CHAPTER - III
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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CHAPTER - III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

In a country like India where family ties are valued greatly, family is the basic unit for providing welfare to its members. Circumstances like poverty, unemployment, urbanization and migration have weakened family ties and families have become inadequate in terms of providing care and protection to its members. In such a situation government of the country is responsible for ensuring essential care, protection and opportunities for its citizens. States have the ultimate responsibility to ensure the safety and well being of its people. Though organized social welfare system developed in India much later as a result of social change, unorganized welfare measures in the country is as old as its history. The acts of charity were evident in both the religious life and political realm of Ancient India. Rigveda and Kautilya’s Arthasasthra has written extensively on charity. A welfare-oriented approach was adopted by almost all our ancient rulers as well. Voluntary action also has a long history in India and has sprung up from social and religious background. The social reform movements and activities of Christian missionaries have accelerated voluntary efforts in India. Interventions of Gandhi in the social and political field have laid a strong foundation for the welfare system in the country to develop in later years. With independence social welfare took an organized form in the country and government became an active participant in providing welfare to its people.
Several years have passed since India had taken to organised social welfare. Still life is very difficult for most families and survival is an ongoing challenge for them. India is still a land of various problems affecting various segments of population, especially children as they are a highly vulnerable category. Despite the various measures problems of child labour, street children, child prostitution, child abuse, destitution, exploitation, abandonment etc are a daily sight and every day news. The over exposure of these problems have made the public less sensitized to this issue but this is a reality that social workers cannot afford to ignore. This is a very serious problem from a researcher’s point of view as well. These problems reveal that the government has failed in its constitutional duty in protecting children. This is an issue that needs to be addressed urgently. With this conviction, the researcher has decided to make an enquiry into the administration of institutional services for children in need of care and protection in the state. The researcher has adopted a scientific methodology in approaching the problem. This chapter is a logical step forward to explain the development of the methodology for the current study.

3.2 Statement of the Problem

The Government of India has taken several measures for the betterment of our children. These measures include Constitutional Provisions, National Policy for Children, provisions under UN Convention of Child Rights, allocation of resources in all Five Year Plans, Legislations, Welfare projects and schemes, Welfare Institutions, etc. Besides NGOs are also actively
functioning in the country with an aim of protecting children. In spite of these efforts, India is considered as one of the most dangerous places for children to live in according to a survey conducted in July 2006 by AlterNet - a humanitarian website run by Reuters Foundation. Some other figures regarding various other categories of children at risk during different times are also shocking. According to the UNICEF’s The State of World’s Children 2003 Report there are 1,70,000 children in India living with HIV/AIDS, approximately twelve million children in India are disabled as per The Report on Disabled Persons, 47 Round, July - Dec. 1991, there are thirty million orphans and .100 million child labourers according to the statistics on children by NIPCCD in 1992 and 2012 juvenile delinquents in fit institutions and 1,86.4 juvenile delinquents in special homes as per the Report of Crime in India 2000 (by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India). These alarming figures question the effectiveness of the administration of child welfare programmes in the country. Therefore this study is initiated to analyse the effectiveness of the various aspects of welfare administration in the field of child welfare and identify its problems and limitations and putforth suggestions for improvement. As it will be practically impossible to analyse the entire welfare system in the state in the given time the focus is only on institutional services for children.

3.3 Significance of the Study

India is striving towards the attainment of the status of a developed nation. Development cannot be achieved if the social welfare field is ignored.
Social welfare aims at helping and empowering the underprivileged sections of the society. If these sections of people are not properly taken care of and efforts are not taken to make them self sufficient, independent, creative and productive, it is such a waste of human resource which is the core strength of any nation. Moreover it is a denial of the rights of citizens and negligence of responsibility by government. A developed nation or welfare state provides “A good present and better future” for all. Though there had been systematic and organized efforts through several social welfare programmes to attain this, India is still not a welfare state or developed nation. In this background this study is initiated. This study attempts to reveal the true picture of the welfare scenario in Kerala. The need to be focused had limited the study to institutional services for children in need of care and protection.

