

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY PROBLEM AND PROCEDURES

Social Work profession is primarily concerned with providing specialized services to enhance psychosocial functioning of people and their social units with a purpose to improve their quality of life (socioeconomic development). Socioeconomic development affects and is affected by the population growth and Family Planning Programmes. With this in mind, in the next chapter, we have reviewed some of the efforts of Social Sciences and Social Work for the problems of fertility and family planning. The sources will be presented which reviews and synthesizes these efforts. Considering communication theories (which try to explain processes and factors involved in changing people's attitudes and behaviours), central to social work practice, importance of the characteristics of potential clients (receipients of change activities) will be emphasized. It will be mentioned in this connection that the role of socioeconomic and demographic factors is fairly well documented in the literature studied, however, psycho-social orientations of the receipients of F.P. services have

received lesser attention. With the help of literature discussed in the second chapter, the present chapter attempts to delineate and formulate a social work relevant study problem and describes the procedures of the study.

The Study Problem :

Majority of the studies on Family Planning Communication have candidly brought out that socioeconomic status (or demographic variables like education, occupation, income, age at marriage, rural-urban residence etc.) of client system plays ^adecided and significant role in family planning acceptance. Conversely, the role of personality factors or psycho-social orientations (traditionality v/s modernity) of clients has received lesser attention. This suggests that for a maximum possible explanation of variance in F.P. acceptance, we should take into account personality factors. In other words, for a fuller understanding of the problems associated with the acceptance of family planning, we should include personality factors or psycho-social orientations in our conceptual models.

In this connection, Inkeles (1959) has argued that :

"Sociological analysis - the attempt to understand the structure and functioning of social systems -

will often require the use of general theory of personality and knowledge of the distinctive personality characteristics of participants in the system as a whole or in major subsystems and in particular roles (p.272)."

To describe the standard model of sociological analysis, Inkeles used a set of symbols and a formula identical with those of S-R (**S**timulus-Response) theory. From sociological perspective the meaning he attached to "S" was state of society and "R" meant resultant rate. He stated that :

"Durkheim, for example, began with variations in the rate of suicide (R_s) and sought to explain them through variations in the degree of integration of society (S_i)... The simplest formula, $(S)(P)=(R)$, although probably far from adequate, would nevertheless be greatly superior to the S-R formula, since it provides for the simultaneous effect of two elements influencing action (p.255)."

Eminent personality theorist and psychologist, Dr. R.B. Cattell (1966) has stated similar formula, where :

$$R = f (S.P.)$$

R = the nature and magnitude of a person's behavioural response

f = is some function of

S = stimulus situation in which he is placed and of

P = the nature of his personality.

Similarly, Berger and Lambert (1968) have reviewed the position of Stimulus-Response theory in contemporary Social Psychology and have outlined major sources of this theory. They have also analysed its relations with various social matters and have discussed some recent social-psychological applications of it. After reviewing this material for the purpose of our study, we can state that the person's Socioeconomic status (Stimulus situation), in interaction with his Personality (traditional V/s modern personality) determines his Response to family planning (Family Planning Acceptance).

Notwithstanding the explanation in earlier paragraph, question that arises is : Whose Status and Personality? Husband's or Wife's? In majority of the studies, data have been collected and conclusions have been drawn about socioeconomic status of husband or male head of the household. From these studies we know that education, occupation and income of husband, are some of the few best socioeconomic status indicators for explaining F.P. acceptance. Can we apply the same indicators to a wife? If we do so, we need to consider low level of employment among them. It is known that very high majority of Indian women in reproductive age-group are not working for gainful employment out-

-side home. Then, which indicators should ^wbe take for women. We again go to available literature for an answer to this question. After reviewing the literature (Bhatnagar, 1972; Goldstein, 1972; Palmore, 1972; Maurer, Ratajczar and Schultz, 1973; Germaine and Smock, 1974; Germain, 1975); Jordan (1976) has summarized that :

"Women who can read and write tend to have smaller completed family sizes than women who are illiterate. With respect to formal education, it may not be education per se which influences a woman to have a smaller family, but rather the association of education with certain other social and environmental factors which ultimately results in decreased fertility. These factors may be later age at marriage, exposure to new ideas, increased employment opportunities, greater interest in events outside of the home, and the like..... It is probably the wife's education, rather than her husband's which is more important in terms of an influence on family size (p.16)".

