Chapter – III

Research methodology
CHAPTER – III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter provides a systematic description of the methodological procedures adopted for the study of elected women representatives of Grama Panchayats. The methodology includes Importance of the Study, Scope of the Study, Aim of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Hypotheses, Research Design, Place of the Study, Universe and Sample, Sources of Data, Tools and Techniques of Data Collection, Development of Research Tools, Pre-testing, Main Study, Data Processing, Limitations of the Study and Chapterwise Scheme.

The purpose of the study is to explore the elected women representatives’ participation at the grassroot level democracy. In the history of Indian public life, women are not given much opportunity to rule the society. In the name of democratic decentralization, women are identified to take part in the grassroot democracy. The three-tier system of democratic decentralization has given 33% reservation for women to contest in the Grama Panchayat electoral process and participate in the decision making process.

A detailed review of the literature pertaining to the topic under research reveals that a number of studies were made on the general participation of women in Panchayat Raj Institutions. There are few studies relating to women (belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe based on the reservation policy) participation in Panchayat Raj Institutions. There are hardly any studies made on elected women participation in Panchayat Raj system focusing on the motivating factors, functioning, and the difficulties experienced. Further, there are no studies which deal in the comparison between the backward districts and the relatively developed districts with a holistic perspective. Hence, it was decided to take up a study on women participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Chamarajanagara and Udupi districts of Karnataka.
3.1 Importance of the study

Women’s participation in political bodies at various levels is the need of the hour. Only when ways and means are evolved to promote women’s participation in polity, will women be able to gain equal access to control over the political process. Research studies on the subject of elected women role in political bodies must provide an insight into the nature of their participation as well as the obstacles to their effective participation.

The topic, “A Study on Elected Women Representatives in Grama Panchayath’s of Karnataka” is relevant today as the issue of reservation of one-third seats for women in Local Self Government is widely debated since its implementation. The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Bill passed by the Parliament in 1993 has sought to provide one-third of the seats in all Panchayat Raj bodies to women. This gave the opportunity for many women to enter into Panchayat Raj bodies, particularly in those States that had elections. The present study is carried out with the following aim and specific objectives:

3.2 Aim of the Study

To fulfil the research lacunae identified by a detailed review of the literature, the following aim and objectives are formulated:

The aim of the study is to explore the profile of Elected Women Representatives in Grama Panchayats of Udupi and Chamarajanagara districts in Karnataka with particular reference to their participation, motivating factors, problems and difficulties experienced, and strategies adopted to solve the problems. To reach the aim, the following specific objectives have been formulated.

3.3 Specific Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the profile of elected women representatives in Grama Panchayats;
2. To examine the participation of elected women representatives in social activities before becoming a member of the Panchayat;
3. To identify the factors which the motivate women to contest in the Panchayat election;
4. To analyse the problems and difficulties experienced by the elected women representatives in relation to their role; and
5. To study the strategies adopted to solve the problems by the elected women representatives in implementing developmental programmes.
3.4 Hypotheses

Reviewing related literature in conjunction with discussion with experts and field visits have enabled the researcher to develop logical assumptions on the topic related to the objectives of the study. In order to suit the research design adopted, null hypotheses were framed in the study. The study has considered education, caste categories, marital status, employment status, and type of family of the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayat as independent variables. The selected set of variables, viz., participation, motivating factors, strategies adopted to solve problems and the problems faced by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats were considered as dependent variables. The following hypotheses was framed for the study:

