METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Survey Design

4.3 Universe of the Study

4.3.1 Unit of the study

4.4 Research Hypotheses

4.5 Sampling Design

4.5.1 Sample Size

4.6 Data Collection

4.6.1 Sources of Data

4.7 Instrumentation

4.7.1 Survey Method
4.7.2 Interview Method
4.7.3 Observation
4.7.4 Questionnaire
4.7.5 Pre-test

4.8 Data Processing and Analysis
4.9 Statistical Tools Used
4.10 Limitations of the Study
4.11 Conclusion
CHAPTER IV

METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

Methodology is the main body of the research report in the science of proper modes and order of procedure. It is the aspect of revealing the procedure of the technique involved in the study and the analysis of the problem.

Research has three fold objectives: theoretical, factual and application. These objectives are achieved by employing different methods and techniques of research. A research or should know the meaning of the term method of research. A research worker requires insight and discrimination to choose from among various methods which are adequate and useful for the study. The decision about the method for a research work is significant, since it lays out the ways in which the formal research is to be carried out. The selection of method
for research work depends upon the nature of the problem selected and the kind of data necessary for its solution.

Methodology occupies a very important position in any kind of research, as the validity and reliability of the findings depend on the method adopted. The type of research determines the methodology to be adopted for the study and it should be suitable to the problem under investigation. A suitable method helps the researcher to explore the diverse stands of the study and adequately measures them so as to satisfy the requirement and thus it is the means to an end.

This chapter describes the methodology employed, in order to achieve different objectives and to verify hypothesis of the study. It deals with the general design of the study, the verification of the hypothesis, the tools and statistical techniques used for the analysis of the data are described under appropriate heads given below.

4.2 Survey Design

The present study employed the qualitative research design. Qualitative research involves doing one’s utmost to map and explore the meaning of an area of human experience. Generally it examines
peoples words or actions in narrative o descriptive way more closely representing the experiences of the people involved. It emphasizes the importance of looking at variable in the natural setting in which they are found and the qualitative researchers believe that human behaviour cannot be understood outside its context. In qualitative research detailed data are gathered through open ended questions that provide direct questions, and the interviewer is an integral part of the investigation. The design of the study is descriptive and diagnostic in nature. It is aimed at understanding the problems of the aged and the contributions of Changanacherry Archdiocese through Old Age Homes and seeks to know of their own perception regarding the facilities that can be provided to them by the authorities.

The methodology of this work is analytical, explorative and reflective to know who is an elderly in its strict sense, his difficulties, challenges and the inseparable role of family before and now. It is explorative because the researcher has gone through the background of the religious teachings of Catholic Church in relation to its family, dignity and care aspects. And again it is reflective because of the sudden and fast changes that happen in the family and in the society
and the application of the new methods in the present context. It is very real because it is all about the very practical life of the people.

The study was conducted in two stages. In the first stage, data available from published sources were collected and critically analysed. In the second stage primary data were collected from hundred elderly persons from the Old Age Homes of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. For these two stages, five districts namely Kottayam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Trivandrum and Kollam were selected for the study. Random Sampling techniques were applied in selecting the respondents. The collected data were analysed by using statistical tools of percentage, tables, graphs and charts. Some of the information obtained were discarded, as they were not very useful to the study.

4.3 Universe of the Study

The Universe of this study consists of the aged males and females who are of 60 years of age and above in the Old Age Homes of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. While selecting the sample, it was kept in mind to include the aged from various categories: eg. People
who retired from the service sector, self employed persons, people who have from the organized sectors, those who were economically well off and distituutes. For empirical data 100 informants of 60 years and above with equal representation of sex, were selected.

4.3.1. Unit of the Study

Unit of the study is people of 60 years and above.

4.4 Research Hypotheses

The major hypotheses guiding this investigation are:

1. The Archdiocese of Changanacherry is rendering valuable services to the welfare of senior citizens through Old Age Homes.
2. The psycho – socio problems affect the life pattern of the senior citizens.
3. The inmates of the institutions are almost satisfied with the welfare measures provided by the old age homes of the Archdiocese
The relationship with the caregiver affects positively the life of inmates of the Old Age Homes.

