CHAPTER 4

METHODOLOGY
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Research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may he understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. Researchers not only need to know how to develop certain indices but they also need to know while of these methods or techniques are relevant and which are not and what would they mean and indicate and why. Researchers also need to understand the assumptions underlying various techniques and they need to know the criteria by which they ran decide that certain techniques and procedures will be applicable to certain problems and others will not. All this means that it is necessary for the researcher to design his methodology for this problem as the same may differ from problem to problem.

The task of data collection begins after a research problem has been defined and research design chalked out. While deciding about the method of data collection to be used for the study, there search should keep in mind two types of data primary and secondary. The primary data are those which are collected a fresh and for the first time and thus happen to be original in character. The secondary data on the other hand are those which have already been collected by someone else and which have already been passed through the statistical process (Kothari, 1999).

COLLECTION OF PRIMARY DATA

During the course of research whether descriptive type of surveys, sample surveys or census surveys the primary data is obtained through observation, direct communication with informants in one form or another or through personal interviews. This means that there are several methods of collecting primary data, particularly in surveys and descriptive researches. The methods followed in the present survey are given below:

1) Observation method
2) Interview method
3) Through Questionnaire
4) Through Schedules
5) Case Study

Observation: The observation method is the most commonly used method especially in studies relating to behavioral sciences. In a way we all observe things around us, but this
sort of observation. Observation becomes a scientific tool and the method of data collection for the researcher when it serves a formulated research purpose is systematically planned and recorded and is subjected to checks and controls on validity and reliability. Under the observation method the information is sought by way of investigator's own direct observation without asking from the respondent.

In ease the observation is characterized by a careful definition of the units to be observed, the style of recording the observed information, standardized conditions of observation and the selection of pertinent data of observation, then the observation is called structured observation. But when observation is to take place without these characteristics to be thought of in advance, the same is termed as unstructured observation.

Observation may be divided into two - Participant observation and Non participant observation. If the observer observes by making himself, more or less a member of the group he is observing so that he can experience what the members of the group experience, the observation is called Participant observation. But when the observer observes as a detached commissary’ without only attempt on his part to experience through participation what others, feel the observation of this type is often termed as non-participant observation.

In this study I have taken data by participant type of observation, i.e. I was able to record the natural behaviour of my informants in their working places. I could able to verities the truth of statements made by informants in the context of questionnaire or schedule.

Interview: The interview method of collecting data involves presentation of oral verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral verbal responses. This method can be used through personal interviews and through telephone interviews.
**Personal Interview:** Personal interview method requires a person known as the interviewer asking questions generally in a face to face contact to the other person or persons. This sort of interview may be in the form of direct personal investigation or it may be an indirect oral investigation. In the case of direct personal investigation the interviewer has to collect the information personally from the sources concerned. I have used this direct personal investigation.

The method of collecting information through personal interviews is usually come out in a structured way. As such, it is called as structured Interview. Such interviews involve the use of a set of predetermined questions and of highly standardized techniques of recording. Thus, the interviewer in structured interview follows a rigid procedure laid down, asking questions in a form and order prescribed. As against it, the unstructured interviews are characterized by a flexibility of approach to questioning. Unstructured interviews do not follow a system of predetermined questions and standardized techniques of recording information. In this study I have used the structured interview and sometimes also applied Non structured interview.

Focused interview is meant to focus attention on the given experience of the respondent and its effects. Under it the interviewer has the freedom to decide the manner and sequence in which the questions would be asked and has also the freedom to explore reasons and motives. The main task of the interviewer in case of a focused interview is to confine the informants' to a discussion of issues with which he seeks conversance.

The clinical interview is concerned with broad underlying feeling or motivations or with the course of individual's life experience. The method of eliciting information under it is generally left to the interviewer's discretion.

In case of non-directive interview the interviewer's function is simply to encourage the respondent to talk about the given topic with a bare minimum of direct questioning. The interviewer often acts as a catalyst to a comprehensive expression of the respondent's feelings and beliefs and of the frame of reference within which such feelings and beliefs take a personal significance.
Collection of Data through Questionnaire

This method of data collection is quite popular, particularly in case of big enquiries. Private individuals, research workers, private and public organizations and even governments are adopting it. In this method, a questionnaire is sent by post to the persons concerned with a request to answer the questions and return the questionnaire. A questionnaire consists of a number of questions printed or typed in a definite order on a form or set of forms. The questionnaire is mailed to respondents who are expected to read and understand the questions and write down the reply in the space meant for the purpose in the questionnaire itself. The respondents have to answer the questions on their own.

Collection of data through schedules

This method of data collection is very much like the collection of data through questionnaire with little difference which lies in the fact that schedules (proforma containing a set of questions) are being filled in by the enumerators who are specially appointed for the purpose. These enumerators along with schedules go to informants, put to them the questions from the proforma in the order the questions are listed and record the replicas in the space meant for the same in the proforma. In certain situations schedules may be handed over to informants and enumerators may help them in recording their answers to various questions in the said schedules. Enumerators explain the aims and objects of the investigation and also remove the difficulties, which may respondent may feel in understanding the implications of a particular question or the definition or concept of different terms.

I have used schedules in collection of data.

Case study

The case study method is a very popular form of qualitative analysis and involves a careful and complete observation of a social unit, be that unit a person, a family, an institution, a cultural group or even the entire community. It is a method of study in depth rather than breadth. The case study places more emphasis on the full analysis of a limited number of events or conditions and their interrelations. The case study deals with the processes that take place and their interrelationship.

Thus, case study is essentially an intensive investigation of the particular unit under consideration. The object of the case study method is to locate the factors that
account for the behavior patterns of the given unit as an integrated totality.

To understand the interrelationship of my informants with family members and others and her personal view regarding some matters I have taken case study in detail.

**Photographic and cartographic method**

With the advancement in the field of science and technology different types of audiocassettes are available for recording information photographs are taken to capture the numerous moments under a single from.

Mapping involves the graphic recording of topographic and demographic of the people's environment.

In this way, the case of photographic methods as well as the relevance and utility of the cartographic method have increased considerably during the present day research in social science.

In this study I have used the photographic technique and maps are also taken.

All the items under consideration in any field of inquiry constitute a 'universe' or 'population'. A complete enumeration of all items in the population is known as a census enquiry. But in this caste have collected quantitative and qualitative data through household census forms and then analyzed them. This method involves purposive selection of a few particular units of population for constituting a picture of my present problem. Generation wise divisions are made of the women studied in this research. The purpose is to compare any change and development through generations. It is presumed that by 30 years a person may he well set in the way of life and profession just after completing training period. On the other hand 46 years onward women have long past their training period. Moreover the two groups are more or less one generation apart from each other. These who are within the age limit of 46 to 60+ years of age are born just after independence of India with the constitutional set up for scheduled caste category of 30 to 45 years of age are born in the 1970s onward. By that time a lot of policies have come up for the improvement of scheduled caste women. This method may give a new work to the achievement of scheduled caste women, especially those living in the slums of ward no10 of Kolkata.