1. The independent variable education has no association with the dependent variable participation by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
2. The independent variable education has no association with the dependent variables motivating factors by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
3. The independent variable education has no association with the dependent variable problems faced by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
4. The independent variable education has no association with the dependent variables of strategies adopted to solve problems by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
5. The independent variable caste groups/categories have no association with the dependent variables participation by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
6. The independent variable caste groups/categories have no association with the dependent variables motivating factors by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
7. The independent variable caste group/categories have no association with the dependent variables problems faced by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
8. The independent variable caste groups/categories has no association with the dependent variables strategies adopted to solve problems by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
9. The independent variable marital status has no association with the dependent variable participation by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
10. The independent variable marital status has no association with the dependent variable motivating factors by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
11. The independent variable marital status has no association with the dependent variable problems faced by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
12. The independent variable marital status has no association with the dependent variable strategies adopted to solve problems by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
13. The independent variable employment has no association with the dependent variables of participation, by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
14. The independent variable employment has no association with the dependent variables of motivating factors, by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
15. The independent variable employment has no association with the dependent variables of problems faced by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
16. The independent variable employment has no association with the dependent variables of strategies adopted to solve problems, by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
17. The independent variable type of family has no association with the dependent variables participation, by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
18. The independent variable type of family has no association with the dependent variables motivating factors by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
19. The independent variable type of family has no association with the dependent variables of the problems faced by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
20. The independent variable type of family has no association with the dependent variables strategies adopted to solve problems by the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.
### 3.5 Research Design

The objective of a descriptive study is to learn the what, who, when, where, and how of a chosen study. The study may be simple or complex; it may be done in many settings. Whatever may be the form, a descriptive study can be just as demanding of research skills as the casual study, and we should insist on the same high standards for design and execution (Cooper and Schindler, 1999).

The present study is an attempt to explore the participation of elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions with reference to the Grama Panchayats in two districts of Karnataka with wholistic perspectives. To satisfy the objectives of the study, a descriptive research design was adopted. Qualitative methodologies were employed along with quantitative techniques. The study is **descriptive in nature** as it is intended to understand who, what, when, where, and how of *A Study on Elected Women Representatives in Grama Panchayaths of Karnataka* (A Comparative Study Undertaken in Udupi and Chamarajanagara Districts of Karnataka) the concerned] the elected women participation in the Grama Panchayats.

The study is also intended to find the extent of participation by these women in the democratic process and the reasons thereof so as to understand the issues in-depth and arrive at logical conclusions. From this perspective, the design is **diagnostic too**.

### 3.6 Scope of the study

The geographic scope of the study is limited to the Chamarajanagara and Udupi districts of Karnataka. It studies the elected women representatives in the Grama Panchayats with reference to their participation, motivating factors, functioning, difficulties experienced and strategies adopted.

The study is limited to cover 288 elected women Grama Panchayat members, among whom were President, Vice-Presidents and Members of the Grama Panchayats. The study is limited to understand the perception of women members concerning their participation in the Grama Panchayat. This study is expected to help the policy makers and planners to develop schemes for effective implementation and create a conducive environment for the participation of women in the Grama Panchayat.
3.7 Place of the study

On 15th August, 1997 as a gift on the golden anniversary of the Independence of India, the Honourable Chief Minister J. H. Patel, Karnataka Government, inaugurated a new district at M.M. Hills. On the same day, the then Deputy Chief Minister Siddaramaiah along with MLA A.R. Krishna Murthy inaugurated the Deputy Commissioner's Office of the Chamarajanagara district. This district was one of the seven new districts formed on that day. Those seven districts were Chamarajanagara, Udupi, Davanagere, Haveri, Koppal, Gadag, and Bagalkote. These seven new districts were the result of reports submitted by the Vasudev Rao Samithi, the Hundikar Samithi, the Gaddigowdar Samithi, the Zilla Horata Samithi, etc.
Methodology

Based on the Human Development Report Karnataka 2005, Karnataka was divided into two parts, Northern Karnataka and Southern Karnataka. The present study based on the South Karnataka HDI Report 2005, finds Chamarajanagara district among the least developed district in southern Karnataka, while Udupi is a more developed district. Both the districts were newly formed in the year 1997.

Chamarajanagara is the southern-most district in the state of Karnataka. It was carved out of the original Mysore district in the year 1997. Chamarajanagara town is the headquater of this district. It was earlier known as Arikottara. Chamaraja Wodeyar, the Wodeyar king of Mysore was born here and hence this place was renamed after him.
Being the southernmost district of Karnataka, Chamarajanagara district borders the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Specifically, it borders Mysore district of Karnataka to the West and North, Mandya and Bangalore districts of Karnataka to the North-East, Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu to the East, Salem and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu to the South-East, Nilgiris districts of Tamil Nadu to the south, and Wayanad district of Kerala to the south-west. Most of the district lies in the leeward region of the Nilgiris and consists of mainly semi-arid rain-dependent flatlands along with forested hills.

