CHAPTER- IV

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1. RESEARCH TOPIC

Social Exclusion and Inclusive Aspects of Old Age People - A Study in Pollachi North Block, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu.

4.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Social exclusion is a complex and multi dimensional concept having social, cultural, political and economic ramifications. These dimensions are interwoven and occur in various forms of systemic exclusion that is built in hierarchic system whereby certain people and communities such as scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, religious minorities and women experience discrimination, oppression and exploitation. Social exclusion thus refers to processes by which entire communities of people are systematically blocked from rights, opportunities, and resources. These forms of social exclusion are of different nature and of varying degrees and extent.

In the context of Indian society, such a form of social exclusion is largely seen in relation to caste ethnicity, gender and religion marginalized and others vulnerable as experience of people of these groups, collectively and individually show. They are prevented from having access to rights and privileges in the dominant sections of society. Also, they are excluded in the matters of taking advantage of development, besides perpetuating inequality and deprivation and lack of development.
It also directs the State to take various measures to remove the different forms of discrimination and inequality and thereby help to eradicate social exclusion. Hence it is sought essential to have an inclusive policy for the removal of all such aspects and to take up measures towards development, equality and social justice in our society as enshrined in the constitution of India. Social inclusion but not only in the sense of affirmative action which focuses more on trying to make amends for past wrongs ‘social inclusion’ is in fact the coordinated response to the very complex system of problems that arise because of social exclusion. The notion of social inclusion can vary according to the type for strategies organizations adopt.

Ageing is the universal phenomenon, every human being in his normal life is bound to grow old, and just as any phase in life old age is also associated with its own problems. As Kalyan Bagchi states that ageing reveals the most fundamental conflict in human mind. There are the tensions between infinite ambitions, dreams and desire on the one hand and reduce physical existence limiting these on other. The eternal quest for youth and long life has always been accompanied by strong dislike for everything associated with ageing (Reddy, 1994). This section is an attempt to discuss the problems of the old age persons.

India is a country where family ties continue to be strong (Ramamurti, 1996). National policy on ageing also envisages institutional care as last resort for aged. It lays stress on encouraging family care through subsidies and incentives and by encouraging self help schemes of income generation and security of the old age person to make them financially viable (Government of India, 1999). It must be emphasized that none of this problem are discreet, they are
interdependent, and each problem is a cause or effect of another problem. As per retirement age older persons are those who are sixty years and above. Again, in brief we have only 10% to 11% people working in organized sector, rest are in unorganized sector (rural and urban). They may be labourers, farmers, manual workers, shopkeepers etc. For them following situations could be observed.

The proposed research is to address the plight of old age person with the frame work of exclusion and inclusion and the emerging social structural constrains in terms of failure of social institutions in respect of the provision of care and support to the old age persons. Besides these the research is also expected to influences policies and programmes in the light of existing limitations and restrictions.

4.3. OBJECTIVES

The present study on ‘Social Exclusion and Inclusion of Old Age People: A Study in Pollachi North Block, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu is carried out with the following objectives.

1. To expose the social structure of the study area
2. To examine the socio-economic and psychological problems being faced by the old age persons in the study area.
3. To analyze the factors behind exclusion and inclusion of the old age persons in the study area.
4. To elicit the perception of old age persons by others in the study area.
5. To suggest suitable measures to frame inclusive policies and programs towards main streaming old age people.
4.4. HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses have been formulated for the present study:

1. The old age care and support are not fulfilling the requirements of old age persons in contemporary times.
2. Status differentials influence in the determination of importance to the old age persons in society.
3. Absence of homely feeling in family may lead to old persons’ lodging in care homes.

4.5. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

4.5.1. Social Exclusion

Social exclusion is the process in which individuals or entire communities of people are systematically blocked from (or denied full access to) various rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available to members of a different group, and which are fundamental to social integration within that particular group (e.g., housing, employment, healthcare, civic engagement, democratic participation, and due process).

4.5.2. Inclusion

Social inclusion describes how a society values all of its citizens, respects their differences, ensures everyone’s basic needs are met, and welcomes and enables full participation in that society.

