Chapter 4

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction:

Tribal societies in India have undergone an array of remarkable and long-lasting changes, particularly during the last sixty years. Various efforts have been made in every five year plans for the developments of tribals. Despite of all such efforts and massive input, the results have fallen short of expectations as only nominal benefits have reached to the tribals.

The reasons of the failure of the tribal development programmes may be located at the overall policy level or within the nature of strategies. Whether the fault lies with the development policy or program implementation needs further discussions from different perspectives. All plans for development have greater chance of success, if the relevant cultural and social factors are taken into account while formulating plans and programmes. A fundamental weakness lies in the fact that the people for whom development is intended are not involved.

The programmes for the welfare and development of the tribal people so far have had a limited coverage, planners and administrators overlook the cultural background of the community and make desperate efforts to alter the way of life which is bound to meet with resistance. (Vidyarthi, 1984)

The tribal problem as it appears is essentially a problem of backwardness. It is a two-fold problem of the backwardness of the areas which constitute tribals homeland and of the backwardness of the people themselves, wherever they may happen to live. Lack of interest in the
tribal development on the part of administrative and implementing personnel has also affected developmental process.

Moreover, lack of training of the administrative personnel meant to implement the ambitions tribal development schemes has also been responsible for the poor development.

The major tribes present in Dhule and Nandurbar district are Bhil, Kokani, and Mavchi and Pawara tribes. As stated elsewhere the tribes face many problems and still have not assimilated into the mainstream society. As such it is felt there is need to understand their problems and also the extent of benefits received through the different schemes of the Central and State Governments. This study is an attempt to unveil the problems from social work perspective.

Significance of the Study:

Since Independence tribes appear to have evolved into two or more groups, one those who can take advantage of schemes and able to decrease gap of development, while others who are still exist at subsistence level with poor health, education and income levels. As compared to other sections of the Indian Society, Tribal population has the lowest Human Development Index (HDI). They are suffering from geographical and cultural exclusion. A large segment of the tribal population still live below poverty line, suffers from high mortality rate, severe malnutrition, lower literacy rates and an extremely slow pace of development. Under-development coupled with lack of access to proper administrative and judicial machinery in tribal areas further increases their deprivation. (The National Tribal Policy, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.)

In the light of above facts, the researcher had tried to club the first hand information about the facts, situation and conditions of tribes and
wonder why tribals are still underdeveloped. Though Government under took efforts in promoting the Protective and Developmental measures for tribals in accordance with Constitutional guidelines, Tribal Welfare and Development remains an unsolved subject.

This suggested researcher the need for conducting a scientific enquiry to understand the existing tribal problem of development. The review on problems of tribal reveals that there are loop holes in administrative machinery, schemes provisions and its impact. Hence, the researcher finds it appropriate to study impact of Welfare Measures on the tribes.

**Selection of the Topic:**

The Constitution of India contains several provisions for the protection and development of Tribals. There is no single policy which looks at the issue of protection and development of Tribals in an integrated and holistic manner. Tribal development program are governed and implemented by officials, such authority circumvents the real issues related to tribal exploitation and tends to leave tribes entrapped in a state of dependency. Issues of deep concern like livelihood, malnutrition, low literacy, displacement, migration, rights of forest and natural resources have sidelined in the process.

In real sense, Tribal development must proceed in a manner befitting the ethos of the people in an environment in which their development becomes their own responsibility, though Institutions and practices with which they can identify intimately. The concept of Tribal Welfare and Development process has to be understood in all facets. Though the development is popularly regarded as an economic process, equal emphasis is also placed on the qualitative aspects of human development. Development is a multi-dimensional process to
progressively improve the social, cultural, economic, political, personal and human conditions of the tribal people. Therefore Welfare strategy should be conceived and planned within the socio-cultural norms of Tribes based upon the micro-level parameters.

Different Studies conducted on tribes reveal that they are not much effectively benefitted from schemes. The incidence of atrocities, exploitation, deprivation of rights, school dropouts, lack of health care, insecurity of food and non-empowerment were recorded till today. Hence, the researcher undertook study titled “A Study of the Impact of Welfare Measures for Tribal Development in Nandurbar and Dhule Districts of Maharashtra.”

**Objectives of the Study:**

1) To study the demographic characteristics of the tribes.

2) To find out their present social, economic and health status.

3) To understand various government schemes applicable to them and the extent of benefits received and difficulties faced by them.

4) To ascertain their awareness regarding the Democratic status, Constitutional Safeguards, Protective measures and Government department functions.

5) To study the problem of displacement and rehabilitation.

6) To study mobility orientation among tribals.

7) To know the role of NGOs in tribal development.

