

## **CHAPTER – 2**

### **2.1 Review of Literature :**

A similar study on consumption Pattern of the student population residing in college hostels of Guwahati was carried out way back in 1977 by Mr. Hem Goswami, (head of the Economics Department of Handique Girls' College) and the planning forum, titled "Consumption Pattern of the Student population residing in college hostels of Guwahati." The study reflected the socio-cultural conditions as well as individual tastes and preferences of the students.

Another study titled "A survey of private Girls' hostels in the city of Guwahati", was carried out by the women's cell of the college in 2002 on 300 respondents to assess and bring to public notice the working and functioning of these hostels. Most of the private hostels were found to be lacking in basic facilities like running water and were densely occupied.

According to a survey conducted by Mahila Morcha of The Bharatiya Janata Party, 800 womens hostels were surveyed, to analyse the status of the living conditions and infrastructural facilities of the women's hostels of Bangalore. The survey covered hostels those of students and working women. The survey pinpointed some of the problems related to unhygienic food and water. Another major problem found was the shortage of toilets which were not proportionate to the number of hostel residents.

Another survey conducted by Tirpude college of social work, Nagpur on working womens hostels, covered various aspects of a working women's hostel. It was found that hostellers were satisfied with the facilities provided and they reported that their stay in the hostels has enriched their life, as far as psychological, social, and economic aspects are concerned.

## **2.2. Steps taken by Government Authorities to promote facilities for the accommodation of girls pursuing higher education :**

Although opportunities for higher education have been continuously provided by the government, facilities for accommodation of girls has not been adequate for the girls. As such girls have to move to alternative means of accommodation like private hostels or stay as paying guests. The rise in demand for girls' hostels has led to mushroom growth of private hostels. The total number of seats in government hostels is found to be quite inadequate as large number of girls from different parts of the state are quite eager to pursue education in some of the esteemed colleges of Guwahati. Moreover, although colleges are increasingly providing vocational courses, courses on entrepreneurship, travel and tourism, computer education etc besides the regular university courses, the hostel seats in the government hostels has not increased accordingly. Although government is trying to introduce self employment generating programmes in colleges and other institutions, accommodation facilities for girls has not increased in the government hostels to pursue these courses. As such, with the increase in demand for hostels, private hostels has come up, meeting the demands of the career driven girls.

## **2.3 Proven impact of the growth of private girls' hostels in greater Guwahati:**

The growth of private hostels has proved to have a significant effect on the women community of Assam for pursuing higher education or vocational education and for women empowerment. Since Guwahati is the capital city of Assam, most of the developmental activities as well as facilities for higher education and other training institutes can be seen to be taking place in mostly in and around Guwahati city. As such students from all over Assam are seen to

be flocking to this area. This has created a demand for hostels for those striving students wanting to do or be someone in life. Women nowadays have started coming out of the four walls of their homes, and have starting building career for themselves. But it is seen, although the government and provincialised colleges does provide hostel facilities for girls, hostel seats are inadequate in comparison to the demand. Hence the private hostels has sprung up given to the demand. The private hostels no doubt have been catering to the needs of these career driven women folk who want to make a mark in their lives.