

## **CHAPTER - 8**

### **FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS**

#### **8.1 Adoption wonderful concept**

Adoption serves the double purpose of giving a child a home and giving parents a child. It is wonderful social institution, one that every civilized society supports and yet, in India, there is frequently a shroud of secrecy around adoptions.

#### **8.2 Child adoption in India**

There are 326 adoption agencies in India. Out of this 254 (77.9 per cent) are Specialized and Licensed Agencies for In-country adoption and the remaining 72 are Recognized Indian Placement Agency for Inter-country. There are 28 states in India, of which 12 states viz. Andaman, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Tripura do not possess a recognized placement agencies for Inter-Country adoption whereas Pondicherry, the Union territory does not have a licensed adoption placement agency for In-country adoption. Maharashtra ranks first in number of adoption agencies 63 (23 RIPAs and 40 SAA) followed by Karnataka 31 (06 RIPAs and 25 SAA), Andhara Pradesh, 29 (01 RIPAs and 28 SAA), Tamil Nadu, 24 (09 RIPAs and 15 SAA), Kerala (05 RIPAs and 16 SAA) and Uttar Pradesh (01 RIPAs and 20 SAA) each has 21 centres, Gujarat 18 (04 RIPAs and 14 SAA), Orissa 17 (03 RIPAs and 14 SAA) West Bengal 15 (04 RIPAs and 11 SSA) Delhi 11 (07 RIPAS and 4 SAA) and Madhya Pradesh 11 SAA. The remaining 17 states are having less than 10 agencies. The southern states are playing a major role in adoption and have more number of agencies compared to northern states. Tamil Nadu ranks first in Inter-country adoption among Southern States where as it ranks second having 9 RIPAs next to Maharashtra 23 RIPAs and 4<sup>th</sup> in 15 SAA after Andhra Pradesh (28 RIPAs) and Kerala (16 RIPAs).

#### **8.3 Child adoption in Tamil Nadu**

Twenty two licensed adoption agencies in Tamil Nadu are doing both In-country and Inter-country adoption. Out of 22 agencies eight agencies are located in Chennai, three in Coimbatore, each two in Madurai and Salem and the remaining 7 districts viz. Trichy, Hosur, Dindugal, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin, Vellore and Cuddalore have only one agency. Another important aspect of these agencies is that, both In-country and Inter-country adoptions are taken by Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore and

Trichy Adoption Agencies and other agencies are doing only In-Country. Adoption Coordinating Agency in Chennai is coordinating all these Adoption Agencies. Total number of babies' received by various placement agencies in Tamil Nadu were 3896, out of which 3048 (78.23 per cent) were female babies and the remaining was male babies. It was observed that from the table, 598 babies (15.35 per cent) received in 2002-2003 and it had increased to 627 (16.09 per cent) in 2003-2004. Afterwards, there is a decline to 341 (8.75 per cent) in 2009-2010.

These babies are either surrendered by biological parents to the Adoption Centers or abandoned in dust bin, river bank etc. It is quite obvious to note that surrendered babies' 1983 (50.89 per cent) were more than abandoned babies 1913 (49.11 per cent). The highest number of surrendered babies are 372 (18.76 per cent) in 2003-2004 and 261 (13.64 per cent) babies are abandoned in 2006-2007. It shows that the numbers of both surrendered and abandoned babies are gradually reducing, but the decline is more in the case of surrendered babies than abandoned babies. It is due to small family norm, Government schemes like Girl Child Protection Scheme, Free education, Noon meal scheme etc.

The total number of children for In- Country adoption was 3509, out of which 2763 (78.75 per cent) were female babies and 746 (21.25 per cent) were male babies. Number of In-Country adoption has been increased from 418 (11.91 per cent) in 2002 - 2003 to 506 (14.42 per cent) in 2005 - 2006. There is a decline afterwards from 456 (12.99 per cent) in 2006-2007 to 350 (9.97 per cent) in 2009-2010. It is quite common to note that 78.75 per cent of female babies are adopted in In-Country adoption than male babies.

Inter-Country adoption has shown a fluctuating trend. It was as low as 25 (7.53 per cent) in 2002-2003 which has increased again to the maximum of 68 (20.48 per cent) in 2005-2006, then declined to 31(9.33 per cent) in 2008-2009 and has increased again to 33(9.93 per cent) in 2009-2010. Here again female babies' 256 (77.11 per cent) adoption is more than male babies 73 (22.89 per cent) adoption.

Total number of babies' placed by NRI is very meagre (49 babies). It was just only one male (2.04 per cent) baby in 2002-2003 which gradually increased to 13(26.53 per cent) in 2009-2010 It is observed that only 4 females babies in 2003-2004, each three in 2004-2005 and 2005 – 2006.

