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CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY:

3.1.0 Introduction:

The measurement of the Empowerment of the Scheduled Castes is not easy, it cannot find directly. Yet, it was hidden in behavior, beliefs and prejudices of the people of Hinduism. Indeed, it is not easy to measure, but use of both methods of research, qualitative and quantitative we can find it. First, there will be required of identifying such variables and with the help of it we can measure Hindu rituals and Empowerment of the Scheduled Castes. Empowerment of the Scheduled Castes in various fields and what is the role of Hindu ritual is interest of research.

After selecting the research subject, the researcher has identified such variables of the measurement of the Empowerment of the Scheduled Castes. He selected the research methods of study and method of data collection. After, the researcher has prepared a questionnaire cum Interview schedule. Then the researcher has chosen the population, sample survey, etc. The main details regarding the methodology are as under:

3.2.0 Selection, Identification and formation of the subject:

(Origin of the Study):

At the time of last assembly election of Gujarat, the researcher has thought that what were the parameters by selecting the candidate in the breeze of vibrant Gujarat? How many members of the Scheduled Castes got the ticket of the assembly as a general candidate? While the researcher has seen the list, there was not any surprising in the list. Hence it was a proof of a dominance policy of the ruling class. Means there was not a single name of the Scheduled Caste who was selected as a common candidate, why? The person of the Scheduled Castes has no capacity to fight as a general candidate in the election? While we are living in the technological era, there doesn't see its reflection in the list. It showed that conservative prejudices and beliefs of the Caste and religion are existed still today. Constitutionally, there is equality in India, but practically it is not implemented. So the researcher has decided to find out its roots. The researcher believes that the main roots of it lies in the beliefs and rituals of the Hinduism. They are legitimated by the holy text books of Hindu religion and implemented by various cults, sects and religious institutes. However, some works have been done by the government after Independence, but the status of the people of the Scheduled Castes is not improved. They cannot access, equal status
in social, religious, political, economical or any field. Except some prestigious government job they can consume their power of status. Today there are some schemes of empowerment of the Scheduled Castes, but it helps to get an education and to improve economic condition in some extent, not developing their whole personality and quality of life.

Our founding father of the constitution has imaged of a great dream of the ideal democratic country, where prevailed liberty, equality and fraternity for all. After passing sixty three years of adoption of the constitution, it has not succeeded. Although, the practical condition of the Scheduled Castes is not enthusiastic in Socialist, the Republic and Democratic India. They are marginalized; and liberty, equality and brotherhood are so far from them today, why? Who they are excluded to avail basic human rights? Are their beliefs and rituals are behind it? Are beliefs and rituals strengthening the conservative caste system? What is the role of ritual in the life of the Scheduled Castes? What is the role of common people of the Scheduled Castes in ritual? What is the common ritual of the Scheduled Castes? Are rituals are empowering them? What is the changing pattern of functioning of ritual? Are there new rituals arise and they are empowering the Scheduled Castes? There is a need for research in this subject. So, the researcher has chosen the subject of his research.

**Title of the Subject of Research:**

“Hindu Ritual and Empowerment of the Scheduled Castes: A Sociological Study.”

**Objective of the research:**

The following are the main objectives of the research:

1. To examine the general status of the Scheduled Castes in Hindu ritual and to assess the impact of Hindu ritual on empowerment of the Scheduled Castes.
2. The key objective is to check the role of the Hindu Ritual in enhancing the opportunities of the freedom, social justice and fraternity as per our constitution given.
3. The research will draw an attention in the participation and role of the Scheduled Castes in the performance of the Hindu ritual. It will also check in the context of individual and group level.
4. To get the knowledge of the rituals of the Scheduled Castes and explore in the mainstream.
3.3.0 **Method of Research:**

Man is a social animal and social structure, institutions have an important role in behavior of Human being. Norms, values, belief, etc. is socialized through them. Religion is a powerful institute and it affects every field of life. The nature of this research is directly related to Hindu religion. Hence the empowerment of the Scheduled Castes is not measured directly, because it is an intrinsic behavior. While the empowerment is measured in the background of Hindu rituals is tough work. It is very difficult to get a real opinion of it. The present study is done by the descriptive research method. Generally sociologists use four methods of collecting data: Surveys, Experiments, Participant observations and Secondary Analysis. A survey method is used for the data collection. Purposive sampling techniques were used to select the respondents from the Ahmedabad city. There were used two types of techniques of surveys; self made questionnaires and interviews were used for data collection. The researcher has taken interviews of respondents with the help of the questionnaires cum schedule and filled them.

