**Chapter 1 Introduction**

**1:1 Introduction**

 Elderly abuse and neglect is a serious and growing concern in many parts of the world, including Ireland. As the population ages, it becomes increasingly important to ensure the well-being and safety of older adults, both in nursing homes and in community settings. This thesis aims to explore the issues of abuse and neglect experienced by elderly people in Ireland, focusing on those living in nursing homes and those residing in their own communities.

Elder abuse and neglect can include both physical and emotional harm. In many communities, towns and cities in Ireland, this has become a critical issue affecting the elderly. Ireland unlike countries in the developing countries has an increase in the number of the elderly residing in the nursing homes or community dwellings. (O’Shea et al.). The increase of elderly in the nursing homes and some myth about elderly in general such as Society stereotypes and harassment older people as weak, seeing older people sluggish, afraid, suffering from dementia, useless, grumpy, incontinent, constantly ill, and of course society seeing all older people as being depressed. (Pamela et al. 2023). Has raise concerns about how society see them and how they are treated, raising concerns about their vulnerability to abuse and neglect. (Christine R. Victor).

 Research studies have shown that elderly people in nursing homes and communities from to time experience different kinds of abuse including neglect, which can tremendously affect their health and wellbeing. (J.F. Soares el at.) The purpose of this research project is therefore to show light and awareness of the suffering of the elderly in nursing homes and the community.

**1:2 Research Questions**

What are the prevalence and types of elder abuse and neglect experienced by elderly residents in nursing homes compared to those in community dwellings in Ireland?

What are the risk factors associated with elder abuse and neglect among elderly residents in nursing homes and community dwellings in Ireland?

What are the perceptions and attitudes of healthcare providers, family members, and elderly residents themselves towards elder abuse and neglect in nursing homes and community dwellings in Ireland.

**1:3 Research Objectives**

By reviewing existing literature, this study will provide a comprehensive understanding of the different types of abuse and neglect that elderly people face.

 It will examine the prevalence and risk factors associated with these issues, as well as the impact on the victims’ health and quality of life. The study will also highlight the policies and measures currently in place to address elder abuse and neglect in Ireland and identify gaps that need to be filled to better protect vulnerable older adults.

Through this literature-based approach, the thesis will shed light on the importance of safeguarding the rights and dignity of elderly people and offer recommendations for improving care and support systems for the aging population in Ireland.

What demographics or situational factors contribute to incidents of abuse and neglect in these settings?

To provide recommendations for improving care practices and policies to protect vulnerable elderly individuals.