CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Any specific method/approach should have a method or an outline to be followed to achieve the particular goal, by following a systematic procedure. This procedure should translate the selected research problem into researchable work and achieve reasonably accurate conclusion.

This chapter deals with the methodology adopted for the study by the researcher. It includes the significance of the study and statement of problem. It conveys aims and objectives of the study, research design, sampling, pilot study, tools for data collection, pre test, data collection process, statically analysis of data and operational definition. It substantiates the problem encountered by the researcher, limitations of the study and also the chapterization of the study.

Research is a systematic inquiry into and study of material and sources in order to establish knowledge and facts aims at systematic description of observed facts and their relations. Social science research seeks systematic inquiry of subjects pertaining to society such as social behaviour, social relations, social problems (customs, rituals, practices and traditions), social institutions, relations, attitudes, perceptions and opinions in all their variety and intensity to draw inferences. Research methodology indicates the way in which the present research work is carried out.

TITLE OF THE STUDY

“Mental Health and Vocational Aptitude of Juveniles in conflict with law”

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of this study is to review the literature pertaining to identify major mental health problems leading the juveniles to criminal behavior, vocational aptitude and attitude towards parents of juveniles in conflict with law. To say specifically the objectives are:
➢ To study the personal profile of the juveniles in conflict with law
➢ To rate the respondents on the key variables (attitude towards parents, mental health and vocational aptitude)
➢ To find out the factors associated with the attitude of the respondents towards their parents
➢ To find out the factors influencing the mental health of the juvenile in conflict with law
➢ To find out the factors associated with the vocational aptitude of the juveniles in conflict with law
➢ To find out the inter correlation between the key variables

NEED OF THE STUDY

According to the Registrar General of India, in the recent years the rate of juvenile delinquency is on its climb. An oversized range of 33887 juveniles were in remission in 2011 and 39822 in 2012, among which 25178 were for of crime, together with rape, murder, kidnapping and abduction. In 2011, 1149 boys below 18 years were detained for rape across the country and 1175 in 2012. In contrary in the some of the developed countries the rate of Juvenile delinquency is declining.

Several researchers have commented on the importance of understanding factors that are associated with Juvenile Delinquency. For example, it’s been documented by William, B., & David, R. (2005) Juvenile lawless person offence are an important social group difficulty with great economic and social changes. Dickinson, T. and Crowe, A. (1997) expressed that learned adversities, health-related penalties, deviant friends, mental health issues and participating with the juvenile justice scheme are the lifetime of problems in substance abuse adolescents. Some of the researches has indicated that a huge number of youth in Indian Juvenile system experience mental health difficulties and take in to account this as the one of the explanations for Juvenile delinquency.

There are many reasons for juvenile delinquency however many recent researches shows that mental health is often a major reason for delinquency. The prevalence of mental disorder is high among youth in Juvenile Justice System. By learning attitude towards parents, mental health and vocational aptitude of the juvenile in conflict with law one can
understand the root causes of delinquency in different forms. The aim of the study is to understand, suggest and prevent the breakdown of protective familial relationship. This may help to prevent the Juvenile delinquency by adopting applicable medical services, counseling and rehabilitation.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Research Design is The “Blue Print” of a Research Study. Research design outlines how the research will be done to examine the problem, hypothesis, research question, collecting, analysing, interpreting and reporting data etc. and determine how it has been set into a working plan or blue print for study.

The research design used for this study is descriptive in nature. Descriptive research designs are those studies, which are concerned with describing the characteristics of particular individual, group of people or community. This study makes an attempt to describe the personal data of the respondents such as age, sex, religion, education, type of family etc. The description is in depth analyzing the reasons for their present state of mental health and vocational aptitude.

SAMPLING

This Research Work was carried out in 22 Observation Homes located in two south Indian states - Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The study was conducted with 230 inmates of Observation Homes, who were under Juvenile Justice Board trial. The study was carried out by using an interview schedule. The data was collected personally by the researcher through interview schedule which had 4 sections namely 1) personal data, 2) Massachusetts youth screening instrument- Version 2, 3) child’s attitude towards parents scale and 4) vocational aptitude scale. The process of filling interview schedule took 30 minutes of time for each interview schedule. Few juveniles had doubts in understanding the questions and all others responded to all the questions.

- **Type of universe:** In this research the universe is the Observation Homes for juveniles in conflict with law in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. There are 8 Observation Homes in Tamil Nadu and 14 Observation Homes in Kerala. An Observation Home
is a temporary reception home for children in conflict with law. The researcher decided to conduct study among the juveniles in conflict with law facing enquiry.

- **Sampling Units:** The sampling unit for this research is all the 22 Observation Homes located in the two south Indian states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- **Source list:** For this research the source is the 22 Observation Homes selected for data collection.
- **Size of Sample:** For this study of mental health and vocational aptitude of juveniles in conflict with law, the sample size is selected as all the available 230 inmates recently incarcerated in Observation Homes during the time of investigation.
- **Parameters of interest:** The researcher was interested in estimating the mental health and vocational aptitude of juveniles in conflict with law
- **Sampling procedure:** Finally for study of mental health and vocational aptitude of juveniles in conflict with law the method of data collection was through interview schedule. On prior appointment permission was taken from the commissioner, Department of Social Defense, Chennai and the Director, Directorate of Social Welfare, Thiruvanthapuram. The participants who are the inmates of observation homes were made to sit in a particular place along with the supervisor of the homes and then the researcher used the interview schedule to collect data individually. No sampling procedure is needed as it is a census method of collecting data from all the inmates.

**PILOT STUDY**

A pilot or feasibility study is a small experiment designed to test logistics and gather information prior to a larger study, in order to prove the latter’s quality and efficiency.

