CHAPTER TWO

RESEARCH DESIGN
2.1 INTRODUCTION

'Research' is a "careful or critical enquiry or examination in seeking facts or principles; diligent investigation in order to ascertain something" [1]. Technically, 'research' is a "manipulation of things, concepts or symbols for the purpose of generalizing, to extend, correct, or verify knowledge, whether that knowledge aids in the construction of theory or in the practice of art" [2]. The term 'research design' is defined as the logical strategy of the study and rests on the way in which the research problem has been formulated [3]. The present research work attempts to contribute to the knowledge about the delivery of welfare services under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, through the medium of Anganwadis, a social welfare programme under public auspices.
2.2 SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH

The Profession of Social Work has evolved from the Social Welfare Institution's need of an agent to carry out welfare programmes to deliver welfare services. Professional Social Work Practice is both Science and Art. Social Work Research thus searches out answers to questions raised in Social Work Practice [4]. More precisely, research in social work is a critical enquiry into social work organization, function and methods in order to verify, generalize and extend social work knowledge, skills, concepts and theory [5]. Social Work Research also fulfills the function of incorporating social science concepts and theory into social work knowledge base [6].

Moreover, Social Work Profession recognizes 'Social Work Research' as one of its auxiliary (secondary) methods, whose function is to contribute to the development of dependable body of knowledge for professional practice. Hence, Social Work Professionals, like other professionals, engage in research in regard to problems which are of special interest to them [7]. Social work research is divisible into 'Basic Research' and 'Operational (Applied) Research'. But the point at which Basic Social Work Research ends and Operational Social Work Research begins is indistinct [8].

Because of the continuous growth in social welfare services organized under public auspices, increase in the number of service beneficiaries and also the corresponding rise in the number of workers employed for service delivery, questions naturally arise about the cost and the efficiency of the methods adopted in delivering these services. Social Work Research can provide answers to these questions.
2.3 SELECTION OF TOPIC AND AUSPICES

In modern Welfare State, "Social Welfare" addresses itself to the development of individuals, community and society; Social Work Profession is viewed as a facilitative activity that enables individuals, community and society to utilize the available welfare services. The profession itself operates within an institutional framework. Anganwadis being one such institution established under public auspices to meet the welfare needs of unborn, newborn and 0-6 years age-group children. Hence, it was felt appropriate to investigate the Anganwadis under the auspices of Social Work Research.

2.4 SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH AND ANGANWADIS

'Social Work Research' is secondary (auxiliary) method of Social Work Profession. In 'social welfare' context, it aims to determine needs for welfare services, to measure existing services in relation to needs, to obtain estimates of unmet needs for services and to establish priorities for fulfillment of needs.

One of the newer methods in Social Work Research is 'evaluation research'. It is an approach to assess the effectiveness of social welfare programmes and services. In evaluation research, "the tools of research are pressed into service to make the judging process more accurate and objective. In its research guise, evaluation establishes clear and specific criteria for success. It collects evidence systematically from a representative sample of the units of concern. It usually translates the evidence into quantitative terms and compares it with the criteria that were set. It then draws conclusions about the effectiveness, the merit and the success of the phenomenon [9].
The present investigation had aimed to study the efficiency and efficacy of Anganwadis in delivering the child welfare services under the ICDS Scheme, to measure the quality of these services as perceived by the Anganwadi beneficiaries and to gauge their satisfaction level with respect to these services.

2.5 CONCEPTUAL BASIS OF RESEARCH DESIGN


2.6 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Out of Kolhapur City's (study area's) population of 4,05,118 (1991 Census), 25% (1,06,409) population lives in 57 notified slums dotting the cityscape all over. The physical and the emotional problems as also resources and facilities impediments encountered by these socially disadvantaged slum dwellers in Kolhapur City are not significantly different than those faced by their equally unfortunate brethren in metro and megapolises. In order to atleast partly alleviate these slum dwellers' anxiety about securing the most elementary welfare needs for their children, the ICDS scheme was introduced in Kolhapur City for the first time in 1982 and 100 Anganwadis were established at a time.

