Abstract of Ph.D. Thesis entitled:

“A STUDY ON WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (ICDS) IN KOLHAPUR DISTRICT”

INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (ICDS) was first launched in India on 2nd October, 1975 in India, at just thirty places. Given its effectiveness over the last few decades, Government of India has committed towards ensuring universal availability of the programme. Over the years it has grown into one of the largest integrated family and community welfare schemes in the world. Gradually, it was expanded to cover more and more areas of the country. The first-ever Anganwadis in Kolhapur District, under the supervision of the Kolhapur Zilla Parishad (estd. 1962) was opened in 1990; today, their number stands at 2,227, dotting the district’s rural landscape - from the remote hilly tracts in the West to the fertile plateaus in the East. The period of 20 years ought to be a reasonable time span in the life of rural Anganwadis in Kolhapur district 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 relevant to regularly know their functioning through impartial external research.

Studies across the country on ICDS programs revealed mixed findings some positive and some unsuccessful. Though many studies are
conducted on ICDS in Kolhapur, studies on the efficiency and efficacy of Anganwadis in delivering the child welfare services and quality of these services as perceived by the Anganwadi beneficiaries and their satisfaction levels with respect to these services are not covered. Further, jist of news about ICDS in Kolhapur Dist appear often regarding dharnas, corruption etc. Accordingly, Kolhapur District has been chosen as the locale for the present investigation and the work is titled “A Study on Women and Child Development with special reference to Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in Kolhapur District”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

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

(1) To know the personal characteristics of the Anganwadi sevikas
(2) To examine the occupational life and role of Anganwadi Workers in delivering the ICDS services.
(3) To understand the personal, social and occupational problems of the Anganwadi workers
(4) To ascertain the background of the Beneficiaries of services.
(5) To assess the opinion of Beneficiaries regarding Anganwadi facilities and Anganwadi workers
(6) To gauge their satisfaction levels about these services;
(7) To put forward such meaningful suggestions and social work interventions, as may be appropriate.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

Against the background of the researcher’s prior observation and the objectives of the study, the following hypotheses have been formed.
1) Anganwadi workers efficiently deliver the ICDS services to the Anganwadi beneficiaries;
2) Anganwadi beneficiaries (expectant mothers, nursing mothers and child guardians) generally carry a ‘good’ opinion about the Anganwadi facilities
3) Anganwadi beneficiaries (expectant mothers, nursing mothers and child guardians) generally carry a ‘good’ opinion about Anganwadi workers;
4) Anganwadi beneficiaries are satisfied with the service of Supplementary Nutrition;
5) Anganwadi beneficiaries are satisfied with the service of Immunization;
6) Anganwadi beneficiaries are satisfied with the service of Health Checkup;
7) Anganwadi beneficiaries are satisfied with the service of Health Referral;
8) Anganwadi beneficiaries are satisfied with the service of Non-formal Preschool Education;
9) Anganwadi beneficiaries are satisfied with the service of Health and Nutrition Education.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The geographical scope of the present study is confined to the boundaries of Kolhapur District of Maharashtra State. The topical scope has focuses on the functioning and the performance of the Anganwadis in Kolhapur District. The analytical scope has covered fulfilling the objectives set out and testing of the hypotheses. The functional scope is confined to offering a set of meaningful suggestions for improving the efficiency of the ICDS service delivery set up at the Anganwadis.
Universe

The ICDS was initially introduced in Kolhapur district, through the Zilla Parishad, in the year 1990. As on 30th June, 2006, the number of functional Anganwadis in the district had risen to 2,227. In many a village, the Anganwadi has become integrated as a permanent feature of the social scene. The universe of the present study is these 2,227 Anganwadis, spread over in 12 Talukas in Kolhapur district.

SAMPLE DESIGN: Anganwadi Workers

For fulfilling the objectives set out and for testing the hypotheses, two distinct sets of sample respondents were selected. Set-1 respondents were the Anganwadi workers and the Set-2 respondents were the Anganwadi beneficiaries. Since the Anganwadi centers are sparsely distributed in all talukas and considering the limitations, it was decided to take a quota of 5 anganwadis from each Taluka and were selected by Simple random Lottery method from the list procured from Zilla parishad. The taluka-wise sampling plan was as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Sampling Plan Taluka</th>
<th>No. of Anganwadis*</th>
<th>Anganwadi Workers</th>
<th>Anganwadi Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Karveer</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hatkanangale</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shirol</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Panhala</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kagal</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gadhinglaj</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Radhanagari</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chandgad</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Shahuwadi</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bhudargad</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ajra</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Gagan Bavada</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,227</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>180</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Records of the Zilla Parishad, Kolhapur.
Each Anganwadi is run by 1 Anganwadi worker, Hence 60 Anganwadi Workers from the pre-identified 60 Anganwadis were included as sample for the study.

