

# Institute of Health Systems

## Director's report

### Third annual general body meeting (1995-96), 24th November 1996

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend a hearty welcome to all the members of this third annual general body meeting of our Institute. During the current year the research activity of the Institute was mainly the two research projects conducted in collaboration with the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston. In addition, the Institute was also successful in being awarded a project on the Quality of Reproductive Health Care offered in Private Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh by the John. D. & Catherine T. Mac Arthur Foundation, Chicago. One more large project on the Performance, Acceptability and Quality of Family Welfare Practices in Andhra Pradesh has been awarded to the Institute by the Commissionerate of Family Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh. Research activity on this project will commence very soon. In addition to working on these projects, the Institute has also been maintaining the three databases viz., the Andhra Pradesh Health Institutions Data Base (APHIDB), the Medflor-India Data Base, the Government Health Expenditure Data Base and the related software as one of its regular activities.

### Ongoing Projects:

#### A. Demand and satisfaction of the Mauritius Health System

(Harvard School of Public Health)

As part of a larger study on cost effectiveness of the health system of Mauritius taken up by the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), the Institute of Health Systems conducted a study on the demand and satisfaction of the Mauritius Health System. This part of the study was planned and is being executed by the Institute of Health Systems. The fieldwork for this study based on Susan Scrimshaw's rapid appraisal methods was conducted in June-July 1995 by a team co-ordinated by the Director, IHS. An exit survey of systematically selected inpatients and outpatients was carried out along with focus group discussions in household groups and with members of Local Health Committees (LHC) who were closely related to the functioning of the peripheral health delivery institutions in Mauritius. The quantitative as well as qualitative data of this study was analysed at the Institute. A report was prepared and sent to our collaborators at HSPH which was accepted. We learned that the Mauritius Government who were the end users of the report had expressed appreciation about this report.

#### B. Hospital autonomy: A case study of APVVP

(Harvard School of Public Health)

As is well known in the health policy circles in Andhra Pradesh, the Andhra Pradesh Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (APVVP) was constituted in 1987 as an autonomous Commissionerate of all Secondary level hospitals in the State of AP. This is the first Commissionerate of this nature set up by any state in India. The purpose of setting up such an autonomous Commissionerate was to give special attention to the curative health needs as distinct from primary and tertiary care by making use of the autonomy granted to it. This experiment had of late caught the attention of the World Bank and also various other states in India. In this context, the Institute is conducting a case study of APVVP as part of an international project of the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) on hospital autonomy.

In connection with this project Dr. Peter Berman who heads the Data for Decision Making Project at HSPH and Mr. Mukesh Chawla I.A.S Research Associate at HSPH had visited the Institute. A draft report of this project has been prepared and is being improved upon and updated.

### **C. Enquiry into the quality of reproductive health care offered in private hospitals in AP**

(The John D & Catherine T Mac Arthur Foundation)

The objectives of this study are :

1. To bring out the perceptions and expectations of the women regarding the quality of reproductive health care offered in private hospitals of A.P
2. To assess the quality gaps in the provision of reproductive health care offered in private hospitals in A.P.

The first objective is to be satisfied by an exit survey of female patients of reproductive problems. In order to satisfy the second objective the Institute will be developing standards for a few selected reproductive health procedures, viz., Normal deliveries, Caesarean section, Medical termination of pregnancy and a few common gynaecological procedures. The actual quality situation will be assessed against the standards which will be formulated, using various qualitative methods. Activity on this project has started with the groundwork being done, for sampling and the preparation of the draft standard document.

### **D. Analysis of health survey data of Nellore district**

(Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samithi, New Delhi)

A large survey of the health status of Nellore district was conducted by the Jana Vignana Vedika, (J.V.V) Nellore - covering around 40,000 households in 400 villages in the district. This data was not subjected to a computerised analysis. On the request of J.V.V, the Institute has undertaken the data entry and analysis of data pertaining to 40 villages i.e, 10% of the original survey villages and the corresponding 5400 households. The data entry on this project was in progress during the year. This project is supported by the Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samithi, New Delhi.