According to the 2011 census, Chamarajanagara district has a population of 10,20,962. This gives it a ranking of 441 in India (out of 640 districts). The district has a population density of 200 inhabitants per square kilometer (520 /sq mi). Chamarajanagara has a sex ratio of 989 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 61.12 %. It is to be noted that the literacy rate of men (67.88) is more when compared with the literacy rate of women (54.32).
Udupi, a land of ethereal beauty, lies between the verdant mountains of the Western Ghats on the east and the vast tranquil Arabian Sea on the west. This new district, carved out of the erstwhile Dakshina Kannada, which was more aptly called "Parashurama Srishti", encapsulates a vast cultural heritage. Udupi is well known for its religious fervour and the vividity of a diverse cultural heritage. Udupi, known elsewhere as the Temple City, is the headquarters of the district, and is known throughout the world as the birth place of Udupi Hotels. It never ceases to enchant visitors across the length and breadth of the country and world over. It is best known as the seat of the Madhwa renaissance, founded by the sage Madhwacharya, the outcome of which are Ashtamathas, located in the famous Car Street, surrounding the Sri Krishna Temple.

Udupi, an important Teerthasthal (pilgrimage place) with its historical Krishna Temple is the cultural center of Karnataka. The district, carved out of Dakshina Kannada, has its own identity in the field of art and culture. The temple town has seen the birth of many great personalities of national and international fame, whose intellectual contribution is commendable. Great writers like the Late Dr. K. Shivarama Karanth, Dr. U. R. Ananthamurthy, and Girish Karnad, the Jnanapeeth award winners hail from this place. Other writers and critics like Late Pa Vem Acharya and N. Vyasaraya Ballal, also owe their lineage to this land. Well known artistes like the Late K. K. Hebbar and the Late B. P. Bairi dedicated their lives for the promotion and spread of art. Yakshagana, Taalamaddale, Gombeyaata, Bhoota worship, Naaga worship, Koti Chennaya Nema, Garaodis, temples, and cock-fights form the reminiscences of the rich past and glory of this magical land.
The district is well endowed with surface and ground water facility necessary for irrigating horticultural crops. The district leads in cashew production and has a vibrant processing industry. There is scope for the growth of areca and coconut, provided the rates are supported by suitable market mechanism. A numbers of food processing industries are established here. The district is the net importer of vegetables, a number of which can very well be grown within the district. Suitable interaction between the farmers and the Regional Research Station at Brahmavara, as also the Horticulture department, needs to be taken up. On the export front, jasmine flowers grown in the area of Katpady and Palli are being exported. This can be further expanded to adjacent areas. If possible, industries for the extraction of essential oil from jasmine and vanilla can also be set up. Already some initiatives for developing
the herbal gardens and the extraction of essential oils seem to have been taken. Since the labour costs are high and the returns low, low-lying areas under paddy cultivation may be encouraged to take up alternate crops like sugarcane. The development of identified watersheds is an important step in this direction as it would enable recharging of groundwater and prevention of run-off into the sea in this high rainfall region.

3.8 Universe and Sample

Universe of the study constitutes all the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats which is 35,305 (43.80%) of the total 80,602 elected Grama Panchayat members. Of these 1652 elected women representatives (Panchayat term 2005-06 to 2009-10) belong to the Chamarajanagara and Udupi districts of Karnataka (HDR, 2005). Among them, 838 elected women panchayat members belonging to the Chamarajanagara district and 814 belonging to the Udupi district were selected. For a greater representation of the universe, a **multi-stage stratified random sampling** was adopted. The procedure was as follows:

In the **first stage**, two districts in Karnataka, viz., Chamarajanagara (backward) and Udupi (comparatively developed) districts were selected on the basis of development indicators such as education, infrastructure, women literacy, and women participation in politics. It was further decided to study all the talukas in the above districts for a greater representation. The talukas were Udupi, Kundapura, and Karkala from Udupi district and Chamarajanagara, Yalandur, Kollegal, and Gundlupet from Chamarajanagara district.

