Chapter 2

METHODOLOGY

There have been various studies on urbanisation and urban growth but seldom an effort has been made to study the spatio-social structures and their relationship existing in a city as stated in the previous chapter. We have also stated that since different areas located in a city vary in regard to their physical features, landscape and their access to the available civic resources and opportunities, these also differ in their socio-cultural traits. In the same sequence we have mentioned that the distance or nearness of one area to the other influences the spatio-social structures and their inter-relationship in each area or locality. Accordingly, the level and degree of urbanisation differ from area to area or locality to locality in a city or an urban centre. This chapter analyses the specific methods adopted in the present study.

Universe

The present study is located in Delhi metropolis. More specifically, the universe of this study is South
Delhi about which we have discussed in detail in the next chapter. Here, we wish to simply mention that for the purpose of empirical data for analysing the issues undertaken in the present study, three specific areas or localities have been selected from South Delhi on the basis of their differential location, varying spatio-social structures, their socio-economic development and social composition of population. These areas or localities are: Mehrauli, Rama Karishna Puram and Safdarjung Enclave situated in the extreme south of the Delhi metropolis.

Going by spatio-social characteristics, the area of R.K. Puram consists of 13 sectors all adjacent to one another on one side of the Ring Road except Sector 13 which is located across the Road. All the sectors, being residential localities, exclusively accommodate the government employees senior, ministerial and supporting staff. In the bureaucratic language, these employees range from groups A to D and the houses in these sectors also differ correspondingly. Each sector is self-sufficient unit in terms of availability of shopping complex, location of educational institutions, transport system, primary health facilities, etc. Yet, people residing in these sectors largely differ in their socio-
economic background, attitudes, behaviour and so forth. Sectors II and IV accommodate employees mostly of groups C and D and other groups of employees are evenly located in rest of the sectors. Thus, the sectors selected for the present study are III and IV consisting of type I to type V houses accommodating groups A to D employees.

The second area of study is Safdarjung Enclave adjacent to R.K. Puram sector II but separated by the road linking the Ring Road (in the north) at the Bheekajee Kama Place to IIT Hostel in the South. This is a privately owned posh residential locality inhabited by the relatively affluent people. Besides a number of DDA flats housing the Government employees, there are a few urbanised villages which are centrally located in this area. Like in R.K. Puram, people of not any specific but of many castes and communities reside in this area. Barring the urban villages, houses mainly in the Safdarjung Enclave have been built on the planned architectural lines. This area is newer than many of the sectors of R.K. Puram.

Finally, Mehrauli is the third area of study. It is situated in the extreme south-end of the city at the Delhi-Haryana border. Surrounded by Saket in the north-
east and Vasant Kunj in the south-west, the township of Mehrauli is older than even Delhi city. It grew during the Mughal period and became centre of the Mughal imperial power. After partition of the country in 1947, many displaced Hindu families from West Pakistan were housed in the refugee colonies though a number of rich non-refugees also managed to get accommodated here. After going through rise and fall in its growth and developments. Mehrauli today is more of an urban village accommodating people of all castes and communities with the exception of Ward III where the scheduled castes are found in the large majority. In Ward I is located the Islamic colony. North to the bus terminal, which links Mehrauli to other parts of the city, is the Christian colony inhabited primarily by the Christians. The whole area of Mehrauli is densely congested with many narrow bylanes between the houses, though one can also see few spacious and lavishly built houses in between. Since this area is unplanned, the drainage and sewage system is worst which becomes a menace specially during the rains when the drains without coverings over-flow.

Apart from the 7 wards in Mehrauli, there is an adjacent area called Kishangarh village which is located towards the west of Mehrauli. A government registered
Gaushala is also located on a 12 acres of land and a temple has come up nearby in the recent years on the land accommodating a Mutt in early days. There are very few native residents against majority of those who are from outside and have bought land and constructed their houses in this area. Nonetheless, majority of the residents here belong to the Jat caste. The other castes found are Brahmans, Rajputs, Potters, Goldsmiths, Balmikis, etc. The major religious communities in Mehrauli and in the adjacent Kishangarh village are Hindus and Muslims though Christians and Sikhs are also found in sizeable number.

Criteria for Selecting the areas or localities

Out of a total of 44 localities in Delhi, 3 locality or areas of R.K. Puram, Safdarjung Enclave and Mehrauli situated towards the south of New Delhi have been selected for the present study as stated earlier. As mentioned above, these three localities differ both in their physical or spatial and socio-cultural characteristics. Their spatio-social structural differentiation would also lead to differences in the degree and level of urbanisation of these areas. Besides, both the spatial and social structures in all the three areas or localities would produce different type of
inter-relationship. As stated earlier, people living in each of these areas are engaged in the different types of occupations and, hence, hail from the different socio-economic and thereby cultural backgrounds. In brief, the criteria for selecting the areas or localities for this study are related to differential spatio-social structures, degree of urbanisation and the differential occupational and socio-economic backgrounds of the people living there.

