CHAPTER III

Study Design and Methodology
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METHODOLOGY

3.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To study the reproductive health, fertility and use of contraception among adolescent mothers in the slum areas of Andhra Pradesh and to suggest appropriate Reproductive Health services to meet the reproductive health needs to adolescent mother's in the slum areas.

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To study the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of adolescent mothers in the slum areas.

2. To study the psychological changes and cultural practices followed during puberty and menstruation in slum areas.

3. To assess the antenatal, intra-natal and post-natal care availed by adolescent mothers in slum areas.

4. To assess the use of contraceptive methods by adolescent couples in slum areas.

5. To assess the knowledge of adolescent mothers in the slum areas on reproductive tract infection (RTI), Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) and HIV/AIDS.

6. To assess the level of autonomy among adolescent mothers in slum areas.
7. To develop appropriate programme strategies for the effective implementation of Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) services in slum area.

3.3 STUDY AREA

The study was carried out in all the three regions of Andhra Pradesh Viz Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra and Telangana regions in order to make the findings applicable for the entire state. Since, it is difficult to cover the entire state due to paucity of time and funds, one city from each of the regions viz, Tirupati from Rayalaseema, Vijayawada from Coastal Andhra and Hyderabad from Telangana region, were selected at random for the study.

3.4 SAMPLE FRAME AND SIZE

The sampling unit for the study was ever married women aged 15 - 19 years and having had at least one conception at the time of survey.

All the notified slums in each of the selected three cities were listed based on the information collected from the Municipalities/Corporations. Out of these, the major slums are separated and given numbers. Four slums are selected on random from the list of major slums for the study.

From each slum the households are chosen following systematic sampling procedure. From each city a sample of 130 adolescent mothers were selected randomly from each of Tirupati and Vijayawada cities and 140 from Hyderabad giving due representation to the above stated three categories of slums. In case of more than one couple in any given
household, the youngest couple was considered. Thus the total sample for the study was 400 adolescent mothers. The technique of unrestricted random sampling with replacement was followed for getting total sample of 400.

3.5 DEPENDENT VARIABLES:

i. Reproductive health – Prevalence of RTI/STI

ii. Family size

iii. Contraception

3.6 INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

Social Variables:

i. Caste

ii. Education

iii. Occupation

iv. Type of family

v. Type of marriage

Economic variables:

i. Type of house

ii. Electrification of house

iii. Modern amenities in the house (Standard of Living)

iv. Toilet facility, fuel used for cooking.
Demographic variables:

i. Age

ii. Age at puberty

iii. Age at marriage

iv. Puberty and menstruation

v. Practice during puberty and menstruation

vi. Discomfort experienced during menstrual cycle.

vii. Age and number of living children at use of contraceptive method

viii. Antenatal care

ix. Intra natal care

x. Post natal care

xi. Prevalence of RTI/STI

xii. Knowledge on factors associated with RTI

xiii. Treatment seeking behavior for RTI

xiv. Knowledge on AIDS and its prevention

xv. Women’s autonomy

xvi. Decision making in family matters, fertility and use of contraception
3.7 INSTRUMENT

An interview schedule was developed exclusively for the present study comprising structured, unstructured and open-ended statements. Initially an explorative study was conducted in three selected regions to get first-hand information about the reproductive health status of the sample population, which was useful in developing the interview schedule. Opinions of the experts were also sought in finalization of the schedules besides relevant literature.

3.8 DATA COLLECTION

The data were collected by the Researcher using interview schedule by interviewing each of the selected adolescent mothers at their place of residence.

3.9 DATA ANALYSIS

The collected data was analyzed using computer. Univariate, bivariate analysis and Chi-square test of significance were carried out using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).