Taking clues from the above mentioned discussions as well as that of second chapter and keeping in mind the significance and relevance of the study to Social Work (discussed in the next paragraphs); the present study, viz., "SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, INDIVIDUAL MODERNITY AND ACCEPTANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING: A STUDY OF THE MOTHERS OF CHILDREN, WHO

socioeconomic status

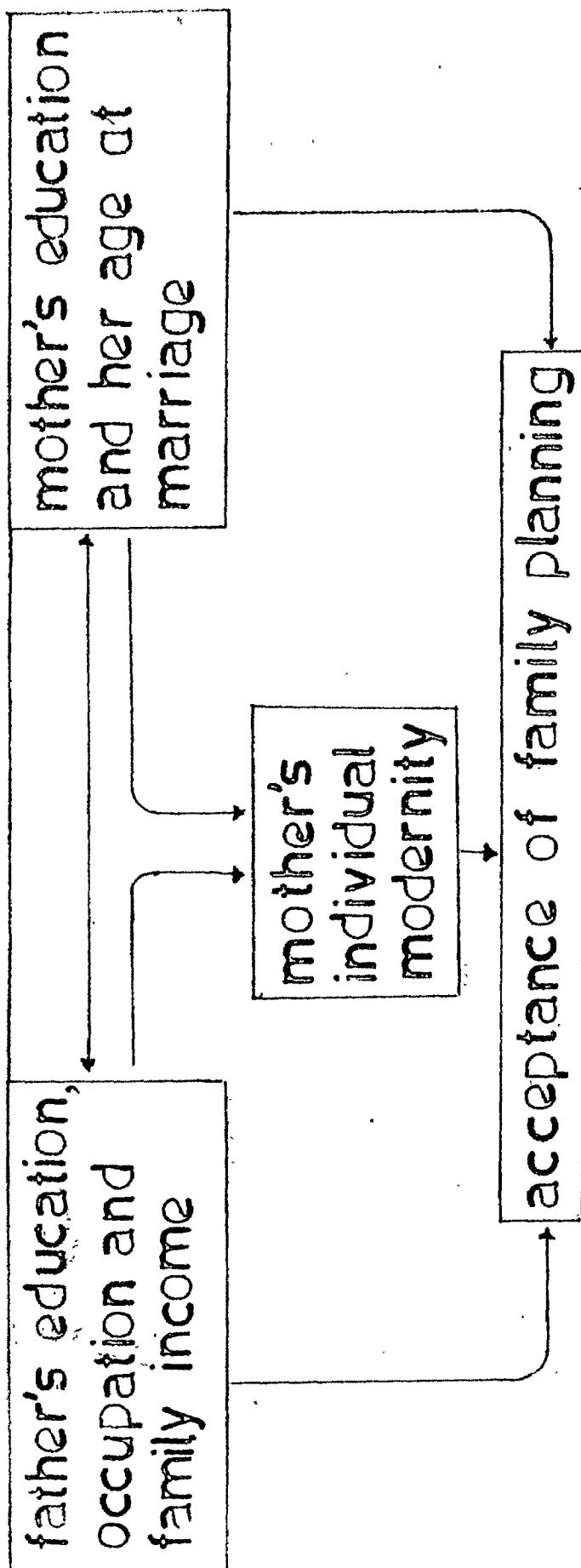


Figure I
Conceptual Model for the present study

ATTENDED BARODA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BALWADIES DURING THE YEAR 1978"; was planned. Same ideas are presented in Figure I.