The research design adopted in the present study is exploratory and descriptive as it concerns with exploring and describing, through an accurate measurement, of the distribution of certain characteristics of urbanisation and its impact on spatio-social structure of a given population.

Sample

The sample selected for the purpose of data has been drawn by representing the universe as a whole. To ensure that every household from each area or locality is equally represented, the method of stratified random sampling has been adopted by selecting adequate number of persons drawn from different strata. Where a particular
respondent from a sampled household was not available, other member of the same household has been selected.

Since one person from each sampled household has been selected, in all the sample size includes 258 respondents with 86 respondents selected from each of the three areas. The numbers of total households and selected respondents along with their percentages from the concerned areas are as follows:-

1. R.K. Puram (Sector III and IV)- out of 2,459 households 86 (3.49%) households have been selected.

2. Safdarjung Enclave- out of a total of 758 households 86 (11.34%) households have been selected.

3. Mehrauli- out of a total of 2,131 households 86 (4.03%) households have been selected.

Thus, out of a total of 5348 households found in all the three areas 258 (4.82%) households and thereby respondents have been selected for this study as mentioned above. It may be mentioned here that inspite of
our best effort the total number of persons residing in each of the three localities could not be ascertained. Hence, around 5 percent households of the total households from all three localities are not to be taken as sample or representative of the total persons residing there.

Tools of Research

The data has been collected through both the primary and secondary sources. In the case of primary sources of data, an interview schedule consisting of both structured and open-ended questions was administered on the sampled respondents selected from all the three localities in addition to collecting some important information from a number of informants. The respondents were interviewed on wide-ranging issues like their socio-personal background, economic position, migration, spatial and social structures, gender inequality, etc. Besides recording information in the space provided in the interview schedule, a personal field dairy was maintained in which additional information as well as the entire day's events were noted down.
The relevant material collected through the secondary sources such as books, articles published in periodicals, newspapers, magazines, and gazetteers and other government reports have been used to substantiate the arguments built up with the help of the primary data besides filling up some gaps wherever necessary.

Rapport and interviews

Each interview lasted between one and one and half hours. The respondents were made to feel comfortable by not just asking them personal questions but also discussing with them on general and current subjects. Sometimes, the researcher was attacked with rude remarks and the respondents just refused to answer any of the queries but at another time she was received with very kind gestures and hospitality.

In the case of data collected from the informants, anyone who could provide information related to the issues covered in this study was interviewed and some qualitative data was obtained from them. The informants provided general yet valuable information related to the present study. They were interviewed mainly during the early exploratory phase of the fieldwork. The researcher
talked to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (MCD) office staff, fair price shop-keepers, etc from where a general idea of the total population and number of households in each area was gathered. The ex-pradhan of Mehrauli was also contacted to give certain information regarding nature of population composition, their residential patterns, etc. which was otherwise very difficult to gather. A number of property dealers were also contacted to impart economic background of the house owners and tenants. Similarly, a religious head was met at the 'Dargah' who spoke at length on the atrocities suffered by the Muslims at the hands of the Hindus during the Partition period. Even during the fieldwork, a number of informants were interviewed separately to gather relevant information on those issues which were not included in the interview schedule. On the other hand, the selection of 'respondents' has been done on a more rigorous basis of sampling as stated earlier and both quantitative and qualitative data have been collected from them.

The researcher also spent long hours in the localities observing the people in their day to day activities. Once the people in the concerned localities got used to her presence, they went about carrying their daily chores without taking much notice of her. Almost
every aspect of life such as beliefs, attitudes, etc. of the people in general and the respondents in particular was observed and noted down. Thus, after the fieldwork was completed, the researcher not only found the fieldwork a worthwhile experience but was able to gather lot of information all of which have not been used in the present study.

Period of field-work

The first or exploratory phase of the field work took about 4 months. During this period, the researcher met many people in offices, at their residence, etc. of the concerned areas under study. After a break of one month during which the data collected at the first phase was consolidated, the interview schedule was prepared. Then after, the second phase of field work was started which covered a period of around 6 months and the field work was completed in June 1995.

Processing and analysis of data

The data collected through both the primary and secondary sources have been processed and analysed with the help of computer. A number of variables or factors
have been identified and their impacts on other sets of variables have been measured to prove the validity of the hypotheses mentioned in chapter 1. A number of frequency and cross tables with percentages have been prepared and used to support the arguments presented in different chapters that follow.