CHAPTER 3

Methodology

Methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. Research Methodology has many dimensions. The present chapter more specifically answers why a research study has been undertaken, how the research problem has been defined, in what way the hypothesis has been formulated, what data have been collected and what particular method has been adopted, why particular technique of analyzing data has been used and a host of similar other questions pertaining to present research problem.
3.1 Rationale for the Research

The rational of the study primarily focuses on two components - It describes a context why doing such a study is worthwhile. A further function can be that of justifying the methods researcher plans to use for solving the research problem.

When girl child from her early life remain deprived of all basic needs and rights, cannot surprise us as an healthy, matured and empowered woman in future .Similarly in families where mothers as women highly oppressed, subjugated, are forced to pass on the same status to their daughters . So it is believed, it’s a small interdependent vicious circle rotates between women and girl children. Though many studies have been conducted on impact of self-help group on status of women, hardly any effort has been made to correlate the status of SHG mothers and girl children in families .

Having post graduation degree in child development, one may curious to know how come I shifted my focus to a subject which appears slightly disjoint from my past. I was always inclined to the area of development of children, always curious to enter into their innocent world of thought process- what they think, how they think . After being enrolled in the stream of child development, I could answer some of the questions that always puzzled me before. This exposure to such a vastness of this area made me to confront different facets of child development. Out of multitude of variables , I always felt family atmosphere was the essential determinant in the developmental process of children. I ardently believed that delving into the world of women and studying both mother and girl children would be of immense relevance and intellectually edifying , wherein mother really extends her spiritual, physical, psychological ethos even before the birth of her child. This inclination pushed me to choose the subject status of women as the area of my dissertation during post-graduation. The dissertation on women exposed to many dimensions of women which made me to believe most of their dimensions of development was the reflection of
their childhood experiences they have encountered. Latter I as a researcher wanted to enter into the periphery of girl children to unravel the dynamics which becomes instrumental to a woman in future. I must admit at that juncture I was not able to get the right direction in expanding my inquisitiveness towards larger picture of women where the lucid guidance of my guide helped me to get the scattered inquisitiveness together and to give a shape which I was interested to explore.

After discovering ‘why’ of taking this problem as my area of interest- the next question came to my mind how would it be possible to go in depth in understanding the broader prospective of the problem. At that juncture, my enrollment to research methodology imparted by TISS as a part of my doctoral studies showed me the direction to choose qualitative approach over quantitative to unravel the underlying meaning and reasons of the problem.

All these concerns led me to fervently believe that the present study would be significant when explored in the perspective of intergenerational and translation of empowerment from women to girl children in the basic institution of society i.e family.

3.2 Objectives of the study

The broad objectives of the study were to understand and explore the dynamics of empowerment among SHG women and it’s impact on their daughters. There is an attempt to strengthen the main objective by comparing it with Non-SHG women. The objectives for the present study are as follows.

1- To create an in-depth understanding of the process through which women of Self Help Group (SHG) evolve in transforming their status of empowerment with respect to their level of economic independence, awareness and participation in decision-making process.

2- To compare and understand the perception and contribution of women towards the status of girl children with focus on education, nutrition, health care, participation in domestic activities and traditional practice.
3- To Compare and analyze the experience of girl children and their perception of the mother’s role in their upbringing.

4- To analyse the possible implication of intergenerational change in women’s role on the status of girl children.

3.3 Designing the study

The research perspective in the present study is qualitative. Qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena. Qualitative research describes social phenomena as they occur naturally. Understanding of a situation is gained through a holistic perspective. It aims to help us to understand the world in which we live and why things are the way they are. Qualitative research is concerned with finding the answers to questions which begin with: why? how? in what way? It is concerned with the opinions, experiences and feelings of individuals producing subjective data. Mies and Huberman (1994) stated that qualitative research methodology is appropriate when the study’s goals are to discover regularity in complex phenomena through identification and categorization of its elements and exploring their connections. This qualitative inquiry was suitable to study the participants’ beliefs and practices and to analyse inductively in the natural settings. The subjective data were used to develop concepts and theories that help us to understand the social world. Different sampling techniques are used. Qualitative sampling techniques were concerned with seeking information from specific groups in the population.