Total number of babies 236 were transferred from Adoption Agencies to specialized rehabilitation centres and other placement agencies. It was 57 (24.15 per cent) babies in 2002-2003 and thereafter , there was a decline in babies' transfer and 26 (11.02 per cent) in 2009-2010. It is due to gradual reduction in total number of babies received.

Sometimes biological parents want to get back their babies from the Adoption Agency. It is found th at 251 babies' were reintegrated to their biological parents. Out of which 178 (70.92 per cent) female babies' and 73 (29.08 per cent) male babies. A maximum of 48 (19.12 per cent) babies have been returned in 2004-2005 and only minimum of 13 (5.17 per cent) babies are reintegrated in 2008-2009.

It is evident from the table that 767 babies' in the Agencies were expired due to illness, pre mature babies, under weight, major diseases and mal nutrition. Even though the Agencies have taken medical care of these babies, sometimes, it is more difficult to rescue the babies' life with continuous medical interventions. Such types of babies were more 174 (22.69 per cent) in 2003-2004 and it was only 30 (3.91 per cent) in 2009-2010. It was found that 600 (78.23 per cent) female babies and 167 (21.77 per cent) male babies were died from 2002 to 2010.

#### **8.4 Inter Country adoption**

All over the world, In-Country Adoption is promoted and prepared, and it is in this context that Inter-Country adoption must be understood. A destitute, orphan child is best rehabilitated if she lives with a family that can provide permanent care and security, rather than in an institutional set up; and further, the child integrates best with in the Country of her own origin, because she is able to identify best in a cultural milieu that is closed to her own routes. In the event however, that there is no suitable family with in the Country child's origin, then the child may be rehabilitated through Inter Country Adoption.

All the Inter-Country adoptions are processed in India under the Guardians and Wards Act of 1890, and hence are not complete or final adoptions. It is absolutely crucial that all these children are adopted according to the relevant adoption laws of the adoptive parent's Country. Only then would these children be conferred the same status as that of a biological child and enjoy equal rights of inheritance and citizenship.

All Inter-Country Adoptions are governed by Supreme Court Guidelines which are stipulated by the Government of India. They require a certificate stating that the child has been released for Inter-Country Adoptions. Before an Inter-Country adoption placement is proposed, the Indian adoption agency must ensure that the prospective adoptive parents have received the necessary permission for finalizing the adoption in their Country from the relevant authority.

### **8.5 In-country adoption**

In-country adoption is the adoption of a child of whom the county has custody, often because of alleged abuse or neglect on the part of the child's natural parents. It is not uncommon for foster parents to seek to adopt such children after they have been placed in their care for a while. To accomplish that, the county will bring a proceeding to terminate the parents' rights, thereby making the child available for adoption by the foster parent or someone else.

### **8.6 Methodology**

Therefore an attempt is made to analyze Life Line Trust a placement agency in Salem district of Tamil Nadu which creates a link between childless parents and parentless child. Within 3 years of its inception since 2002, it stood first in In-country adoption (54) in 2005-2006 among 26 adoption agencies in Tamil Nadu and totally 350 babies are placed throughout Tamil Nadu and 3 babies are given to other states like Kerala and Pondicherry.

The present research project is an exploratory study of Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAP) who came to the LLT adoption. Some of the PAPs were successful in adopting and others not. In order to gain a better insight into the adoptive experience, it was decided to study that PAPs who having applied for adoption did not complete the process. Hence two groups were identified Group-I consisted of those adoptive parents (AP) who had completed adoption through LLT and called PAP-A. Group-II consisted of those who did not adopt but applied, through LLT called PAP-B.

An attempt was made to trace the PAP in LLT and contact all the Tamil Nadu based prospective adoptive parents: all those who adopted PAP-A and those who only applied for adoption PAP-B. Information on those cases was obtained from the agency files and 350 prospective adoptive parents PAP-A and 40 PAP-B living in Tamil Nadu were selected and interviewed.

### **8.7 Babies' intake**

Out of 539 babies taken by LLT over a period of ten years from 2002 April to 2011 December, 478 (88.7 per cent) were female babies and the rest were male babies. In 2003, maximum number of babies (91) has been taken by LLT out of which 82 are female babies accounting for 90 per cent and the rest were male babies. From then onwards, there has been a decline the number of babies intake.

### **8.8 Babies intake from Cradle baby System**

In the wake of several reports on the incidences of female infanticide in Tamil Nadu, the State Government introduced a scheme of "Cradle Baby" at the end of 1992. Under the scheme, if a couple does not want a newly born female child, she can be deposited in the cradle provided at Public Health Centers or Noon-Meal Centers and from then on, the child's future becomes responsibility of the State Government instead of resorting to female infanticide.

