CHAPTER - III

Methodology

• Introduction
• Selection of Problem
• Research Design
• Universe of Study
• Justifications
• Pilot Study
• Sampling
• Tools and Techniques
• Rapport
• Collection of Data
• Variables
• Analysis and Interpretation of Data
• Objectives
• Hypothesis
• Secondary Sources
• Scope and Limitations of the Study
• Difficulties Faced
3.1 **INTRODUCTION:**

Every research activity needs a particular type of methodology because the charm of research lies in its method. *Methodology* may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In it we study the various steps that are generally adopted by a researcher in studying research problem along with the logic behind it. Methodology involves the formulation and application of research design in such a way that the condition of collection and analysis of data enables us to answer the specific questions posed under the objectives of study.

This chapter intends to reveal how the researcher got about her work, how the investigations were conducted and evidence assessed. For this purpose a specific research design was formulated and rigorously followed to enable the researcher to answer questions as validly, objectively, accurately and economically as possible. The chapter also includes the variables used and the difficulties faced by the researcher during data collection.

3.2 **SELECTION OF PROBLEM:**

The present study basically seeks to explore the *role* and *role conflicts* of the employed middle class women residing in the city of Bhubaneswar. Attitudes of this category of women and their behavioural patterns in various institutional contexts like family, marriage, work are also to be discussed in this study.

*‘Role’* is a key concept in sociological theory. It refers to the social expectations attached to specific social statuses and analyses the working of such expectations. When the individuals are exposed to incompatible expectations, role conflict arises. Role conflict, as a single phenomenon has both *psychological* and *sociological* consequences.
Evidence derived from a number of studies shows that the women of today are assuming different roles besides the role within their homes. Though women of the lower class have been engaged in employment since ages in India, it is a more recent phenomenon to see the rise of middle class and upper class women getting engaged in employment. Studies reveal that increasing diversification of occupation, a changed social attitude towards women and expansion of women’s education have led to women taking part in economic activities also. Further, the woman of today has to play both the traditional roles and modern roles of worker, simultaneously expectations of these roles and demands might lead to conflicting situations because of their built in ambiguity.

The present work makes an attempt to reveal the unexplored areas of this topic. Though studies have been conducted in this field, the researcher intends to bring out some interesting basic facts pertaining to the role and role conflicts among the employed middle class women in the city of Bhubaneswar.

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN:

Research Design is the logical and systematic planning and directing of a piece of research. But then it is not a specific plan that is to be followed without deviation, but rather a series of guidelines to keep one headed in the right direction.

The research designs are closely linked to an investigator’s objectives. Accordingly research designs are exploratory, descriptive or experimental. Consistent with these types of research designs, there are four main purposes of social research: 1) To gain familiarity with a phenomenon, 2) To describe things, 3) To determine associations between variables and / or 4) to test hypothesis. Irrespective of the research design
selected by the researcher or the objectives he hopes to achieve, a universal characteristic of any research plan is flexibility. In the present study the researcher has adopted exploratory research design in exploring and analysing sociological issues involved in role conflict.

In the present study, the researcher has purposefully made necessary changes in the plan as the study progressed and new aspects, new conditions and new connecting links in the data came to light. In order to avoid inflexibility, which can destroy the usefulness of an entire study, the researcher has made use of the hypothesis testing method.

3.4 UNIVERSE OF STUDY:

In a research proposal it is essential that the universe of study should be clearly delineated. "Bhubaneswar", the capital city of Orissa, has been taken as the area of study.

It is a growing city and the increasing opportunities for women in the non-traditional services and professions both in the private and public sector make it a grand setting for studying the employed middle class women.

Employed women are scattered in various parts of Bhubaneswar. Based on the concentration of offices, professional centers, educational institutions, private and governmental residential areas, the researcher has chosen to cover four wards of the Bhubaneswar Municipality Area for study.

From the data obtained, from the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporations Magazine "Paura Samachar" - 2001, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Area is 135 sq. km. The Bhubaneswar Municipality has 46 revenue villages and 47 wards. The researcher has chosen ward no 18, 20,
28 and 35 as the areas for her study. The places and areas coming under these wards are given in the table no. 3.1. The total population of these wards and the number of respondents selected from these wards are also given in the table.

