

CHAPTER - ONE

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION

AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTION

" Mahilashram Langa " is an Institution run by a team of Social Workers. Mahilashram, Langa is one of the foremost public Institution that looks after orphans and women in Distress in Maharashtra. As it was founded in 1957 it is completing 27 years of its useful existence. It is located at a small town Langa in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra on the Bombay- Goa Highway, at a distance of about 375 kms from Bombay.

Mahilashram as an Institution has been registered under the Public Trust Act, 1950. The Income Tax Department has granted it an Income-Tax exemption Certificate under NO. P 165/M 69, 67-77.

Mahilashram Langa an Institution was established in 1957 by two sisters, late Smt. JANKIBAI TENDUIKAR and Smt. SHANTABAI TENDUIKAR to rehabilitate Women caught up in unfortunate circumstances. The Mahilashram was set up Primarily to help women in financial difficulties and living a life of dependence to stand on their own feet, by imparting them general education and training in nursing, teaching, tailoring etc. So that they could earn their livelihood. The Institution also helps to

rehabilitate women who have gone astray mostly because of poverty. It gives shelter to unhappy children orphaned or born to unmarried women or neglected by parents and brings them up so that they can grow up as good citizens of India. Spinsters, unmarried mothers unsupported spinsters, destitute women and deserted women all come under the hospitable roof of Mahilashram. So far 550 women and children have been benefited from the Mahilashram.

The following figures will show the unfortunate women given proper training and made to stand on their own legs by following various professions and trades. Primary teachers 30, Montessori trained teachers 20, Tailors 36, Auxiliary nurses 15, Dai trained 118, Aayas 58, In additions to this 23 passed the S S C Examination and 46 qualified for the P S C Examination. Employment was found for 90 women as house maids. After finding suitable bridegrooms 27 women were married. All these women are now living a happy life.

Shrimati Jankibai alias Akka Tendulkar and Shrimati Shantabai alias Tai Tendulkar are two founder members of the Mahilashram. They also much resemble each other in their social work, dress and appearance that a good many people mistook one for the other or looked upon them as twins.

Brought up in the best Gandhian traditions, they took part in our fight for freedom and were imprisoned several times .

Though widowed at an early age they resolutely turned their backs on the home comforts of a private life and dedicated their whole lives to the service of the destitutes and the miserables.

After working for a few years in Kasturba, Trust Akka Tendulkar founded this Ashram in 1957 with active support from Appasahib Patwardhan, Popularly known as Konkan Gandhi and Shrimati Kumudtai Rege an educationist of high repute. From the very beginning of the Ashram, Akka was ably assisted by her younger sister Tai. The two sisters were women of sterling character and steadfastness, fearless, polite and friendly. Slaving for the inmates of the Ashram day and night, they lived and died for the Ashram. They had great faith in the goodness of human nature.

The Mahilashram has started several activities to help the women who approach it for help. Following are the activities Mahilashram has, so far, taken in hand.

1) Nursing and Dai Training Centre :

Those women who have passed the S S C Examination are sent for auxiliary nursing course to General Hospital, Ratnagiri or Jankidevi Maternity Home, Sawantwadi.

The Ashram itself runs a Dai Training Centre. Needy and helpless women are given preference so that they can

make a living by working as ' Dais ' at Health Centres run by Village Panchayats and Zilla Parishadas. Women trained at this centre are not only living an honourable life but are also doing social service.

2) Tailoring Class :

The Institution conducts a tailoring class for women. Ashramite women trained in tailoring stitch the clothes for the inmates of the Ashram and thus save necessary expenditure. Some of the trained women have set up small tailoring establishments and are earning their livelihood.

3) Backward Class Hostel for Girls :

Langa where the Ashram is situated has facilities for Primary, Secondary and Junior College Education. But girls from the backward communities and poorer sections of society could not avail themselves of this opportunity. The Mahilashram has removed this long felt need by starting a hostel. About 150 girls have been so far benefitted by this department of the Ashram. The present number of hostel girls is 20.