Babies' intake from Cradle Babies System in different districts viz. Salem (63.23 per cent), Dharmapuri (28.31 per cent), Erode (3.31 per cent), Trichy(1.83 per cent), Namakkal (1.10 per cent), Cuddalore (0.74 per cent), Perambalur (0.74 per cent) and Tirupur(0.74 per cent). LLT had been taken babies from its own district i.e. Salem (172) and Dharmapuri (77) since 2002 onwards, whereas it starts taking three babies from Erode in 2004, four babies in 2005 and only two babies in 2011, totally nine babies from Erode Cradle Babies System, which is followed by Trichy three in 2008 and two in 2009, Namakkal one in 2010 and two in 2011, Cuddalore only two babies in 2010, Perambalur each one in 2007 and 2008 and lastly they have taken two babies from Tirupur Cradle Baby System. Maximum of 44 babies are taken from Cradle Baby System in 2003, out of which 77.27 per cent from Salem CBS and the remaining 22.73 per cent from Dharmapuri.

LLT has taken 272 babies from Government cradle baby system. Out of which 90.44 per cent are female babies and only 9.56 per cent are male babies. Female infanticide is the main reason for having more female babies coming to cradle baby system. The intake of babies is more during 2005 (17.3 per cent) and then it has come down to 4.8 per cent in 2011, which is the lowest intake of the home since 2002. In order to provide quality service to the babies, in 2005, the LLT has decided to take not more than 15 babies at any time in the centre. In 2010 as LLT has constructed its own

building with more infrastructures, they are able to maintain 35 babies in the Babies' home. It is quite interesting to note that maximum of 96.88 per cent of female babies and minimum of 3.12 per cent of male babies were taken in 2006.

#### **8.9 Babies intake directly by Life Line Trust**

It is found that 267 babies were taken directly by the LLT from 2002 to 2011. Maximum babies (47) were taken during 2003 and thereafter the intake of babies declined to 9.4 per cent in 2011. Out of 267 babies 87.2 per cent were female babies and 12.8 per cent were male babies. It is people's trust and confidence on LLT, which motivates them to surrender babies directly to LLT.

#### **8.10 Category of babies' intake**

Out of 539 babies received by the LLT up to 2011, 78.85 per cent were surrendered babies by the biological parents due to poverty, preference for boy baby, more children and astrological reasons. The remaining 21.15 per cent babies were abandoned by the biological parents and their relatives in various ways like leaving the babies in the street, dust bin, road side, in front of hospital, police station, church, temple, child line and collector office. Maximum intake of babies 91 (16.88 per cent) by LLT was in 2003 out of which, 92.3 per cent were surrendered babies, only 7.7 per cent were abandoned. The lowest intake was in 2011 with 38 babies (7.05 per cent), it is quite interesting to note that abandoned babies (60.52 per cent) were greater than surrendered babies (39.48 per cent). Total surrendered female babies 400 (83.68 per cent) were more than abandoned female babies 78 (16.32 per cent), whereas, total abandoned male babies 36 (59.02 per cent) were greater than surrendered male babies 25 (40.98 per cent). Some babies are abandoned or surrendered other than biological parents due to death of parents or the child may be illegitimate child.

#### **8.11 Twin babies received**

During, these Ten years, from 2002 to 2011, except 2006 and 2011, LLT has received only 8 twins. Out of these, 6 (75.00 per cent) were female twins and two were both male and female. There were no male twins received in this centre. It is quite surprising to note that some of the parents are willing to take twins, instead of Single baby, with double happiness.

### **8.12 Babies' Reintegration**

It is really fortunate that 54 babies were reintegrated to their biological parents during the period 2002 to 2011, out of which 49 were female babies and only five were male babies. It is found that 16.4 per cent of female babies were integrated to their biological parents in 2003 and in 2005, 18.4 per cent were the highest level compared to other years.

### **8.13 Babies' transfer**

It is evident that 36 (6.86 per cent) babies have been transferred to other Inter Country Adoption Centers for better rehabilitation and placement. Maximum of seven babies (19.5 per cent) in 2004 and six (16.7 per cent) in 2010 were transferred from LLT to Inter Country Adoption Centres like 'Families for Children', at Coimbatore, Karna, Prayag Trust at Chennai. Out of 36 babies transferred, 77.78 per cent were female babies and the remaining 22.22 per cent were male babies. There was no male babies transferred during 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2011, and even female babies were not transferred in 2006. The main reason for transferring the babies to Inter-country adoption centers is due to chronic health problems, which was not easy to cure and maintained locally.

### **8.14 Babies' death**

It is really very sad to note that even after continuous medical treatment, 54 babies (10 per cent of Babies' intake) were dead. The main reasons are inborn diseases, pre mature birth, low birth weight, congenital disorder, infections – septicaemia and low immune power. Out of 54, 90.74 per cent were female babies and 9.26 per cent were male babies. The highest number of death was in 2003 (33 babies) (61.2 per cent), because babies intake was more both in LLT and Government Cradle Baby System. There was no babies' death during 2005 and 2007. Deaths of male babies were only two in 2003 and each one in 2004, 2006 and 2011.

