CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY
AND
CONCLUSION
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This is the fifth chapter in the thesis in order and prominently highlights the various aspects of the study to get quick understanding.

Results obtained in the present investigation were confined to the responses received from 300 respondents residents of Akola city selected with the help of “Equal Interval Method of Randomization”. Requisite data were collected from the respondents selected through personal interview with the help of schedule developed and pre-tested depending upon the convenience with regard to availability of time placed at the disposal of respondent homemakers. It would not be out of place to make a mention of the fact that respondents were at the outset told the very purpose with which visit the investigator has arranged with the respondents. Respondents were also acquainted with the concept underlined and methodology, advantages of application of PERT for carrying out home activities and then they were requested to furnish information required.

Present study was undertaken and directed to understand how far and to what extent technique of PERT which now has entered as a significant landmark in the history of development of management in the area of home management, however, the specific objectives with which study was carried out where as under-

1. To understand personal, socio-economic, psycho-situational characteristics of homemaker respondents,

2. To know time utilization pattern of respondents,
3. To know the level of knowledge regarding the various component processes involved in PERT use and applicability such as planning, control and evaluation,
4. To compute requirement of different types of time estimates including time as per PERT technique for completion of various home activities,
5. Views expressed by the respondents relating to various aspects of home activity,
6. To understand difficulties experienced by the homemaker respondents in completing different home activities,
7. To understand opinion of the respondents regarding use and applicability of PERT for completion of various home activities,
8. To invite suggestions from the respondents for effective performance of different home activities,
9. To establish relationship between selected characteristics of respondents and requirement of time as per PERT technique,
10. To furnish information relating to various aspects of home management as reported by the respondents such as-
   a. Alternative followed in reality for the purpose of planning as reported by the respondents,
   b. Individual responsible for taking decisions about various activities of home management,
   c. Individual responsible for performing different home activities other than homemakers herself,
   d. Satisfaction derived from the quality of home activities performed,
   e. Advantages in terms of saving of inputs- time, energy and
money attributed to use of PERT technique, and

f. Advantages reported by the respondents as a result of PERT application for completion of different home activities.

Collection of information from the respondents during the course of interrogation covered various independent, intervening and dependent variables. Independent variables included age, education, occupation/profession, monthly income, size of family, type of family, social participation, type of house, availability of home equipments and finally availability of other facilities necessary for enhancing efficiency of homemakers.

Opinion about use and applicability of PERT and knowledge about use and applicability of PERT were included under the category of intervening variables.

Requirement of time for completion of various home activities with the help of PERT was considered as dependent variables.

For the purpose of quantification of the variables schedule was developed, while for computation of time required for carrying out various home activities procedure prescribed as per PERT technique was made use of.

As enunciated in the research procedure suitable hypotheses were formulated and taking into account the nature of research problem under investigation “Descriptive and Diagnostic” research design was considered as an appropriate in the present study.

Data collected were subjected to suitable statistical methods, presented in the suitable tables and interpreted accordingly supporting corroborative evidences wherever necessary.
For the sake of convenience key terms the reader is likely to come across with were appropriately defined.

Computation of time for completion of various home activities through PERT was the prime point of consideration and therefore, detail procedure for estimation of time required for completion of various activities with the help of PERT technique was described and presented which also included meaning of some of basic terminologies used in network and their description.

Procedure followed for computation of different time estimates for completion of home activities including time worked out with the help of PERT technique is describe below in short.

At the outset author, her research supervisor, parents and some experienced homemakers in the society discussed in greater detail as to what are the different home activities homemakers has to complete in the task of home management and comprehensive list of home activities was prepared. This list was subjected to critical scrutiny for their necessity and finally list of activities including therein about 46 activities were kept.

In the exercise of pre-testing this list of 46 home activities and getting information for these activities was thought to be unwieldy and complicated and, therefore, all these activities were divided into different six categories on the basis of their periodicity of performance such as

1. Daily activities,
2. Weekly activities,
3. Monthly activities,
4. Seasonal activities,
5. Yearly activities and
6. Activities require for home management.