In qualitative research again, there are various qualitative strategies such as 1- ethnography 2- grounded theory, 3- case studies, 4- phenomenological research, 5- Narrative are used to conduct the studies.

Out of five qualitative strategies, for the present study grounded theory strategy has been applied keeping the nature of the study in mind. Grounded theory is a strategy of inquiry in which the researcher derives a general, abstract theory of a process, action or interaction grounded in the views of participants. This process involves using multiple stages of data collection and the refinement and interrelationship of categories of information. Two primary characteristics of this
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design are the constant comparison of data with emerging categories and theoretical sampling of different groups to maximize the similarities and the differences of information (Creswell, 2003).

We are all born into a world of meaning bestowed upon by our culture. Each member of my target group whether she is a part of self-help group or not is inevitably a part of a community which has its own language, values and belief system. These cultural traits are ingrained amongst individuals as their predisposition and are reflected in their perspective towards different aspects of life. Women in SHG expose to different activities which they haven’t experienced before. My study is whether this exposure brings out any transformation in them when it is compared with the Non-SHG women and subsequently reflects in the upbringing of their respective daughters.

Thus, as a researcher I used qualitative methods (in-depth qualitative interview on field) so that participants could express their views. The goal of research was to rely as much as possible on participants’ views of the situation being studied. The question became broad and general so that participant can construct the meaning of the situation. Often these subjective meanings were negotiated socially and historically. I feel the qualitative data that I extracted was nothing but their attitude, views, perception built about themselves and their daughters. It helped me to learn the culture of a self-help group regarding how it shapes, works and discover any underlying variable if plays on predefined parameters and most importantly to examine the impact of predefined attributes of empowerment as a self-help group member towards their daughters. Like wise the views of Non-SHG women towards SHG, their hindrance on the way of empowerment, their contribution towards the upbringing of their daughters were unveiled and compared with that of SHG women. Again the elaborate discussion with their daughters helped me to learn and assess their experience of being a daughter of SHG/Non-SHG mother and their perception towards their mothers.
Selection of participants
Sampling design

For conducting the study, theoretical sampling was followed. The sampling units at different stages were as follows—

1). Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) YUVA adopting women self help groups in urban slums of Mumbai, Maharashtra was contacted.

2) Seventy Women Self Help Groups adopted by YUVA were listed

3) Two Women Self-help groups working under YUVA were selected randomly.

4) Seven respondents i.e. Self Help Group mothers having girl children of age group 10-14 years were selected keeping saturation of sample in mind. Also Seven women having girl children of age group 10-14 years but were not the members of the self-help groups were selected randomly from the same location for the comparative study. Girl children (10-14 years) of these fourteen women were also targeted to compare the status as daughters of self-help group member vis-à-vis daughters of non self-help group member making the total sample size 28 for the present study. The study was undertaken in Dharavi slum in Mumbai, Maharashtra purposively.

Maharashtra

Maharashtra occupies the western and central part of the country and has a long coastline stretching nearly 720 kilometers along the Arabian Sea. Ranges of Sahyadri mountain provide a physical backbone to the State on the west, while the Satpuda hills along the north and Bhamragad- Gadchiroli-Gaikhuri ranges on the east serve as natural borders.

Maharashtra is the second largest state in India both in terms of population and geographical area (3.08 lakh sq. km.). The State has a population of around 10 crore (2001 Census) which is 9.4 per cent of the total population of India. The State has 35 districts which are divided into six revenue divisions.

The population of the State is expected to reach 11.5 crore by 2011. The State is highly urbanised with 42 per cent people residing in urban areas. The Maharashtra is the most industrialized state. The State is pioneer in Small Scale Industries. The State continues to attract industrial investments from both, domestic as well as foreign
institutions. The State has given importance to primary education, which has resulted in consistent improvement in literacy rate. The literacy rate of the State is 76.9 per cent as against 65 per cent at national level as per Census 2001. The State is well known for its administrative acumen and innovative ideas. The State is first to implement woman’s policy and engendering the budget by establishing separate Woman & Child Development Department. It is pioneer in implementing its ‘Employment Guarantee Scheme’ which is replicated by the Government of India (Economic Survey of Maharashtra’ is prepared by the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Planning Department every year for presentation in the Budget Session of the State Assembly).