3.4.0 **Universe and the Selection of the Sample:**

**Universe:**

It is said that the social structure of Indian village is conservative and there are limited opportunities. The impact of norms, beliefs and customs are more prevalent in the rural people than urban people. Hence the life of the village is also influenced by the castism and other socio-religious factors. The traditional occupations are not fruitful and other barriers are also present in the villages. Hence Ahmedabad is believed as a mirror of the Gujarat. It has been achieved more progress in trade, commerce, education, textile industry, etc. Ahmedabad got the metro city status. However is very wide and extended its boundaries in a few months ago. Hence, the wide area of Ahmedabad and its diversities can help to the researcher to get varied respondents.

Ahmedabad is the oldest capital city of the Gujarat (From 1960 to 1970). It was known as the Manchester of India due to the development of the textile Industry. Industrialization also attracts the people, hence there was also seen too much rush of people for a better life. It was said that the salary of the Mill was more than the job of government. Hence people of Gujarat migrated to Ahmedabad from villages and other state. The persons of the Scheduled Castes also migrated and settled around the area.
of Mill. However the congregation of the Scheduled Castes has been seen in peripheral areas of Mill and they were mostly eastern part of Ahmedabad like Sasarpur, Gomatipur, Asarwa, Kalupur etc. Yet the generation of today of the SCs would be second or third of those mill workers. Hence it would be expected that they could get such opportunities of the development and improved the quality of life.

Due to such limits, the researcher has not selected whole Gujarat for universe for the study. Ahmedabad is the most developed city of Gujarat and naturally it has more opportunities of the development than other places of the state. This city has the greatest population of the Scheduled Caste in the state. So they have also more chance of accessing opportunities of development. They can access more resources, freedom and social space than any other place of Gujarat. So the results of the research of Ahmedabad metro would be the maximum limit of the state. The conclusion will be predicted about the reality of the villages and other small cities. So the researcher has selected Ahmedabad as an area of Study.

**Population of the Study:**

The study was aimed at the process of empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and role of Hindu rituals, therefore respondents would be the member of the Scheduled castes. However the Scheduled castes of Ahmedabad city or Gujarat are not only a single homogeneous group. The Scheduled castes of Gujarat consists several sub-castes like tanner, weaver, Valmiki, Garo-Garoda, Senva-Ravat, Turi-Barot, Nadia, Sadhu etc. According to the list of the directorate of the social welfare, there are thrity six different sub-castes of the Scheduled Castes of Gujarat.(Appendix: 1) So, the researcher have tried to include respondents from main/dominant group like tanner (Rohit), weaver (Vanakar/Mahyavanshi) and some respondents were selected from Valmiki, Garo-Garoda, Senva-Ravat sub-castes. The population of the study is a whole population of the Scheduled Castes of the Ahmedabad city.

**Sampling:**

The population of the Scheduled Castes is a study of the universe. Hence there are forty eight municipal corporation constituencies in Ahmedabad. So it is said that the population of the Scheduled Castes is stratified into these forty eight wards. The researcher has selected more than one third municipal corporation constituencies from it. Hence, in the first step the researcher has made a list of all constituencies and nineteen were selected by purposive sampling technique from it. Amraiwadi, Stadium, Krushnanagar (Thakkarnagar), Naroda, Dariapur, Saraspur-Rakhiyal, Kubernagar, India Colony, Baherampura, Giradharnagar, Giradharnagar, Shahibag,
Paldi, Saijpur Bogha, Lambha, Bapunagar, Ranip, Chandloduya, Chandkheda areas were selected for the sample.