### **8.15 Babies' Foster care**

Totally, 382 babies (70.87 per cent) are given under foster care from 2002 to 2011. Out of which 89.79 per cent were female babies and only 10.21 per cent were male babies. Maximum of 55 babies (14.4 per cent) were given under foster care in 2005 because of improvement in quality care and development of the LLT. Here again female babies (94.55 per cent) were more than male babies (5.45 per cent) in the same

year. In the first year of LLT in 2002, only 7.07 per cent were given for foster care, it was due to low registration of prospective adoptive parents. It was observed that maximum of 15.39 per cent of male babies were also given for foster care during 2003, (12.82 per cent) each in 2007 and 2009. There is a declining trend in foster care both for male and female babies during the study period.

### **8.16 Legalization**

During the establishment of adoption by Life Line Trust in the year 2002, the legalization of adoption of babies was not carried out in the Salem District court. It was Life Line Trust, that has taken lots of measures for introducing the amendment in connection with the legalization of adoption in Salem District court from 2004 and onwards. Ninety one per cent of adopted babies were legalized under Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act. During 2004 only nine babies out of 304, were legalized to enjoy all the privileges akin to biological babies under HAMA, it has attained as 76 babies in 2010 and only 46 in 2011. In aggregate total, 81.5 per cent were female babies and the remaining were male babies. Under Guardian and Ward Act, only 14 babies (12 female babies and 2 male babies) particularly Muslims and Christians were legalized during 2005 - 2011, but during 2006 and 2008, there was no legalization under this GAWA Act.

Juvenile Justice Act 2000, which is one of the secular Acts, is the apt source to adopt babies to defend their rights and this JJ Act is more secured than the other two Acts for the adoption. In Salem District, LLT started adopting babies under this Act only from 2009 and onwards, during 2009 only one baby got adopted under this Act and 16 babies (94.12 per cent) in 2011. Overall, 17 babies (16 female babies and one male baby) were legalized under this Act.

### **8.17 Relationship between registered parents, Babies' intake and Babies' placed**

The waiting period of registered parents, babies' intake and babies' placed is explained. Number of registered parents in the beginning was only 45 (8.78 per cent) in 2002, reached maximum of 74 (14.42 per cent) in 2007 and then it reduced to 31 (6.04 per cent) in 2011. Number of Babies' intake was 64 (11.87 per cent) in 2002, 91 (16.88 per cent) in 2003 and it declined to 38 (7.05 per cent) in 2011, whereas the number of babies placed is only 27 (7.07 per cent) in 2002, reached a maximum of 55 (14.40 per cent) in 2005 and later on it has decreased to 22 (5.76 per cent) in 2011.



1. There is very low degree of positive correlation between registered parents and babies' intake, which shows that babies' placed, is taking more active role for register parents instead of babies' intake.
2. There is positively moderate correlation between registered parents and babies' placed. Co-efficient of determination ( $r^2 = 0.62$ ) shows more scope for babies' placed in the future.

#### **8.18 Religion of Adopted parents**

Majority of the PAP - A are Hindus (90 per cent), only 8 per cent are Christians and there is negligible percentage of Muslim (02) and in PAP-B, 87.5 per cent are Hindus and remaining are Christian and no Muslim. This shows that Hindu PAP is more interested in child adoption than Christian and Muslim.

#### **8.19 Community of adopted parents**

Fifty per cent of PAP-A belongs to backward community, 27 per cent most backward community, 16 per cent forward community, and only seven per cent belongs to schedule caste and schedule tribes. It is quite interesting to note that even forward community people, who are very orthodox, have also adopted children, without knowing the community of the child which shows their changed outlook. In PAP – B also BC community (55 per cent) is more than other community.

#### **8.20 Family structure of adopted parents**

It is evident that nuclear type of family is more (75 per cent) than other family structure like joint family (18 per cent), extended family (5 per cent) and only 6 single parent in PAP-A and in PAP-B, 65 per cent are nuclear family and remaining are in extended (20 per cent) and joint family (15 per cent).

#### **8.21 Age of the adopted parents**

Out of 350 adopted parents, four fathers and two mothers expired after child adoption due to accident and severe illness. The highest number of PAP comes under 36-40 age groups (56.48 per cent) followed by 41-45 age group, in which 35 per cent of PAP were found, meagre number of 6.48 per cent in 0-35 age group and only 14 PAF comes under 46-50 age group because it was more difficult to look after a child as PAM grew older. There is no PAP and PAM above 50 years of age. PAF dominates 41-

45 age group (93.41 per cent) whereas more PAM comes under 36-40 age group (73.98 per cent). The mean age of the PAF is 43 years and PAM is 38 years.

