

# Institute of Health Systems

## Director's report

### Fourth annual general body meeting (1996-97), 21st December 1997

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend a hearty welcome to all the members to this Fourth Annual General Body Meeting of our Institute. During the current year the main research activity of the Institute was the project: Quality of Reproductive Health Care offered in Private Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh, sponsored by the John. D. & Catherine T. Mac Arthur Foundation, Chicago, and another project: Performance, Acceptability and Quality of Family Welfare Practices in Andhra Pradesh, sponsored by the Commissionerate of Family Welfare, Government of Andhra Pradesh. In addition to working on these projects, the Institute was also engaged in other smaller research and training projects and has 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.

#### **I. Ongoing Projects:**

##### **A. An Enquiry Into the Quality of Reproductive Health Care Offered in Private Hospitals in AP**

(The Mac Arthur Foundation, Chicago)

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 AP
2. To assess the quality gaps in the provision of reproductive health care offered in private hospitals in AP

The first objective has been satisfied by an exit survey of female patients of reproductive problems. In order to satisfy the second objective the Institute is in the process of 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 these standards using various qualitative research methods.

During 1996-97, we finished a review of literature on Quality Assurance, completed the exit survey, the findings of which formed a part of the Interim Report of the project and completed a draft document on standards. This document is now being revised through the sittings of an inter professional standard setting panel with representation to various stake holders including consumers in it. An interim report comprising these were sent to the Mac Arthur Foundation, which was well appreciated by them.

##### **B. Study of Hospital indicators: A database for quick decision making**

(The Andhra Pradesh Vaidya Vidhana Parishad)

This project aims at developing various hospital indicators i.e. Activity Indicators, Efficiency Indicators; and Quality, Access and Effectiveness Indicators which help to improve the functioning of secondary level hospitals. This is a pilot study in which we are trying to estimate these indicators for the District head quarter hospital, Karimnagar. For this

purpose all the secondary data has already been collected from the hospital. In addition, an exit survey was also to be conducted to assess patient satisfaction.

### **C. Village Health Survey, Nellore**

(Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samithi, New Delhi)

The Jana Vignana Vedika, Nellore, an affiliate organisation of Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samithi (B.G.V.S), had conducted a large health survey of all households in 400 villages in Nellore district using its own activists. The data of this unique participatory research exercise was only manually analysed by the activist-researchers who conducted it. On request from these health activists for a computerised analysis of this data, the Institute took up an analysis of a systematically selected sample of data from 40 out of 400 villages constituting 5400 households. An interim report of this study has been prepared and it was found that some of the estimates of this participatory action study were comparable to general trends. Therefore the method of participatory action research could be improvised and utilised for setting up community based health information systems to provide people themselves with alternative information to empower them.

### **D. Hospital autonomy: A case study of APVVP**

(Harvard School of Public Health)

The constitution of Andhra Pradesh Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (APVVP) in 1987 as an autonomous Commissionerate of Secondary hospitals in AP and its functioning has evinced interest among various International Policy Planning and Development funding organisations. In this context, during 1996-97, the Institute was continuing the case study of APVVP's experiences in hospital autonomy as part of an international project of the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) on Hospital Autonomy. A draft report of this project was prepared and submitted to the HSPH which has since been incorporated into a working paper of HSPH.

## **II. Projects completed:**

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

(Directorate of Family Welfare, AP)

The objectives of this recently completed study are the following:

1. To understand from a gender perspective the socio-economic and other factors associated with the acceptance or non- acceptance of Family Planning practices among males as well as females.
2. To understand from a client's perspective the perceptions on quality of services related to oral pills, I.U.D, Tubectomy, condom, and vasectomy.
3. 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.

This study which has a unique component on male Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices on Family Planning along with that of females will be one of the few studies in India with a gender equal approach to F.P. It was conducted on a large sample of 3085 eligible men and women from 6 districts distributed over the catchment areas of 12 P.H.Cs, 12 Sub Centres and 12 Remote Villages and 6 Urban Family Welfare Centres.