4.5 Sampling Design

A sampling design is a definite plan determined before any data actually collected for obtaining a sample from the given population. It is the process of learning about the characteristics of population on the basis of sample drawn from it. Here Stratified Random Sampling Design is used for the selection of sample.

The present study is confined to the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. This Archdiocese has a large number of Homes for the Aged. Most of these Homes are for the destitute old persons and someone for those who could pay for their maintenance with their meagre income like pension, savings etc. To study the problem, a sample has been drawn from among the aged of the age of 60 and above and living in Homes for the Aged. This Archdiocese is spread over the civil districts of Alappuzha, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram. Twenty respondents from each of the above five districts were selected. Random Sampling method was
adopted to select 100 persons from Old Age Homes. Information was collected through interview schedules and observations. The schedules were administered individually, through personal interview method.

4.5.1 Sample Size

Sample consisted of 100 elderly people in the old age homes of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. Research was conducted among the inmates of the Old Age Homes in the five districts of Kottayam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry.

In the sample 50% were males and 50% females. 32% of the respondents belonged to the age group of 60-70 years, 48% belonged to the age group of 71-80 years. There were 20% who were of the age of 81 years and above.

4.6 Data Collection

A piece of information ready for analysis is called as datum. A large quantity of information collected through various modes are
referred to as data. Different methods are adopted to collect data in research, depending on the issue under investigation. The two main sources of data in research are ‘paper’ and ‘people’. The material, the researcher collects from libraries records and personal documents are paper sources. They are considered to be secondary data as they are collected from other people’s original data and are got second hand by the researcher. The data collected by the researcher himself through interview and questionnaires are first hand information and hence they are called primary data.

Data for this study were obtained from both the primary and the secondary sources. Information from these sources were utilized for critical evaluation of the data in understanding the approaches towards the study of the aged and the demographic changes responsible for the proliferation of their problems.

4.6.1 Sources of Data

Sources of data collection mean the sources to be tapped for relevant information the investigator needs to fulfill his or her
objectives of the study. The present study is based on both primary and secondary data.

4.6.1.1 Primary Data

Primary data were collected from the field survey conducted by the researcher in different old age homes of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. The views of 100 senior citizens were collected, either individually or in groups. For this survey the researcher used various methods like interview, observation, field study and questionnaire.

4.6.1.2 Secondary Data

The researcher used secondary data to intensify and support primary data. Secondary data were collected from books, journals, government publications and reports. For collecting secondary data the researcher visited many libraries and institutions related to the subject of this study: Mahatma Gandhi University library, School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies library, Kottayam public library and relevant materials from different websites on the internet were also collected for to support primary data.
4.7 Instrumentation

For the present work the researcher has used almost all the field techniques used for anthropological field work. Normative survey method (Interview, Observation, Personal Contact etc.) has been used for the survey conducted in the old age homes of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. Also percentage analysis, graphs and diagrams and chi-square test are the statistical techniques used in this study.

4.7.1 Survey Method

It is the way of obtaining description of human behaviour drawn from more people than direct observation allows. In survey method, researchers make use of questions which are carefully worded to get information regarding the problems under enquiry. It is concerned with conditions or relationships that exist, practices that prevail, attitudes of pupil or friends that are developing. It gathers data from a relatively large number of cases at a particular time. Surveys depend on direct contact with those persons or sample of subjects whose behaviour, attitudes, character etc are relevant for a specific field of investigation.
It is used when information cannot be collected through any other method.

In order to study the problems of the old age people, a survey has been conducted in the old age homes of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. These data were very helpful to know of their problems and needs and also to plan those things which can be done to improve their standard of living.

4.7.2 Interview Method

Interviews vary in purpose, nature and scope. They may be limited to one individual or extended to several people. To solve some problems, a number of people with similar or different background are questioned once briefly or several times intensively.

The main source of data collection for this work was the interview conducted by the researcher. On the basis of the study of existing literature on the subject, and the information gained through consultations and discussions with the experts in the field an interview schedule was prepared.
4.7.2.1 Structured and Unstructured Interview

These two types are based on the nature of preparation for the interview and its actual execution. In structured interview the same questions are presented in the same manner and order to each subject and the choice of alternative answers is restricted to a pre-determined list. These structured interviews are more scientific in nature than unstructured ones, for they introduced the controls that are required to permit the formulation of scientific generalisations.