#### **8.22 Education of adopted parents**

There is no illiterate parent which is a good sign of adoption, because they must have thorough knowledge about the rules and procedures of adoption. Majority of the PAP (56.48 per cent) have studied up to +2 where 52.55 per cent are female and the remaining 47.45 per cent are male. 33.86 per cent of adoptive parents are Graduate, but in this category (55.32 per cent) female Graduates are more than male Graduates. Post Graduate is only 8.79 per cent, but here, male Post Graduates (83.61 per cent) are more than female. It is interesting to note that four males and two females have got their doctoral degree. Therefore, educational qualification of the adopted parents shows that educational background of this PAP is good.

#### **8.23 Occupation of adopted parents**

The maximum of 22 per cent of PAP are employed in Professional/Technical line (77.03 per cent) in PAF and 22.97 per cent PAM. Secondly, Business/self employed is more in PAF (23 per cent) and PAM (18 per cent). There is no labour and mill workers in PAM. 120 PAM are house wives and they do not work in any field. There are no unemployed persons in PAF. It is found that maximum of 82.35 per cent of PAF are working in service sector and 68.42 per cent PAM are in sales and clerical jobs.

#### **8.24 Financial background of the adopted parents**

It is found that maximum of 35.45 per cent of PAP come under the income group of Rs.10001 to Rs.25000, where, 64.63 per cent are PAF and remaining 35.37 per cent are PAM. Only 9.83 per cent of PAF are earning more than Rs.50,000/- and 34.48 per cent of PAM are not earning anything because they are housewives. It is found that 12.14 per cent of PAF and 9.48 per cent of PAM are earning in the range of Rs.25, 001 to Rs.50,000. Maximum number (45.95 per cent) of PAF's earning fall in the range of Rs.10,001 to Rs.25,000 and 31 per cent of PAM and 32 per cent of PAF come under the income group of below Rs.10,000.

### **8.25 Parental Age at the Time of Adoption**

The highest number of PAP comes under 36-40 age groups (56.48 per cent) followed by 41-45 age group, in which 35 per cent of PAP were found, meagre number of 6.48 per cent in 0-35 age group and only 14 PAF comes under 46-50 age group because it was more difficult to look after a child as PAM grew older. There is no PAP and PAM above 50 years of age. PAF dominates 41-45 age group (93.41 per cent) whereas more PAM comes under 36-40 age group (73.98 per cent). The mean age of the PAF is 43 years and PAM is 38 years.

### **8.26 State wise babies in Foster Care**

LLT has placed more babies only in Tamil Nadu (98.32 per cent) and the remaining 1.68 per cent was given to Kerala and Pondicherry for foster care, because these states have their own Adoption Centres. It has placed 90.17 per cent female babies and 9.83 per cent of male babies. Only four female babies to Kerala and one male and one female to Pondicherry.

### **8.27 District wise distribution of Adopted Babies**

Almost all districts in Tamil Nadu have adopted babies from LLT except Perumbalur, Ramanathapuram, Theni, Thoothukudi and Thiruvavarur. It is observed that 90.29 per cent of female babies were adopted in 27 districts remaining 9.71 per cent of male babies were adopted in Chennai, Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Erode, Madurai, Namakkal, Salem, Thiruchirapalli, Thirunelveli and Thiruvallur. Chennai ranks first in adopting more number of male babies (10) and female babies (80) followed by Salem (9 males and 62 females), Coimbatore (7 males and 34 females), Erode (1 male and 23 females), Namakkal (2 males and 20 females), Thiruchirappalli (1 male and 12 females) and Tirupur (12 females) and other districts have adopted only less than 8 female babies.

### **8.28 Reasons for adoption**

241 (68.86 per cent) of adopted parents had given infertility is the reasons for their adoption, for Legal heir 52 (14.86 per couples), for future security 29 (8.29 per cent) couples, for happiness 10 (2.86 per cent) couples and to prevent the risk for second marriage 9 (2.56 per cent) couples which is followed by medical problems (8.28 per cent) such as high blood pressure, sensitive uterus, spontaneous abortions, hormone

problems, obesity and genetic reasons. To extend their family size only 1.14 percent eligible couples came forward for adoption.

### **8.29 Reasons for Childlessness**

Maximum of 76.3 per cent of PAP are not at all conceived to have a biological child. Frequent abortion for 15.7 per cent of PAM because their uterus is not supportive to bear a child. The remaining 26 PAM have premature birth, still birth, babies born with severe genetic diseases and alive babies with retardation. PAPs found childlessness which is not easy to accept. This was particularly so where parents having congenital and primary sterility were concerned. Mothers were consequently more willing to adopt than fathers. More PAMs felt inadequate and inferior about the fact of childlessness than PAFs.