Table No : 3.1

Ward Particulars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.no</th>
<th>Ward no.</th>
<th>Places coming under the wards</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Respondents Selected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>OSCB Colony, Unit - 9 Flat, Maharaja Cinema Hall backside pvt. plot, S.P. Office backside, R.D. College Hostel, Anand Bazar, Irrigation Colony</td>
<td>12870</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Sahid Nagar</td>
<td>15934</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Unit - 4, Madhusudan Nagar, Old A.G. Colony, Bhouna Nagar, MLA Colony, RBI Colony, Old SBI Colony</td>
<td>12540</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Unit 5, Unit - 6, Unit - 7, From Petrol Pump to IAS Club, P.W.D., backside of New Bapuji-Nagar parts.</td>
<td>16212</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>57556</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hubaneswar Municipal Corporation Ward Map

Showing area of study

- Ward no. :-18
- Ward no. :-20
- Ward no. :-28
- Ward no. :-35

REFERENCE
- Municipality Boundary
- Ward Boundary
- River
Ward no. :-20
Places coming under the wards:
Sahid Nagar

Ward no. :-28
Places coming under the wards:
Unit-4, Madhusudan Nagar,
Old A.G, Colony, Shouma Nagar,
MLA Colony, RBI Colony, Old
SBI Colony

Ward no. :-35
Places coming under the wards:
Unit-5, Unit-6, Unit-7,
From Petrol Pump to IAS Club,
P.W.D., backside of
New Bapuji Nagar parts.

Ward no. :-18
Places coming under the wards:
OSCB Colony, Unit - 9 Flat,
Maharaja Cinema Hall
Backside Pvt. Plot, S.P. Office
backside, R.D. College Hostel,
Anand Bazar, Irrigation Colony

Map of study area
3.5. JUSTIFICATIONS:

The Bhubaneswar Municipalities population has been growing significantly. The Table no : 3.2 gives us an idea regarding the growth of the female population in the city. Then, there is Table. no : 3.3 which gives data regarding the decadnal growth rate of the Bhubaneswar Municipality during the census years 1981 - 1991 and 1991-2001. This growth in population is due to the result of forces of modernisation, urbanisation, industrialisation and globalisation. These forces, directly and indirectly help in flourishing many formal and informal sectors. The increasing employment opportunities have opened up new avenues of employment for the female population in the city of Bhubaneswar.

Large number of government, private and corporate offices have been established in the capital city of Bhubaneswar for its smooth functioning. In addition to this, there are large number of residential colonies and areas located throughout the city for the accommodation of its employed force. As such the residential colonies were also targetted by the researcher as convenient settings for contacting the sample respondents.

Table No : 3.2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Class, Name and Civic administration status of town/city</th>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1 Bhubaneswar (M)</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 Bhubaneswar (M)</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 Bhubaneswar (M)</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 Bhubaneswar (M)</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1 Bhubaneswar (M)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Municipal Survey of Bhubaneswar*
Table No : 3.3*

-Growth Rate of Bhubaneswar (M) at the Census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Name of City</th>
<th>CensusYear</th>
<th>Growth Rate at the Census</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bhubaneswar (M)</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>+36.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Bhubaneswar (M)</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>+22.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bhubaneswar (M)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>+57.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.6 PILOT STUDY:

A pilot study was launched as a preliminary step before the formulation of the schedule. The pilot study enables a small scale test of a research instrument made ahead of the field work, and used to test the utility of the research design. On the basis of the experience and knowledge gained through pilot survey, necessary changes were made in the interview schedule.

As such the pilot study enabled the researcher in identifying and rectifying ambiguous questions. It gave the researcher a first hand information regarding the different variables involved; it also enabled her in putting down cross questions pertaining to certain questions in which the researcher was likely to face difficulties in getting responses.

3.7 SAMPLING:

A sample size of 300 employed women respondents has been taken for the collection of primary data. Regarding the study of role and role conflict the sample universe was restricted to the employed middle class women. The sample was drawn in different stages from employed middle class women of various categories, i.e. governmental and semi-...* Source: Janaganana Bhawan, Census of India 1991 & 2001.
governmental employees, officers, executives, small scale industrialists, self-employed persons, professional persons, teachers, lecturers, office workers etc.

