier studies reporting on the social isolation of widows. Compare to clerical women, professional women generally interact more with primary relatives and friends, but less with extended kin. Never-married professional women were relatively high in interaction with extended kin while never clerical women had low interaction with extended kin.

- **Davidson Kate (2004)** studied “Why can’t a man be more like a woman?” A commonly repeated theme within family studies and social gerontology is the disadvantaged position of lone older men who are particularly likely to experience social isolation (Pinquart 2003, Zahang & Hayward 2001, Marks 1997, Shahtahmasebi & Scott 1996, Keith 1989, Rubinstein 1986). Allied to this is the recognition that lone older men are likely to fail to access facilities designed to provide company or practical support (Addis & Mahalik 2003). This lack of social embedded-ness has been attributed to gender men’s acceptance of the pivotal role of women in
establishing and maintaining social network. It is well documented women, regardless of marital status, are more likely to have a wider network of kith and kin relationship than men. (Scott & Wenger 1995) and are more likely to report receiving more support and in general, experiences of benefiting from their personal involvement (Krause & Show 2002, Krause & Keith 1989). It also has been demonstrated that married men benefit from the social support that accompanies partnership. Older men consequently face distinct challenges in maintaining social on the dissolution of their marriage, whether from death or divorce.

- **Lauder W. Sharkey S. Mummery K. (2003)** this study reports findings from the 2002 Central Queensland social survey. The aims of the study were to establish the extent of loneliness in a community sample, and to identify the factors that are predictors of loneliness. Random samples of 1241 subjects were interviewed by Computer – assisted telephone interview. Findings are that loneliness is a common phenomenon and risk factors include experience of domestic violence in current relationship, not having recent paid employment, not being married / partnered, and the number of children under 18 years in a household. Loneliness is not associated with higher rates of health care professional consultations.

- **Felix Neto² (2002)** studied loneliness and acculturation among adolescents from immigrant families in Portugal. The aims of the study was to find out the degree of loneliness among adolescence with immigrant
backgrounds in Portugal and the factors that may predict the level of loneliness among them. Results indicate that there were no significant differences between adolescents from immigrant families and Portuguese adolescents who have never migrated, in terms of level of loneliness. The strongest predictors of loneliness were self esteem, duration of sojourn and perceived discrimination.

- **Baumbusch Jennifer (2002)** studied the older women’s reflection on lifelong single-hood. In this qualitative study, eight women, between the age of 65 and 77 living in a mid sized Southwestern Ontario city, were interviewed about being ever-single during the latter half of the 20th century, including their perspectives of the benefits and drawbacks of this status during this time period. Emergent themes illustrated how the women’s stories of single-hood were affected by the sociopolitical contexts of their youth, which thereby influenced the women’s desire and opportunities to get married. They also discussed how single-hood had influenced their financial, educational, housing and social support resources. Upon reflection, the women articulated the benefits of lifelong single-hood, strongly emphasizing their independence and “ability to be alone”, which was viewed as very important as they aged. The drawbacks of single-hood focused on loneliness and the absence of a social support network, which took on particular importance as the women experienced increasing age and disability. Overall, the participants expressed satisfaction with their marital status and defied common stereotypes about older, single women.
Implications of the se findings relate to the social structure of marital status and its impact upon the lives of women who remain single.

- Dixon et al (2001) studied that social support mediates loneliness and Human Herpes Virus Type 6 (HHV-6) antibody titers. Results indicate that increased loneliness and decreased social support in the month following the stressor were significantly associated with increased HHV-6 antibody titers, reflecting poorer control over the virus. Poorer social integration mediated the relationship between loneliness and HHV-6.

- Praveen Kumar Jha (2001) examined the influence of social class, family system and family occupation on the experience of loneliness. Result indicate that the middle class boys have higher loneliness level than the lower and upper class boys. The nuclear family system and entrepreneurial occupation are associated with higher loneliness while joint family and bureaucratic occupation with low loneliness level.

- Angeliki Leondari, Grigoris Kiossaoglou (2000) investigated the relationship of parental attachment and psychological separation to the psychological functioning of young adults. The researchers explore the interrelation between attachment patterns and psychological separation from parents as well as the contribution of these variables to adaptive psychological functioning. Among 151 University students in Greece, there was a positive association between security of attachment and freedom from
guilt, anxiety and resentment towards parents; in contrast, there was an inverse relation between security of attachment and independence from parents in relation to emotional, functional and attitudinal independence. Compared with the insecurely attached students, the securely attached students also scored higher on measures of self-esteem and lower on measures of anxiety and loneliness.

- **Patil J. M, Asgarali & Aruna (2000)** studied the role of gender differences in the feeling of loneliness among elderly. Finding was that increasing age did not increase the degree of loneliness among the elderly. They also found that loneliness tended to increase between 50-60 years then decreased between 60-70 years, and again increased after the age of 70. Elderly men experienced less loneliness than elderly women i.e., loneliness in later life was influenced by gender but not by age.