### **8.30 Motivation for Adoption**

Only 28 per cent of PAP are motivated by Adopted parents, which is followed by relatives (20%) like in-laws and parents, Doctors and social workers (17%) are also motivated them. Even 16 per cent PAP are motivated by the adoption agencies, 10 per cent by media, books, TV and internet and remaining 9 per cent by Friends.

### **8.31 Male versus Female preference**

Fifty PAPs have desired to have male child, but the agency usually have more of female babies and very less of male babies. Therefore only 33 PAPs have adopted male babies. It is really unbelievable that 270 PAPs have desired to have female babies but 293 (83.7 per cent) PAPs have adopted female babies. 22 PAPs were not particular about to take any child but 18 PAPs have taken female children and the remaining 8 PAPs are lucky enough to adopt 6 twin babies.

### **8.32 Support System for Early Child Care**

Sixty per cent of adoptive children are supported by their grandparents, 24 per cent by their relatives, and 10 per cent by maid servants, neighbours and friends. But it is quite disheartening to note that the 21 remaining (6 per cent) adoptive children have nobody to support them instead of their adoptive parents.

### **8.33 Parental Involvement in Childcare**

The score obtained helped in categorizing the level of parental involvement in the adoptive parents. For mothers, high parental involvement is found in 260 (74.71 per

cent) cases. In 83 (23.85 per cent) families the involvement is moderate and only in 5 (1.44 per cent) cases it is low. Among fathers, only 22 (6.36 per cent) have obtained a rating of high involvement. In 192 (55.49 per cent) cases the involvement is medium and in 132 cases (38.15 per cent), it is low.

#### **8.34 Perceived parental orientation towards the child**

A majority of children believed that their parents regarded them as “good”. No instance did the child feel that the negative opinion from mother. Fathers, in comparison with mothers, were perceived as holding a more positive orientation towards their children. This was construed from specific aspects of the parent – child interactions. Mothers were viewed as scolding more frequently, being ‘stricter’ and enforcing discipline.

Ho Null Hypothesis: There is no correlation between overall assessment by the child to parental affection.

To test the null hypothesis chi- square test is used. The results indicate that calculated value 23.98 is less than table value 7.851, the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis  $H_1$  is accepted. There is correlation between overall assessment by the child and parental affection.

#### **8.35 Disclosure Status and Inclusion**

The inclusion of members in the household was not associated with disclosure status. The children’s notion of the family in relation to the disclosure status indicated that the differences at different levels of disclosure were not statistically significant.

The directionality of difference in perceived parental self-worth and children’s affective orientation indicated that they attributed a high level of positive affect towards their parents in comparison with their own perception regarding parental assessment of them.

#### **8.36 Parental Perception of Child’s Self-worth**

The main finding is that, a more self-evaluation probably transcends a summation of perceptions based on individual traits. Several children, during the course of the interview, expressed their approval of parental opinions and accepted that what parents said was for their own good. The overall affective orientation of feeling loved by one’s parents appeared to be stronger than negative trait evaluations as an

antecedent of self-worth. Therefore it is not just what parents say but the underlying sentiment that children pick upon.

### **8.37 Disclosure Status and Inclusion**

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The directionality of difference in perceived parental self-worth and children's affective orientation indicated that they attributed a high level of positive affect towards their parents in comparison with their own perception regarding parental assessment of them.

### **8.38 Major hurdles to parents who want to adopt a child**

It is observed that 120 (34.29) adopted parents told that the age limit (above 45 years) is the major hurdle for the parents in baby adoption. Some adopted parents expressed long waiting period 51(14.57 per cent), lack of family support 48(13.71), long adoption procedure 26(7.43 per cent) and felt more hurdles for single parent 19(5.43).

### **8.39 Suggestions**

The research shows that all agencies and associations concerned with adoption should make greater effort in two directions: (a) to dispel the notion that Indian parents are selective and encourage Indian parents to adopt in large numbers. The research indicates that the majority of the A.P.s has had a successful and satisfying experience. (b) Concerned organizations should be organized in explaining to the lay public what adoption means, and help in doing away with the notion that A.C. because of his/her unknown heritage has necessarily to have a bad heredity, and will therefore cause trouble in later life.

### **Counselling services**

The struggle of families with developmental issues specific to adopted children was addressed through the setting up of multiple counselling centres. Over the last few years these centres have not only done pre-and post adoptive counselling, but have also organised therapy for children who came to agencies physically or sexually abused.

## **Guidance**

Today's parents are providing their children with everything, except Guidance. Children need parental love and care more than their money. Children are burdened with peer and academic pressure. If they don't get emotional support from parent, their mental health will be weakened.

## **Psychological counselling sessions**

Adoptive parents need to understand that adoptive children are becoming more sensitive and their tolerance level is coming down. Their capacity to tolerate even a minor insult has come down. In order to improve adoptive children's mental health, the quality of parenting needs to be improved. Today there are fewer family member involved in parenting. There is lack of trust between children and adoptive parents. Over-caring parent often does not allow children to mix with their peer which deny them free exchange of thoughts.