Significance and Relevance of the Study :

Significance and relevance of this study can be viewed from the various dimensions. First of all, this study concerns women - mothers, wives, sisters, daughters - who make up half of the population in any city, state, nation or world. We have not paid adequate and systematic attention in understanding and involving them in developmental programs. We do not know about the potential contribution we might have lost from half of our population in various developmental programs including population planning. Take for example, various Family and Child Welfare Programs. These programs are trying to cover some of the 104 millions children or 17.4 per cent of our population (Census, 1971). Involvement and participation of the mothers of these children is vitally important for the success of these programs. What are the factors which lead these mothers to accept or reject these programs?

From wide variety of theoretical perspectives, we have tried to delimit our attention to socioeconomic and personal-

lity (individual modernity) factors. This delimitation we did on the basis of communication theories and stimulus response theories. Understanding the contribution of socio-economic and personality factors in relation to Social Work relevant programs ~~can help us to plan and execute interventive actions for enhancing social functioning of our clients. Thus, both of these factors seem to have potential significance for diagnosing and treating participation of people in developmental programs.~~

Similarly, some of the known characteristics of these mothers make them most relevant for F.P. program. These characteristics include: their urban and lower middle class background, their current reproductive status, and their continuous contact with Balwadies (through their children) for a period of two years. If found useful and significant, the study can be replicated or experimentally tried out with required modifications for further proof, among comparable target groups which are numerous in our country.

Objectives of the Study :

Two major objectives of the study are :

- to describe association and relative importance of father's socioeconomic status (his education, occupation and family income), mother's status (her education and age at marriage) and her individual modernity in relation to family planning acceptance.
- to control socioeconomic status and describe association between mother's individual modernity and family planning acceptance.

These major objectives can be translated into detailed questions, which will reflect our previous discussion.

1. What is the association between demographic factors (like, mother's age at the birth of first child, sex preference, child survival, type of family, mother tongue, religion) and family planning acceptance?
2. What is the association between father's socioeconomic Status (his education, occupation and family income), mother's status (her education and age at marriage) and family planning acceptance?
3. What is the association between mother's individual modernity and family planning acceptance?

After exploring these bi-variate associations, we will

ask questions which will help us to determine independent, relative and joint effects of socio-economic status (father's education, occupation and monthly family income), mother's education, her age at marriage, her individual modernity and Family Planning Acceptance. We will restrict our analysis to three variables at a time because of limited number of cases and complications involved in cross-tabulations. But we will cover explicitly all of the variables mentioned in our conceptual framework. Thus, other question will be as follows :

4. What is the association between mother's education and family planning acceptance when controlled for father's socioeconomic status? The same question can be reversed as to the association between father's socioeconomic status and Family Planning Acceptance when controlled for mother's education.
5. What is the association between mother's education and Family planning Acceptance when controlled for mother's age at marriage?
6. What is the association between individual modernity and Family Planning Acceptance when controlled for father's socioeconomic status?

7. What is the association between individual modernity and Family Planning Acceptance when controlled for mother's education?
8. What is the association between individual modernity and Family Planning Acceptance when controlled for mother's age at marriage?

Each of these questions can be translated into a hypothesis, e.g. there is no significant association between individual modernity and Family Planning Acceptance when we control father's socioeconomic status.

Procedures of the Study :

(i) Method of Investigation :

Before deciding about the broad approach or method of investigation for the present study; literature on research methodology and research studies from social sciences as well as social work were reviewed. This review included: Siegel, (1956); Rosenberg (1968); Goldstein (1969); Tripodi et al., (1969); Moser and Kalton (1971); Pareek and Rao (1974); Jain (1975); Polansky (ed.) (1975) and Selltitz et al., (1976). On the basis of this review and objectives of the study we decided to employ quantitative-descriptive method of investigation.

Experimental approach was ruled out on the basis of ideal requirements ^{for} ~~of that~~ kind of research as well as practical considerations. Similarly, we could not think of exploratory research because influences of demographic and socioeconomic factors on family planning acceptance are fairly well-known. Using this information, we thought of trying to control these variables through cross tabulation and to describe the association between individual modernity (which is relatively less explored area) and family planning acceptance. The choice for cross tabulation and other procedures of data analysis will be discussed later in this chapter.