**Mumbai**

Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra and the financial capital of India, houses the headquarters of most of the major corporate & financial institutions. India's main stock exchanges & capital market and commodity exchanges are located in Mumbai. The country's financial capital Mumbai will have around 8.68 million people living in slums by next year, notwithstanding the high growth economy and focus on "Inclusiveness" (Nov, 2010 Think India Foundation). Though Mumbai's slum population was 6.5 million in the 2001 census, the panel's methodology estimated it at 6.8 million.

**Dharavi**

Asia's largest slum, Dharavi, lies on prime property right in the middle of India's financial capital, Mumbai. Located in the heart of Mumbai, Dharavi has a population of more than 600,000 people residing in 100,000 makeshift homes, and one of the world’s highest population densities at more than 12,000 persons per acre. It is sandwiched between Mahim in the west and Sion in the east, and spread over an area of 175 hectors, or 0.67 square miles (1.7 km²). In 1986, the population was estimated at 530,225, but modern Dharavi has a population of between 600,000 and over 1 million people. Dharavi is one of the largest slums in the world. A majority of the residents of Dharavi belong to the dalit caste. Other castes and tribes are also present. Minorities include Christians, Muslims and Buddhists. It is home to more than a
million people. Many are second-generation residents, whose parents moved in years ago. Today's Dharavi bears no resemblance to the fishing village it once was.

It is just across from the Bandra-Kurla Complex -- a fast developing commercial center that has overtaken Nariman Point, the current downtown of Mumbai -- and is also located close to Mumbai’s domestic and international airports. It is located in a city where house rents are among the highest in the world. Dharavi is a unique, vibrant, and thriving 'cottage' industry complex, the only one of its kind in the world.

Dharavi provides a cheap and affordable option to those who move to Mumbai to earn their living. Rents here can be as low as 185 rupees ($4/£2.20) per month. As Dharavi is located between Mumbai's two main suburban rail lines, most people find it convenient for work. Even in the smallest of rooms, there is usually a cooking gas stove and continuous electricity. Many residents have a colour television with a cable connection that ensures they can catch up with their favourite soaps. Some of them even have a video player two wheeler and four wheeler vehicles.

Dharavi pulsates with intense economic activity. Its population has achieved a unique informal "self-help" urban development over the years without any external aid. It is a humming economic engine. The residents, though bereft of housing amenities, have been able to lift themselves out of poverty by establishing thousands of successful businesses. A study by Center for Environmental Planning & Technology indicates that Dharavi currently has close to 5,000 industrial units, producing textiles, pottery and leather, and performing services like recycling, printing, and steel fabrication. Dharavi also has a large number of thriving small-scale industries that produce embroidered garments, export quality leather goods, pottery and plastic. Most of these products are made in tiny manufacturing units spread across the slum and are sold in domestic as well as international markets. Leather goods and plastic cutting machines are also manufactured and exported to countries like Dubai and China. The annual turnover of business here is estimated to be more than $650m (£350m) a year. The state government has plans to redevelop Dharavi and transform it into a modern township, complete with proper housing and shopping complexes, hospitals and schools.
Dharavi faces many sanitation and public health issues. Mahim Creek, a local river, is widely used by local residents for urination and defecation, leading to the spread of contagious disease. As of November 2006 there was only one toilet per 1,440 residents in Dharavi. The area also suffers from problems with inadequate drinking water supply. There is a regular BMC water supply facility which the residents avail for 3 hours in the morning by paying per month. Every house equips with a good reservoir to store water for using other household work whole day.

During my conversation with my target group, I found children in Dharavi have access to Mahim Municipal school, Ganesh Vidyamandir school, D.S Sion school, Sadhna school, Saraswati Mahim school etc depending on their capacity to afford education. Residents also have the close access to BMC Hospital inside Dharavi and many more private doctors in their chawl, but in serious health issues they take the advantage of their location i.e rush to Sion Hospital for further treatment.