## **Conduct group meetings to prospective adoptive parents**

It is recommended that A.P.s may have group meetings to discuss their problems and find out what is their common feeling of guilt or difference or inadequacy, which have prevented them so far from telling the child, because a lot of ambivalence exists about this area. Association with other A.P.s specially those who have already told, would give encouragement and help to the others to tell. As the research shows parents make up their minds to tell, when they feel more confident about parent child relationship. An assurance that telling the child will make the adoptive experience happier for both for parents and the adopted Child and it strengthening the parent-child relation-A.P.s who have told their children. They would thus know that there is no harmful repercussion in telling the child of his/her adoptive status.

This would also help them to face whatever opposition they may encounter from family, friends and the community. In fact social workers should prepare them to face the same in any case explaining to them the present lack of understanding that society has towards adoption.

## **Awareness through Internet**

Bringing adoption on internet is the first step in the direction of making the entire process of adoption transparent, and to demystify the myths and confusion

surrounding adoption. There is very little awareness among the people about the issues, laws and procedures involved in adopting a child. Even though it has been observed that there is an increasing desire among the Indian parents to go for adoption but there is hardly any information available to such couples.

### **Government support**

The endeavour of the government, therefore, would be to spread the information among the people about the agencies involved in adoption, laws and procedures formulated for adoption. The department would also like to promote adoption among more and more Indian families. Social welfare organizations should discourage secret adoptions which usually mean no supervision. Thus, if problem arise A.P.s do not know where to turn for help. Again they may not get the benefit of the case workers advice on how to handle the adopted child later on.

### **Advertisement and Publicity**

Advertisement and publicity through newspaper has been proposed, as it is the most important media to reach masses for spreading awareness. Similarly, hoarding has been proposed at prominent places for promoting adoption.

It is therefore proposed to make publicity for promoting adoption with the help of television network. It is also proposed to print posters and distribute the same to the various functionaries including government officials and display them in various public places in both Tamil and English to promote adoption.

### **Reports and Documentation**

There is no guide book available to the adoptive parents or even for the persons associated with adoption about the laws relating to adoption, licensing agencies and their addresses, etc. It is therefore proposed to print a guide book which could be distributed not only to the agencies involved in adoption, but also the district officials to inform them and the public about the adoption procedures, as there is no awareness about the legal procedure involved in giving abandoned and surrendered child in adoption.

The efforts at making adoptive parenting more open led to the realization that more and more children may seek information about their back ground. This led to the development of a programme called roots. The focus of this programme was to



encourage adoption agencies to document information on birth mothers who relinquish their children. These include information on physical features of parents, health related information likes and dislikes. Without revealing identifies the person, this may be given to adopted adults if they come in search of their back grounds.

#### **Interactive sessions**

Interactive sessions between parents willing to adopt, licensing agency, VCA, adoptive parents association and adoption cell in the Directorate of Social Welfare and district officials, is extremely important to discuss in detail the problems encountered by the various functionaries involved in adoption. It is therefore proposed to have brain storming sessions to thrash out the problems concerning adoption.

#### **Each District one adoption centre concept**

At present, there are 22 licensed agencies to take up adoption in the cities of Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Tuticorin, Madurai, Kancheepuram, Dharmapuri, Thiruvallur, Namakkal, Dindigul, Nagapattinam, Tirunelveli and Salem. However, there is no agency in other districts. It is therefore proposed to identify one such agency in every district of Tamil Nadu and train them thoroughly for 3 days about the adoption procedures.

#### **Celebration of adoption day in the second week of November every year**

It is proposed that one day could be celebrated as the Adoption Day in the second week of November every year to promote and publicize by organizing seminars, conferences, rallies, etc.,

#### **Developing resource centre**

It is proposed to develop a resource centre in the directorate which will be the repository of information available about adoption including the adoption details and matters relating to each state throughout the country and even about other countries and some journals dealing with adoption, books about adoptions etc. It is proposed to provide a personal computer with a printer to store the data relating to adoption.

#### **Quality time spent by the adopted parent with the adopted child**

Unfortunately, the time spent by adoptive parents with their children cannot make up for it. Also, these days parent themselves decide the future of their wards without caring for their talent or preference. They give them all comforts of life and expect them to score 99 per cent marks in examinations.

Adoptive parents are busy with their schedule. Television plays spoilsport too. The joint family system should be revived for the well-being of children as well as elders. Also, parents should ensure their wards study in a school within 1 or 2 kms radius from home.