Then nineteen respondents were selected from each area. However, it was trying to select different types of residency. The areas are divided into four types of residency. The respondents are selected from the various types of residency. However, there was not fixed quota of the respondents of the residency, but it was trying to include the following four types of residency:

1. Chawl.
2. Society.
4. Quarter.

Hence there was also trying to select some respondent areas of Valmiki, Ravat and Garo-Garoda by purposeful sampling. There was taken suitable sample size from that stratum. Hence all the respondents were selected by random sampling.

The researcher has also selected twenty three respondents from the elite of the Scheduled Castes. These respondents came from different background like politics, union activity, social work, medical, law, police service, engineer etc. The entire sample constitutes 384 respondents. Due to vast area and the geographical varieties, the selection of responders was not an easy task. But, these diversities have played very vital role in my research. It has given the multidimensional background of the respondents. This data have provided general data of beliefs and rituals and empowerment.

3.4.1 Name of Election constituency (Ward).

The following are the name of election constituency (Ward) of the Ahmedabad:

- Gota
- Chandoldoliya
- Chandkheda
- Sabarmati
- Ranip
- Nava Vadaj
- Ghatlodiya
- Thaltej
- Naranpura
- Stadium
- Sardarnagar
- Naroda
- Saijpur Bogha
- Kubernagar
- Asarwa
- Shahibag
- Shahpur
- Navarangpura
- Bodakdev
- Jodhpur
- Dariyapur
- India Colony
- Thakkarbapanagar
- Nikol
- Viratnagar
- Bapunagar
- Saraspur-Rakhiyal
- Khadiya
- Jamalpur
- Paldi
- Vasana
- Vejalpur
- Sarkhej
- Makatmpura
- Baherampura
- Danilimada
- Maninagar
- Gomatipur
- Amaraiwadi
- Odhav
- Vastral
- Indrapuri
- Bhaipura-Hatkeshwar
- Khokhara
- Isanpur
- Lambha
- Vatva
- and Ramol-Hathijan.

(Source: http://ahmedabadcity.gov.in/portal/jsp/Sratic_pages/corp_corp.jsp.)
3.4.2 Selection of Tool of Research:

We know that for the purpose of the study there are two main sources of data:

**Primary sources:**

Primary data is one, which is collected by the investigator for the purpose of a specific inquiry or study. Such data are original in character and is generated by surveys conducted by the individuals. A survey method is used for this study. There are four methods are widely used for the collection of primary data:

- Questionnaire.
- Observation.
- Schedule and
- Interview method.

**Secondary sources of data:**

Secondary data is that which has been already collected by some other individual or agency. Secondary data can be obtained from journals, reports, government publications, publication of professional and research organization. The researcher has also used available historical literature and secondary materials on the subject.

The following secondary sources of data were used for the research:

- Reference books related empowerment, religion and the Scheduled Castes.
- Various reports of the Government departments and Institutes, N.G.O, research paper, thesis etc.
- Various data collection of magazine, newspaper, articles and seminar etc.
- The report of the National and International organizations like the global slavery 2013, the census report and other reports of W.H.O, World Bank etc.
- Internet and available historical literature and secondary materials related to my subject, which were not narrated in details, but it helped me from choosing, evolving the subject, and till getting the conclusion.

**Self-made Questionnaires:**

There were large numbers of religious variables, however, it was identified and prepared a questionnaire for the measurement. Self made questionnaires were used for data collection. The questionnaire was a closed-ended with two options: yes or no. It was decided that if the answer was not given it was not indicated on the measurement. There were used two types of techniques of surveys, Interviews and questionnaire.

The researcher has taken interviews of respondents with the help of questionnaires.
and filled them. Some respondents have filled themselves, and asked where they required more information about it.

3.4.3 Pre-test and Reliability of Data:

Pre-test:

First the questionnaire was translated into Gujarati and the researcher has collected data from the respondents of limited area. This Pre-test was carried out among the five areas (wards) of Ahmedabad. There were fifty respondents of different areas. During the research work, the researcher experienced that the questionnaire was sufficient to carry out the data, but it required too much time. So some questions are cancelled and selected fifty questions for the study. And the researcher also felt that the interview was very helpful for maintaining continuity of work. The data were analyzed and got the guidance of the Guide. It worked properly as per the opinion of the guide and finalized for research. Their valuable guidance helped in constructing the tools, so this Pre-test was getting the clarity and validity of the tools for data collection of the research.

