FOREWORD

Every person is or has been a member of a family. Almost all persons marry and most of them have the responsibilities and opportunities for rearing children. Family life, while primarily meant for the rearing of children, also provide convenient and comfortable living for parents and offers division of labour that facilitates co-operation in the household functioning.

One of the choices made by a young person, which determines the pattern of living and personal happiness, and adjustment for years to come, is the selection of a mate with whom one can share the responsibilities of family life. The importance of this selection becomes apparent as one looks at the data on broken homes due to divorces and desertion and the tragedies resulting from wrong selections of mates, and poor family adjustments. A large number of social problems may be traced back to difficulties within the family circle.

Because, we know most of the families appear to conform to a pattern which is considered normal for our particular society and time. As such, family is thought of as a relatively stable institution. Actually the pattern of marriage has changed throughout the time and is still showing changes under differing social, economic and cultural conditions. Good family living and good environments for children are related to the economic resources available. Although industrialization in the modern age influences the family with some handicaps, most important factors are the persons within the family.

Among the factors which affect the interaction within the marital relations are due to their characteristic interests, activities and the amount of emotional tolerance the partners possess. Studies of happy and unhappy marriages and of divorces show how the marital relations both test and reveal personalities. The success in one's marital life is influenced by one's experiences within the family during childhood. But success or failure in marriage depends not only upon a single factor but upon a large community of factors. Marriage involves a
reorganization of the living of the two persons and is a continuing and a dynamic adjustment rather than a momentary or static one.

Marital adjustment is an important area in social psychology. A large number of studies have been conducted by various researchers across the whole world. In India, this area is relatively more recent especially in North-east part of the country little research has been done. As different societies have different cultural patterns, so the interrelationship in the marital relationships are also different. The present investigation focuses on the area of marital adjustment on Assamese Hindu society.

This research has been undertaken from the women's point of view, i.e. How adjusted they feel in their marital relationships. As marital relationship is influenced by many social factors, a few of them have been incorporated in this investigation, viz., the nature of marriage, employment status and span of marriage of the women. This humble attempt in the area is just a beginning of studying the marital relationships in this part of the country. The investigator does not claim that it is a comprehensive study. There are many limitations which are unavoidable and there may be some which the investigator might have inadvertently overlooked.