As the study intends to cover only the women belonging to the middle class, it has been assumed that class membership of the woman is dependent on class membership of her family. Further, employed middle class women from 18 years of age and above, whether educated / uneducated were included in the sample. In this study the researcher has taken "Stratified Random Sampling" as her basis for the selection of respondents.

3.8. TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES:

There are various tools and techniques developed for the purpose of data collection. The interview schedule method was employed to collect data. Interview method is not only a separate and independent tool in social survey. It is supplementary to the other techniques. A combination of interviewing, observation and statistical techniques yields the best results in practice. The balance of emphasis on either of the techniques shifts with the frame of reference and objectives of the study.

The interview schedule composed of structured and unstructured questions. The structured questions suggested answers to the respondents. These answers were simple to record and analyse. The open-ended unstructured questions in the schedule enabled open discussions and in-depth probing.

The interview schedule was divided into seven blocks. Each block represented specific questions relating to the field of enquiry in that area. The first block was formed to know the personal characteristics of the respondents. The second block included questions on getting the
informations regarding the socio-economic profile of the respondents. The attitudes and perceptions of the respondents were covered in the third block.

The next three blocks covered the core area of concern of the research. The familial and extra-familial role of the employed middle class women in today’s society was brought out in the fourth block. The fifth block was designated to know about the role conflicts that the respondents were facing due to their dual roles. Questions regarding the social and psychological problems being faced by the respondents were covered in the sixth block, under the heading of role conflict vis-a-vis stress and strain.

In the last block questions regarding the changing scenario were put forward to the respondents. Some of the questions had been specifically formulated for the married respondents.

3.9 RAPPORT:

The researcher had to build up a rapport with her respondents before beginning her interviews in order to reduce the distance between herself and the respondents. The building up of rapport had an anxiety quietening and trust-building impact on the respondents. Intimate and personal questions were answered satisfactorily only when, a satisfactory state of rapport was established with the subject.

Inspite of many acquaintances, much time had to be spent in convincing the respondents about the actual purpose of the inquiry. The building up of a rapport with her respondents proved very useful for the researcher because these respondents readily referred me to their friends, who were working in other establishments.
3.10 COLLECTION OF DATA:

The enquiry was initiated after the finalisation of the interview schedule. The researcher began with the interviewing of the respondents who were known to the researcher. Gradually the researcher with the help of references from earlier respondents as well as on her own initiative administered the interview schedule.

The collection of data took up time in some cases, when the respondents were not available in time. As such repeated visits were required in some cases. The questions were asked in Hindi or Oriya by the researcher in cases where the respondents were unable to understand the questions when asked in English.

The collection of data also involved asking of probe-questions by the researcher, when ever respondents tended to give ambiguous answers to uncomfortable questions. Most of the respondents were very cooperative and took keen interest in this study, and on their own narrated some of their personal problems and difficulties in detail.

3.11 VARIABLES:

Variables means changeables. It helps the researcher in comparative analysis, which facilitates in drawing the broader generalisations. There are mainly two types of variables viz. independent variables and dependent variables.

Independent variables are those which change independently. In experiments the independent variable is the variable manipulated by the experimenter. The independent variables are known as causal variables or explanatory variables. For the present study the researcher has taken age, education, income, marital status and family as the independent variables.
1) **Age**: Attitudes and feelings vary with the variation of age.

2) **Education**: Education determines the susceptibility of the women to face role conflicts and therefore it may be taken as an important variable. It is expected that education has had an impact on the role of the modern women.

3) **Income**: It is expected that the level of income of the employed women would determine the role conflicts that they are likely to face.

4) **Marital Status**: It is also an important independent variable. Marital status determines the extent of role conflict of the employed women.

5) **Family**: Whether the respondents have a nuclear family or joint family is an important independent variable. It is expected that the family structure of the employed woman is likely to determine the extent of role conflict faced by them.

The dependent variables in a study refer to those aspects which are influenced by the independent variable. The dependent variable is ordinarily the condition what we are trying to explain. The dependent variable in the study fluctuates from time to time. Attitudes and opinions of the respondents have been taken as dependent variables in the present research work. The dependent variable is the variable predicted 'to', whereas the independent variable is predicted 'from.'

### 3.12 Analysis and Interpretation of Data:

After data collection, the next step for the researcher would be analysis and interpretation of the data. After the schedules are edited, the data is to be put in tabular form keeping in view the requirements of the
study. The data processing will be done both manually as well as on computer.

