Pakistani society is changing in many ways that relate to age. Some of these changes are occurring because of increasing longevity; others are occurring because of change in economy, eating habits, rising demands in education and health services. The importance of these issues has given rise to a relatively new field of social science: gerontology, the study of ageing.

Ageing process has biological and psychological aspects. The study of these aspects has given rise to variety of conceptions of age groups. One such distinction divides the senior citizens into two groups; a. the young senior citizens, i.e, those who are above 65 years of age but are relatively active, and whose competencies can be utilized in the interests of society. b; the old senior citizens, i.e, those who are above 85 years. In other words the age is being divided into functional age and chronological age. In the old concept as we know the age was regarded as the time following retirement, and it was marked by declining physical and intellectual vigour, chronic illness, social disengagement and often by isolation and desolation.

The old distinction between life periods are blurring in today's society. It is a new historical phenomenon that a very large group of retirees are healthy, vigorous, relatively well off financially, well integrated into the lives of their families and communities, and may be even politically active.

Biological and psychological changes occurring in ageing process deserves special attention. Oral structures (mucosa, the teeth, jaws, tongue and salivary glands) are affected to varying degrees by ageing process. These changes render the mucosa more susceptible to mechanical, chemical, and microbial irritation. Moreover, the psychological behaviour also changes with ageing. Due to the increased longevity in our society, the number of young senior citizens, and old senior citizen has considerably increased. The role of gerodontist thus acquires greater significance. But at present inadequate attention is given to this speciality. Gerodontology should become a full speciality. This editorial is a wake up call.

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