The period of 16 years ought to be a reasonable time span in the life of Anganwadis in Kolhapur, to take an appraisory look at them, to evaluate their functioning, and to plan for future course within the constraints imposed and the opportunities offered by the environment. Learning from the experience of earlier child welfare programmes, many of which failed in the absence of monitoring and supportive research, it is felt that
in the case of Anganwadis, it is all the more important to regularly evaluate their functioning through impartial external research. Accordingly, Kolhapur City was chosen as the locale for this investigation and the present work is titled "A STUDY OF ANGANWADIS IN KOLHAPUR CITY".

2.7 THE STUDY AREA

Kolhapur City has a rich cultural heritage. In recent past, it swiftly changed from a vibrant garrison-transit town of yester dynasties to a Seat of Royalty (1731 AD), to a fast urbanizing centre (mid-19th century onwards). The yester-centuries Princely State of Kolhapur today is the headquarters of a District of the same name in the State of Maharashtra. Geographically, Kolhapur City is situate at 16°62' North latitude and 74°54' East longitude, at a mean sea level of 1872 ft. on the eastern slopes of the Sahyadrian Mountain Ranges in the Western Maharashtra. The town’s municipality was originally established in 1854 and was converted into a Municipal Corporation in 1972. The city’s sprawl covers an area of 66.82 sq.kms. and it is a home for 4 lakh plus resident population.

2.8 THE STUDY UNIVERSE

Initially the ICDS Scheme was introduced in 1982. Today in 1998, the number of Anganwadis has risen to 111 and that of the Anganwadi beneficiaries to approximately 45,000 [10]. In many a slum, the Anganwadi has become integrated with the social scene as a permanent feature. The universe of the proposed study are 100 Anganwadis (the remaining 11 Anganwadis having been set up recently and yet are unstable), from which two sets of respondents, explained in ‘Sample Design’ have been drawn. It thus is a census study.
INDIA
LOCATION OF KOLHAPUR CITY

Map.-2.1

Map.-2.1
2.9 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

In view of the wholistic approach adopted for the study, the following have been set out as its objectives:

1. To critically evaluate the delivery mechanism for the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) of (1) Supplementary Nutrition; (2) Health Check-up; (3) Primary Healthcare/Referral; (4) Immunization; (5) Nutrition and Health Education; (6) Nonformal Preschool Education; at the Anganwadis in Kolhapur City;

2. To critically examine the role of Anganwadi functionaries - workers and helpers - in delivering the Integrated Child Development Services in Kolhapur City;

3. To ascertain the quality of these services as perceived by the Anganwadi beneficiaries in Kolhapur City and to gauge their satisfaction levels about these services;

4. To put forward meaningful suggestions, as may be appropriate.

2.10 HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

Against the background of researcher’s prior observations, findings of earlier studies elsewhere and the objectives of this study, the following two broad Hypotheses were taken up for testing:

1. Anganwadi functionaries in Kolhapur City efficiently deliver the Integrated Child Development Services to the service beneficiaries;

2. Anganwadi beneficiaries (nursing mothers, expectant mothers, child guardians and 15-44 age women) generally carry a ‘good’ opinion about the Anganwadi facilities and the Anganwadi functionaries.
3. Anganwadi beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the ICDS services available through the Anganwadi.

For the purpose of precise testing, this broad hypothesis has been divided into six sub-hypotheses as:

3-a. Anganwadi beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the service of Supplementary Nutrition;

3-b. Anganwadi beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the service of Immunization;

3-c. Anganwadi beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the service of Health Checkup;

3-d. Anganwadi beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the service of Health Referral;

3-e. Anganwadi beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the service of Nonformal Preschool Education;

3-f. Anganwadi beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the service of Health and Nutrition Education.

2.11 SAMPLE DESIGN

For fulfilling the objectives set out and for testing the above hypotheses, two distinct sets of sample respondents were used.

