

“For Young Scientist Research Paper Award”

**CARE OF THE ELDERLY IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION
(A Sociological Study of Institutionalised Elderly)**

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Ageing is a natural and universal phenomenon which has multidimensional process, not only viewed as biological and medical concern alone but of social, economic, psychological and demographical importance. The problem of ageing among the senior citizens has a special significance in contemporary societies in general and India in particular. The growth of population of the elderly is a consequence of demographic transition in both the developed as well as developing countries. The age group of 60 years and above in India, was 72 millions in 2001, 179 millions in 2031 and further 301 millions in 2051. The care of the aged traditionally has been the concern and responsibilities of the family. With a series of developments such as modernization, urbanization, globalization and individualistic orientations have threatened this traditional culture. As a result, family care of the elderly is becoming more and more difficult and many elderly seem to seek institutionalization as an alternative. Therefore, numerous institutions which take care of old managed by government, voluntary organizations and Christian missionaries have come into existence.

Hyderabad is one of the important mega cities in the country which has been rapidly growing in terms of elderly population and consequent industrialization, urbanization and globalization. As a result there are numerous senior citizens irrespective of their socio-economic and cultural background who are leading an isolated and uncared life by the institutions of family, kinship and community. The present empirical study attempts to understand the role of the old age home in providing the health care needs of the aged. The study further explores the kinds of services available for the aged in the old age home, their socio-economic conditions and the reasons for living in old age home and the activities performed by them.

Data for the study have been gathered from a sample of 80 respondents who resides in the old age home through a systematic structured interview schedule. Further, close observation and few case studies have also been done for a comprehensive understanding of the problem.

The result of the present study clearly indicates that the elderly were happy and satisfied in the old age home. The institution studied had enhanced the status of the aged by encouraging them to continue to be the productive members of the society. Keeping in view the changing scenario the government has to strengthen the old age homes and should evolve out with more policies for the care, comfort and welfare of the aged.