(ii) Selection of Sample :

Universe for this study consisted of 2852 mothers of the children in 41 Baroda Municipal Corporation Balwadies as of April, 1978.

At the first stage of sampling, of the total 41 Balwadies, 7 Balwadies were randomly selected, using lottery method. Plan of data collection was so designed that the work of four M.S.W. students (doing their dissertation under the guidance of present investigator) could be meaningfully utilized serving the twin objectives; i.e. learning of the

students and collection of data for the present study. Each of the three students was allotted 2 Balwadies and one had only one because of larger size.

At the second stage of sampling, a list was prepared of all the children studying in the sampled seven Balwadies. There were 543 children in these seven Balwadies. Of these 543 children, 300 were randomly selected. Our respondents were mothers of these 300 children. From these 300 mothers, 15 were not available. As a result, interviews of 285 mothers were completed. This meant approximately 10 per cent (out of 2852) coverage of universe.

(iii) Definitions and Measurement of Variables :

We have analysed various demographic variables. Some of them could have been our dependent variables. But in accordance with the purpose of the study, we have concentrated only on F.P. acceptance. Rest of the demographic variables serve the purpose of clarifying demographic situation of our respondents. Almost all of these variables are unambiguous and do not need elaborate definitions.

Looking at the major objective of the study, i.e. describing association between individual modernity and F.P.

acceptance while holding socioeconomic status constant; we have elaborated only these three variables. Definitions and operationalization of Socioeconomic Status, Individual Modernity and Family Planning Acceptance are provided in the following pages.

Socioeconomic Status :

We can define socioeconomic status as one's position relative to others in the status hierarchy. But this makes it imperative that we clarify the concept of status and then provide its operational definition. Simply stated, society consists of various groups or classes like family, school, occupational groups, educational classes, economic classes, etc. In each of these groups or classes, people occupy different positions, e.g. father, mother, children; head master, teacher, student, manager, supervisor, worker, rich, middle class, poor, highly educated, literate, illiterate, etc. Johnson (1960) states that :

"A person is said to occupy a social position if he has a certain cluster of obligations and enjoys a certain cluster of associated rights within a social system. These two parts of a social position we shall call its role and its status, "role" referring to obligations and "status" referring to rights. Thus, every social position is a status-role. When the

context would prevent misunderstanding, however, we may use either "role" or "Status" to mean the entire social position. The role structure of a group is the same thing as its status structure, because what is role from the point of view of one member is status from the point of view of the others.... In general, a status often (but not always) includes : (1) Some kinds and degrees of authority over others; (2) the right to remuneration (some reward for role performance); (3) certain privileges and immunities; and (4) some degree of prestige" (pp.16-19).

Similarly, the definition offered by United Nations is very relevant for our purpose :

"Perhaps the closest we can come to a culture-free definition of status-one that is able to differentiate the status of women from men in the same society - is to speak of the actual control that people have over their own lives. To what extent do women as compared to men have access to knowledge, to economic resources, to political power, and what degree of personal autonomy do these resources permit? A related and more quantifiable approach is to assess the range of choices or options available to women as compared to men in the same society (or to women in different societies or sub-groups) in the areas of education, employment, political life, family life and other relevant areas. Both approaches are based on the assumption

that low status derives from a lack of control over material or social resources and a lack of choices in the unfolding of one's destiny (United Nations, 1973, p.8)."

Alongwith, this kind of theoretical or abstract explanation, measuring social status or social position of persons, groups or nations was considered very important because social scientists found that status is a good predictor of various categories of human behaviour. As a result, a wide variety of measures to quantify it have been constructed and validated by the researchers in western countries. They include: O.D. Duncan's Socioeconomic Index; U.S. Census Socioeconomic Status Scores; August B. Hollingshed's Two Factor Index of Social Position; The Revised Occupational Rating Scale from Warner, Meeker, and Fell's Index of Status Characteristics, and Alba M. Edwards' Socio-Economic Grouping of Occupations. After analysing the contribution of numerous variables through regression, factor and path analysis; majority of the constructors of socioeconomic status scales, have extracted three variables, viz., education, occupation and income. These three variables are found to be of central importance in determining the socioeconomic status.