- **Jari-Erik Nurmi, Sari Toivonen, Kataruna, Salmela- Aro Sanna Eronen (1997)** carried out two studies on social strategies and feeling of loneliness. In study one, 70 men and 202 women and in study two 25 men and 15 women filled the different testing scales. In both studies, a pessimistic avoidance strategy was associated with subsequent feeling of loneliness even after controls for the level of self-esteem. Both an optimistic planning strategy and self-serving attribution bias were negatively associated with feeling of loneliness among men but not among women.
• Stroebe, Wolfgange, Margaret, Abakoumkin (1996) studied the role of loneliness and social support in adjustment to loss. A longitudinal study of a match sample of 60 recently widowed and 60 married men and women tested predictions from stress and attachment theory regarding the role of social support in adjustment to bereavement. Stress theory predicts a buffering effect, attributing the impact of bereavement on well-being to stressful deficits caused by the loss and assuming that these deficits can be compensated through social support. In contrast, attachment theory denies that supportive friends can compensate the loss of an attachment figure and predicts main effects of marital status and social support. Attachment theory further suggests that marital status and social support influence well-being by different pathways, with the impact of marital status mediated by emotional loneliness and the impact of social support mediated by social loneliness.

• Barron CR, Foxall MJ, Von Dollen K, Jones PA, Shull KA (1994) studied the marital status, social support, and loneliness in visually impaired elderly people. The sample was derived from a larger study designed to examine loneliness in low-vision adults (Foxall et al. 1992). Subjects were 87 visually impaired elderly people who were at least 65 years of age, had a visual acuity of 20/70 or less in the better eye, had been visually impaired for at least 1 year, and were not totally blind. Data were collected by interview using the Revised UCLA Loneliness Scale, the Social Support...
Questionnaire and a demographic and health information form. Results indicate marital status was not directly related to loneliness but may be indirectly related through social support. Loneliness was associated with greater network dissatisfaction related to caring and relaxation. Findings provide direction for nursing assessment of and intervention into loneliness with visually impaired elderly people.

- **Bonner, Ronald. L. & Rich Alexander (1991)** examined the role of loneliness, irrational beliefs and deficient reasons for living, in predicting vulnerability to helplessness under condition of negative life stress. It was hypothesized that the vulnerability factors would interact with negative life stress to predict hopelessness, independent of depressed mood. The result of multiple regression analysis supported this hypothesis.

- **Jackson, Judy & Cochran, Susan D. (1991)** studied loneliness and psychological distress. They compared 147 female and 146 male college students. Results indicated that there was a significant association between loneliness and interpersonal sensitivity (low self esteem) and depression. Psychiatric symptoms were not related to loneliness. No sex difference in patterns of association between loneliness and psychiatric symptoms were found. Results support the notion that self-blame and self-devaluation are strong co-relates to loneliness.
• **Smith, Mirgare, Knowles, Ann D. (1991)** studied the contribution of personality, social network and cognitive processes to the experience of loneliness in religious and other mature Australian women. They examined characters, logical and situational factors that may contribute to loneliness among 153 Australian women. They compared 153 Australian religious women and 83 women who did not belong to a religious congregation. Aspects of personality, social network and cognitive process predicted loneliness. Religious women reported higher level of loneliness than subjects from the comparison group. Although there was a difference in the extent of loneliness between religious women and other subjects, the group was more similar than different.

• **Zahava, Waysman, Mark and Mikulincer, Mario (1991)** investigated the effects of external sources of perceived social support, family functioning and feelings of loneliness, on combat-related psychopathology following a break down in war. Study findings were that the external sources of perceived social support influenced psychopathology indirectly by their impact on feeling of loneliness. Loneliness was the only direct antecedent of combat-related psychopathology.

• **Anderson Lars (1990)** studied Narcissism and Loneliness. They tested the hypothesis that individual who have experienced early childhood narcissistic intrusion (too much attention) will suffer a larger degree of loneliness than those who have not experienced this intrusion. A study of
207 elderly Swedish women showed that loneliness in old age was greater among an intended group in comparison with those whose parental influence was not intrusive. The feeling of loneliness was even more severe if the mother was a housewife. There was also a relationship between social position and loneliness, but only for those women whose family orientation was not intrusive and whose mothers were housewives.

- Bell, Robert A, Roloff, Michael E. Van Camp, Karen & Karol, Susan H. (1990) studied the effect of loneliness on career success and personal relationships. Results show that people with high level jobs or in prestigious occupations may actually be less lonely than other employees, even though they work longer hours, are more committed to their organizations, and spend less time with their families.