As required then the responses of the respondents were sort in terms of minimum time, maximum time and reasonable time the various home activities consume for their completion. Feeding this information to the PERT formula time requirement was computed with the help of following formula.

\[ Te = \frac{to + 4tm + tp}{6} \]

where 
- to = optimistic time
- tp = most pessimistic
- tm = most likely time estimation

Findings emerged out of the present investigation have been summarized below in brief.

As regards the personal, social, economic, psychological and situational characteristics of the respondents it was observed that.

i. Majority (38.00 percent) of the respondents were in between 31 to 40 years of age, very few being above 51 years of old.

ii. Educational profile of the respondents revealed that majority (56.00 percent) of the respondents had received formal education up to graduation. Although very few in number respondents were highly qualified-doctorate (3.00 percent).

iii. As was anticipated majority of the respondents (77.00 percent) were unemployed and have accepted the full time role of homemaker. Employed homemaker and homemaker engaged in
one of or other type of business represented the respondents community.

iv. Majority of the respondents (40.00 percent) reported that they had their annual income in the range of 2 to 3 lakhs rupees.

v. In contradictory to the anticipation majority of respondents (71.00 percent) reported to have participated in one or the other type of voluntary organizations existing in the city.

vi. Majority of the respondents (84.00 percent) were coming from individual family with 4 to 6 members in their respective families.

vii. So far as ownership of the house reported by the respondents were concern it was observed that majority (86.00 percent) of them had their own houses. Only 41 respondents were keeping themselves in the rental houses. Houses according to majority (45.00 percent) of the houses were spacious with 4 rooms therein.

viii. Majority (55.00 percent) of the respondents reported that the place of their residence is neither far away nor near from civic facilities in the city.

ix. Information regarding the availability of vehicles at the disposal of homemakers reveal that majority (89.00 percent) of the respondents had scooters, other reporting availability of car, bicycle and Luna. These vehicles according to them came to their rescue particularly in the event of emergency when time had a problem with them.

x. In an attempt to understand the availability of home equipments with the respondents it was understood that electric mixer/grinders, refrigerator, electric press, washing machine, oven, microwave, vegetable cutter and space in the houses of home makers besides
flour cleaner, vacuum cleaner, sandwich maker and solar cooker. Importance of these home equipments need not be over emphasized in helping the homemaker to save her time and energy and therefore this information was sort for.

One of the objectives formulated in the present study provided for understanding time utilization pattern of the homemaker respondents.

Some of the alternatives the respondents have reported to for the purpose of utilizing time whatever and whenever was available were reported to be visiting to friends/relatives, reading literature of their own liking, listening to radio, watching TV, hearing cassettes, preparing family budget, taking rest, gossipping and finally participating in social activities.

Knowledge regarding various component processes involved in PERT use and applicability such as planning, control and evaluation is a pre-requisite in making use of PERT technique for completion of various home activities. Therefore, it was of prime importance to assess the knowledge of respondents about the same.

Level of knowledge on the part of respondents about the planning, control and evaluation in the terms of complete knowledge, partial knowledge and no knowledge was ascertained which made the author to believe that majority of respondents had no knowledge about these processes in their real perspective.

It is a matter of common observation and experience as well that homemakers are encountering variety of difficulties in course of performing various home activities. Present investigation had a special provision to account for the same. Information in terms of responses
received revealed that homemakers in general and respondents selected for the present study in particular had faced difficulty such as variability in timing of school and offices for children and elders respectively, non cooperation of the family members in completing various home activities, lack of advance planning, lack of work distribution in members of the family, absence of servant without pre-intimation, lack of some of the important and necessary equipments and finally unexpected arrival of guests.

As stated earlier, having divided all the home activities into different categories on the basis of their periodicity different type of times – minimum, maximum, reasonable and as per PERT was worked out which clearly brought that reasonable time reported by the respondents for completion of various home activities and requirement of time computed with the help of PERT technique appeared to be almost similar.