4) Teacher's Training :

A number of Women from the Ashram who passed their primary School Certificate examination or SSC

examination were sponsored for primary teacher's training or pre-primary teacher's training at Ratnagiri Malvan and Kosbad. After taking a diploma in teacher's training, they are working as teachers and leading independent life.

5) Bal Mandirs :

The Ashram is running two Bal Mandir's for the benefit of Children from backward classes. About 75 children are taking advantage of this facility.

6) Marriages :

The Institute has been taking a keen interest in arranging marriages of young women from the Ashram with a view to settling them in life. So far 60 marriages have been solemnised. Every couple is living a happy married life.

REMAND - HOME :

Delinquents/ girls and orphans were sent to Mahilashram from 1965 when a Remand Home for such Children was started at Ratnagiri District in that year. Now that a full fledged Remand home for girls is sanctioned to the Ashram.

LIFE AT THE MAHILASHRAM :

A Plot of 5 acres of land has been donated to the Ashram under Bhoodan and it is being cultivated by the inmates. About

15 maunds of rice, vegetables and fruits worth approximately ^{of} Rs. 1000 /- are grown on this plot. A small dairy is attached to the Ashram. All the manual work Connected with the agricultural farm and the dairy is put in by the residents of the Ashram. There are two wells which have been fitted with 3 HP electric motors khadi and village Industries. Commission has given assistance for the construction of a Gobar Gas Plant which has proved to be of considerable benefit to the Institution. With the help of Tagai Loan it has recently planted a number of Alphonso Mango trees.

MANAGEMENT :

When both Akka Tendulkar and Tai Tendulkar were seriously ill and confined to bed the management was fortunate enough to secure the services of Shrimati Ushatai Deodhar who is a double graduate and an experienced Social worker. She held the office of the Superintendent for two years and shouldered the responsibilities most Creditably. But she got married in February 1983 and settled at far off place. Smt. Manikta Shinde , M.S.W. was appointed in September 1983 as a Superintendent and since then looks after the day to day work of the Ashram. The overall affairs of the Institution are supervised by a Managing Committee of 11 eminent social workers from Ratnagiri District, presided over by Shrimati Kumudtai Rege, herself a social worker. She has been

closely associated with the work of the Ashram since its inception. At present, Shri. Iestai V. Dixit is the Secretary. There are also local advisory committees consisting of Social workers such as Shivajirao Sawant, Mana Vangare, Appa Dixit, Kaka Dorle and Dr. Patki, V.R. Vishwasrao etc who are always ready to help the Ashram whenever required.

ECONOMIC CONDITION :

State Social Welfare Board has grants for girls of Remand Home and Committed Section. The grant is 100/- Rs. for each inmate for every month for nutrition. State Social Welfare Board also bears 75 % of expenditure per head for clothing, bedding, stationary medicine etc of Remand home and Committed section, and rest 25 % is contributed by Mahilashram.

Central Social Welfare Board has granted for Mahilashram section only 5000/- Rs. per annum. This is not sufficient to run it.

Zilla Parishad Social Welfare has grants for B.C. Hostel. The grant is Rs. 100/- per head for meals for every month.

Terre Des Hommes, a Charitable Institution from West Germany has been kind enough to give grant for the nutrition of the Ashram Children in every section.

But these grants are not sufficient to run this Institution. So, the committee members have to collect the donations from different organisations.

SECTION - II

RESEARCH DESIGN

Social Research has been defined by P.V. Young in the following words - " SOCIAL Research is a Systematic Method of Discovering new facts, of verifying old facts, their sequences, inter relationships, Causal Explanations and the Natural Laws which govern them ¹".

Social Research studies behaviour of human beings as members of society , and their feeling responses, attitudes under different circumstances. Social research is carried on both for discovering new facts and verification of the old facts. Social research tries to establish causal connection between various human activities. It is really very interesting to note whether various complex human activities are being performed only at random without any sequence of there is law or system behind them.