Further, both the districts were newly formed (1997) and have distinct features. Udupi is in the coastal region of Karnataka in the middle of Dakshina Kannada and Uttara Kannada facing the Western Ghats. Udupi is known for several developmental achievements. The rate of literacy is very high (86.29%: Male-91.69%, Female - 81.41%) and it is known for having the largest number of educational institutions and is internationally recognized for its banking sector. The ICDS programmes have been experimented as a pilot project in Udupi.

This was to facilitate comparison between the elected women representatives of the Panchayat of Chamarajanagara (backward region) and Udupi (comparatively developed region).
Udupi has three revenue talukas and Chamarajanagara has four talukas, however Chamarajanagara districts has 126 Grama Panchayats spread over in 4 talukas, while Udupi district has 146 Grama Panchayats spread over in 3 talukas.

Table No. 3.1.1: Taluk Wise List of Grama Panchayat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl No.</th>
<th>Name of the District</th>
<th>Name of the Taluk</th>
<th>No. of Grama Panchayat</th>
<th>Districtwise total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chamarajanagara</td>
<td>Chamarajanagara</td>
<td>042</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gundlupet</td>
<td>030</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kollegal</td>
<td>037</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Udupi</td>
<td>Yelandur</td>
<td>011</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Udupi</td>
<td>061</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Karkala</td>
<td>029</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Kundapura</td>
<td>056</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total   266

Source: District Statistical Information, District Statistical Office, Chamarajanagara and Udupi, 2008-2009

In the second stage, 96 Grama Panchayats from seven talukas were selected randomly by using the random number tables. The random selection was made based on disproportionate weightage so as to give average importance to talukas having lesser number of Panchayat.

3.8.1 Inclusion Criteria

- The study includes only elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats from Chamarajanagara and Udupi districts of Karnataka.
- Members from all caste groups, irrespective of reservation, are included.

3.8.2 Exclusion Criteria

- Women members of Taluka Panchayat and Zilla Panchayats were excluded from the study.
- Elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats other than Chamarajanagara and Udupi districts of Karnataka, were excluded from the study.
Table No.3.1.2: Number of Grama Panchayat Chosen For Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>No. of GP in the Region (Classification)</th>
<th>Name of the Taluk</th>
<th>Classification Number</th>
<th>Weightage in %</th>
<th>No. of Panchayat Chosen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11-20</td>
<td>Yalandur</td>
<td>1(11)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>21-30</td>
<td>Karkala, Gundlupet</td>
<td>2(29,30)</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>(13+14) 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>31-40</td>
<td>Kollegal</td>
<td>1(37)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>41-50</td>
<td>Chamarajanagara</td>
<td>1(42)</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>51-60</td>
<td>Kundapura</td>
<td>1(56)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>61-70</td>
<td>Udupi</td>
<td>1(61)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>7(266)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>96</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the **third stage**, three women representative from each Panchayat were selected. Except for three Grama Panchayats, all the selected Grama Panchayats had a minimum of four and maximum of 14 elected women representatives. Three elected women representatives were selected (multi-stage stratified random sampling) randomly from each Grama Panchayat, namely those who had put in a minimum four years of service in the Grama Panchayat. Wherever such representatives were not available, 20 members were interviewed who had less than the desired years of service. Likewise, the sample size was limited to 288 (96 Grama Panchayats x 3 Elected Women Members). The same is shown in the following chart:

**Chart No. 3.1: Sampling Frame Work Chart**

EWR-Elected Women Representatives, GP-Grama Panchayat,

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3.9 Source of Data

To satisfy the objectives of the study, primary as well as secondary sources of data, were collected for the study. The primary sources data were collected directly from the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats.