Set-1 respondents were Anganwadi Functionaries and Set-2 respondents were Anganwadi Beneficiaries. The detailed sampling plan was as follows:

1. **Anganwadi Functionaries**: (Convenience Quota Sample)

   - Anganwadi Workers : 50
   - Anganwadi Helpers : 50 = 100

Each Anganwadi is run by 1 Anganwadi Worker and 1 Anganwadi Helper; that is, in the
100 established Anganwadis, there were 100 Workers and 100 Helpers to choose the sample from. Hence, in order to give equal representation to both these functionaries in the sampling plan, 50 each Workers and Helpers were chosen, for which list of the Anganwadis was obtained and the Anganwadis at serial nos. 1, 3, 5, ... 99 were identified for interviewing the Workers, while the Anganwadis at serial nos. 2, 4, 6, ... 100 were identified for interviewing the Helpers.

2. **Anganwadi Beneficiaries: (Convenience Quota Sample)**

   - Expectant Mothers : 25
   - Nursing Mothers : 25
   - Guardians (Male and female child beneficiaries) : 25
   - Women Beneficiaries (15-44 age-group) : 25 = 100

Despite earnest efforts, it was impossible to obtain a centralized, categorical list of the beneficiaries - these records being maintained at individual Anganwadis. Moreover, the child beneficiaries and 15-44 age-group women beneficiaries far outnumber other beneficiaries like expectant and nursing mothers (Refer Table 6.1 post). It was further observed that the drop-out and absenteeism rates among all categories of beneficiaries are substantially high. As such, even if centralized, categorical beneficiary lists were available, the sampling plan would have become immensely complex and difficult to fulfill. Hence, it was decided beforehand to take a quota sample of 25 respondents of each category. The researcher believes that despite the diversity in the respondents'
socio-economic and demographic backgrounds, they all are a homogenous group on the basis of the nation-wide uniform Integrated Child Development Services they receive. Hence, a sample of 25 respondents in each of the four beneficiary categories was presumed to be adequate. The actual respondents were randomly picked at different Anganwadis from all over the study universe according to their willingness and convenience to participate in the survey.

2.12 DATA COLLECTION - PRIMARY DATA

(a) The primary data collected from the Functionary-respondents focused on (1) personal information, (2) family information, (3) information about workplace atmosphere, (4) information about respondents' personal, social and work related problems, and (5) information about Anganwadi services.

(b) The primary data collected from the Beneficiary-respondents, besides drawing their socio-economic profile, was used for: (i) measuring service adequacy/quality, (ii) assessing beneficiary satisfaction, and (iii) ascertaining functionaries: beneficiaries interaction. Recent literature suggests that perceived service quality is an attitude-specific construct while satisfaction with a service is a transaction-specific response; and that the intensity of both could be quantified through precise inventories. This work has explored the relationship between these two variables (service quality/satisfaction) in a 'social welfare' setting and used the findings to suggest improvements in the ICDS delivery set up.

Both the sets of primary data were collected through comprehensive, pretested structured interview schedules administered to the sample respondents.
2.13 DATA COLLECTION - SECONDARY DATA

(A) Library Sources

The secondary data necessary for the successful completion of the investigation was collected from the archives of the ICDS offices.

For discussing the theoretical aspects of Social Welfare and Social Work, published sources available in various libraries, archives and collections were used. Particularly helpful were:

1. Barr.Khardekar Library, Shivaji University, Kolhapur;
2. Chh.Shahu Central Instt. of Business Education & Research, Kolhapur;
3. Rajaram College Library, Kolhapur;
4. Barr.Jayakar Library, University of Poona, Pune;
5. Karve Institute Library, Pune;
6. Bharati Vidyapeeth Library, Pune;
7. Tata Institute of Social Sciences Library, Bombay;
8. Nagpur University Library, Nagpur;
9. Karnataka University Library, Dharwad;
10. Bangalore University Library, Bangalore;
11. Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, New Delhi;
12. NCERT Library, New Delhi;
13. Indian Council for Social Sciences Research Library, New Delhi;
14. University of Delhi Library, Delhi;
15. Jamia Milia University Library, Delhi.