8) To suggest the measures for their improvement based on findings from social work perspective.
Hypothesis of the Study:

1) The socio-economic condition of tribals is still poor.
2) Literacy rate is low among the tribes.
3) The tribals are still ill treated by non-tribals.
4) The tribals are unaware of any welfare measures provided by the Government.
5) Different schemes implemented by the Government have not improved the condition of the tribals.
6) Mobility orientation is less among tribals.
7) Tribes are displaced by development projects.

Aim of the Study:

The study is mainly aimed at finding out the impact of different schemes and their present status.

Scope of the Study:

The scope of the study is geographically limited to Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra and to four major tribes Viz Bhil, Kokani, Mavchi and Pawara.

The analytical scope of the study throws light in to the perspective and policy implications in order to address issues concerning poor quality of life, poor infrastructure, diminishing control over the natural resources, exclusion from main society and non-empowerment of the persons. The functional scope is to offer meaningful suggestions aimed at fulfilling the objectives of the study.

This study enables those who are working with tribals, especially Administrators, Government officers, community/social workers, social
activist etc. for understanding tribal problems and finding meaningful solutions.

**Research Design:**

Descriptive research studies are those studies which concerned with describing the characteristics of a particular individual or of a group. Since description is made on the basis of scientific observation, it is expected to be more accurate and precise than casual. It is used for fact finding with adequate interpretation.

The present study follows the need to understand problems of tribals, through focus on development strategy used to improve status and quality of life of tribals. It attempts for holistic development of tribes. Hence, the research design adopted for the study is descriptive in nature.

**Universe of the Study:**

The universe of the study is the tribes distributed in Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra. The study covered only the major tribes Bhil, Kokani, Mavchi and Pawara. The area of the study is the district of Dhule and Nandurbar, which is a part of formerly known as West Khandesh, lies between 20° 38' and 22° 3' north latitude and 73° 47' and 75° 11' east of longitude. It covers an area of 13,143 square kilometers jointly. These are the western-most districts on the northern border of Maharashtra State, bounded on the west by Surat and Bharuch of Gujarat State. On the north by Baroda district of Gujarat, Jhabua and Nimar districts of Madhya Pradesh and on east and south by Jalgoan and Nasik districts of Maharashtra State.

According to 2001 census the population of Nandurbar and Dhule district were 1,311,709 and 1,707,947 respectively. The population of
The total rural tribal population of Dhule and Nandurbar districts is 4,20,139 and 8,28,565.

In order to give equal representation to both districts researcher adopted the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) strategy implemented by Maharashtra Government, Which groups tribal population of both districts equally into 2 groups called Nandurbar ITDP and Taloda ITDP.

Hence the universe of the study covers all the tribal population residing at Nandurbar and Taloda ITDP only.

**Sample Design:**

There are 47 tribal communities spread all over the Maharashtra state. The major tribal communities distributed in Dhule and Nandurbar districts are Bhil, Kokani, Mavchi and Pawara etc. Dhule district is divided into four talukas namely, Dhule, Sakari, Shindkheda and Shirpur. Nandurbar district has 6 talukas namely, Nandurbar, Akkalkuwa, Akkarani, Taloda, Shahada and Navapur.

In order to give an equal representation to all the four tribal groups a quota of 50 samples among them were selected from both the districts. Hence the sample constituted to 200 respondents. The respondents were selected by simple random lottery method from the list procured from Nandurbar and Taloda Integrated Tribal Development Project office.

The detailed account of the sample units collected from office list of beneficiaries are given below:
Table No. 4.1: Distribution of Sample Design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Tribe</th>
<th>Dhule District (Nandurbar ITDP Office)</th>
<th>Nandurbar District (Taloda ITDP Office)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bhil</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kokani</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mavchi</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pawara</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** As per ITDP Plan in Maharashtra state, **Nandurbar ITDP Office** covers area of Dhule and Nandurbar districts; **Taloda ITDP Office** covers area of only Nandurbar district according to average population of tribes.

**Method and Tools of Data Collection:**

The researcher found that the interview schedule is the most suitable amongst all the available tools for data collection for a social work research of the present type. Hence the researcher used self prepared interview schedule to elucidate the data required for the study. While designing the interview schedule the researcher made conscious effort to include all the elements that facilitate the study with proper, precise and accurate information. For the interview the beneficiary of Tribal Development schemes and their family members occupied the role of primary respondents.

The interview schedule were prepared to collect information on personal, family, social, economic, educational, health, housing,
understanding of democratic Institutions, awareness of Protective Acts, benefit of schemes, displacement and mobility orientation from respondents and family. The interviews were held in a congenial atmosphere. The respondents and their family members were given ample opportunity to air out their views, thoughts and feelings.