**NGO-Yuva(Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action)**

YUVA (Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action) was established in 1984. It has been working with street children, women, youth, pavement and slum dwellers on issues of livelihood, housing, food, security, education, health, women's issues, criminalisation, civic amenities, human rights, environment, governance. Their association with Self-help group began on in the workers’ colonies of Jogeshwari in North West Mumbai, 24 years ago. Over the years, YUVA has been working in Jogeswari and similar slums in Dharavi, Malad and amongst pavement and street communities on issues faced by urban poor. Starting with mere 13 SHGs in 1996 in Dharavi, YUVA has come a long way to increase it’s number to 70 so far.

Women Animators' Training Programme by Yuva held between November 1999 and March 2000 for self-help group (SHG) members from Bhabrekar Nagar, Dharavi and Jogeshwari areas of Mumbai city - focused on women's issues, their legal rights, health needs and gender analysis and subsequently imparted skills in problem solving, conducting meetings and writing minutes. YUVA Urban has set up as an independent entity and intervened on issues ranging from insecure housing
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conditions, the threat of evictions, inadequate living conditions, absence of social services to increasing economic insecurity, the impact of the new economic policies especially on vulnerable groups like street communities, women and children. Empowering women through SHG, Mahila Vikas Parishad, National Legal Services authority, paralegal training, counseling women in situation of crisis and campaign to end all violence against women are some of the initiatives taken by YUVA to promote women’s right. The means of interventions have ranged from mass mobilization to creating alternatives, from research and policy work to lobbying and advocacy, from training and capacity building to evolving new forms of co-operatives organizations. One of the big milestone achieved by Ngo Yuva is the formation of ‘Akanksha’, the first women’s credit cooperative society in Dharavi and is run fully by women. It is one of such revolutionary community-banking model started, by the women, for the women enhancing empowerment of economically backward urban women. ‘Akanksha’ works on only two motives, poverty alleviation in the area and women empowerment. It encourages the habit of thrift from it’s members and follows the policy of transparency among it’s members and tries to restrict it’s dependency from external financial organization. ‘Akanksha’ consists of 15 board members and 201 members of Dharavi. The co-operative is supported technically and with a professional manager from Yuva, which is responsible for it’s conception. Uniqueness in Akanksha is that the loan amount has to come through the approval of SHG members providing transparency about the need of the applicant and SHG members remain responsible as guarantors.

SHGs-(Self-help group)

Two Self Help Groups(SHGs) were randomly selected with defined criteria.

Selection of participants
For the present study 28 respondents were selected. Out of whom, 14 were women and 14 were their daughters between the age group 10-14 years. Seven SHG members who have been part of SHG for more than 5 years and are the mothers of girl children of age group 10-14 years were selected randomly. Also Seven Non SHG women having girl children of age group 10-14 years were selected randomly from the same location for the comparative study. Girl children (10-14 years) of these
fourteen women were targeted to compare the status as daughters of self-help group member vis-à-vis daughters of non self-help group member. Girl children of 10-14 years were selected as this is the formative years of one’s development and most importantly, girl children of this age usually start experiencing their access to all basic needs as a part of their social practice and are able to communicate in some way or the other form.

3.4 Methods of data collection

The major element that goes into a research approach is the specific method of data collection and analysis. Sometimes open-ended interview, sometimes semi-structured interview would be applied to extract information as and when required. There would be an effort to collect information from the girl children using attractive flash cards.

To collect the qualitative data following techniques were used by the researcher.

In-depth Interview

For the present study, an in-depth interview was applied that allowed, person to person discussion. Unstructured interviews with the participants yielded the heart of the data. It led to increased insight into people’s thoughts, behaviors and attitudes on important issues. The interview was unstructured and therefore permitted the interviewer to encourage an informant to talk at length about the topic of interest (See Appendix A for interview guide). The in-depth interview used a flexible interview approach. It aimed to ask questions to explain the reasons underlying a problem or practice in a target group. Informal discussion with seven SHG women, seven Non-SHG women and their daughters (between the age group of 10-14 years) helped me to extract the reliable information. All in-depth interviews were tape recorded with permission from participants. The reason for tape recording the interview sessions
was to capture the direct words of the interviewees and avoid falling into the trap of paraphrasing them.