The study further aims to come up with significant findings related to the area of study and are expected to make the government and voluntary sector aware of the problems in the administration that weakens the quality of services and awakens the administrators to future welfare needs.

3.4 General Objective

The general objective of the study is to analyse the development of Social Welfare Administration, identify its problems and limitations in meeting welfare needs and suggest measures for improvement with reference to institutional services for children in need of care and protection.

3.5 Specific Objectives

3.5.1 To overview the theoretical framework of institutional services for children in need of care and protection in the government and non
government sectors of Kerala.

3.5.2 To evaluate the functional efficiency of institutional services for children in need of care and protection in the government and non-government sectors of Kerala.

3.5.3 To identify the problems and limitations of institutional services for children in need of care and protection in the government and non-government sectors of Kerala.

3.5.4 To suggest measures to improve welfare administration and services.

3.6 Definition of Key Terms

3.6.1 Children in Need of Care and Protection (Textual Definition)

According to the Juvenile Justice Act, a child in need of care and protection means a child who belongs to any of the following categories such as - child without any home or settled place of abode and without any means of subsistence, mentally or physically challenged, suffers cruelty from parents or guardian, sexually exploited, uncontrollable children, children of unfit parents (prisoners, drug addicts) children vulnerable to drug abuse and victim of any conflict or natural calamity, orphans and missing or runaway children.

3.6.2 Children in Need of Care and Protection (Operational Definition)

In this study a child in need of care and protection means a child belonging to any of the following categories such as destitute children (child without any home or settled place of abode and without any means of subsistence), children facing cruelty from parents, children of unfit parents,
missing or run away children, sexually abused children or those at the risk of exploitation, children vulnerable to drug addiction, victim of natural calamity and orphans and street children. Mentally and physically challenged children are excluded from this study as they are likely to face varying degrees of difficulty in responding to the tools used for the study.

3.6.3 Social Welfare Administration (Textual Definition)

According to John C. Kidneigh “Social Welfare Administration is the process of transferring the social policy into services and the use of experience in evaluating and modifying policy”.

3.6.4 Social Welfare Administration (Operational Definition)

In this study, Social Welfare Administration includes all activities such as planning, organization, purposeful and effective use of resources, communication monitoring and evaluation directed towards implementing a programme and fulfilling its pre-determined objectives.

3.6.5 Vision (Operational Definition)

In this study the term vision means how institutional services for children in need of care and protection are expected to function in Kerala as per the law. (The laws are Juvenile Justice Act in the case of government sector and the rules laid down by the Board of Control for Orphanages and other Charitable Homes and the Orphanages and other Charitable Homes (Control and Supervision ) Act of 1960 in the case of non government sector)

3.6.6 Reality (Operational Definition)

In this study the term reality means the facts regarding the actual
performance of institutional services for children in need of care and protection in Kerala in both government and non-government sectors.

3.6.7 **Institutional Services (Operational Definition)**

In this study, the system of providing protection, basic facilities, opportunities for growth and development, and rehabilitation for children in need through institutionalization is meant by Institutional services. In the government sector, Children’s Homes under the Juvenile Justice Act and in the non-government sector, institutions with different names such as balabhavan, orphanages, poor home, etc., provide these services.

3.6.8 **Scientific application of social work methods (Operational Definition)**

Scientific Application of social work methods in this study means the use of various methods and techniques of social work profession such as Social Case Work, Social Group Work, Social Research, Counselling, Home Visits, Follow-up, Rehabilitation, etc., by professionally qualified persons with an intention to solve the problems of institutionalized children and bring about their holistic development.

3.6.9 **Developmental Approach (Operational Definition)**

Developmental approach refers to all deliberate attempts by the welfare institutions to bring about positive change or progressiveness in any aspects of the life of beneficiaries.