Before finalizing the interview schedule, the researchers had taken into account the studies reviewed previously. On the basis of the above sources as well as researcher’s experience survey the tool given below were prepared tentatively. Performa covering demographic characteristics details of the respondents viz., age, sex, religion, mother tongue, residential status, settlement, language known, education and habits etc. are used. The other information collected includes family, social, economic, housing, health, education and benefits received under various development schemes.

Mobility orientation was measured by a scale developed by Hopper (1976) consisting of 6 statements.

Responses to mobility orientations were made on five port Likert scale strongly agree and strongly disagree. The highest and lowest scores obtained by a particular respondents or respondent are treated as the extreme of the continuum. The continuum was classified into three possible equal categories denotify high, moderate and low levels of orientation.

Pre-Testing of the Tool:

The interview schedule are prepared and devised on the basis of the objectives of the study. Before finalizing the schedule it was pre tested with a few respondents to examine whether the selected questions were relevant, appropriate, and capable enough to serve the purpose.
After the pre test, some questions were modified and some were deleted to finalise Interview Schedule.

Sources of the Data:

Primary Sources:

The primary sources are those sources from which the data for the study are to be collected a fresh. For the purpose of the study the researcher used the following primary sources.

1. Interview Schedule:

The researcher developed an interview schedule based on the priority information that has to be collected to reach the generalization of facts pertaining to the research. The data were collected by the researcher directly from the respondents and their family members, that is, the significant others of the beneficiaries of Tribal Development schemes.

2. Observations:

The observation method is most commonly used. Here the information sought by the researchers own direct observation and assessment during data collection. It is a scientific tool which the researcher planned, recorded and subjected.

3. Formal and Informal Discussions:

Researcher collected additional information and verified facts by the way of formal and informal discussions with the Government officers, social/community workers, NGO representatives, respondents and their family members during the period of data collection. The researcher asked relative queries about the experiences, feeling and changes about the benefit received. All the interviewed respondents and their family members extended great co-operation in sharing their views, thoughts and answers to the questions. This method helped the researcher to cross examine the tools used for study and doubts.
Secondary Sources:

The secondary data were those which have already been collected by someone else and which have already passed through statistical processes. In case of secondary data, the nature of data collection work is merely that of compilation. During this study the researcher collected secondary sources of data through tribal literature and research studies from different libraries like SIBER, Kolhapur; Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Mumbai University, Mumbai; Tribal Research and Training Institute, Pune. The published Journals, newspapers, other published, unpublished documents and internet sources are used extensively.

Process of Data Collection:

The finalized tools were used for the collection of primary data. The data from the selected respondents were skillfully collected at the individual situations and convenience in a free and frank manner. While interviewing the beneficiary respondents, the researcher had in mind the focus of the goal of the research.

Data Processing, Analysis and Interpretation:

The collected data were arranged by giving them response codes of the respondents and clubbed together the different tools used to drain the data from single respondent. The collected data was coded and master chart was used for the further processing of the data as an aid for analytical work. Once the master chart was prepared the entire data on the master chart was entered on Microsoft Excel for further analytical convenience. The analysis covers the following heads.
The coding region:

It represents the abbreviations of different questions asked by the researcher and of the responses given by the respondents with regard to it.

The Master Chart:

The master Chart was prepared on which the collected data arranged in sequence and represented in the form of codes, and the same was entered on Microsoft excel which helped the researcher for the further procedures like tabulation, analysis etc.

Tabulation and Interpretation:

With the help of Microsoft excel the collected data was tabulated and got all responses together, which made convenient for the researcher for the assessment of the data. The analysis and interpretation for the present study was done by using simple percentages.

Duration of the Research:

The research work began with pre intervention phase of preparing the grounds for the research work by June 2006 and started the work officially after the provisional admission to Ph. D Degree Course in Social Work was granted by the University on 29th September 2006 with letter Ref No. P.G/Ph. D/ No. 7111 and completed in May, 2011.

Limitations of the Study:

During the course of conducting the research, one has to constantly guard against introducing bias, subjectivity, and in accuracy, while selecting the sample, making observations, and at every step. The researcher had taken immense care and every possible effort to collect authentic information. However, the findings of the study are based on information provided by the respondents which may have its own limitations. Due to fear of social stigma, fear of unknown inherent biases and hiding certain facts cannot be ruled out. The study is limited to 200
beneficiary respondents at the time of selecting the cases for the study. It is also limited to two districts. A wider coverage may meaningful for more comprehensive generalization. Despite the above limitations, the results of the study reveal the general trend.

**Chapter Scheme:**

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Data Interpretation & Analysis

Chapter - VI  
Findings, Conclusions, Social Work Intervention and Suggestions of the Study.

Bibliography.

Appendix:  
Interview Schedule
Administration Chart
Photos
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