interdisciplinary approach involving developmental pediatrics, developmental and behavioral psychology, audiology, psychiatry, speech and language pathology, special education, occupational therapy and social work is needed. Prognoses vary and depend on the degree of the underlying defect.

Yates, (1986), discusses symbolic deficiency and intentionality in autism. A strict theory of symbolic deficiency does not account for autism since failures to use gestural and sign referent relationships, representational deficits and failures to code intentions in communicative exchanges exist. Interactive deficiency is present in autism from very early on, evidenced by failure to develop initiative skills and use communicative signals and gestures. The autistic child appears to lack innate motivation to search for significance in the environment. The cognitive basis of autistic behaviour may lie neither in bilinguistic deficiency nor symbolic and representational deficiency, but in the failure to establish an intentional relationship with the world.

The above stated studies are not a detailed review of the entire work done on autism. They are not just a preview of the immense complexity of man and his relation to his environment and how difficult it is to try and understand such complex phenomena. But then as someone has said:

'A very dangerous state of mind - thinking one understands.'

III

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The aim of the present study is to understand those aspects of contemporary society that relate to autistic processes found in it as an individual and social phenomena. We use autism/autistic processes/and autistic thinking interchangeably for the sake of convenience. These
are not clinically established processes associated with the syndrome but metaphorically processes akin to it.

The study has the following objectives:

1) To study autistic processes in a sample of scientists and doctors and, through that, study the importance and occurrence of such processes in the society.

2) To further examine empirically the proposition that normality abnormality constitute a continuum rather than a clearcut division, that behavior considered abnormal can very much be a part of normality and vice versa in many societies. By studying autistics a sample of normal doctors and scientists, processes which are pathological are explored. Also how far certain psychological pathologies have been accepted as a part of our everyday life.

3) To further, study whether people who are autistic go to certain professions or certain professions induce autism like traits in the individual, through a sample of 'structured isolated' institutes of scientific research and medical schools.

4) To study the effect of cultures or social groups and individual on each other and how they change each other.

   The following autistic characteristics have been studied:
   1) Aloofness
   2) Affect Isolation
   3) Impairment of Emotional Relationships
   4) Indifference to people
   5) Inappropriate emotions
   6) Social cognition lacks
   7) Scienticization
   8) Resistance to change
   9) Psychological Rigidity

To study the following autistic characteristics:

a. Inability to attribute beliefs, failures, intentions etc. to other people.

b. Inability to recognize emotions, gestures etc.

c. A communication failure or symbolic deficiency which results due to the above reasons, so that the person cannot develop a relation with the world, and there is affect isolation, self isolation unrelateness to others, and indifference to others.

d. There are social cognition lacks, social isolation and social aloofness.

e. Inability to adapt to changes, a need to structure the world. An intense resistance to change which results in rigidity, orderliness, maintenance of sameness.

f. Elements of depersonalization and objectification, so that communication is more in terms of an I-It relation, and the world becomes structured, determined and less demanding emotionally.

And objectification of many aspects of one's life and relations through the scienticization of many aspects of life.