For the purpose of present study, we needed a measure that reflected the socioeconomic status of an urban, non-manual and non-agricultural occupation group, which we had planned to study. Our survey of literature on these scales (e.g. Pareek and Rao, 1974) led us to the selection of Kuppaswami's Socio-Economic Status Scale-Urban (1962). The scale consisted of husband's education, occupation and family income. While applying this scale we felt that educational and occupational categories were directly applicable but the same could not be assumed for the income categories. This was so because the scale reflected, income situation of early sixties.

For adapting it to early 1978 situation, we consulted an expert economist. In accordance with his advice, we obtained the data from Indian Labour Journal on Consumer Price Index Number for Urban Non-Manual Employee (Base: 1960 = 100) of Ahmedabad Centre for the entire year of 1976. Similar data for the entire year of 1977 was not available at that time. The Consumer Price Index of 1976 (12 months) of Ahmedabad Centre ranged from Rs.254 to 266; Arithmetic Mean = Rs.261; Median = Rs.262 and Mode = Rs.262. We were advised to select the modal value of Rs.262 for adjusting the original scale. The next operation was simple

and straight forward. For example, the original scale had Rs.1000 per month or above as the highest income category. We simply multiplied it by 2.62 getting a value of Rs.2620 for the highest income category. The next group of Rs.750 to Rs.999 was similarly multiplied by 2.62, giving us the interval of Rs.1965 to 2619; and so on. The entire scale is provided in the appendix. To check for the errors in this adjustment, we have analysed each of the three components (i.e. education, income, occupation) separately; prior to the analysis of socioeconomic status as a whole.

° Reliability and Validity of the SES Scale :

The test manual of Kuppuswamy (1962) does not report the coefficient of reliability and validity, however, he has reported various validation procedures which were adopted to validate the scale. These procedures included, matching against out-side criterion, distribution pattern and comparison of dichotomous groups. On the basis of these procedures, the author had modified the values of the components of the scale.

We adopted the test-retest procedure (with 5 months gap) for finding out the reliability. Accordingly, 28

respondents or 10 per cent of the total 285 sampled respondents were reinterviewed. The data were analysed in terms of Phi or ϕ coefficient. The calculated ϕ was .810. To test its significance, we applied Chi Square or χ^2 test. Chi Square value was 18.368. With one degree of freedom, this was significant at more than .001 level. Similarly, of the total respondents who were classified as having high or low SES during the first test; 93 per cent of them were classified in the same category in the retest. To clarify the situation further, we calculated Goodman-Kruskal's Gamma, which can help us to interpret the test-retest results as the per cent of guessing error eliminated by using the first test to predict the order in the retest. The Gamma coefficient was .984.

Individual Modernity :

As we mentioned earlier, Roger (1973) has provided fairly simple definition of individual modernity, which he calls modernization. According to him, it is a process by which individuals change from a traditional way of life to more complex, technologically advanced, and rapidly changing style of life. A more elaborate description of individual modernity can be found in Inkeles and Smith (1974, p.109).

After reviewing theories and researches on the topic, they made a cross-cultural study of six developing countries, viz., East Pakistan (Bangla Desh), India, Nigeria, Chile, Argentina and Israel. From this study they concluded that :

"The definitive syndrome of individual modernity, now empirically established, included keeping informed about the world and taking an active role as a citizen; valuing education and technical skill; aspiring to advance one-self economically; stressing individual responsibility and seeing the virtues of planning, including family planning; approving social change and being open to new experience, including the experience of urban living and industrial employment; manifesting a sense of personal efficacy; freedom from absolute submission to received authority in family, tribe and sect, and the development of newer nonparochial loyalties; and the concomitant granting of more autonomy and rights to those of lesser status and power, such as minority groups and women. Taken together this set of qualities empirically delineate the modern man."

