ABSTRACT
ABSTRACT

Community participation has come to be recognized as a major strategy component in all development programmes. It is increasingly realized by social policy planners and administrators that a crucial measure of success of any social development programme is the extent to which the people themselves participate in setting goals and targets, making plans of action and contributing to their execution and utilizing services offered through the programme.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is at present the single largest early childhood intervention programme. The ICDS scheme focuses on the community as the means to foster child development. Community participation is advocated not because it helps in the easy delivery of the programme but for the sense of belongingness and self-reliance it fosters.

The present study broadly aims to assess and compare the extent of community participation in RASS – urban (a voluntary organization) and the Government - urban ICDS projects in Tirupati and Nellore respectively in the state of Andhra Pradesh. An attempt has also been made to study the influence of socio, demographic, behavioral and organizational variables of beneficiaries, local leaders and project personnel on the extent of community participation and to assess the difference in functioning of Anganwadi centers of RASS - urban and Government - urban ICDS projects. The investigator assumed that the extent of community participation in both the projects was not different and the independent variables of the people involved had no significant influence on the extent of community participation.

Ex-post-facto research design was employed for the present study. The sample consisted of 353 respondents from RASS - urban and Government ICDS projects. Of the 185
respondents from RASS – urban, 120 were beneficiaries, 48 local leaders and 17 project personnel. Of the 168 respondents from Government– urban ICDS, 120 were beneficiaries, 30 local leaders and 18 project personnel. Interview schedule was used to collect the data. The data was subjected to both qualitative and quantitative treatments. ‘t’ test and ‘F’ ratios were employed to see the influence of independent variables on the extent of community participation.

The findings revealed that the extent of community participation by all the three categories of people viz., beneficiaries, local leaders and project personnel related to RASS – urban was relatively higher than their counterparts of Government – urban ICDS project. Out of 15 independent variables, nine variables viz., age, education, mass media contact, membership in organization, urban contact, value orientation, change proneness, caste and extension contact had significant influence on awareness, perception and participation levels of beneficiaries. The awareness, perception and participation of local leaders were significantly influenced by seven variables namely mass media contact, membership in organization, urban contact, type of the family, extension contact, value orientation and change proneness. Out of 19 independent variables, 15 variables viz., age, education, income, type of the family, size of the family, religion, membership in organization, extension contact, value orientation, innovativeness, change proneness, achievement motivation, job satisfaction, organizational climate and organizational commitment had significant influence on awareness, perception, participation and involvement of project personnel of ICDS projects. The overall level of community participation of beneficiaries, local leaders and project personnel of RASS - urban was highly significant than the beneficiaries, local leaders and project personnel of Government ICDS project. Comparative analysis of the level of community participation in RASS - urban and Government run Anganwadi centers indicates that there was significant difference in the overall community participation of beneficiaries.
and local leaders in both the set-ups. The most contrasting findings of the analysis was that while none of the RASS - urban Anganwadi centers ranked low on the overall level of community participation, none of the Government run counterparts ranked high on this score.