Additional secondary data was collected from ICDS supervisory cadres and published sources. Wherever necessary, additional information was sought from the persons
knowledgeable in clinical medicine, clinical pediatrics, child psychology, organizational
behaviour, social welfare administration, et al., with the help of interview guides.

(B) Unstructured Interviews

Verbatim information through interview transcripts and audio-recordings was also
collected to provide the background material for analyzing the primary data from
knowledgeable and experienced persons in social welfare and social work.

2.14 DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Both the sets of the primary data were computer-processed and analyzed by using an
application-specific software. The findings returned were interpreted by juxtaposing them
with the available secondary data.

2.15 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The geographical scope of the study was limited to the municipal area of Kolhapur
City. The topical scope covered the functioning of the Anganwadis in Kolhapur City.
The analytical scope covered the fulfillment of study objectives and the testing of
hypotheses. The functional scope was confined to tendering a set of suggestions for
improving the efficiency of the service delivery set-up of Anganwadis.

2.16 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The fundamental drive of social work research is sustained by the social work profession’s
quest for the acquisition of new knowledge useful in the fulfillment of welfare objectives.
Accordingly, the present work has contributed to the knowledge base of the profession.

Demographers predict that by 2001 AD, India’s urban population will constitute
33% (333 millions) of the total population (up from 26% in 1991) living in about 4000
towns (1991 AD - 3768 towns). If other related trends continue, about 25% of these 333 millions, that is, about 83 million people will be slum-dwellers; of which 40% (33 millions) will be children [11]. One may imagine the magnitude of the welfare delivery set-up (of which, Anganwadis are a part) that would have to be positioned to meet these children’s healthcare, nutritional and educational needs. This massive network cannot be developed overnight, but will have to be built and reinforced brick-by-brick over the years. A micro-level investigation into the present state-of-affairs at the city-based Anganwadis represents the first step in this direction.

Lastly, in an industrial-age 'welfare state', the ultimate goal of the State-sponsored welfare effort targeted on younger population is to meet the nation’s eventual needs of appropriately educated, housed and healthy workforce [12] - the country’s human resources. Anganwadis are contributing their mite to this stupendous task and the academe’ should extend its helping hand through supportive research.

2.17 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The following were encountered as the limitations of the present investigation:

1. The first set of respondents, Anganwadi functionaries - Helpers and Workers - work within a bureaucratic framework. The working atmosphere in such a set up usually gives rise to typical attitudes towards one’s work. The interview schedule administered to them was not designed to gauge their work attitudes.

2. The second set of respondents comprised Anganwadi beneficiaries - the recipients of services; their opinions were found to be influenced by several socio-economic and demographic factors. The interview schedules were neither designed to ascertain
the Anganwadi beneficiaries' attitudes towards the services they had received.

3. The study is conducted in a mixed urban: rural setting where spatio-temporal perceptions differ widely from those obtaining in both highly industrialized or purely rural settings. The findings of the study, therefore, may have to be read against this backdrop, wherever necessary.

2.18 CHAPTER SCHEME

The Thesis is divided into Nine Chapters as follows:

Chapter-1 : Anganwadis : Genesis and Relevance
Chapter-2 : Research Design
Chapter-4 : ICDS and Anganwadis : A Review of Relevant Literature
Chapter-5 : ICDS Administration in Anganwadis
Chapter-6 : Profile of Kolhapur City - the Study Area
Chapter-7 : Data Analysis : Anganwadi Functionaries
Chapter-8 : Data Analysis : Anganwadi Beneficiaries
Chapter-9 : Conclusions and Suggestions.

The structured interview schedules used for collecting the primary data from the respondents form the Appendices. A select Bibliography concludes the Thesis.
REFERENCES
1. Webster’s “New International Dictionary”.