CHAPTER III
METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methods and Construction of Study

Measurement of social mobility is the assessment of non-linearity in the association of variables and their comparisons. Generally, sociologists favour occupational and educational measures to evaluate intergenerational mobility while economists focus on earnings or income. The distinction is not just disciplinary, nor is it trivial. Empirical research shows that findings about levels of mobility in different countries and trends over time differ depending on the measure used. While the empirical analysis of class through occupational and education measures dates back to the 1960s and may have experienced its golden years in the 1970s-1990s, the analysis of economic mobility has burgeoning in the last two decades. Interestingly, recent studies by sociologists focus on all the three major variables and its proportionality and distribution across social categories.

Occupational Mobility: Sociological analysis of mobility relies on occupations, which are usually ranked into a one-dimensional status hierarchy. Occupational status has important advantages as a measure of economic standing. Collecting information about occupations is relatively easy and faces much less issues in terms of recall, reliability, refusal, and stability than measures of earnings or income. Furthermore, information about parents can be reported retrospectively by adult children, circumventing the need for long panels.

Educational Mobility: As it has been well analysed in review of various studies, education is the main factor in both upward mobility and the reproduction of status across generations. The intergenerational status association is largely mediated by schooling, i.e. more advantaged parents are able to afford more education for their children, which in turn pays off in the labour market. Errors in recording the educational attainment across generations are less and the reliability is high.
**Income Mobility:** The recent literature has shown at least three sources of bias in measures of the intergenerational earnings resulting in (1) Transitory (fluctuations around long-run income), (2) Age-related errors in variables bias, and (3) lifecycle bias. Hence income mobility unlike occupation and education is not a lineal category. Moreover the standardization according to purchasing power parity across generations can be erroneous and enormity of data can sometimes make it impossible for the researcher to calculate the income bracket accurately. Income or earnings can either be calculated on yearly basis or monthly basis becomes issue in terms of reliability, refusal, recall and stability. Moreover in countries like India, money is spent and saved according to normative preferences than in positivistic structures. The purchase, ownership and rights of assets through income or earnings is yet another characteristic that is culturally determined rather than economically or politically determined. The earnings through most of the traditional occupations like farming, fishing and other manual occupations have always been collective rather than individual. But mobility studies would be incomplete without the income variable measured and therefore researchers attempt to show the trend in periodic income bracket across generations and relate it with occupational and educational mobility. This income mobility reflects the occupational and educational stability, preferences, opportunities, demand and shifts across generations (Torche, 2013).

In the present study, inter generational mobility analysis in terms of class and caste is analysed through occupation, income and education among the Fishing and Farming communities of Puducherry district. We often see lower proportions of workers in farming, fishing and in other unskilled manual jobs among sons than among fathers and grandfathers due to industrial opportunities that opened up after 1947 and more so in Post-reform period. The trends of intergenerational mobility is presented in tables in square matrix, with the occupational classification for fathers, sons and grandsons occupations, therefore explaining the total mobility rate of three generation sin both communities (Xie and Killewald, 2010). The descriptive analysis of social mobility of fishing and farming communities in this thesis is made both at the macro and micro levels and factors accounting for discrepancies between them are discussed in micro chapter. The macro level analysis covers the Puducherry district as a whole and presents a detailed analysis of various socio-economic categories of population, in colonial and post-colonial period of Puducherry. It also studies the
economic development, education and occupational opportunities affecting mobility during colonial and post-colonial period. Collected data were tabulated using simple statistical tools for quantitative analysis.