**Minimum Time for Daily Activities:-**

As far as minimum time is required for completion of these activities it was observed that activities such as preparing of morning tea, washing of cup and saucer, cleaning of furniture, taking children to school, cleaning of puja utensils and worshiping of god took less than ten minutes for their completion. Whereas activities such as making of rangoli in front of the door, cleaning of basin etc, taking bath, time taken for lunch, filling of water, preparing of evening tea, pre-planning for bed, time taken for dinner, planning for next day and cleaning of shoes numbering ten activities took time in between 11 to 30 minutes for their completion. Activities such as cleaning of floor,
sweeping of floor, preparation for cooking and afternoon tea and breakfast consumed 31 to 40 minutes. However there were in all seven activities such as washing of clothes, cooking in morning, cleaning and washing of utensils, cooking in evening, taking studies of children, taking care of children and post completion activities management which were reported to have taken more then 40 minutes of time for their completion.

**Maximum Time for Daily Activities:**
As regards maximum time taken by the activities for their completion and their respective categories it may be stated that 13 activities such as preparing of morning tea, washing of cup and saucer, cleaning of furniture, making rangoli in front of door, taking children to school, cleaning of puja utensil, taking bath, worshiping of god, preparing for evening cooking, pre-planning for bed, time taken for dinner, planning for next day and cleaning of shoes took 30 minutes for their completion, where as activities such as cleaning the floor, sweeping of floor, cleaning of basin etc, washing of clothes, filling of water, time taken for lunch, afternoon tea and breakfast, taking care of children consumed 31 to 60 minutes for their completion. According to the respondents there were six activities which took more than 61 minutes and they were preparing for cooking, preparation for lunch, cleaning of utensil, preparation for dinner, taking studies of children and post completion activities management.

**Reasonable Time for Daily Activities:**
As has been already stated earlier that the time taken by the activities for their completion reported in the column reasonable
and as per PERT is almost the same, categories under reasonable time and the activities coming therein under have only been considered for presentation and discussion. Naturally time reported along with their sub categories of all in between the categories of minimum and maximum. The information presented in the table above has clearly brought out that there are in all 11 activities, which according to the respondents took 20 minutes for their completion such as preparing of morning tea, washing of cup and saucer, cleaning of furniture, making rangoli in front of door, taking children to school, cleaning of puja utensils, taking bath, worshiping of god, preparing for evening cooking, planning for next day and cleaning of shoes. Only five activities namely cleaning of basin, toilets, bathroom etc, filling of water, afternoon tea and breakfast, pre-planning for bed and dinner took time in between 21 to 40 minutes. It can further be seen that activities such as cleaning the floor, sweeping the floor, washing of clothes, preparing for cooking, time taken for lunch, cleaning and washing of utensils, cooking in evening, taking studies of children, taking care of children and post completion activities management took more than 41 minutes of reasonable time for their completion.

Minimum Time for Weekly Activities:–

It was clearly brought out that 50 minutes of minimum time was reported for ironing of clothes by the respondents followed by the activity of visiting the temple which according to respondents consumed 47.28 minutes. Activity of gardening use to consume about 40 minutes every week. Purchasing of vegetables and getting wheat ground in flour mill took almost same time as per the respondents.
Maximum Time for Weekly Activities:-

As regards the maximum time for completion of above listed weekly activities it was observed that the activity of purchasing of vegetables took more time (115.35 minutes) followed by wheat grinding (103.33 minutes). The duration of 64.16 minutes, 60.11 minutes and 47.16 minutes were reported as maximum time taken by ironing of clothes, going to temple and gardening as some of the important weekly activities.

Reasonable Time for Weekly Activities:-

Realizing the importance of reporting requirement of time for completion of above named weekly activities as per PERT, it could be seen that maximum time was consumed by the activity for purchasing of vegetables (76.10 minutes) followed by activity of wheat grinding (70.11 minutes). The time of 57.28, 54.14 and 53.48 minutes was reported to be consumed by the activities like ironing of clothes, going to temple and gardening respectively.