The scale which they constructed to measure the above mentioned themes of individual modernity was named as OM; Overall Modernity Scale. Using Kuder-Richardson test, the reliability they arrived at ranged from .80 in Bangla Desh to .90 in India. The median over all six countries was .83.

Using the criterion method for validating the scale, they came up with a correlation coefficient of .63 which was significant well above the .001 level. We were sure on the basis of this evidence and evidences provided by other researcher (Inkeles and Smith; 1974, pp.364 and 426) that the scale had acceptable reliability and validity. However, we had selected only 27 items from about 200 items of this scale and applied it to a different kind of sample. Because of this reason we were advised by the experts to check its reliability.

Our test-retest reliability coefficient ρ was .593. To test its significance, we used Chi-square, which was 9.856. This was significant well above .01 level. Similarly, of the total respondents who were classified as having high or low modernity during the first test; 82 per cent of them were classified in the same category in the retest. Considering the stability and consistency of other psycho-social attitude scales; this seems to be a fairly reliable test.

Family Planning Acceptance :

The term, acceptance of family planning, has been used synonymously with "birth control", "fertility control" or "planned parenthood"; in the literature and research studies

on family planning. When used in the sense of birth control, people who have practiced contraception in the past are classified as past users. People who are currently using contraception are classified as current users. Both categories of people are sometime referred to as ever users. This way of classifying, usually, provides dichotomous categories like user : non-user, acceptor : non-acceptor, or adoptor : non-adoptor. Researchers, who performed detailed analysis of the attribute of contraceptive use, have scaled it in terms of type of contraception used, pregnancy after which contraception has been used, duration and consistency of use etc.

When the term family planning is used in the sense of fertility control; numerous indicators like number of conceptions, number of live births, number of living children, open and closed birth interval etc., have been used. The demographers have refined the measurement of fertility but still the measurement of the concept^{of} family planning is largely left to individual researcher. Again, in terms of planned parenthood, two major indicators are number and spacing of children.

The implications of this situation for research design is that number of dependent variables have to be used for operationalising the multidimensional concept of family

planning. In turn, this calls for relatively greater cost in data collection and data analysis. With this awareness, we wanted to delimit the problem under study by restricting and specifying the meaning of family planning without sacrificing much of its multi-dimensionality.

As a first step we analysed the general meaning of the term family planning. It usually means action by couples to plan and assure the number and timing of children that they want. Considering number and timing of children as two important dimensions, we searched the literature to find out if these two have been incorporated in a single concept. We could find only one reference, that of Hamilton's concept of "Excess Births" (Jain, 1975, p.216). Hamilton operationalized the concept of "Excess Births" by determining birth order in relation to mother's age. For example, at the age of 20 or less a woman should have only one birth. Second and subsequent births for women aged 20 or less were taken as excess births. At the age 20-24 two births are allowed, third and subsequent births are considered excess. Any birth after sixth birth order can be considered excess. This cutting point schedule can be modified and justified in the light of demographic and medical facts. He has found this measurement valid for this U.S.A. data.

We thought of borrowing this concept after modifying it in terms of excess family size or "Excess Number of Living Children" rather than "Excess Births", and to keep the cutting point on the basis of average number of children for each age group, i.e. if the women aged 20-24 in our sample had 2 children on average, we will consider 2 children as a permissible number and 3 or subsequent number as excess. We thought of validating it further in terms of use of contraception. These data are presented and discussed in the third chapter.

(iv) Procedures of Data Collection :

We took the following steps to overcome the major sources of errors in data collection i.e. inadequate sampling of content or insufficient number of questions, poor standardization of instruction, errors due to interviewing situation and subjectivity during classifying and analysing data.

1. Advance preparation in terms of review of literature, review of conceptual models and tools of data collection was done during September, 1976 to December, 1977. Guide and experts were consulted to assure sufficient number and adequacy of questions. On the basis of this preparation following steps were taken during January 1978 to middle of April, 1978.