3.2 Secondary data sources for Macro level analysis

The information collected from various secondary sources for Macro-level analysis of caste class mobility in colonial period is listed below:

8. Puducherry Government
12. Report of the Public Consultation with Fisher Folks to Strengthen Coastal Regulation Zone CRZ Notification 1999, Published in March 2010 – Centre for Environment Education

Unpublished Thesis:

1. Education in French Pondicherry - 1674-194, by C Premavalli, Dept of History, Pondicherry University 2005
2. An Economic Analysis of Production trends and Marketing system of Marine Fisheries in the UT of Pondicherry, by M Vallathan, Dept of Economics, Pondicherry University 2005

3. Political and Social Conflicts in French India: 1870-1939 by A Suresh, Dept of History, Pondicherry University. 2010

3.3 Collection of primary data – selection of sample from the district/communes/villages/municipalities/wards

Puducherry remained as a cluster of fishing and farming villages until the arrival of French, and its slow but steady transformation from rural conglomeration during colonial times to a bustling Hardware Capital of India in post-reform India demands thoughtful examination of mobility trends. The contribution of the secondary sector and the manufacturing sector has significantly contributed to Puducherry’s growth. Employment in this sector has grown at a rate of about 7 per cent per annum between 1993-94 and 1999-2000. The growth of small scale enterprises in Puducherry has to be divided into three segments, the first segment is the pre-merger period; the second is the post-merger period but before economic liberalization and the third being after economic liberalization. Only in the post merger period and before economic liberalization the industrial growth was significant because various reasons: The Central Investment subsidy to the tune of 25 per cent on the fixed assets (with monetary ceiling of 25 per cent) was in existence unto December 1989, which was a real boost to the new industries. The existence of Power subsidy to a tune of 33.3 per cent maximum was another thrust for the industrialists to set-up their new ventures in Puducherry. The various sales tax incentives namely sales tax holiday, lesser tax on raw material purchase etc., that made the Puducherry origin industries price competitive with others. After economic liberalization (1991), the Government decided to withdraw the subsidy incentives to various industries. Thus the Central investment subsidy was withdrawn and the power subsidy was also forced to be withdrawn due to heavy financial burden to the exchequer. This has hampered the growth of industries. But the momentum of the growth is sustained by income tax holidays and by sales tax incentive (Puducherry development report, 2010: 100-118). This drives the researcher to ask the basic
questions about the social mobility of the members fishing and farming communities in Puducherry.

The UTI of Puducherry extending over an area of 479 Sq. km. comprises of four coastal regions spread across three states in south India, and Puducherry is the capital. Puducherry is situated approximately 160 km down south of Chennai while Karaikal is located further down south at about 160 km from Puducherry. Mahe is located horizontally opposite to Puducherry on the western coast at almost 647 km from Puducherry in Kerala State. Yanam is located up north of Puducherry on the eastern coast at about 870 km from Puducherry in Andhra Pradesh. The first official census in the union territory was conducted in 1891 according to which the total population was 2,52,370 people with Pondicherry district claiming 1,78,179, Karaikal 60,388 and Mahe and Yanam with 8,536 and 5,267.

Karaikal is the least urbanized district as 56.42 per cent of the total population is rural and out of the total area of 160 Sq. km of the district, only 35.17 Sq. km is classified as urban and the rest of 124.83. Sq. km remains as rural area covering twenty nine villages. The Union Territory of Puducherry has a total coastal line of 45 km, 1000 sq.km of continental shelves enriched with marine fisheries potential. There are totally 27 marine fishing villages and 23 inland fishing village / hamlets out of which 15 are situated in Puducherry, 10 in Karaikal and remaining each in Mahe and Yanam. The total number of village panchayats in Puducherry district and Karaikal district is 71 out of which 37 is spread in Ariyankuppam, Bahour, Nettapakkam, Mannadipet and Villianur communes of Puducherry and remaining 27 are located in Kottuchery, Nedungadu, Neravy, T.R Pattinam and Thirunallaru communes of Karaikal. Mahe and Yanam are declared as urban districts and there is no rural population that practises agriculture anymore.