### **Projects in the Offing**

### **E. Enquiry into performance, acceptability and quality of family planning practices in AP**

(Commissionerate of Family Welfare. A.P)

The objectives of this study are the following

1. To assess the performance of various family planning practices for last 5 years in two high performing and two low performing districts from each of the three geographical regions of AP.
2. To understand the socio-economic and other factors associated with the acceptance or non- acceptance of family planning practices among males as well as females from a gender perspective.
3. To understand the perceptions on quality of oral pills, I.U.D, Tubectomy, Lap tubectomy condom and vasectomy.

This project is to be conducted on a large sample of 2500 eligible male and females comprising users and non users of various Family Planning methods. The project has been cleared officially and work will start from April.

## **Publications:**

The following publications were made by the faculty during the year.

1. Dr. Alex George; Study of Demand and Satisfaction of the Mauritius Health System ( Report)
2. Dr. Alex George and S. Srilatha; "Some issues in the Quality of Reproductive Health Care Offered in the Private Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh" Paper Presented at the Annual Day Function of IIHFW Hyderabad , June,1995.
3. D. Raghu Ramulu; "Medflor India- An Ethnobotanical Database of Andhra Pradesh" in S.K. Jain (ed) Ethnobiology in Human Welfare, Deep Publications, New Delhi, 1996.

## **Databases:**

As mentioned in the beginning itself, in addition to the activities on the research projects the Institute was also maintaining its three databases i.e, APHIDB, Medflor India Database , the Government Health Expenditure database and the related software. A new programmer was trained and put in charge of APHIDB and Medflor. Additional programming was done in APHIDB depending upon the requirements of our projects and external queries. As soon as we are able to generate funding we will reactivate data collection for APHIDB and start fresh data entry on Medflor. We are also making efforts to popularise the software, Government Expenditure Analyst (GEA), which was used for building up the Government Health Expenditure Database.

## **Liaison with funders:**

During the year, Institute has built up liaison with funding organisations such as the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, the Mac Arthur Foundation, Chicago and the Leadership for Environment Development, New Delhi. These funders were in addition to local Government funders with whom we were in regular contact. Liaison was also been kept up with the Department of Family Welfare, Department of Health, Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Andhra Pradesh Vaidya Vidhana Parishad, and other State and Central Government Organisations / Departments.

## **Faculty Attachment:**

Two Faculty members of the Institute were involved with the research projects of the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI). The projects with which they were associated were the Andhra Pradesh Burden of Disease Project and the Technology Information Forecasting Assessment Council project. We thank the Social Services Division of ASCI for offering this facility.

## **Liaison with other Institutions:**

Links with ASCI and IIHFW was kept up. In addition, we were also in touch with CESS, Dept. of Economics, Hyderabad Central University, Institute of Public Enterprises and two medical colleges in Hyderabad viz. the Gandhi Medical College and the Osmania Medical College. CESS has offered us interlibrary borrowal facility, while the two medical colleges mentioned have expressed willingness to co-operate with us when we conduct training programmes for health functionaries.

**Liaison with NGOs:**

Links have been established with JVV, the Anweshi Centre for Women's Development and Research and the Catholic Hospital Association of India (CHAI). JVV offered us help in identifying field investigators and has also completed the updating of APHIDB for Nellore District. Anweshi has also offered participation in the Standard setting panel for the research project on quality of reproductive health in private hospitals in Andhra Pradesh.

**Administration:**

An office administration as distinct from and supportive of the research and database building activity of the Institute was in the process of being put in place. An experienced accountant does regular accounting of our various projects.

Last but not the least, while concluding the presentation of the activities of the Institute during 1995-96, I would like to express that I will be most happy to incorporate the suggestions of the esteemed members of our general body, in the further development of the Institute.

Date: 24th November 1996

Dr. Alex George, Director