2. Semi-structured interview schedule was prepared ^{and} rigorously pretested with about 20 respondents who were identical to the sampled respondents. Necessary modifications were made on the basis of pretesting.
3. Prior to data collection, the four interviewers (M.S.W. students) were trained through 10 groups sessions. Duration of each session was of two and half hours. During these sessions, role play and detailed discussions were carried out which were based on demonstration of the actual interviews by the present investigator and observations on the interviews taken by the interviewers.
4. Prior permission was obtained from the Administrative Officer of Baroda Municipal Corporation Primary Education Committee, which increased the Co-operation of Balwadi teacher and helper. The helper or maid servant ("Ayah") took care of children while bringing them from home and returning them. These helpers showed the houses of respondents to the interviewers and introduced them, if necessary. During the first contact, appointment for actual interview was taken.
5. Actual data collection was done during last two weeks of April and first week of May, 1978. Conferences were

held thrice a week. Each completed interview schedule was checked by the investigator and points of clarification were discussed.

(v) Procedures of Data Analysis :

Ph.D. Course Work seminars were held in September, 1978; December, 1978 and June, 1979 which sensitized and helped the investigator in various ways. Data analysis was done from May, 1978 to December, 1978. A detailed and unambiguous code-book was prepared, tested and used to score the responses. Coded schedules were rechecked. Research guide and experts were consulted, whenever it was found necessary.

In simplest term, the purpose of data analysis is to summarize collected data, in such a way that the objectives of the study are achieved. Our primary objective was to find out association between individual modernity and family planning acceptance while holding socioeconomic status constant. To achieve this objective, numerous correlational techniques were available. The question was, which of them should be chosen?

We were aware that higher order quantitative techniques like Regression Analysis, Path Analysis, Discriminant Analysis, Cluster Analysis, Factor Analysis etc. require several assumptions like normal distribution, randomness, interval or ratio

scale of measurement, linearity, additivity etc. An interesting dialogue is going on among experts as to, what are the consequences if these assumptions are not met? One group of experts feels that violation of these assumptions do not affect the conclusions seriously. But another group feels that these assumptions do have serious consequences for conclusions reached. Kogan (1975, pp.82-83) mentioned that :

"The 'safe' approach, since in general fewer assumptions are made, may appear to be to use nonparametric rather than parametric techniques whenever a relevant method is available. At the same time, the investigator must be aware that in adopting the safe approach, he may be discarding data and weakening his chances of detecting significant differences or relationships. In addition, most nonparametric methods do not lend themselves to a combination of variables or to estimation of the magnitude of experimental effects or strength of relationships. Perhaps in the future a clear rationale will be developed for the choice of particular statistical techniques for particular kinds of data."

The measurement of our three variables, viz., socioeconomic status, individual modernity and family planning acceptance was, at the most, ordinal and not interval. This led us to the selection of techniques like percentage difference, Chi-square, Phi, Tetrachoric and Gamma. In fact, we could have used any one of these five techniques to serve our purpose. But we were

advised by the statisticians that each of them had their own assumptions as well as strength and weaknesses. If all these techniques provide consistent results, we can be relatively more certain about our interpretation.

An explanation, as to why we dichotomized our variables, will not be out of place. Major advantages of dichotomizing the variables were simplicity, easier comparison, relatively smaller sample, and better possibilities of cross tabulation for the purpose of controlling test factors. Disadvantages of losing some of the information and precision did not outweigh, some of the above mentioned advantages.

(vi) Limitations of the Study :

Let us clarify the first and foremost limitation of the study, in terms of its conceptual framework. Our conceptual model was supposed to answer : why some people accept family planning and why some do not? Huge number of studies have attempted this question. We adopted a simplified conceptual model from these studies. In our model we had three blocks of variables, i.e. socioeconomic background and individual modernity as independent variables and family planning acceptance as a dependent variable. The limitation was our inability to take into account other significant variables like, various aspects

of relevant family planning and health agencies, service delivery system, norms and values of the social system, husband's modernity and attitudes, etc. Exclusion of these variables meant that we should not expect a full or hundred per cent answer for our major research question.