3.7 **Hypotheses**

3.7.1 There is a gap between vision and reality in the field of social Welfare.
3.7.2 Social Welfare Administration in Kerala lacks scientific application of social work methods and developmental approach.

3.8 Research Design

The study is descriptive and evaluatory in nature. The study describes the development of social welfare administration and child welfare services over the years in the state. It also evaluates the performance of institutional services for children in need of care and protection and attempts to identify its problems and limitations.

3.9 Universe

Universe consists of all government and non-government institutions for children belonging to any of the categories under the children in need of care and protection in Kerala.

In the government sector there are six such institutions known as Children’s Home under the Juvenile Justice Act. In the non-government sector the researcher has limited the Universe to 531 institutions based on certain inclusion, exclusion criteria. The researcher has depended on various sources in identifying the universe. The sources include resource directories published by ICSW (Kerala branch), Mithra Niketan (an NGO), Board of Control for the Orphanages and other Charitable Homes, Kerala and the website <http://www.Kerala.gov.in/>.

3.10 Inclusion Criteria

1. Institutions for children between the age 5 years to 18 years

2. Institutions providing residential care
3. Institutions for children belonging to any of the categories under ‘Children in Need of Care and Protection’

3.11 Exclusion Criteria

1. Those Institutions whose details were not available in any of these resources directories

2. Institutions for mentally and physically challenged children as these two categories are excluded from the study.

3.12 Sampling Technique

In the government sector as the number of institutions are very less, all six Children’s Homes under the Juvenile Justice Act are included in the study.

In the case of non-government sector, from the above mentioned universe of 531 institutions, 20% is selected as the sample. This constitutes 106 institutions. Multistage random sampling method is adopted in this study.

In the first stage proportionate sampling method is employed. Sample is selected from all the fourteen districts of Kerala in proportion to the total number of institutions in each district. The following table will illustrate this
3.12.1 Universe and Sample in the Non Government Sector

Table 3.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. no</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kasargode</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kannur</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wayanad</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Calicut</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Malappuram</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Palakkad</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Trichur</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ernakulam</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Idukki</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Alapuzha</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kottayam</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Pathanamthitta</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kollam</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Trivandrum</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>531</strong></td>
<td><strong>106</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\frac{20}{100} \times 531 = 106
\]

In the second stage, institutions are selected from each district by applying Systematic Random Sampling Method. The institutions in each district were arranged in an alphabetical order and then selected at fixed intervals.
This study also covers the beneficiaries’ angle. As there is a huge variation in the number of children supported by institutions in both government and non-government sector, a uniform principle could not be applied in selecting the beneficiaries from both sectors.

Therefore in the government sector 10% of the children are selected as sample. 10% of children in government sector constitute 75 children. 10% of both genders are selected on a systematic random basis. They were selected from the attendance register at fixed intervals.

In the non-government sector, hundred children are selected as sample. Fifty children from both genders are included in the sample. Five children from twenty institutions were selected on a systematic random sampling method. Children were selected from attendance register at fixed intervals and institutions are selected from the list of homes arranged in alphabetical order at fixed intervals.

3.13 Tools and Techniques of Data Collection

Sources of primary data include the officials of Social Welfare Department, Board of Control for Orphanages and other Charitable Homes, Children’s Home and the beneficiaries. Separate interview schedule were used for officials and beneficiaries in Children’s Homes. Focused interview were also held with various levels of officials at the Social Welfare Department and with the members of the Board of Control for the Orphanages and other Charitable Homes. Observation method is used to supplement the data collected through interview schedule. Few case analysis are made to get a deeper insight into the functioning of Children’s Home.
Secondary data is collected from the reports, manuals, pamphlets, websites of the departments and institutions concerned.

3.14 Pilot Study

As a visit to the government institutions depended on official permission which was granted only once, they had to be exempted from the pilot study.

