CHAPTER - III

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESIS

EFFECT OF CHRONIC STRESS ON LACTOGENESIS IN HUMANS
3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

Objectives of the present study are -

1. To determine the relationship between chronic stress, level of maternal Cortisol in 1st, 2nd and 3rd trimesters of pregnancy.

2. To evaluate the association of socio-demographic parameters with maternal stress.

3. To observe the relation between maternal Prolactin and milk volume in the first week of postpartum.

4. To assess the relation between chronic stress and milk output.

5. To evaluate the effect of chronic stress on lactogenesis in different age groups.
3.2 HYPOTHESIS:

NULL HYPOTHESIS (H₀):

Chronic stress may not cause significant increase in maternal serum cortisol level. There may not be significant difference in milk volume output in subjects at different levels of stress. Chronic stress may not have significant effect on lactation in humans.

ALTERNATE HYPOTHESIS (H₁):

Chronic stress causes significant increase in maternal serum cortisol levels. There is significant difference in milk volume output in subjects at different levels of stress. Chronic stress has significant effect on lactation in humans.