- Rokach, Ami (1990) studied surviving and coping with loneliness by way of content analysis of 526 verbatim reports of loneliness from individuals aged 16-84 years. Findings highlight the complexity and variety of coping strategies, the frequency with which they are used, and their utility in helping people to survive loneliness and alienation.

- Ammanity, M; Ercolani A. P. & Tambelli R. (1989) studied the feeling of loneliness in the female adolescent as distinct from solitude and isolation in 804 female (aged 13 -18 years ) from small towns, medium sized towns and major towns. ANOVA shows that loneliness increases with age and is
more evident in small towns as opposed to medium sized larger metropolitan areas.

- **Hamid. P. Nicholas (1989)** examined the relationship between loneliness, sex difference and social network in undergraduate (aged 18-25 years) male and female students. Male evidenced greater loneliness than females. Network size was significantly smaller for lonely males. Lonely students reported higher contact and lower intimacy with family and lower contact and intimacy with close and other friends than did non-lonely students.

- **Friedman Gaby, Florina Victor, Ester Shurka- Zernitsky (1989)** studied the experience of loneliness among young adult Cancer Patients. This study compared possible differences in feeling of loneliness in various life situations among young adult cancer patients and healthy controls. 60 patients and 38 controls completed a brief demographic questionnaire and the revised UCLA Loneliness Scale and responded to an open-ended question about loneliness. Although the authors observed no significant differences in the mean loneliness score of three groups, they found that unmarried patients expressed higher levels of loneliness than did all other subjects. In addition, approximately half the patients felt lonely in illness related situations, whereas no healthy subject expressed that reaction.
• **Alan Vaux (1988)** this study suggested two general conclusions. First, loneliness is related to, and may result from, inadequate social provisions, appraisals of support as poor, small and low quality for socializing and emotional support networks, and personal characteristics that might impede social interaction or relationship development. Second, evidence is that social and emotional loneliness were associated inversely with personal characteristics, particularly, discomfort in social situations, self-esteem and negative orientation toward support network.

• **Bruch, Monroe A., Kafkowitz, Nandice G & Peerl, Lesley (1988)** studied mediated and non-mediated relationship of personality components to loneliness. They tested the hypotheses in 94 never married female undergraduates. A hierarchical regression analysis revealed that social anxiety accounted for a substantial amount of loneliness score variances, and once this variable entered the regression, attribution style and perspective-taking ability were unrelated to loneliness. Self disclosure evidenced a unique relationship with loneliness and added a significant increment to loneliness score variance.

• **Adams, Gerald R. Openshow, D. Kim, Bennion, Layne, Mills, Tom et al (1988)** examined a social skills training study. They tested a social deficit hypothesis to predict loneliness during adolescence. A factor analysis was performed on 243 females of 18 -19 years responses to the UCLA loneliness scale to assess for unidimensionality vs. multidimensionality.
Three forms of loneliness were derived: psychological, psychosocial and social loneliness. A social skills training study was completed with 20 college females who reported high level of loneliness and inadequate or marginal social skills. Acquisition of social skills was associated with decreased psychosocial and social loneliness, but not psychological loneliness.

• V. V. Upmanyu, Susma Upmanyu, Dhingra and Monica, (1988) studied social impact, social preference, loneliness and depression. They tested 117 8th grade girls using a rank-order scale and a depression scale. Results show that rejected subjects were the most lonely, and popular subjects were the least lonely.

• Zakahi, Walter R. & Duran (1988) studied the relationship between physical attractiveness and feeling of loneliness. 30 very lonely male Ss scored significantly lower on attractiveness, than 30 least-lonely male Ss. No such differences were found among 60 female subjects.

• Ponzetti, Jamesch J & Cate, Rodney M. (1988) studied the relationship of personal attributes and friendship variables in predicting loneliness. In their study they administered the UCLA loneliness scale to 236 female and 164 male undergraduates. Personal attributes such as social competence and sex-role orientation were the most significant predictors of loneliness for men, friendship variables such as satisfaction and perceived support
were more predictive for women. Implications for college students' services intervention strategies with lonely college men and women are discussed.

- **Downs, Valerie C, Javidi, Manoochehr M & Nassbaum, Jon F (1987)** studied an empirical test of socio-environmental theory on communication apprehension and loneliness in older adults. They investigated this relationship among 60 older adults (aged 50-80 years). Results indicated that there was a positive relationship between communication apprehension and feeling of loneliness in these subjects.

- **Jong-Gierveld de, Jenny (1987)** presents a model of loneliness. Study presents a model of loneliness that incorporates characteristics of the social network, background variables, personality characteristics, and evaluative aspects. The most salient aspect of this approach is its emphasis on cognitive processes that mediate between characteristics of the social network and the experience of loneliness. A total of 554 adult men and women served as respondents. The hypothesized model made a valuable contribution to the understanding of loneliness.

