

# 1.0 BACKGROUND AND RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

## Background

- 1.01 In the recent years, studies on the impact of various programs on the population and area targeted for development are gaining importance. This is due to the fact that increasingly Government is concerned about the delivery of services at the grass root level. While in the past, the Five Year Plans have focussed on planning of schemes and monitoring against targets, it is only recently that the need for measurement of impact from the recipient's angle has been more acutely felt.
- 1.02 Surveys done in the past have measured change and impact at one point of time on different target groups and places. These surveys done at one point of time provided data on the process of social change and impact of programs. They would not however provide evidence of the change over time. Hence the need for, direct evidence from measurements that have followed the process over different periods of time. Thus, the more recent approach to the analysis of social change advocates that several cross sectional surveys should be repeated on the same groups and places but at different points of time -  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$ ,  $T_3$ , etc.. This has been termed as, **Longitudinal Studies**.
- 1.03 Longitudinal Study research is being carried out extensively in Britain in the areas of Social Science and Health. The Office for National Statistics (ONS), UK, has conducted the ONS Longitudinal Study, based on the census and vital event data such as births, cancers and deaths. The ONS Longitudinal Study covered 1% of the population of England and Wales - approximately 500,000 individuals at any one census point. The study covered data on Longitudinal Study members in the years 1971, 1981 and 1991. In addition, information on other individuals living in the same household at each census, was also collected.
- 1.04 The National Child Development Study has been conducted by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS), Institution of Education, University of London. It is a continuous multi disciplinary LS which takes its subjects as all those living in Great Britain who were born between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of March 1958. Following this initial birth survey (Prenatal Mortality Survey - PMS), five attempts have been made to trace all members of the birth cohort in order to monitor their physical, educational, social and economic development. These were carried out by the National Children's Bureau in 1965, 1969, 1974, 1981 and 1991.
- 1.05 Other countries such as France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the USA conduct Longitudinal studies similar to the United Kingdom LS which is based on the linkage of census and event data (mainly information recorded on deaths).
- 1.06 In India, Concurrent Evaluation of projects, Annual Surveys and Impact Studies are being done. Also, monitoring and evaluation of the programme is gaining importance. These studies are being done directly by government agencies and also through other non- governmental agencies and consultants appointed by the Government. Benchmark studies done earlier have been re-surveyed in certain

cases. These re-surveys are aimed at understanding the social change over the period. However, the conduct of Longitudinal studies is fairly new and just beginning in India.

### **Relevance of the Study**

- 1.07 Longitudinal Studies (LS) play a key role in the policy decisions. Information on the target groups for policy, alternative options available for intervention and impact of new policies, require LS research. This area is gaining much importance in the recent days.
- 1.08 So far, LS which has been extensively carried out in the Health Sector, has now been extended to other areas such as rural housing, socio-economic inequalities, intergenerational effects of de-industrialisation etc.
- 1.09 Recognising the need for promoting Longitudinal study as a method of impact assessment, the Adviser, Planning Commission, on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1999, in his discussions with Mr.M.S.S.Varadan, Chairman, Kalpataru Research Foundation and Om Consultants (India) Pvt.Ltd, conveyed the need for an LS study to be initiated in Karnataka . It was indicated that six villages in the backward district of Chamarajanagar in the state of Karnataka could be taken up for this purpose. The information from this study would be utilised for further studies in the same villages at different time periods longitudinally to analyse changes in the social, economic and health sectors as a result of implementation of different welfare programs of the central and state governments.
- 1.10 Thus a proposal was submitted to the Planning Commission during November 1999 which was accepted by the Commission and the study was awarded to us during end February 2000. A draft report was submitted to the Planning Commission on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2000. This final report is prepared based on the comments received on the draft report.

### **Acknowledgements**

- 1.11 We are thankful to the Adviser, Planning Commission for having invited us to conduct this interesting and meaningful study. Also we thank the Deputy Adviser of the Planning Commission for reviewing the draft report. We also thank the Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Karnataka and the Director, Area Development, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Karnataka for extending all help for successful completion of the survey.
- 1.12 We place on our record the support received from the Chief Executive Officer and his staff of Chamarajanagar Zilla Panchayat. Also, we acknowledge the cooperation extended by the Executive Officers of the four Taluk Panchayats, their staff and Officials of line departments in the district. We thank the community and the elected representatives of the sample villages for extending full cooperation during the survey.

# KARNATAKA