For the in-depth interview with the girl children between the age group of 10-14 years, I prepared six flash cards keeping the parameters of their status for the present study in mind. The flash cards throws light on their family background, nutritional status, health care, educational level, domestic activities, traditional practice i.e early marriage, recreation and gender discrimination. The flash cards are built on a story of two girls of two different background and different experiences they have passed through while encountering their basic rights as children. It was designed to ferret out people’s basic needs by having them tell stories of their own. It would be helpful to learn about what is happening, what went before, what is going to happen and what the people involved in the entire process of development so far. This is built on the assumption that girl children’s’ stories will reveal important aspects of their needs and self-perceptions as well as their views about “significant others” in their lives.

**Nutritional assessment - Anthropometric measurement** - ‘weight for height’ was taken as one of the indicators to assess the physical growth of girl children. I used a ‘weighing machine’ and a ‘measuring tape’ for the assessment of anthropometric measurement. By comparing the actual measurement with the recommended ‘weight’ and ‘height’, I derived conclusion on their physical growth.

Similarly dietary intake by individual was considered one of the most significant methods to throw light on nutritional status. The systematic dietary survey specifically ‘Twenty four hours dietary recall’ was used for the assessment of nutritional status of girl children. ‘Twenty four hours dietary recall method’ is based on the similar principle of asking the individual to recall the dietary intake in one day. The questions like what was eaten in 24 hours before the interview?, how much food was eaten?, when was the food eaten? and how was food prepared? revealed significant information about the frequency, quantity and quality of food taken by the girl children and to assess their dietary intake broadly.

The assessment of nutritional status for is executed both by direct and indirect methods. For the present study I have used two direct methods i.e anthropometric measurement (weight for height) and dietary method( 24 hours dietary recall method)
firstly, to get better clarity about the overall health of girl children. The anthropometric measurement would reflect the physical growth of the girl children where as dietary methods would reflect the food intake, quality and quantity of food taken by girl children in last 24 hours. Secondly, keeping the objectives of the study in mind, it would be an effort to explore whether the empowerment status of mother has any impact on the food intake of girl children?

**Reliability and validity**

Healy and Perry(2000) assert that the quality of a study in each paradigm should be judged by it’s own paradigm’s terms. To be more specific in qualitative paradigms the terms Credibility, Neutrality or Confirmability, Consistency or Dependability and Applicability or Transferability are to be the essential criteria for quality (Lincoln and Guba,1985).

(Lincoln and Guba,1985) used the term ‘dependability’ in qualitative research for reliability and emphasized ‘inquiry audit’ as one measure which might enhance the dependability of qualitative research. Hoepfl (1997) further elaborated ‘inquiry audit’ can be used to examine both the process and the product of the research for consistency. To ensure reliability in qualitative research, examination of trustworthiness is crucial.

Creswell and Miller(2000) suggested, the validity is affected by the researcher’s perception of validity in the study and his or her choice of paradigm assumption. Basing on that many researchers have developed their own concepts of validity and often generated or adopted what they consider to be more appropriate terms, such as quality, rigor and trustworthiness Stenbacka (2001) and Davies and Dodd (2002).

**Process of Data collection**

Exposure to field work was not new to me, because of my previous work experience and elaborate quantitative dissertation work during my post graduation. I was also involved with many field work done for a short period on nutrition and education during my graduation. But engaging myself in a completely different socio-geographical ambience compelled me to be more organised and systematic in my approach. I started exploring my field keeping lots of time in hand. I approached
NGO “Yuva” headquartered in Mumbai. NGO Yuva has been working on Self-help groups in Dharavi in Mumbai which is the biggest slum in Asia and is the area of my research work.

I started attending meetings organized by Yuva where I got exposed to their area and introduced myself to many Self-help group members. The presence of volunteers of Yuva during the initial interaction with SHG members did help in breaking the ice. That is where I got familiar with the members of SHGs in Dharavi and gained confidence to look forward to carry on my research work.

I started working on my sampling design. The guidance and advice of my guide Dr Vrinda Datta and the DAC members and the discussant at this juncture had profound impact on my thinking process and direction of research work.