3.4 Selection of the sample Households for Micro-level analysis

Fishing community selected for Micro level analysis is PeriyaKalapet fishing community of Ozhukarai Municipality of Puducherry district. There are 15 Marine fishing communities along the coast of Puducherry district with 7,513 fisher families and a total population of 27,047. The Ozhukarai Municipality has 37 wards out of which 3 wards belongs to fishing communities. The total no. of households of fishing
community is 1431 out of which, 162 are located in Kanakachettikulam, 668 in Periya Kalapet, 280 in Chinna Kalapet and 420 in Pillaichavady. The 668 households in Periya Kalapet consist of a population of 2396 making it the largest among fishing communities in the Ozhukarai Municipality. The proximity of the Periya Kalapet village to the Puducherry University established in 1985, and two other important Chemical Industries namely Shasuns Pharmaceuticals Limited Formulation established in 1986 and Chemfab Alkalies Private Limited, established in 1985 has played an observable role in the exposure of these spatially and socially secluded fishing communities to the education and other employment opportunities. The selection of sample based on the universal norm of 10 percent of the total universe was followed is 239 for Periya Kalapet village. But due to various reasons such as availability of the respondents, paucity of time and to have an appropriate comparative analysis, a sample of 100 households was selected based on simple random sampling technique.

The Farming community selected for the present study is Pillaiarkuppam of Villianur Commune. The Villianur commune of Puducherry district has been predominantly agrarian in character since the colonial period, along with adjacent Bahour commune. Villianur thaluk has total population of 2, 12,547 out of which 1, 45,405 are in rural villages. The percentage of urban population total population is 31.52 per cent and rural is 68.48 per cent. Among the 14 rural blocks, the Pillaiarkuppam village has 658 households with a population of 2744. The total Main cultivators population is 49 and Main agricultural Laborers Population us 303. Hence a sample of 100 households was selected in order to have a comparative understanding of social mobility with fishing community.

### 3.5 Tools and techniques of data collection and methods of analysis

A structured Interview schedule was administered to the head of each selected households based on simple random (snow ball) sampling method in the two villages and the collected data was tabulated and simple statistical tools were used for interpretation. The study is both a quantitative as well as descriptive study. Most quantitative studies rely on descriptive research as it seeks to describe social phenomena and is often a focus of the first research about many issues. It offers comparison of the variables and helps in generalization process and is well suited for reliable measurement of variables. Measurement and sampling are the central
concerns in a descriptive research. The present study seeks to describe and analyze the socio demographic characteristics, occupational, educational and income mobility across three generations starting from Grandfather - I, Father - II and Son/head of the household - respondent – III. The purpose of using a structured interview is that most of the respondents are illiterate. The fishing community across the Coromandel Coast between Pulicat in north of Chennai to Vedaranyam in the Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu consists of more or less a homogenous caste group ‘pattinavar’. The district of Puducherry and Karaikal encompasses the ‘pattinavars’ although the subtle social stratification of ‘chinnapattinavar’ and ‘periyapattinavar’ is discussed in the subsequent chapters. This caste has the exclusive rights over the fishing occupation and most of them are Hindus. But the farming community consisting of mainly the agricultural labourers are not a homogenous caste group and have detailed social stratification. The predominant land owning caste group of Puducherry are the ‘Reddiyars’ followed by ‘Vanniayars’. The numerically dominant caste group of the Puducherry happens to be the ‘Vanniyar’ caste that is classified as Backward Class. The presence of significant scheduled caste population in Puducherry that accounts for 16% of the total population cannot be neglected, as many of the scheduled caste men and women are engaged in farming as agricultural labourers for livelihood. Since the SC caste is not traditionally a land owning caste, the only available livelihood available was to engage in agriculture as labourers. With emergence of modern occupations, many have diversified yet substantial numbers of the caste group are engaged as labourers in agriculture along with ‘Vanniayars’. The present study attempts to bring in the social mobility patterns existing between various caste groups of farming community and also understand the trends of social mobility based on occupation, education and income in both fishing and farming communities of Puducherry district. Genuine, valid and sensible comparisons and differences between the communities with regard to social mobility are also explained.

3.6 Process of Data Collection

The secondary data consist of census reports, socio-economic and statistical reports, collected from governmental departments, Puducherry. The primary data collection was carried out through the field work conducted from April 2014 to June 2014. The local informants were contacted in order to approach, identify and collect
data from various sample households. The timing of the data collection process was carefully charted out as the Union Government of India sanctions 45 days of fishing holiday and the ban on trawling aimed at conservation of fish resources beginning from April 15th to May 30th every year. Hence the first stage of data collection was completed in the fishing village as the respondents were readily available for the data collection process. The second stage of data collection was completed in June 2014 in the farming village. The month of June is generally the post harvest season and the agricultural labourers begin to engage themselves in crop season.

