I RE f A Q B

Surging of the infant and its correlates have been an area for speculation and research since the early Greeks. The major concern of writers until the last half century has been the relationship between the nursing experience and the physical health of the child. In recent years, there has been an almost exclusive focus on the psychological concomitants of various nursing regimes. It was Freud who made the nursing experience of the infant, or the concept of orality, a central problem in the study of personality. The clinical findings and speculation of Freud on oral gratification and deprivation have received considerable attention in current pediatric, psychological, and psychoanalytic literature.

In the modern program of social improvement emphasis has been shifted from family to child welfare. This change is due largely to belief in the principle that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Modern social work is not satisfied with relief measures but demands fundamental reforms. It is well then to begin with the child, since he presages the coming man. He is plastic material that can be molded.
well or ill; he is gigantic in possibilities but
dwarfed in development if without opportunities. We
now realise that the more time and energy spent on
the child, the more lasting and profitable the invest­
ment. To train and to educate the child are tasks
worth infinitely more than to spend an equal amount of
energy on the adult with his established habits, beha­
vior patterns, and moral outlook.

Child welfare implies adequate physical, mental
and moral development.

The present study is devoted to the child of
the working man in a modern city like Ahmedabad, and
the modern city as a whole is the environment in which
the child is born to survive, grow and contribute to
its own personality and welfare, as well as to the
welfare of society as a whole.

It is interesting to study the origin and history
of cities or at least a vital section of the city to
realise the nature of its origin, growth and development.
This is done in order to evaluate whether a city, which
is an abode of millions of human beings, ever takes into
consideration the vital needs of children of the human
race.
The centre of this investigation of life and societies and their potentialities and destinies must be man himself, the individual as the unit of society. The basic needs of all life are similar, and it should be possible for all to achieve certain standards of health, prosperity and happiness. Since life is born as a living cell and grows up to be the organism, infancy and childhood should be the most vital interest to those who seek the advancement and perfection of human society.

It is with such fundamental ideas that this study is undertaken in some of the industrial areas of the modern city of Ahmedabad which is the pride of India, and ranks as one of the greatest metropolises of India. It has more than one hundred textile mills. Here there are thousands of children. Here they grow up as this areas, and the rest of the city grew up to become the pride of the nation making useful contributions to national economy. How glorious is childhood in the midst of the glory of this great city? This investigation seeks to reveal the life of the child, its physical environment, its houses and its parents, the way it was born and how home and communities helped to grow. The facts must suggest not only
conclusions but they may help the human mind to understand better the city as social structure, the nature of its health, and the values of its social order, civilization and culture. Mothers from workers families who live very near biological level in relation to their children have acquired a certain intra-psychic balance with the help of the child. The mental outlook of the mother in different social strata brings its own stress on the child of personality problems. Personality problems seem largely independent of maternal attitude, but related to dictatorial attitudes and lack of genuine concern among fathers. Conduct problems are related chiefly to maladjustment among mothers and to democratic attitudes and heightened feelings of parental concern among fathers.

A pioneering social research project is best with many problems both in its initial planning and in its execution. A bare account of the design of the research does not reveal what lies behind in initiation, prosecution and successful completion of this subject. There are many stumbling blocks to be overcome in a human research laboratory, much thought and energy to be devoted to matters with uncertain elements of human reactions to the enterprise itself and to the methods in the pursuit of this problem.
I would be failing in my duty if I do not there acknowledge my deep sense of indebtedness to Dr. Arvindrai N.Desai whose continued guidance and encouragement has been a source of strength to me and who was instrumental in bringing this project to its successful conclusion.

I express my sincere appreciation of the cooperation extended to me by the libraries of the universities of Bombay, Gujarat and Savar Patel and of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences which made available to me books, journals, reports and other useful material for research. The present work is a modified version of my studies, which was implemented by my attachment to the Labour Welfare Board where I am working as Assistant Commissioner for Labour Welfare (Women).

Finally, I take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the Chairman of the Labour Welfare Board whose facilities and resources were always made available to me whenever I visited the welfare agencies.

Mrs. Ila B. Desai.