Minimum and Maximum Time for Monthly Activities:-

As far as grain cleaning is concerned minimum and maximum time was reported to be 151.15 and 232.49 minutes respectively. As against repairing of home equipments and machines took minimum time of 44.33 minutes and 111.20 maximum. The activity of repairing of clothes took 43.33 and 123.43 minutes as minimum and maximum time for their completion. Cleaning of doors, windows and fans etc consumed about 73 minutes as minimum and 146 as maximum time for their completion.
Reasonable Time for Monthly Activities:-

Having reported minimum and maximum requirement of time for completion of monthly activities listed above it was necessary to report requirement of time as per the computation of PERT for the same. It was observed that grain cleaning took about 192 minutes followed by 110.0 minutes. About 78 and 34 minutes were reported to be taken by repairing of home equipments and machine and repairing of clothes respectively.

Seasonal Activities:-

Some of the activities although they form the part and parcel of the home activities and also account for smooth management of the home but they can be categorized as seasonal activities. Some of the seasonal activities along with different types of times they consume for their completion as reported by the respondents such as making of pickles, cleaning of raincoat repairing of umbrella, taking care of woolen clothes, preparation of sauces were some of the activities reported by the respondents under the category of seasonal activities. Time reported for these activities in order was reported as 68.13, 7.45, 8.41, 58.26 and 60.16 minutes respectively under the column minimum time. Corresponding figures under the column of maximum column for these activities was reported to be 149.33, 22.11, 22.25, 131.1 and 147.33 minutes respectively. Identical to that of earlier table figures for reasonable and time computed as per PERT formula worked out to be almost similar which worked out to be 108.47, 15.18, 15.08, 94.43, and 104.19 minutes for making of pickles, cleaning of raincoat, repairing of
umbrella taking care of woolen clothes and preparing of sauces respectively.

Yearly Activities:-

It has become a customary to complete some of the activities yearly. Under the category of yearly activities purchasing of grains, making of supari etc and making of sattu figure prominently. It is discernible from the table above that the purchasing of grain is very important and takes more time (150.15, 300.12, 225.13 minutes) which is quite natural. The head of family has to go in the market, has to compare the quality of grains, prevailing prices and other related aspects and, therefore, time reported by respondents is comparatively more. Minimum, maximum and reasonable time reported for some of the activities such as making of papad, making of chilli powder etc., making of supari etc. and making of metkut and sattu worked out to be (79.56, 179.53, 137.28), (75.0, 90.0, 92.50), (102.43, 170.46, 137.19) and (66.08, 117.16, 92.42) minutes respectively.

Activities required for Home management:-

Some of the activities would not like to come within the purview of home activities in their true sense. However, they help directly or indirectly influence the effective management of home and, therefore, considered. Time consumed by these activities, however, has to be given due consideration by the homemakers and, therefore, time consumed reported by the respondents namely work related to bank took about an hour as minimum and 128.50 minutes as maximum according to the respondents. This is probably due to rush of customers in bank.
Payment of phone bill, payment of electricity bill, work related to post office, payment of water bill and payment of house tax took minimum time of 25.26, 30.49, 18.16, 12.23 and 13.44 minutes respectively. Corresponding figures for maximum time of these activities reported by the respondents worked out to be 31.1, 33.3, 32.46, 20.46 and 20.25 minutes respectively. As far as reasonable time and time computed as per pert formula appears to be almost similar. Corresponding figures for time for these activities as per reasonable time comes to the extent of 29.33, 33.22, 92.22, 25.28, 16.43 and 17.35 minutes respectively.