3.7 Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The scientific analysis and interpretation of compiled data is the interesting part of the research work and requires a lot of patience and creativity that makes possible scientific inference and yields the answers to the research questions. The collected data remains scattered and meaningless, until it is explained sociologically and consistently. The collected data passed through different measurable stages to acquire the generalized conclusions pertaining to the study problem and they are:

- Classification of Data
- Coding
- Statistical analysis of data using SPSS
- Tabulation
- Inferences about causal relations among variables
- Interpretation and Report writing

In the present study, interpretation of data on the one hand gives an understanding of the general factors that explain what has been interviewed and observed during the field work and on the other hand adds meaning to the theoretical framework, which guides further research studies.

3.8 Difficulties Encountered during field work

The field work process was not very smooth in spite of several precautions. Most of the illiterate and semi-literate respondents were afraid to give information especially details pertaining to income, and caste of the household, thinking that it
will lead to several problems and cancellation of the ration card and several Government subsidies. Secondly some respondents demanded money for answering the questions, assuming that this is a Tsunami relief project taken up by NGO or the Government. However, after establishing a good rapport and explaining them the purpose of the research, I was able to convince them and get the necessary information. Thirdly, a very little is known about the fishing community and their income, land holdings, asset ownership and other socio-economic practices as they are socially and spatially segregated community. Fourth, except of the preliminary data on number of agricultural labourers based on region and gender which can be gauged through census reports, there is no other socio-economic data like average monthly/yearly earnings or any other variable which will support the research. For the first time in the post-colonial period history of Puducherry, the State Development Report was prepared by Planning Commission with the help of the Puducherry State department of planning and statistics in the year 2007, which was published only in 2010. Hence lack of adequate and systematic secondary data and statistical information education, occupation and income is a drawback for mobility research. However the present work is a humble beginning and a modest attempt to present a general trend in social mobility in Puducherry.

3.9 Chapterisation Scheme

The present work is broadly divided into various chapters given below:

Chapter One introduces the Theoretical Perspectives of social mobility in the west and India. It traces the journey of mobility researches across the globe that has altered its theoretical framework and the conceptual diversity. Starting from the theory of social stratification providing the impetus to mobility research, this chapter provides the vast and exhaustive theoretical web in a nutshell. The caste-class schema used to study the mobility situation in India is also briefly mentioned. Although there has is no dearth in caste studies in India, there has been a serious lack of studies in describing class-caste congruence affecting social mobility in India. The researcher adheres to the Class as a social situation provided by Max Weber and attempts to study social mobility in Puducherry using intergenerational occupational and educational mobility with multiple variables including caste.
Chapter two details various studies in the field of Social Mobility, its trends and perspectives. This chapter presents a chronologically the theoretical and empirical works of various scholars of social mobility in the west. It also discusses the available literature on caste and class mobility in India. The chapter presents the objectives of the present study against the backdrop of various research studies that have been undertaken in this field.

Chapter three introduces the Methods and construction of the study. The rationale behind the selection of samples, its design, tools and techniques of analysis and interpretation is presented. The relevance of secondary sources of data such as census reports, periodical reports published by the Govt of Puducherry is mentioned. The collection of primary data justifying the variables with the objectives of the study is described.

Chapter four titled The Process of Economic Development and Changes in opportunity Structures in Pondicherry presents a detailed historical perspective of social stratification and mobility in Pre-colonial, Post-Colonial and Post Reform changes.

Chapter five presents the analysis of Socio-Demographic and Economic Characteristics of selected Households and explaining the mobility pattern using various variables.

Chapter six presents the general trends of Social Mobility in Pondicherry using the dominant observable factors of social mobility observed in chapter four and five.

Chapter seven presents the concluding remarks of the work and highlights the policy interventions. It also attempts to present the possible future trends and gaps that exist in the field of mobility research.