4.5.3. Old Age

Old age means different things in different cultures. Seniority may bring high status and in some societies old age has traditionally been a time of relative relaxation and freedom from worry. In others old age is linked to life stage or generation and may or may not be something to look forward to. However, for the purposes of this
investigation, old age is defined as a period in the life course beyond 60 years which needs collective social support of some kind, essential because of advancing years. This definition of old age as a time when need for collective support increases can be seen as independent of other markers of old age such as seniority, generational position or chronological age.

4.5.4. Pollachi North Block

Pollachi is a taluk in Coimbatore district and North Block is one among the 12 blocks in same district. Pollachi North block is a revenue block of Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu. This revenue block consists of 39 village panchayats.

4.5.5. Coimbatore

Coimbatore District is one of the districts of the State of Tamil Nadu in India. It is located in the western part of the state in the Kongu Nadu region. Coimbatore is known as the Manchester of South India and is one of the industrialized towns of Tamil Nadu. The region is bounded by Palghat district of Kerala on the west and by Idukki district of Kerala in the South. Coimbatore shares its borders with Tirupur in the East and Nilgiris in the North. A small portion of Erode district shares the border near Puliampatti in the North East.

4.5.6. Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is one of the States in India having its population of 721,38,958 as per the Census of 2011. It is situated in the southern most part of India and sharing its boundaries along with Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry, one of the union territories of India. Its capital is Chennai and Tamil is its State Level Principal Language. It has 32 districts. The world famous hill stations
like Kodaikanal and Ootty are situated in Tamil Nadu and the world famous Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, the Brihadeswara Temple in Tanjore, the Mahabalipuram Rock cut Temples in Chennai, etc. are also situated in Tamil Nadu.

4.6. PILOT STUDY

The researcher undertook a series of pilot studies to gain an in-depth understanding and focused enlightenment on the topic of research. Focused Group Discussions and Case Studies were conducted in the districts of Tamil Nadu like Coimbatore, Tirupur, Erode, Madurai, Villupuram, Chennai, Dindigul, Cuddalore, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Kanchipuram, Tiruvannamalai, etc. The respondents of the pilot study included the knowledgeable persons, family members in the study area and old age persons relevant in their respective places, as part of pilot study. The pilot studies conducted in this regard precisely fine tuned the core issues to be addressed through this research, to formulate objectives and later construct the Interview Schedule. These studies were conducted to seek their comments and suggestions in shaping the research issues. Accordingly the Interview Schedule was formatted and then put to pre-test and also tested its reliability and validity of the research instrument.

4.7. SELECTION OF STUDY AREA

Pollachi North Block in Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu was selected as the study area based upon the concentration of old age persons who belong to the age category of above 60. Accordingly Coimbatore district became the purpose of the present study. Within the selected district of Coimbatore, out of 12 blocks which formed the universe, only one block namely Pollachi North Block where old age
people are concentrated were selected as study area, as sample within the universe. Pollachi North block have higher concentration of old age persons. Out of the 39 village panchayats in Pollachi North block, 5 village panchayats having minimum 10% of old age population in the study area were identified for primary data collection. Accordingly Achipatti, Ramapattinam, Puravipalayam, Devampadi and Servakaranpalayam village panchayats were selected for the purpose of primary data collection.
Pollachi North Block

Area of Study

Name of Panchayath

- Achipatti
- Devampadi
- Puravipalayam
- Servakaranpalayam
- Ramapattinam
4.8. RESPONDENTS OF THE STUDY

List of old age persons, those who are in the age category of above 60 in the proposed study area have collected based upon the government records. Depending upon the size of the universe the sampling design has been determined to ensure the representativeness of the universe.

4.9. SAMPLING DESIGN

Respondents for this study have been selected by adopting simple random sampling method based upon the size of universe.