Reliability of Data:

Measurement is one of the most important goals of any social research. Yet, accurate measurement provides a useful description and an adequate explanation of social phenomena. It also enables interpretations or predictions of relationships among various social elements. There is always the importance of adequate measurement, because without it the phenomenon which was under study cannot be analyzed in a reliable and meaningful way. Hence their findings cannot be verified through the replication of the study in a similar setting.

The researcher has tried to get an accurate measurement, so first researcher has chosen fifty respondents and measured through questionnaires on trial base. It was again measured by other experienced person. There was not found much difference, so it was reliable for the further study. But one must keep in mind that in qualitative data, findings can only verify exactly or replica, while their stings are similar.

3.4.0 Methods of Data Collection:

The Survey method was used for primary data collection for this study. The researcher personally visited different areas of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, which was selected for the study area. The respondents were contacted to visit and taken their appointment. After the said time the researcher has taken interview and filled the questionnaires. Yet, the researcher has taken care for their meeting time and
their routine life was not disturbed. After the said time the researcher has taken interview and filled the questionnaires. So the time was not fixed and selected by the choice of the respondents. Some respondents called for the meeting in the morning (before ten) and some respondent liked after seven o’clock. However, some respondents also preferred routine office time, so the researcher used whole day for the meeting. However, there was a try to arrange such type of meetings on the Sunday. Their consent was taken and they were well informed about the research. The researcher also took part in such rituals which were very common in the Scheduled Castes and Hindu religion. There were overwhelming response from the respondents and they have given answer very carefully.

3.5.0 Analysis of Data:

The purpose of any research is to find out the truth about the research problem. It must be free from any prejudice. Although any research possesses some limits, but collected data will be analyses scientifically and correctly, the researcher can succeed in minimizing his limits in some way. Yet the aim of the researcher is to try to get best concludes from it.

The analysis has been done in such a way that they both become supplementary and to bring out the best results from it.

For processing of the data the responses were examined carefully. First researcher has checked the number of respondents in their serial numbers, which was given at the time of the meeting. The answers of the respondents were converted into empowered or not empowered. The researcher has first labelled the data. All variables are labelled and then arranged for classification. The researcher has used the following statistical techniques for the analysis:

(1) For processing of the data the responses were examined carefully and the data were marked with their frequency and scored carefully for final analysis.

(2) The research has formed different tables as per requirement from the data, such as the economic, social, political, education and psychological empowerment etc. There was also made tabulation from the data.

(3) The graphs were created with the use of computer software (excel). The tables and graphs were analyzed with the percentage of empowerment.

(4) However, there were used simple statistics for the analysis and interpretation of the data. At the base of the data certain generalizations were made so as to get findings, conclusions and future suggestions. And lastly, it evaluated in descriptive writing.
3.6.0 Ethical concerns:

As per the ASA (American Sociological Association) ethical guidelines, sociologists must take into account as they conduct research. The guidelines address conducting studies, properly using existing sources, accepting funding, and publishing results etc.

Social researchers must be taken ethical responsibility for any study they conduct. They must first and foremost guarantee the safety of their participants. Whenever possible, they must ensure that participants have been fully informed before consenting to be part of a study,” (Openstax: p.49)

This research was totally connected with caste and religion matter. The researcher has taken extra care with it. The respondents were informed advance and got their consent for the research survey. There was also taken care of, not disturbing their routine activity and privacy. The personal information like phone number, house number, etc. is avoided. However, all research participants have participated in a voluntary way.

The researcher has already started with the introduction and given information of the visit is only sociological research. They have also informed about the research subject, the methods; and the information given by them is very important for the research. They also guarantee that the personal information about them is secured by the researcher. They are ensured that the information about the research is used by the researcher for research. The researcher respected the beliefs, norms and values of the respondents.

However, there was found good response of respondents and most of the visit completed with friendly atmosphere. The researcher belongs to a same social group of the respondents, so there is no chance of conflict relationship during the data collection.