The secondary data was collected from reference books, dissertation abstracts, conference proceedings, articles published in the referred journals, reports of the Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, working papers, Gazetteers, Human Development Reports, unpublished papers and monographs of the research institutions working on democratic decentralisation. The records of the District Statistical Offices, Grama Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats, and Zilla Panchayats also served as sources of secondary data. The websites of the State and Central government departments, National and International organisations working on democratic decentralisation were reviewed periodically.

3.10 Tools and Techniques of data collection

The tools to collect the data were a semi-structured interview schedule and a checklist. The semi-structured interview schedule was canvassed with the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats. A checklist was used to conduct informal interviews with the family members of the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats, representatives of developmental organisations working on democratic decentralisation, Secretaries of Panchayats, and field experts.

The technique adopted in the study for the purpose of data collection was to interview the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats and other stakeholders. This technique was thought to be appropriate as it was found that the majority of elected women representatives were illiterate and personal interaction would be a better way of collecting the data. Focused group discussion technique was also adopted by having discussions with the group of elected women representatives in the selected Grama Panchayats in order to have a deeper understanding of the topic of research. The observation technique was also used by the researcher in order to understand the ground realities that existed with reference to the challenges and difficulties faced by the elected women representatives in discharging their role in the Grama Panchayats. The following table describes the methodology of the tools and techniques used in the study.
Methodology

Table No.3.1.3: Tools and Techniques Used in the Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Tools Used</th>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Techniques adopted</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1      | Semi-structure interview schedule             | Elected women representative of Grama Panchayats | • Interview  
          |                                                |                                                | • Observation       | 288                 |
| 2      | Checklist                                     | Elected women representative of Grama Panchayats | • Focussed Group Discussion            | 3 from each district |
|        |                                               | • Secretary of Panchayats                      |                                       |                     |
|        |                                               | • Representative of developmental organisation |                                       |                     |
|        |                                               | • Field experts                                |                                       |                     |
|        |                                               | • Family members                               |                                       | --                  |

3.11 Development of Research Tools

A semi-structured interview schedule was prepared by the researcher, keeping in mind the objectives of the study. The semi-structured interview schedule consists of five sections covering the profile of the women panchayat members, their participation in social activities before becoming panchayat members, factors motivating the women to contest in the panchayat election, problems and difficulties experienced by the women members in relation to their role as members, and the strategies adopted to solve the problems while implementing developmental programmes.

While preparing the interview schedule a series of discussions was held with the field experts from PRI institutions, academicians, functionaries of training institutions like NIRD and SIRD, political leaders, elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayat, Grama Panchayat officials, and NGO’s involved in PRI activities.

A check list was also prepared keeping in mind the aim and objectives of the study in order to conduct informal interviews and focused group discussions with various stake holders.
3.12 Pre-testing

After preparing the final draft of the semi-structured interview schedule, a pre-testing was done to verify the suitability and adoptability of the tool in order to satisfy the set objectives. The pre-testing was conducted in five Grama Panchayats from both the selected districts with 28 elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats. This exercise helped the researcher to standardize the semi-structured interview schedule with necessary modifications (both additions and deletions).

*Webster’s new world dictionary* defines ethical as, “conforming to the standards of conduct of a given profession or group.” Although the idea may frustrate readers in search of moral absolutes, what we regard as morality and ethics in our day-to-day life is a matter of agreement among the members of a group. And it is no surprise that different groups agreed on different codes of conduct. If you are going to live in a particular society, then it is extremely useful to know what that society considers ethical and unethical. The same holds true for the social work research “Community” (Quoted by Rubin and Babbie, 2010).

Ethical issues like informed consent had been followed. All subjects were informed of the nature of the study, its purpose and benefits in a language understandable to them and their permission was sought to collect the data. All the respondents were happy in conveying their consent.

Further, the researcher had collected the data from the respondents in such a way that their human rights were respected and even promoted.

