The purpose of this thesis is to analyse the growing geriatrical problems of our society.

Nowadays, the terms related to ageing requires serious attention because the problems related to ageing are increasing day by day. The universal phenomenon of ageing cannot be stopped for it is inevitable. The elderly population is growing much faster than the population as a whole. Due to improved health facilities, life standards and other socio-economic factors, average life expectancy has gone up considerably which resulted in sharp increase in the elderly population. In the Indian context, people who have attained sixty years and above are considered to be old. Thus our society is graying fast and in India, today one in every four is an old person. Similarly, the population is ageing more rapidly in Kerala than in any other state in India. So ageing will have to be a special concern of the state.

With the increase in the population of the elderly people the problems associated with them are also increasing. Due to the rapid changes in the society resulting in the decline of the joint family system, and increasing prevalence of nuclear families, many elderly people are unable to live securely and comfortably. They are forced to face many socio-psychological problems within the family and the
community. Sometimes, they are forced to find another shelter. Majority of our elderly population are suffering from problems of one type or another.

Our cultural ethos give a special place to the elderly persons as wise people and councillors of society. It is a fact that the experience and wisdom of old age and its gainful utilization would be beneficial for both the elderly as well as the younger generation. So there is a need to revitalize the traditional institutions of family and neighbourhood. Growing old is universal and inescapable. What is needed is concerted effort to create an environment, a social system and mental attitudes that help people maintain their dignity in the face of assaults on their self esteem due to physical and mental decline. With assistance from family, community and government, elderly people could lead useful and fulfilling lives.

Understanding these realities, this study aims to recognize the various geriatric problems of our society. This study is carried out in Kottayam District of Kerala State. The researcher tries to identify the intensity of the problems of the elderly population in this area. The researcher hopes that looking into the various problems of elderly population can offer a moral and human support for the welfare of the elderly population.
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