In an attempt to understand opinion rather considered of the respondents about the possibility of using PERT technique for completion of various home activities it was understood that as many as 70 respondents opined that PERT can be made use of most conveniently for completion of home activities. This was followed by the number of respondents who stated that PERT can be conveniently used and applying for completion of home activities. The number of respondents who were not only doubtful but also perceive PERT technique as very complicated and difficult to make use of and frankly expressing that PERT cannot be used at all worked out to be 80, 20 and 30 respectively.

When the respondents were requested to offer their suggestions for effective performance of home activities, some of the important suggestions offered by the respondents were- members of family should share and co-operate in completion of various home activities, advance planning for various home activities should be done by the homemakers in consultation with members of family, provision for some of the essential home equipments should be made by the
concern and finally as far as possible servants should be asked to inform about their absence in advance.

With a view to understand as to whether there exist any relationship between some of the selected characteristic of the homemakers and requirement of time for completion of various home activities as per PERT technique. Data were therefore subjected to ‘r’ test. Result reveal that their exist relationship between size of family and total number of rooms in the house with that of time required for completion of home activity as per PERT.

One of the objectives formulated in the present study provided for collecting and presenting information received form the respondents on some relevant aspects. These aspects have close bearing with the theme of the investigation. Results derived have briefly been summarized.

Alternative followed in reality for the purpose of planning as reported by the respondents:-

Although planning is basic to PERT use and applicability, however, considering short of time placed at the disposal of homemakers it is sometime not possible to critically observe the process of planning in its ideal shape. Homemakers, therefore, have certain alternatives to be followed in reality for planning to be replaced.

Present study has clearly brought out that homemakers were preparing list of major and minor home activities and performing them as and when they find suitable time. They were also preparing list of activities placing them as per appropriate sequence, finding out likely time for their completion and performing them within available possible
time. It was further reported that homemakers were classifying activities according to necessity of the activities for their performance and accordingly giving priority. For the sake of ease and convenience homemakers as they reported were keeping list of activities ready in order to avoid lapse of time.

**Individual responsible for taking decision about various activities of home management:**

In an attempt to understand individual responsible for taking decision about various activities of home management. It was revealed that in an individual family father, mother, sister and brother as well prominently figure in taking decision about various activities such as menu of lunch, dinner and item of tea and breakfast, planning of home activities, purchase of grains for a period of year, education of children, purchase of costly home equipments, arrangement of furniture, and celebration of important occasion are the activities. However, whenever author came across with joint family it was reported that other members other than those named above such as grandfather, grandmother, uncle and aunty also were involved in taking decision about various activities of home management.

**Individual responsible for performing different home activities other than homemakers herself:**

Although mother has been considered as ultimate responsible person, however, the members such as father, brother, sister and some other persons in the event of joint family were reported to have co-operated for completing activities such as preparation of morning tea,
purchasing of vegetables, taking boys to school, cleaning of furniture, preparation for cooking, cooking in the morning, washing of clothes, preparation of evening tea, payment of phone and electric bill, working relating to bank and post office and cooking in the evening are the home activities in the process of home management. Variability in reporting the frequency of these members was noticed based on the responses received from the respondents.

**Satisfaction derived from the quality of home activities performed:-**
How far and to what extent homemakers were satisfied as far as the quality of home activities they were performing in spite of variety of bottleneck was a matter of consideration. Respondents were specifically therefore asked to response under five points continuum response. It was noted that majority (45.00 percent) of the respondents were appeared to be satisfied. Surprising only 10 respondents were highly satisfied for the quality of home activities they have performed. It could probably be due to variety of reasons some of the reasons could be co-operation of members of family for performing various home activities, knowledge of planning and evaluation and finally availability of facilities otherwise necessary and influence the completion of home activities probably. The number of respondents who expressed their inability to record their reaction, who were not satisfied and who were not at all satisfied worked out to be 65, 75 and 15 respectively.