The protection of the participants’ identity was the main concern while protecting their interests and wellbeing in the survey research. If revealing their survey responses would injure them in any way, adhering to this norm becomes all the more important. (Rubin and Babbie, 2010). Confidentiality of information was assured and the subjects were encouraged to freely express their opinions and concerns at every level and to participate actively without any inhibition.
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3.13 Main Study

After standardizing the research tool, the main study was conducted in the selected two districts for the duration of 6 months (October 2009 to March 2010). Each Grama Panchayat was visited in the morning. The list collected from the Zilla Panchayat of the elected women representatives was verified after visiting the Grama Panchayats. The contact details of the three representatives as per the sampling methodology were procured from the Panchayat Secretary. They contacted the selected women representatives and briefed them about the purpose of the visit. A convenient time was confirmed for the purpose of the interview. Accordingly, each elected women representative was interviewed for an average duration of 60 minutes. Altogether, one day was spent in each Grama Panchayat to interview the women representatives. Other stakeholders in the village were also met to conduct the informal interviews on the same day.

3.14 Data Processing

The empirical data gathered according to above methodology from the field was subjected to editing with reference to semi-structured interview schedules. Errors like blank entries, incomplete entries, wrong entries, and logical errors were corrected in the field itself after completion of each Grama Panchayat. The qualitative data was quantified by assigning numerical values and were subjected to coding. It was done by preparing a coding key. By referring to the coding key, the data from the 288 semi-structured interview schedules was transferred to the master chart. The data from the master chart was then keyed into the computer in a Statistical Package for Social Sciences. The frequency distribution tables, percentage, pie diagram, bar charts, and bi-variate tables, Mean, Standard Deviation and Chi-square, and Rank-correlation tests were calculated using the same software. Accordingly, analysis and interpretation were made with inferences.

3.15 Limitations of the Study

The study is limited to the elected women representatives of the Grama Panchayats of Udupi and Chamarajanagara districts of Karnataka. It could not cover other districts. Further, the study did not take into consideration the opinions of the elected male members. The study also did not cover elected women representative from the other tiers, viz., Zilla Panchayat and Taluka Panchayats. However, the methodology adopted was sufficient to draw inferences and make generalizations related to the elected women representatives in the Grama Panchayats of Karnataka.
3.16 Chapterwise Scheme

3.16.1 Chapter I: Introduction

Chapter one introduces the topic of the research. This chapter includes aspects like the status of women in India, women participation a conceptual review, political participation, Evolution of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, viz.; Vedic era, Epic era, Ancient period, Medieval period, British period, Post Independence period; Women in Panchayati Raj: A Historical Perspective; Reservation for Women in Panchayats, and Women Political Participation. The growth of PRIs during the post-independence period can be seen in three phases; first phase - 1959 to 1966; second phase - 1967 to 1976; and third phase - 1977 to 1986, Panchayat Raj in Karnataka, Women in Panchayat Raj: A historical Perspective, Reservation for women in Panchayats and political participation of women.

3.16.2 Chapter II: Review of Literature

Chapter two is the review of previous investigations available on the topic of this research. Contentwise review was made, viz., concept, history, structure and functions, election and leaders, community development, people participation, elected women participation, Grama Sabha, problems of Democratic Decentralisation, Panchayati Raj and politics, Panchayati Raj Administration, Grama Panchayati caste and class, Panchayati Raj Audit, and Research Lacunae.

3.16.3 Chapter III: Research Methodology

The third chapter describes the procedures followed in order to complete the research. This includes the importance of the study, scope of the study, aim and objectives of the study, hypothesis, type of research design adopted, place of the study, universe and sample, sources of data, tools and techniques of data collection, development of research tools, Pre-test, main study, data processing, limitations of the study, and chapterwise scheme.

3.16.4 Chapter IV: Analysis and Interpretation

This chapter includes the analysis of the uni-variate tables and bi-variate tables. It was analysed by taking percentages, Rank-correlation values, Chi-square values. Suitable interpretations are also made corresponding to the analysis in this chapter.
3.16.5 Chapter V: Conclusion and Recommendations

The major findings drawn from the previous chapter are presented in this chapter. A summary is written based on the major findings and interpretation and a conclusion is drawn at the end of this chapter. Essential recommendations for the active participation of women representatives in the Grama Panchayats of the selected two districts, is suggested in this chapter.
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