

## PREFACE

*Population aging is the worldwide phenomena. The importance of population aging was first brought into focus at world level in 1982 when United Nations organized the first World Conference on Aging at Vienna. In the twentieth century, human civilization witnessed a silent revolution namely aging which unseen and unheard by many. Although its impact is subtle, it is of utmost significant to everyone. India is no exception to population Aging. As per the Census reports India's population has tripled during the last 50 years, whereas the number of elderly Indians has increased more than fourfold, and it is expected to grow another fourfold by next five decades to come as per the estimation of United Nations Organisations if the present trend continues. Age is biological determination. Industrialization and urbanization have created uncertainty about the traditional society's role and improvement of the aged.*

*The concern for aging of population is a relatively new phenomenon, which has arisen due to significantly large increase in the number and proportion of the aged persons in the society. The current demographic situations and future goals make the population aging in India inevitable in near future. As aging follows directly from demographic transition which is linked with social and economic development as well as the intensity with which the intervention programmes are pursued. It is expected that faster the demographic transition the more rapid and more pronounced would be the aging process. The aging has already assumed significant dimension in Kerala and it is expected that soon many other States will follow suit. The additional fact is huge absolute size of the elderly population in India.*

*The status of an elderly in his family, caste, and community has bearing on his physical and emotional status. Recognizing the influence of social and situational factors on the biological and psychological conditions of aging, there is also a need for studying the position and role changes of the aged, notably family and peer roles, and with a relatively new role in the third part of life Position in the social structure affects one's personality. People are influenced by family, work, associations and social groupings of peers and colleagues. There is considerable diversity among the norms and aspirations of people, as they are grouped in different classes along loosely structured class lines. Views of the aged and aging among different religious, ethnic, and cultural subgroups influence the aging*

*process. In assessing the socio-economic status, it is important to keep in mind for a variety of reasons, the financial problems of old people. They constitute an important problem area. In our country, the economic security, social fulfillment and personal dignity are not well assessed due to economic imbalance.*

*There is a need for the study to examine probable impact of the aging population in India, the challenges to be met and the opportunities to be exploited. Indian societies are rapidly changing due to the process of urbanization, higher aspirations among the youth and the increasing participation of women in the workforce. All these factors have led to the erosion of the joint family system and the emergence of nuclear families. Hence, the elderly people are gradually marginalized in their respective families.*

*The present study is intended to analyze the demographic, socio- economic, and health conditions of the aged persons staying in the Homes for the Aged, located in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh. The purpose is to look into the situations in which the elderly live and the modality they have to get over the situations and problems. Main objectives of the study are to study the social status of the sample aged respondents; to study economic status of sample aged respondents; to study health status of sample aged respondents; and to suggest measures to improve the well being of the elderly.*

*The present study is broadly divided into Eight Chapters. Chapter I Introduction, importance statement of problem and need for the present study. Chapter II presents objectives, sources of data, methodology adopted and review of literature. Chapter III gives demographic profile of the aged. Chapter IV highlights the social aspects of ageing in India. Economic aspects of ageing in India are given in Chapter V. Health aspects of ageing in India are discussed in Chapter VI. Socio-economic and health status of the sample aged respondents is presented in Chapter VII. Last chapter gives summary and conclusion.*

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