In order to find out the possibilities of the study, a pilot study was conducted. The researcher made frequent visits to the study area to understand the population of the study. To get familiar with the problem under study the researcher discussed with the experts who are teachers, Juvenile Justice Board Members, research guide and other experts from the same field. The researcher was advised by the guide to attend conference, seminars and workshops relating to juvenile delinquency. All these efforts
and guidance helped the researcher with the research guide to frame the interview schedule for this study.

TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

The researcher with the guidance of the research guide formed the relevant interview schedule. The interview schedule consists of questions under different heading like personal data, mental health, vocational aptitude and attitude towards parents of the juveniles in conflict with law both in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

The interview schedule as consists of four parts:

The first part consists of the personal profile of the respondents such as age, education, type of family personal interest etc.

The second part consists of Massachusetts youth screening instrument- Version 2 (MAYSI-2) a mental health instrument to find out Alcohol/ Drug use, Angry/ Irritable, Depressed/ Anxious, Somatic Complains, Suicide Ideation, Thought Disturbance and Traumatic Experiences formulated by Grisso. T & Barnum, R. (2006). It is a multidimensional instrument for use with youths to identify signs of mental/ emotional disturbance. The scales promised adequate internal consistency and test-retest reliability and most items were substantially correlated with other similar scales which scored at clinically significant levels on those instruments. The previous researchers like Barnum, R., Fletcher, K. stated that the MAYSI-2 help to identify youths who may need an immediate response to mental or emotional problems. This scale has a reliability value of for total the alpha coefficients ranged from .61 to .86 with an average of .75 and average item total correlation ranged from .37 to .63.

The third part consists of (CAF scales) child's attitude toward parent scale (Walter W. Hudson, 2005) which is designed to measure the severity of problems in a parent-child relationship as seen by the child. The scores range from 0 to 100 where higher scores indicate greater problems with the parent-child relationship. This reliability value of this scale is .90 or greater and validity is .60 and greater.
The fourth part consists of modified Interest Determination, Exploration and Assessment System (IDEAS) by Johansson, B. C. (1996). This interest inventory is to be used to help students and adults with career exploration and decisions. The resulting scale provides a wide and diverse coverage on interests. The median reliability coefficients were very high, in the high .80 and low .90

PRE TEST

Randomly 30 respondents were selected for the pretest. Interview schedule was administered to collect data from them. It was conducted to verify the applicability of the instrument to be used, to ascertain the reliability of the population and find out whether any flows or doubt in the administration of the instrument used. After the successful pretest procedure, necessary alternations were made in the interview schedule and incorporated into study. The interview schedule was made simple, clear elaborate and easily understandable by the juveniles in conflict with law.

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION

The data have been collected through primary source. The primary data were collected from the respondents for this study. This method included personal interview, which is recorded in specific organized manner on standardized scales, complemented by personal observation by the interviewer.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

The primary data were collected from 230 respondents of the observation home in Kerala and Tamil Nadu by administering interview schedule. Data collection was conducted during the period of 16th June to 24th August 2012.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected through interview schedule were analyzed based on the code book prepared before entering the data into computer. The statistics used for analysis of data were Simple percentage, ANOVA (Analysis of Variance), t-test, Pearson’s Chi-Square, Correlation Coefficient and Multiple Regression analysis.
Presentation of analysis:

PART – A: Personal Profile of the Juveniles in Conflict with Law

PART – B: Rating of Key Variables

- Attitude towards parents
- Alcohol/ Drug Use
- Angry/ Irritability
- Depression/ Anxiety
- Somatic Complains
- Suicide Ideation
- Thought Disturbance
- Traumatic experiences

PART – C: Attitude towards Parents of the Juveniles in Conflict with Law

PART – D: Mental health of the Juveniles in Conflict with Law

PART – E: Vocational Aptitude of the Juveniles in Conflict with Law

PART – F: Inter Correlation Matrix among Variables

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study was limited to the juvenile boys who are facing inquiry in the Juvenile Justice Boards of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- The numbers of girls were very less and the researcher was not permitted to interview them.

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE RESEARCHER

- Few respondents were reluctant to give proper answers at the outset due to the fear of legal ties.
- Only limited time was allowed for data collection in the Observation Homes

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

- Juvenile in conflict with law

A child in conflict with law means a juvenile who is alleged to have committed an offence and has not completed the eighteen year of age as on the date of commission of
such offence (Sources: Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, 2011).

- **Juvenile Justice Board**

Juvenile Justice Boards were constituted under Section 4 (1) of the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of Children) Act, 2000 as amended in 2006 to deal with cases of the children in conflict with law. A Juvenile Justice Board consists of a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class and two social worker members, of whom at least one shall be a woman. These boards have been conferred with the powers of a Metropolitan Magistrate or Judicial magistrate of first class as per the code of criminal procedure. These boards meet thrice a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the premises of the respective Observation Homes (Sources: Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, 2011).

- **Observation Homes**

An observation home is a temporary reception home for children in conflict with law who are facing inquiry. Children facing inquiry before the Juvenile Justice Boards are being admitted in the Observation Homes (Sources: Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, 2011).

- **Mental Health**

Mental health may be defined as “the adjustment of individuals to themselves and the world at large with a maximum of effectiveness, satisfaction, cheerfulness and socially considerate behaviour and the ability of facing and accepting the realities of life”. (Sources: The white house conference, preliminary reports, 1930)

- **Vocational Aptitude**

Vocational aptitude tests seek to assess potential careers that an individual may be particularly apt for. (Sources: Psychology Dictionary, 2000)