- **Kalliopurka, Mirja (1986)** studied the relationship between empathy and the experience of loneliness. They tested the hypothesis that empathy is negatively related to the negative experience of loneliness and positively related to the positive experience of loneliness. Results provide some
support for the hypothesis, suggesting that objective loneliness is not necessarily subjective loneliness.

- **Cockrum, Jane & White, Priscilla (1985)** studied various influences on the life satisfaction of never-married men and women. They examined the influence of self-esteem, social support and loneliness on the life satisfaction of never-married men & women. 30 men & 30 women (aged 27-46 years) completed a single inventory. Analysis reveals that emotional loneliness and availability of attachment relationship were influential for the life satisfaction of women. The model for predicting men’s life satisfaction included self esteem and availability of social integration.

- **Schmitt Patrick J, Kurdek Lawrence A. (1985)** examined age, and gender differences in and personality correlates of loneliness in different relationships. Loneliness was measured in three groups of subjects (college men, college women and elderly women) with the differential Loneliness Scale which assesses dissatisfaction with four types of relationships (Family, Larger Groups, Friendships and Romantic/Sexual). Age and gender differences were significant. Compared to elderly women, college women expressed more dissatisfaction with their family and Large group relationships. Compared to college women, elderly women expressed more dissatisfaction with their friendship and Romantic/Sexual relationships. With regard to gender differences, college men expressed more dissatisfaction with family, Large group and Friendship relationships than
college women. For each subject group, dissatisfaction scores were correlated with health status, locus of control, social support, depression and self consciousness.

- **Shelley Borys Daniel Perlman (1985)** studied the difference in feelings of loneliness between men and women. Results indicated that women are more apt than men to label themselves as lonely. The social forces on men and women differ. Men elicit a more negative response for manifesting their loneliness than do women. Males become reluctant to admit loneliness for fear of the possible repercussions. Men are portrayed as less interpersonally sensitive and less emotionally expressive.

- **Medora Phiroze Nilufer (1983)** examined variables affecting loneliness among individuals undergoing treatment in alcohol rehabilitation centers. This study assessed loneliness of alcoholic subjects in relation to age, sex, education, socio-economic status, adequacy of income, religiosity, marital status, state of health, number of close friends, ease in making friends, frequency of participating in social activities, employment status, job satisfaction, self – esteem, housing situation, history of alcoholism in family, number of years alcohol has been consumed and feeling of happiness during the past year.

  Questionnaires were distributed to 152 individuals undergoing treatment at alcohol rehabilitation centers in Lincoln – Nebraska. The sample consisted of 92 males and 60 females between the ages of 19-75 years.
Statistical differences were found to exist for these variables: age, sex, marital satisfaction, history of alcoholism in the family and happiness during past year. Younger subjects were found to be more lonely. Females had significantly higher loneliness scores. Respondents who had a high level of marital satisfaction were significantly less lonely. Individuals who indicated a history of alcoholism in their families had significantly higher loneliness scores and subjects who stated that they had been happy during the past year were found to be less lonely.

A significant negative relationship existed between loneliness scores and these variables: health, job satisfaction, self-esteem and years of alcohol consumption. Conversely, a significant positive relationship was found between loneliness scores and ease in making friends.

No significant differences were found for following variables: education, socio-economic status, adequacy of income, religiosity, and marital status. Number of close friends, employment status and housing situation.

- Konopka, Gisela (1983) examined girl adolescents' views of friendship and loneliness. 1000 adolescent girls (aged 12-18 years) of various socio-economic status from urban, sub urban and rural areas were tested. Peers were found to be very important for subjects, as expected. Subjects who had many problems in their lives craved warmth and emotional satisfaction, which boy friends represented to them. A number of subjects, specially in
the inner city, participated in individual & group violence, but most said they disliked violence. Suicidal tendencies were found to be rather frequent, Actual suicide were not so frequent, but were significant in number and implication. They stemmed from a sense of utter loneliness and worthlessness.

- **Robert C. Atchley (1979)** examined marital status and occupational differences among older women. Findings are that loneliness is a common phenomenon and risk factors include experience of domestic violence in current relationship, not having recent paid employment, not being married / partnered and the number of children under 18 years in a household. Loneliness is not associated

- **Prince J. M., Harwood R. H., Blizard A.R., Thomas A.** examined social support deficits, loneliness and life events as risk factors for depression in old age. Method of the survey was a community survey of all residents over the age of 65 years of an electoral district in London, UK. Result shows that there was a moderate association between SHORT-CARE pervasive depression and the number of life events experienced over the previous year. there was a stronger, graded, relationship between the number of social support deficits (SSDs) and depression. Number of SSDs also related to age, handicap, loneliness and use of homecare services. Loneliness was itself strongly associated with depression.