Analysis is the process of arranging data, to classify, tabulate and compare the data according to their resemblances or differences and give expression to the unity of attributes that may exist amongst a diversity of individuals.

It is of two types:

a) Analysis according to attributes
b) Analysis according to variables.

On the basis of the variables and attributes, the relevant informations are to be tabulated. Then the important findings of the study are to be analysed in accordance with the proposed hypothesis and objectives. Data analysis will be done by computer through Social Science Package (SSP). The specialised technique of interpretation of data is the final step, which provides knowledge about the subject and explains what has been observed during the course of the study. The ultimate verification of hypothesis through the generalisations made from the analysis of collected data can serve as a guide for further research.

3.13 OBJECTIVES:

The main purpose of the present study is:

1. To find out the socio-economic situation of the employed middle class women in the city of Bhubangswar.

2. To explore and analyse their role in the changed scenario in the familial and job situation.

3. To examine the extent of role conflict.

4. To assess how the role conflict is dependent on identified
independent variables like age, marital status, structure of family educational qualification and income level.

5. To identify and examine the nature of their new role in work participation.

6. To find out the attitude of the employed women towards social issues like divorce, dowry, marriage etc.

7. To analyse and examine the changing attitudes and perceptions of employed women.

8. To assess the changing life-style and life-chances of working women due to impact of globalising forces.

9. To examine the nature and extent of stress and strains experienced by the respondents due to role conflict.

10. To assess the social consequences of role conflict especially in interpersonal relations.

3.14 HYPOTHESIS:

Considering the objectives, the following hypothesis were constructed:

1) Employment of women is associated with greater economic independence.

2) The growing expectations of employed women are positively correlated with greater dissatisfaction.

3) The extent of role conflicts are likely to be higher in the case of women who are employed due to economic necessities.

4) The gap between the official responsibilities and familial expectations is positively correlated with stress and strain.

5) Role conflicts are likely to be higher in case of married women than the unmarried employed women.
6) It was assumed that employed women are more likely to spend leisure
time in social activities than in household chores.

7) Strong job commitment and professional interest among the working
women have made the women to give more importance to their
professional role than their familial role.

3.15 SECONDARY SOURCES :

The secondary sources from which data was collected by the
researcher were: the HKM state library, Parija Library of Utkal University,
Orissa State Archives, Orissa Tourism Development Corporation,
Bhubaneswar Development Authority, Janaganana Bhawan, Bhubaneswar
Municipal Corporation and the Center for Youth and Social Development.

3.16 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY :

The cultural and attitudinal changes being experienced by the
employed middle class women in the city of Bhubaneswar are to be studied
in the present work. In the context of the socio-economic transformation
of the society, varied changes in the role of women have been observed.
The study of the employed middle class women is important since it helps
us to understand how these women are responding to the changing
situations.

The main limitation of this study is a lack of published data
specifically on the middle class women engaged in employment. Even if
some information is available, the data are scanty and not up-to-date.

Though a much larger population of employed middle class women
exist, keeping in view the time constraints and limited resources at the
disposal of the researcher, only a sample of them was collected.
Another limitation of the present study is related to the interview schedule. The interview schedule involves standardizations of the questions so that they produce responses that validly differentiate one respondent from the other. Though this method of data collection enables comparability of interviews, all intrinsic limitations of the method are valid for this study as well.

3.17 DIFFICULTIES FACED:

During the course of investigation the researcher had to face a number of problems and difficulties.

Firstly, the researcher had to convince the respondents, that the data that were being collected would be used for no other purpose other than research.

Secondly, maintaining the interest of respondents through out the period of interview took up a lot of time and energy on the part of the researcher.

Thirdly, reluctance on the part of respondents in agreeing for more than one sitting, in cases where the interviews could not be completed in one sitting, caused the problem of tracking these respondents and convincing them.

Fourthly, the female respondents in many cases were not very open to answer controversial questions, as such the researcher had to do a lot of cross questioning and probing to get the proper answers.

Fifthly, there was also the problem of getting data from offices and secondary sources due to lack of cooperation of official staff.

Inspite of these difficulties, the researcher has been able to collect the relevant data for this study, because of the active cooperation of the respondents and officials who were interested in this topic and understood the relevance of this study.