I went to the field with the objectives and data collection tools in hand having lots of apprehensions mainly as I am not very much familiar with the local language. But fortunately my respondents more comfortable with their language were equally at ease in communicating in Hindi. This is the first apprehension, which turned out to be unfounded, boosted my confidence and helped me to a great deal in effective communication with the target group.

In my fieldwork in Dharavi, I encountered an interesting dichotomy. There are umpteen number of options to get access to women members of Self Help Groups (SHGs), where as it was remote and extremely difficult to approach women those who are not members of SHG. As substantial segment of women population are targeted in various state or NGO sponsored micro finance programmes through SHG approach, it made my task easier to select members with predefined criteria. In my case, as per my methodology I had to limit myself to two SHGs adopted by NGO Yuva. The entrenched group philosophy and its dynamics came as a saviour as the familiarity with one SHG member opened the floodgates of opportunities in approaching and getting closer to other SHG members with her assistance. The voluntarism and openness were the hallmark of members of SHGs. In contrast women those who are not members of SHG were equally remote and their initial perceptions on interaction with an outsider was an obnoxious intrusion. Their domain of interaction was confined to immediate neighbours. In some occasions, I found
some women who aren’t part of SHG as the neighbours of my SHG members, but they didn’t fulfill my criterion of having daughter of 10 to 14 years of age. So I decided to take help from Bina the god sent guardian angel for me - who was employed for orientation and formation of SHGs by the NGO (YUVA) in Dharavi. My umpteen numbers of journeys with Bina to different hutments (chawls) in search of my respondents, resulted in finding two women of my target group having daughters of age between 10-14 years. Besides the criterion of having daughter 10-14 years, there were some other resistances I encountered on the way of selecting my Non SHG women i.e she should be willing to be part of my sample and able to communicate in Hindi with me.

I finally banked on the most well known and well respected lady Laxmi Tai for getting my way to Non SHG women. With her company I was able to enter into many houses in different chawl and find out my target group. [Laxmi Shinde is the pratinidhi of all SHGs i.e around 80 SHGs formed and monitored by NGO Yuva. She has been associated with this NGO for last 20 years participating in different fora on women’s issue all over India. She is heading the SHG women wing making them aware of their rights and if needed to raise the voice against injustice to them. She is highly respected in chawls for her undivided attention and prolific contribution for women’s development]

**Pilot study**

Before conducting the final study, a pilot study was carried out by the researcher to understand the basic situational analysis. For this purpose a SHG woman and a Non-SHG woman were randomly selected from the target group. With a semi structure Interview-guide schedule and broad qualitative questions in hand I got access to their place as per their convenience with all paraphernalia i.e recorder, flash cards, weighing machine, measuring tape, field notes, measuring bowl to collect data through in-depth interview and other data-collection methods. The study helped me to make necessary addition and alteration in my approach conducting in-depth interview as well as to confirm the data collection tool before venturing out for final study.

While carrying out pilot study I confronted and learnt
1-Getting access to SHG woman was not a difficult task on the part of researcher as there was a very comfortable, familiar bonding has already been built while
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attending group meeting with SHG women but to Non-SHG woman, a herculean task to identify, access and to take them in confidence for the intention of the data collection. Dharavi is such a place where many SHGs are working under different agencies for the past many years and many studies have been already been carried out on the formation, orientation, sustainability of SHG time to time by many researcher or group of research team. I found many of the SHG women already have the experience of being a subject of research before, which made them less apprehensive about my intention. Thus there was no inhibition on the part of SHG woman to reveal her journey all through these years to an empowered woman. This feeling of being comfortable in my presence was also reflected in her daughter and made my task easier to initiate the interaction with her.

On the other hand as I explained before, apart from the difficulty in identifying and getting access to Non SHG target group, I found it wasn’t that easy to convince them about my intention. With frequent visits, though slowly, I managed to negotiate the resistance and convinced her for giving me some time for informal conversation, but again I got struck to get a glance over all the rooms of her house (as it was one of the important investigations of my study). This process of taking Non-SHG woman in confidence didn’t end there. What I experienced, with little efforts on my part, SHG woman had lot to say about her past, present and anticipated future but for Non-SHG woman I had to push and recreate the line of conversation again and again to switch over from one dimension to the other. Similarly in respect of daughters of non SHG women, it was a stupendous task to overcome their initial inhibition. Thus this entire process of getting access and building rapport with the participants gave me an idea about the time frame of my final data collection.