In this way there are many aims of social research. The researcher has taken this research for the purpose of studying the Socio-economic conditions of inmates in Mahilashram Langa and discovering the new facts pertaining to their working lives.

1. Young : Scientific Social
Surveys and research.

SELECTION OF THE TOPIC

" A SOCIAL PROBLEM is a condition that has been defined by significant groups within a population as a deviation from, or breakdown of, some social standard these groups believe must be upheld if human life or the order of activities and events that maintains and gives meaning to life is to Continue¹ "

What is a Social Problem :

A Social problem is any social condition that is thought either by a large proportion of a society or by powerful segments of it to be undesirable and in need of attention. When the Social problem exists, it must have some objective reality. Before there can be a problem of poverty or unemployment there must be poverty, poor people and unemployment society contains many groups who consider a particular social condition to be a social problem. In most Societies there are conflicts in values, beliefs and attitudes in the general population as well as among interest groups. The existence of such conflicts affects the probability that an objectively undesirable social condition will become defined as a social problem and will be given the time, effort, and money needed for its change.

Why Study Social Problems ?

There are several reasons for studying social problems. First, it is important to become more familiar with the role of social science in understanding social problems. Second ,a knowledge of

social problems promotes understanding of how undesirable social conditions affect. The daily lives of individuals, Third, it should be understood that although many social problems are the results of deviance, other social problems are the result of conformity, other social problems stem from conformity to social expectations.

Nature of Social Problems in India :

The nature of social problems in India is not very different from that in other civilized countries of the world, though there are certain problems particular to this country because of differences in culture, social set up and certain other historical and political reasons. But the problems of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes are peculiar to India because of the prevailing caste system. The study of social problems to improve the society need hardly be emphasized. The needy, the neglected, the handicapped, the maladjusted and the unadjusted are to be helped and protected by the society. After care services are needed for those women who come from correctional Institutions.

Under these schemes State homes are being set up to provide temporary shelter, organise production units and give guidance and help to women who come out of the Institutions, correctional or non-correctional.

The child welfare is also important for the child himself, for the family and for the society.

So, from this point of view, it was necessary to study the socio-economic conditions of inmates in Mahilashram. The investigator has chosen Mahilashram at Langa, Dist-Rathnagiri to study this problem.

Mahilashram Langa is a complex of correctional institutions. There is a girl's Remand Home, fit person institution and Backward class Hostel for girls,

1) Remand Homes :

When the juvenile offenders are brought before the Magistrate, pending finalisation of the decision, such children are sent to Remand Homes. Such action provides safety to the juvenile offenders. The authorities observe the behaviour of the offender, collect information regarding his family history, situational background for the committing of crime, offender's character and the like. Even after the confirmation of his offence, till a welfare measure is found out, he is ordered to stay in the Remand Home. Such Remand Homes are run both by the Government as well as private Institutions, on public support.

Delinquents, girls and orphans were sent to Mahilashram from 1965 when a Remand Home for such children was started at Rathnagiri in that year. A full fledged Remand Home for girls is sanctioned as on 2-2-1982 and there is adequate grants from the State Government. The Mahilashram is making every effort to reform these children with care and love. The staff and social workers attached to the Mahilashram bring them up as if they were their own children.

2) Fit Person Institution :

The aims and objectives of such " Fit-persons " Institutions are reception and protection of children or prevention of cruelty to children and to bring up children according to their religion of birth. The Government makes use of such private Institutions for reception and training to children according to Children's Act.

Such Institutions are run by several private self less bodies in the field of Social service. They are ,of course, financially aided by the Government. Such Institutions are rendering very valuable service especially for the Children that are suffering from T.B. Leprosy and the like and those that are physically and mentally handicapped.