A representative sample of fifteen non-government institutions from five districts (Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Trichur, Malappuram, Calicut) were selected for pilot study. All the tools were pre-tested during the pilot study. During pilot study the researcher felt a need to club few questions in the interview schedule for beneficiaries to avoid repetition. The researcher also observed that children of lower age group were not responding to the schedule satisfactorily. Therefore only children of 10 years and above were later interviewed during data collection. The children preferred a group interaction rather than individual interaction. Therefore the researcher had to first meet them in groups and interact with them on an informal basis to get accepted in the group, then explained and simplified the purpose of individual interaction and finally met them on an individual basis. This interaction facilitated the researcher in identifying children for case studies.

The interview schedule for the institutions did not require any modifications. During pilot study the researcher was convinced of the importance of observation as a tool. Pilot study also revealed the existence of certain problems in the functioning of Children’s Homes thereby establishing the significance of the study.
3.15 Process of Data Collection

Official permission from the Directorate of Social Welfare Department had to be sought in visiting the Children’s Homes in government sector. The researcher was granted permission to visit Children’s Home during the period between 15th September to 15th December 2005. Therefore data collection in government sector was done during this period. In the non-government sector permission had to be obtained from the Director or Secretary of each institution. Data collection in non government institutions was done during the period from February 2006 to July 2006. In each institution, the researcher first met the higher authority and collected data regarding the functioning of the institution, then the other members of the staff and finally the beneficiaries. As the children were attending schools or vocational training sessions, several visits were required to the same institution to meet the sufficient number of beneficiaries required for the study.

3.16 Statistical Analysis

In the government sector sample size is very small and there is not much statistical variations in the data as they function in an almost uniform pattern. As a result the scope for a quantitative analysis is limited. Hence both the hypotheses in the government sector are analysed in terms of qualitative data.

In the non government sector both the hypotheses are tested by applying simple percentage method along with its qualitative presentation.

Statistical tools such as chi-square and co-relation are applied to test the association of variables in the study.
3.17 Variables

3.17.1 Variables for the first hypothesis include the variables relating to the administration and service delivery such as the following

- The existence of Child Welfare Committee
- Facilities for inmates with regard to Education, Vocational training, Social integration, Recreation, Personal Growth and Rehabilitation
- Provision for After Care Homes
- Qualification and availability of staff
- Training for the staff
- Maintenance of registers
- Monitoring and Evaluation.

3.17.2 Variables for testing the 2nd hypothesis

3.17.2.1 Scientific Application of Social Work Methods

- Practice of Social Case Work
- Practice of Social Group Work
- Counselling
- Home visits
- Planning of Rehabilitation
- Follow up
- Efforts to solve family problems
- Research activities
3.17.2.2 Developmental Approach

- Provision for Value Education
- Provision for Awareness Programmes
- Provision for Career Guidance
- Provision for Higher Education
- Provision for Talent Promotion
- Provision for Creative Entertainment.

3.18 Data Processing and Presentation

The data was analysed in number of steps. The first statistical application was the generation of frequency distribution tables with respect to the variable included in the study. Qualitative presentation and diagrams are also used to reinforce the findings.

3.19 Chapterisation

The study is presented in 9 chapters

- Chapter I - Introduction
- Chapter II - Review of Literature
- Chapter II I- Research Methodology
- Chapter IV - Theoretical overview of institutional services for children in need of care and protection in Kerala
- Chapter V - Functional Efficiency of Children’s Homes in Government sector
- Chapter VI - Functional Efficiency of Children’s Homes in Non-Government sector
➢ Chapter VII - Problems and Limitations in the administration of child welfare institutions in Kerala

➢ Chapter IX - Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion

3.20 Conclusion

This study based on the above mentioned methodology attempts to contribute new insight into the functioning of welfare programmes in the state and tries to uncover its problems. This study is also expected to contribute to the realm of knowledge in the field of Social Welfare Administration.