This study has found a positive appreciation of vasectomy by a large chunk of its adopters as opposed to the biases of its non adopter males and also females. It has also thrown important clues on the quality of family planning methods that are being provided.

The study has been successfully completed and the final report submitted to the Commissionerate of Family Welfare.

## **B. Training for medical officers and CDPOs in Paderu ITDA** (ITDA Paderu)

In order to update and impart the necessary skills to Medical Officers and Community Development Programme Officers (CDPOs) to train the A.N.Ms and Community Health Workers, a Training of Trainers (TOT) programme was co-ordinated by IHS, in the tribal area of Paderu with various other institutions. In order to ensure that training involved a continuous process of research and development, literature was collected and compiled on various topics of the training and a survey was conducted on a systematically selected sample to understand the morbidity pattern of the area. The course content was formulated according to the discussion among the faculty and based on the findings of the survey, the suggestions from the Directorate of Tribal Welfare and the ITDA Paderu and with reference to the specific requirements of a Training of Trainers programme. In addition to identifying resource persons to implement the course, the Institute also compiled and distributed a collection of useful background material selected from its library.

The institutions which co-operated included: The King George Medical College, Visakhapatnam, Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada, Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, Community Food and Nutrition Extension Unit, Visakhapatnam, Department of Anthropology, Hyderabad Central University and the Catholic Health Association of India, Secunderabad. The administration of the ITDA Paderu expressed its satisfaction about this programme.

## **C. Demand and Satisfaction of the Mauritius Health System** (Harvard School of Public Health)

The report of this study was accepted with appreciation by the Harvard School of Public Health and published as a part of its comprehensive report entitled, The Health Sector in Mauritius.

## **D. Publications:**

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

Dr. Alex George:

Reports:

1. The Health Sector in Mauritius with C.J.L Murray, Prasanta Mahapatra et al, Harvard Centre for Population and Development Studies, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1996.
2. Hospital Autonomy in India: The Experience of APVVP Hospitals with Mukesh Chawla, Harvard Centre for Population and Development Studies, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1996.
3. An Enquiry into Performance, Acceptability and Quality of Family Welfare Practices in Andhra Pradesh, The Institute of Health Systems, Hyderabad, 1997.
4. Quality of Reproductive Health Care Offered in Private Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh and Women's Perceptions, (Interim Report), The Institute of Health Systems, Hyderabad, 1997.

Papers/Articles:

5. "On Hospitalisation Insurance" Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. XXXII, No 12, March 22-28, 1997.
6. "User's Perspective in Health Planning" in Report of the W.H.O - Bureau of Planning Regional Workshop on Emerging Economic & Financial Issues In The Area of Health Planning and Development , Director General of Health Services, M.o.H.F.W, New Delhi, 1996.

### **III.Ongoing Activities**

#### **A. 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 programmer was kept in charge of maintaining these data bases.

#### **B. Upgradation of Systems:**

The motherboard of the LAN server has been upgraded with a Pentium Processor. Three nodes have been upgraded with 8 MB RAM. We now use the software version Novel netware LAN3.11 in the place of the old 2.2. This new version can take in 10 users at a time. Printing has also been speeded up.

#### **C. Documentation:**

Books, journals and reprints have been manually classified and kept in respectively labelled shelves for easy access. A well organised collection of reprints is also being maintained. Now the library is set to go in for computerisation. A section on News Clippings on Health and other related Social Sectors has also been set up and maintained to document contemporary trends which take some time to get commented in academic journals.

#### **D. Liaison with funders / Other Institutions / Voluntary Organisations:**

Regular contact was maintained with a number of Governmental as well as international funding organisations, other research institutions and voluntary organisations. The list too numerous to mention.

#### **E. Administration:**

The administration has been rendering useful support service to the research and other related activities of the Institute during the year.

I thank the Chairman, the President, the members of Board of Governors and General Body of the Institute for their advice and guidance at various points of time. My thanks are also due to the faculty, research assistants and administrative staff for their co-operation and hard work in making 1996-97 a fruitful year for the Institute.

Last but not the least, while concluding this presentation of the activities of the Institute during 1996-97, 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: December 21, 1997

Dr. Alex George, Director