#### **Adopted parents unconditional love and support.**

Children are under a lot of pressure. Adoptive parents should learn to acknowledge child's emotions and their needs. They need unconditional love and support. Parents must tell children that they are readily available for them whenever they need them. Parents should spend quality time with children. Listen to their talks and keep encouraging them. Adoptive parents should build confidence in children.

#### **Support from school and school teachers**

School authorities should avoid insulting children for silly mistakes. Minimal punishment followed by counselling will yield good results. Many parents admit their wards to schools that assign more home work which is disastrous. Older should understand the secret of happiness that half a loaf is better than no loaf.

Teachers shouldn't humiliate and persecute adoptive children who are slow in learning. On the contrary, they should pay extra attention to bring them on par with others. After all understanding and retaining capacity differs from person to person. Adoptive parents and teachers need to observe children and ascertain the feelings behind their behavior. Adoptive children should be encouraged to identify and express their feelings, and also understand the feelings and emotions of others. They should learn self control, face challenges, and handle negative feelings and emotions. Teachers, who are second parent, also can influence the emotional quotient of a child.

There should be a National Policy on how to handle school-going kids. Teachers have to educate student on managing stress. The Government should held orientation programs for parent and teacher to ensure non-occurrence of any grave situation.

#### **Encouragement and support from External factors**

Apart from poor parenting, external factor like excessively strict or untrained teachers add to children's emotional weakness. In the highly competitive world, it is important for adoptive parent and teachers to set reachable targets for adoptive

children. Unrealistic targets results in frustration. Stop comparing them with others and reward them for good deeds. All that a children needs is some encouragement and support.

### **Adoptive Parent groups/Net works of adopted people**

The strength of adoptive parent groups and groups of adopted individuals has not been harnessed in the effort to change adoption practices. The Central Adoption Resource Agency must give recognition to these groups wherever they exist and utilise them for promotional work in adoption. They may also be used to strengthen the demands for a uniform adoption law, maternity and paternity leave for adopting children and issuance of birth certificates to adoptees. Representation of members from parent support groups on the VCA and the CARA executive are ideas that have faced vehement opposition from several quarters but could well be tried out. Accountability and transparency in the various structures that are involved in adoption could be an important part of the agenda of the numerous parent support groups.

Several adoptive families that required, advice and assistance in parenting legal issues, social attitudes etc. It was clear that answers provided at an individual level were not always satisfactory. Hence, an urgent need was felt for establishing adoption support groups. The activities of the group included holding parent meetings, social events and sensitization workshops for school teachers and children. This group has been able to help several adopted children feel less isolated and families feel less alone in the task of parenting. Isolated groups are running immensely active parent support groups.

### **Adoptee Net works**

If not immediately, then within next few years, children adopted individuals may want to form net works, which provide support to each other. A handful of such groups exist in the country but not enough to impact policy or practice. Such groups would be useful in acting as pressure groups for securing the rights of the adoptee, such as the right to a birth certificate, the right to succession in case of adoption through the JJ Act or the right to information on birth parents, to name a few. Information on genetic back ground to enable preventive and curative measures for adoptive health may be a cause for maintaining good documentation on birth parents. In this present social milieu, neither the birth parents nor the adoptive parent's feels the need to maintain or open records, something the adoptee may wish to have a right to. .

#### **8.40 Areas for Future Research**

The present research throws light on the attitudes and emotions of the prospective adoptive parents, adopted children and immediate family. These findings may be applicable to all the PAPs who approached the adoption placement Agency as there are similarities in important socio-economic characteristics. But it would be useful to have a large scale research in the light of these findings, on similar lines, covering different sections of the population.

One of the important areas of research would be an in depth study of community attitude with a representative sample of different sections of the population, in view of the unfavourable remarks that PAPs faced.

Another important area of research would be with reference to telling the child of his/her adoption and not telling him/her about it. A detailed study between the two groups would be needed that would clearly establish differences between them.

Another interesting area for research would be a study of the adopted children taking into consideration the factor of emotional insecurity. A controlled group of children not adopted would be needed as well as group of adopted children further divided into two groups of being told and not about the adoptive status.

## **CONCLUSION**

Adoption undoubtedly, offers an important avenue for the care and protection of an abandoned, destitute or neglected child in a family setting and provides an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding for the realization of his/her talents and potentials. It carries with it all the emotional, physical and material security necessary for the proper development of the child and also serves as the most reliable means of preventing situations associated with a abuse, exploitation and social maladjustment of abandoned, destitute and neglected children. The Nation's children are supremely important assets. Their nurture and solicitude are people responsibility; the study confirms that adoption is not only a viable alternative for the child who has been deprived of his/her birth parents, but also for the childless who anxious to parent.

Adoption of a child is a noble approach and adoption centers are the acting bridge to facilitate this process. Hence, they need to be encouraged and supported by the citizens of the country, thereby to ensure that every child has a home and a positive childhood to cherish and for better future.

## APPENDIX