**Anganwadi Beneficiaries**

From each of the 60 pre-identified Anganwadis, 3 beneficiaries each in the categories of: (i) expectant mothers, (ii) nursing mothers, and (iii) guardians of 0-6 age group children, were identified. The respondents were picked up at the sampled Anganwadis from all over the study area, by convenient method, according to their willingness and convenience to participate in the survey. Hence, the sample of the Anganwadi beneficiaries was 180.

In all, the total sample for collecting the primary data comprised 60 Anganwadi workers and 180 Anganwadi beneficiaries, that is, 240 individual respondents.

For accomplishing the above stated objectives, both primary and secondary data have been collected.

**PRIMARY DATA**

**Interview Schedule for Anganwadi Workers**

The first set of the primary data was collected through a structured interview schedule from Anganwadi workers. The interview schedule focused on collecting their (i) personal information, (ii) family information, (iii) information about their workplace atmosphere, and (iv) information relating to their personal, social and work-related problems.

**Interview Schedule for Anganwadi Beneficiaries**

The second set of primary data was collected through a structured interview schedule from Anganwadi beneficiaries. The interview
schedule, contained questions related to personal and familial profile, opinion about Anganwadi facilities and Anganwadi worker and satisfaction of the beneficiaries regarding the services provided.

Both the tools were pretested on a similar sample. Some of the questions were modified and some deleted before putting to final use.

Non-participatory Observation Method was also used for recording the operational procedures at the selected Anganwadis and extensive notes made for supplementing the data analysis and interpretation exercise.

The data for extricating the history and the prevailing situation of the Anganwadis in the study area as also for ascertaining he intricacies of their functioning and performance was collected through informal interview from the concerned Government and Zilla Parishad officials, persons knowledgeable in the delivery of State-sponsored welfare services as also the academicians.

SECONDARY Source

Library Sources

Secondary data in the form of archival information necessary for the successful completion of the present work was collected from the Government and Zilla Parishad offices, concerned institutions and organizations. For discussing the theoretical aspects of the research topic, published sources in various libraries, archives and collections have been used.

Internet Search

Many institutions concerned with the delivery of social welfare services have set up their own respective websites on the Internet. Certain significant information having a bearing on the topic of investigation has been culled from these numerous websites.
Data collection

After fixing the required number, the researcher approached the concerned officials and acquired the list of Anganwadis in different talukas. From the list the required number was drawn on simple random Lottery method. The Researcher approached the selected Anganwadi centers and established rapport and explained the purpose before actual data collection. Data were collected in the Anganwadi itself. Initially the Anganwadi workers were reluctant to give information as they mistook it was for some official inspection. After briefing the purpose they cooperated well.

The interviews were conducted according to the convenience of the Anganwadi workers. The interviews were conducted in a free environment and ample time was given to air out their views and feelings.

Similarly, Anganwadi beneficiaries were selected in their respective Anganwadi centers. The three types of beneficiaries were selected according to their willingness and convenience. Data were collected in the Centers. Initially it was rather difficult to identify the beneficiaries and took a long time to establish rapport. In some cases interviews could not be completed and had to postpone to the next day. However the beneficiaries were cooperative.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The collected data from the individual respondents were properly checked, edited and coded properly for processing. The data were processed on a computer under expert supervision. The tables were extracted for analysis and interpretation and inferences were drawn accordingly. Application-specific computer softwares were used for graphical presentation and statistical analysis.
Limitations of the study

The Researcher has taken immense care and every possible effort to collect worthwhile information. However, the findings of the study are based on the information provided by the respondents. Hence the possibility of hiding certain facts cannot be ruled out.

The scope of the study is limited only to one district and covered only five anganwidis in each taluka. The sample could have been collected at a wider level involving other districts for a wider generalization. More representation could have yielded a better result. Due to time constraints it is limited to one district.

Due to busy schedule of Anganwadi workers, the Researcher had to wait a long time to personally meet her according to her convenience. Since they are overloaded with work some tried to avoid the interviews. So the researcher had to convince and wait until she was relatively free.

Identifying the different beneficiaries was rather difficult as they visited during different timing. Sometimes different beneficiaries came at the same time, Hence interviewing both at the same time became difficult.

In spite of the above limitations the findings of the study shows a general trend.