PREFACE

Aging is not an event that takes place overnight but a process that begins at the time of conception, and continues throughout life. The truth is that life is a continuous process of growth from infancy to old age through childhood and adulthood; and ultimately comes to an end with the death of an individual.

World over the plight of the aged have drawn attention. Recognising the seriousness of the problem the United Nations too declared the year 1982 as the 'International year of the Aged'. This move has helped in focusing the attention of social scientists to the study of the aged.

The 'aged people', since my childhood, have always fascinated me. In the surroundings in which I grew up they were much revered. But as time passed I saw a change, a change which made my heart cry as in the place of respect, regard, esteem, honour etc., - disrespect, humiliation, insolence, sauciness, contempt etc., have crept in. Hence, when I did get an opportunity to do my M.A. dissertation and Doctoral work I took up to the study on the 'Aged'.

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