**Advantages in terms of saving of inputs- time, energy and money attributed to use of PERT technique:-**
As stated earlier respondents were explained the concept, principles and methodology of PERT application and were requested to report likely savings in the event of use and applicability of PERT for performing various home activities. Responses reported however were as they were anticipated. Majority of the respondents (97.00 percent) reported saving of time followed by those who reported saving of money. Saving of energy because of PERT, if applied was reported by 286 respondents. Almost equal number of respondents reported likely saving in use of equipments and a precious input-manpower. These savings have been taken by the respondents as the advantage in-case PERT technique is used and applied for different home activities for their completion.
CONCLUSION

On the strength of findings emerged out of the present investigation following tentative conclusions can be conveniently drawn.

Majority (38.00 percent) of the respondents were in between 31 to 40 years of age, very few being above 51 years of old.

Educational profile of the respondents revealed that majority (56.00 percent) of the respondents had received formal education up to graduation. Although very few in number respondents were highly qualified-doctorate (3.00 percent).

As was anticipated majority of the respondents (77.00 percent) were unemployed and have accepted the full time role of homemaker. Employed homemaker and homemaker engaged in one of or other type of business represented the respondents community.

Majority of the respondents (40.00 percent) reported that they had their annual income in the range of 2 to 3 lakhs rupees.

In contradictory to the anticipation majority of respondents (71.00 percent) reported to have participated in one or the other type of voluntary organizations existing in the city.

Majority of the respondents (84.00 percent) were coming from individual family with 4 to 6 members in their respective families.

So far as ownership of the house reported by the respondents were concern it was observed that majority (86.00 percent) of them had their own houses. Only 41 respondents were keeping themselves in the rental houses. Houses according to majority (45.00 percent) of the houses were spacious with 4 rooms therein.
Majority (55.00 percent) of the respondents reported that the place of their residence is neither far away nor near from civic facilities in the city.

Information regarding the availability of vehicles at the disposal of homemakers reveal that majority (89.00 percent) of the respondents had scooters, other reporting availability of car, bicycle and Luna. These vehicles according to them came to their rescue particularly in the event of emergency when time had a problem with them.

In an attempt to understand the availability of home equipments with the respondents it was understood that electric mixer/grinders, refrigerator, electric press, washing machine, oven, microwave, vegetable cutter and space in the houses of home makers besides flour cleaner, vacuum cleaner, sandwich maker and solar cooker. Importance of these home equipments need not be over emphasized in helping the homemaker to save her time and energy and therefore this information was sort for.

Majority of the respondents had partial level of knowledge about the component processes such as planning, control and evaluation in their right perspective. However, respondents had their own alternatives and arrangements for performing various home activities to substitute process of planning in its most idealistic manner.

In an attempt to compute requirement of time for completion of various daily home activities as per PERT consume time in the range of 11.26 minutes to 157.25 minutes for washing of cup and saucer in the morning and post completion activities management respectively.
As far as time required for completion of activities of weekly nature time took had a range in between 53.48 minutes for gardening and 76.10 for purchasing of vegetables.

So far as monthly activities are concern it can be concluded that minimum time was consume 78.17 minutes for machine repairing and maximum time was taken by grain cleaning (191.48 minutes)

As regards seasonal activities cleaning of raincoat took about 15 minutes and making of pickles took 108.47 minutes.

When the time taken by the yearly activities came it would be reported that 82.50 minutes were require for making chills powder etc and 225.13 minutes for purchasing of grains.

Study further concluded that members in the family had their own role and contribution in decision making and completing various home activities probably due to which homemakers were satisfied so far as the quality of home activities performed.

HOMEMAKERS had difficulties and suggestions to offer in the better performance of home activities.

There is correlation between size of family and number of rooms and requirement of time for completion of various home activities as per PERT technique.

The most important conclusion which could be drawn would be that after following the concept and procedure for use and applicability of PERT technique and proper orientation and small duration training if imparted homemakers will be able to make use of PERT technique in their day to day life for performing various home activities which ultimately would result in saving of time, energy besides
leaving substantial amount of time at the disposal of homemakers which they may use either for taking rest or other activities of their own choice and ultimately will provide joy and happiness which ultimately is an need of hour for homemakers.