Secondly, we have studied very limited and fairly typical population, i.e. mothers of children who were attending municipal corporation balwadies during 1978. Atypicality of this population is that none of them could be sterile, none of them can be childless, none of them could be presently in rural areas, none of them can be from non-municipal Balwadies and extremely few of them could be old or very young because approximate age of Balwadi child is usually 3 to 6 years. These factors impose limitations on the generalizability of our findings.

Similar limitation exists in terms of measurement of variables. We were hesitant in treating all the three variables as interval scales because of arbitrary nature of operations involved. This in turn, placed limitation on the permissible type of analysis which remained nonparametric in nature. This made multivariate analysis almost impossible.

Above mentioned limitations of population, measurement and analysis will naturally effect interpretations and conclusions.

These limitations make it difficult to explain all the variance in family planning acceptance, as a result we will have to make guarded interpretations and suggestions.

Most of these depressing limitations can be defended in terms of present state of social sciences and resources of an individual investigator. But the positive aspect of this list is that indirectly it points out to the gaps in existing theoretical formulations, measurement and analysis in one of the most relevant practice area of social work. As Kogan (1975, p.83) mentioned :

"At present it appears that on a practical level, especially for larger samples, difference in conclusions reached by the employment of non-parametric or parametric methods are usually negligible. Questions of what to measure and how to measure, as well as problems of sampling, control, and relevance to theory, are more pressing."

Organization of the Study :

The study is organized and reported in six chapters. The first chapter attempts to delineate and formulate program-metically relevant study which can invoke social work intervention in ^aspecific manner at ^asignificant level. Conceptual model for the study is presented. Significance and relevance of the study in terms of communication and stimulus response

theories as well as practical relevance of the type of population covered: is provided. Objectives of the study are presented in question form. Procedures and steps followed in the course of study to achieve these objectives are presented in detail.

The second chapter reviews the literature. It begins with an assertion that social work profession is primarily concerned with providing services to alter psycho-social functioning of people for improving quality of life. Improvement in quality of life or socioeconomic development affects and is affected by the population growth and family planning programs. In view of this interdependence, participation of social work in family planning can be visualized as follows : Social work should help the people to restrict their family size and thereby help the nation to check population growth which in turn will facilitate speedier socioeconomic development. In this connection, efforts of social sciences and social work in the areas of fertility and family planning have been reviewed.

The third chapter provides demographic background of the respondents. The concept of family planning acceptance is operationalized on the basis of mothers' present age and number of living children. This concept is validated by

comparing acceptance among early and late users of contraception as well as early users and non-users. After this, the relationships of family planning acceptance with mother's age at marriage, her age at first birth, sex preference and child survival are presented.

The fourth chapter discusses indicators of socioeconomic status. The chapter begins with the discussion of three background factors, viz., type of family, mother tongue, and religion. Then, the relationships between F.P. acceptance and mother's education, her occupation as well as socioeconomic status (i.e. father's education, occupation and monthly family income) are discussed. Last part of the chapter discusses independent, relative and cumulative effects of socioeconomic status, mother's education, and her age at marriage on F.P. acceptance.

The fifth chapter discusses five indicators of individual modernity, viz., planning orientation, efficacy, orientation to new experiences, change orientation and exposure to mass-media. An index of an overall individual modernity, which combines all these qualities plus other themes measured through eight questions; is used for an overall assessment of relationships between individual modernity and F.P. acceptance. Later part of the chapter discusses independent, relative and

cumulative effects of mother's overall individual modernity on F.P. acceptance.

The sixth or last chapter provides discussion leading to conclusions and suggestions. Major findings are summarized in order of magnitude or strength of relationship between independent and dependent variables. Mother's age at marriage and her education being most crucial independent variables for family planning acceptance, we have suggested an action program (Appendix-B) for educating Balwadi mothers during the period their wards are at Balwadi as an integral part of Balwadi Education. For an overall development of social work research and practice; need for testing theories and conceptual models as well as improving measurements are emphasized.