Unstructured interviews are flexible. Even if the pre-planned questions are asked, the queries are altered to suit the situations and subjects. In an informal unstructured interview one can penetrate clues and re-direct enquiry on the basis of emerging data into more fruitful channels.

Here in this work the researcher has used both structured and unstructured interviews.
4.7.3 Observation

Observation means examination of something especially for the purpose of collecting data. It refers to the inspection of an overt behaviour of a person. It is an adaptable tool for both individual and groups.

There are two types of observations. They are participant and non-participant observations. In participant observation, the observer becomes the part of the observation which he wanted to observe, in non-participate observation the observer observe the groups without actually participating in its activities.

Here, the researcher has used participant and non-participant observations. The heads of the institutions allowed us to be with the old people for sometime.

4.7.4 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a printed list of questions relevant to a specific survey. Usually a questionnaire contains both closed type of questions and open end type of questions. There can be either
dichotomous questions with two alternative answers or multiple choice questions having three or more alternative answers.

In the survey conducted for the present study multiple choice questions were applied.

4.7.5 Pre-test

A detailed schedule, covering all sorts of questions has been prepared to make the data collection convenient and perfect. At the initial stage of the research a pre-test was conducted to finalize the interview schedule. A drafted interview schedule was tested with a small sample of the respondents at Punnvely Old Age Home, for ascertaining its validity and reliability. After the pre-test, a few questions were added and some of them were modified to ensure best results.

4.8 Data Processing and Analysis

After the completion of editing, the collected data were coded, classified and tabulated according to the objectives of the study by using statistical software – SPSS. The information to the open-ended
questions which was mostly in the narrative form, was analysed manually. On the basis of this analysis a project report was prepared.

4.9 Statistical Tools Used

All the analysis mentioned in the thesis are carried out by SPSS. The tools used are, chi-square test, cross tabulation, percentage analysis, bar diagram, pie diagram etc. The research hypothesis are tested using chi-square test by ‘p’ value method.

4.10 Limitations of the Study

The researcher does not claim that the study is fully free from limitations. The scope of the study is limited to only the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. Also it does not consider all the elderly people in the old age homes of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. It is done by random sampling method and only a small portion of the elderly people living in the old age homes of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry was covered by the study. Because of these reasons, very broad generalisations cannot be drawn on the basis of the findings of this study. The respondents had great mental difficulty in explaining the various problems faced by them. The inmates were afraid that what
they disclosed would be revealed to the authorities and so they were not frank in their answers. Hence, the information given by them might not be complete and accurate. Also many elderly were having physical disability, sensory difficulties and loss of memory and these have affected the information given by them.

The scope of the study is limited to selected Old Age Homes in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. Therefore broad generalization cannot be drawn on the basis of findings from the study. The respondent had great mental difficulty in explaining the various problems faced by them.

One of the major limitations of the present work is that it has not used any scientific method to determine the accurate age of the respondents.

Interviewing the elderly was not an easy task. The researcher many a time had to face a hard time in convincing some of the elderly regarding the importance and advantages of this study and the necessity of their co-operation. They were impressed upon the fact that
their opinion shall go a long way. It was an uphill task to convince them.

Inspite of all these difficulties, all efforts have been made to present this work in the best possible manner.

4.11 Conclusion

The present survey is exploratory in nature. Data for this study was obtained from both the primary and the secondary sources. Information from these sources were utilized for critical evaluation of the data in understanding the approaches towards the study of the aged and the demographic changes responsible for the proliferation of their problems.

The primary data collected through personal interviews with the aged persons were statistically analysed. This has been presented and discussed in the following chapter.
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Structural and Functional Aspects of the Old Age Homes

5.3 Types of Old Age Homes

5.4 Demographic details of Institutionalized Elderly

5.5 Social Issues of Institutionalized Elderly People

5.6 Psychological Impact on Institutionalized Elderly People

5.7 Adjustmental Problems

5.8 Physical Challenges

5.9 The Responses of the Inmates about Old Age Homes

5.10 Opinion of Care Givers about the Inmates

5.11 Conclusion