Table 4.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Name of Panchayath</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Total No. of old age people</th>
<th>Sample size (10%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Achipatti</td>
<td>7285</td>
<td>873</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ramapattinam</td>
<td>4458</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Puravipalayam</td>
<td>5090</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Servakaranpalayam</td>
<td>3122</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Devampadi</td>
<td>3354</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>23309</strong></td>
<td><strong>2810</strong></td>
<td><strong>280</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.10. TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

An appropriate personal interview schedule was formulated for the purpose of primary data collection. The primary data was collected through personal interview which was also supplemented by focused group discussions, case studies, observation techniques, etc.

4.10.1. Focus Group Discussion

Focus group discussion is a form of qualitative research technique. This group consists of a small number of six to ten members who are led through an open discussion by a skilled moderator. Here in this research the researcher had conducted discussions among the old age people in different villages in various districts of Tamil Nadu to identify their problems, to find out the level of exclusion faced by the old age people from their family members, to understand the care and support provided by their family members, cultural, religious practices and to find out solutions and suggestions to solve their problems and to formulate inclusion strategies for the
welfare and the betterment of the old age people in India particularly in Tamil Nadu. The researcher had conducted 10 (ten) sessions in various districts in Tamil Nadu. The information collected from these sessions were fully recorded and interpreted for the purpose of formulating objectives, also to construct the interview schedule and relate it with findings and also to prepare the action points.

4.10.2. Case Study

Case study is an in-depth and comprehensive study of a unit, individual, institution, community, etc. It is one of the research methods used as primary as well as supplementary to collect data and strengthen the findings respectively in the form of more in-depth study. Here in this research the researcher undertook case studies among old age people in different districts of Tamil Nadu to gain not only a strong research perspective but also to understand the various aspects of problems, level of exclusion facing by them from their families and care and support of old age people. The researcher had mobilized old age people with the help of family members and leaders in the panchayats and had done a thorough analysis of their problems, exclusion and inclusion aspects in the families and care and support given by their family enthusiastically in certain districts. The case study experience further strengthened the researchers’ confidence level to undertake this research in the study area. The results of case study were used to verify the findings of this research later and also the experience gained influenced in building action points towards ensuring the welfare of old age people.

4.11. SOURCES OF DATA

There are two types of data collected for the purpose of present study.
4.11.1. Primary data

Primary Data was collected from the respondents by the researcher by using personal interview schedule, focused group discussion, and other supplementary techniques like observation, case studies, etc.

4.11.2. Secondary data

Secondary data was also collected from the following sources: books, journals, reports, published and unpublished research reports, national and international publications of GOs and NGOs, news papers, etc.

4.12. PRE – TEST

Before collecting the data, the researcher administered the interview schedule on 10 respondents in order to test the reliability of the tool.

4.13. DATA ANALYSIS

After completion of the data collection, the schedules were checked and verified for the removal of errors and assessing of omissions. After the editing work was over, the classification of data was taken up. Further the primary data collected from the respondents was statistically processed through application of SPSS and other statistical tools and techniques like averages and percentages for the purpose of analysis and interpretation of data.

4.14. RESEARCH DESIGN

The researcher has adapted descriptive research design for the study to describe the nature of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the old age people in Tamil Nadu. Descriptive
research design is concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual or of a group.

4.15. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is focused on the old age care and support with special reference to social exclusion and inclusive dimensions in selected district in Tamil Nadu. Being a study with differences as far as exclusion and inclusive dimensions are concerned this research is expected to influence policies and programmes towards effective inclusion of old age people in the present day society.

4.16. LIMITATIONS

The primary data collected from the old age respondents in the study area was subjected to limited generalization since all the elderly people in Tamil Nadu were not covered due to the problems of distance, non-cooperation etc. However the results of this study have wider application where ever similarities of old age people and their problems and exclusion prevail.

4.17. CHAPTERIZATION

Chapter I : Introduction
Chapter II : Old Age People in Society: The Scenario
Chapter III : Review of Literature
Chapter IV : Research Methodology
Chapter V : Analysis and Interpretation
Chapter VI : Summary of Major Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion
Chapter VII : Implication of Research: Action Points

Bibliography

Appendices