In view of the satisfactory administration, useful activities and high level of discipline, Government of Maharashtra has recognised ~~Mahilashram~~ Mahilashram as a ' Fit person Institution '. Hence the delinquent children from various parts of Maharashtra are given under the supervision of the Mahilashram. Maharashtra State, Poona is pleased to recognise the Mahilashram Langa, Dist- Ratnagiri as ' Fit person Institution ' as on March, 1965.

3) Backward Class Hostel for Girls :

Backward class Hostel was started as on 15-8-1976 in Mahilashram. Girls from the backward communities and poorer sections of society could not avail themselves of education opportunity. The Mahilashram has removed this long felt need by starting a Hostel.

B) T I T L E :

" A STUDY OF SOCIO - ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF INMATES IN
MAHILASHRAM LANJA , (DISTRICT - RATNAGIRI)

C) Aims and Objectives of the Study :

- 1 To find out the financial conditions of the respondents.
- 2 To find out the economical background of the respondents.
- 3 To find out the situation because of which respondents are compelled to take shelter in this Institution.
- 4 To find out the facilities which are given to the respondents.
- 5 To find out the problem regarding rehabilitation of respondents.
- 6 To find out what type of married life of married respondents lead,
- 7 To find out what type of child respondent adopted.

D) THE METHOD OF STUDY :

For the purpose of the study, the investigator has taken
115 cases, by using random sample method.

For this study, the respondents are drawn from each section of Mahilashram Institution.

The members of the universe is total number ,in Remand Home Section are 50 and the investigator has selected 20 girls for case study. Remaining 30 girls are not able to give answer. They are small.

The members of the universe is total number in Committed section are 50 and the investigator has selected 25 girls for case study. It is clear that 50 percent girls have been selected for case study.

The members in the universe i.e. total number of Backward class hostel of girls is 20 and the investigator has selected 10 girls for case study. It is clear that 50 percent girls have been selected in case study.

The members of the universe i.e. total number of Mahilashram section are 25 and the investigator has selected 15 women for case study.

The members of the universe i.e. total number of rehabilitated women is 738 and the investigator has selected 15 Mahilashram ex-inmates. Mahilashram Langa Institution arranged about 60 marriages.

So, investigator has selected 15 women, thus married, The members of the universe i.e. total number of the respondents who adopted a child from Mahilashram is 20 and the investigator has selected 15 respondents for study.

The target of the investigator was to study Socio-Economic study of the inmates in Mahilashtra, Ianga.

To get the necessary information, she applied following methods :

1. Documents of the Institution were read and relevant portion was taken down.
2. An interview schedule was administered to 50 % present inmates and some of the ex-inmates.

The analysis of the interviews constitutes the main body this research report.

E) DIFFICULTIES IN THE STUDY :

Following were the difficulties of the investigator in getting the interviews of the respondents.

1. It was difficult to get the accurate total monthly income.
2. The ex-inmates were not readily available for discussion etc.

F) ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION :

The investigator completed the data collection work between 1st April 1985 to 30th April 1985 and after that the data collection material was shown to guide for further instructions. Then the investigator prepared master sheet. Attempts have been made to make the data clear by putting down the facts and figures with the help of Statistical tables and by interpreting them.

G) REPORT WRITING :

Report writing is an important and fundamental stage of researchwork. The present report is arranged in Chapter Scheme as noted below :

1) CHAPTER - ONE

- 1 History of the Institution.
- 2 Research Methodology.

2) CHAPTER - TWO

Theoretical Introduction and Analysis of data

- 1 Remand Home and Committed Section
(Particulars of all sides)
- 2 Backward Class Hostel
(Particulars of all sides)
- 3 Mahilashram section, The married women section and the Ex-inmates of Mahilashram section

(Particulars of all sides)

4 The children Adopted from Mahilashram
Section

(Particulars of all sides)

3) CHAPTER - THREE

1 Conclusions, Observations and
Suggestions.

4) CHAPTER - FOUR : Appendices

1. Location of Ianga in Ratnagiri
District.
- 2 Location of Mahilashtram in
Ianga.
- 3 Interview Schedule

5) BIBLIOGRAPHY