

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**A STUDY OF LONELINESS ASSOCIATED WITH  
DEPRESSION LEVEL AMONG GERIATRICS AT  
NURSING HOMES IN TERRITORY OF KLANG  
VALLEY**

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“Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, all praise to Allah, Who has made the succession of day and night a lesson for those who reflect. I thank Him for His bountiful blessings and I testify that there is no deity worthy worship expects Allah. I equally testify that Muhammad is His servant and messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his household and companions who are the people of righteous and piety”

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This thesis reported on a cross-sectional survey that investigated loneliness associated with depression level among geriatrics at nursing homes. Administration of two questionnaires to explore participant's knowledge were used to examine the depression level among geriatrics and how it is associated with their loneliness, since most of geriatrics at nursing homes are homeless and some are being abandoned by their own family. Nursing homes in Klang Valley were selected as samples of this thesis. This chapter briefly describes the context of study, the purpose and significance of the study as well as the study question. It concludes with a discussion on the organization of this thesis.

### **1.1 Background and Significance**

Ageing is a progressive state, beginning with conception and ending with death. The process of aging is related to changes in physical, social and psychological changes. There has been a considerable increase in the absolute and relative numbers of older people in the world population of both developed and developing countries in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of reduction in both mortality and fertility, where fewer children are born and more people reach old age, of the approximately 580 million elderly people (60 years old and above) in the world, around 335 million live in