1- There were some enquiries on reason of not being part of SHG and the income of the husband which made women to respond with silence initially and to reveal on further insistence with lots of hesitation- pushed me to be careful and strategic in future.

2- During my conversation with family members of Non SHG women, I faced a bit of resistance to use the ‘Recorder’ my data collection tool. They were convinced with further explanation about the intention of it’s use. This experience taught me to
be careful and to prepare myself to confront this type of situation while introducing it to other participants in future.

3-Another important feedback I received while introducing flash cards to girl children. I felt girl children of 10 years old was very much keen in flash cards and I took the advantage of her response towards this particular tool to draw initial attention and keep her focused on the line of my conversation. On the other hand I felt the use of flash cards for the girl child of 13 year had little impact to catch her attention and of little use to initiate the conversation. This feedback gave me an insight to keep myself open to use this particular tool for the girl children keeping the age and interest of the girl children in mind.

4-I also realized that Participants hesitated while revealing their diet pattern i.e. especially about quantity of particular food showing measurement bowl. This feedback made me to be very strategic to apply 24- hours dietary call method in my subsequent interaction.

5-I felt the 13 year girl child who has just attained puberty was bit hesitant to reveal the hygiene, restrictions she was put through after this transitional development. This response made me to rethink and alter the approach to get into this area of discussion.

Later the entire process of data collection was transcribed. The textual data, the data from interview and flash cards and gestures were assembled to give the form of transcription. The transcript was then discussed with the guide to evaluate the ‘approach to different issues’ to ‘use of data collection tool’. This brain storming session with my guide gave a deeper understanding and helped me for the final data collection. I covered the targeted number of SHG participants at a stretch. I intended to cover the interview both at factual and meaning level. I constructed an Interview guide with an intention to cover demographic profile of the participant and formulated number of qualitative questions so as to extract data both at factual and meaning level and entered into the field with these two (interview guide -see Appendix-II and twenty broad qualitative questions see Appendix-III) in hand.
During the entire process of data collection, though I had interview guide and broad qualitative questions in hand, I tried to remain as open and adaptable as possible according to the participant’s nature and priorities. During some part of my informal discussion with the interviewee, I allowed her to belch out her side of stories behind a particular experience and became a good listener. Though it was time consuming and sometimes seemed irrelevant at the spot, but latter realized through that elaboration she added many facets and meaning to that particular experience which otherwise would have remained incomplete. The in-depth interview sometimes took more than two hours and I had to wrap up the discussion that day seeing the other priorities of participant and deferred it to the next day with her permission for extended interview.

All through my experience during the data collection, I felt I had to be good and patient listener while interviewing SHG women whereas with Non-SHG women I had to be a good accelerator insisting them to elaborate their experience and switching them to one dimension of their lives to other. I must admit my experience during pilot study really helped me to organize in detail and rehearse the interviewing process before I went out for the final data collection.

The time I started my data collection was time for summer vacation when most of the children were available at home. So getting access to them during day time was possible. But it was not possible to cover all the participants during summer vacation. So I tried to take the optimal advantage of vacation by building rapport with all the girl children and decided for final in-depth interview later. I had to schedule for the Saturdays or Sundays as per their convenience. I felt during the vacation, mothers (those otherwise remain busy in taking private tuition) had comparatively free time to spare with me. I took the liberty to spend more and more time with them to get a clear understanding of their world. I always took prior appointment for the formal conversation and most of the time except one occasion participants decided the time for the in-depth conversation. The only occasion when one of the SHG participants requested me to reschedule the date due to her sudden urgent work outside Dharavi and on another occasion I defer the in-depth interview with a girl child by two days from my side as she had taken a meal in a wedding which I felt would misguide me to evaluate her diet pattern in last 24 hours. For all other peripheral information I
tried to collect during informal meetings with them. To go in-depth and to enter into the world of small girl children of age 10/11 year old, I had to devote many days to get their right focus on the issues of my concern. I realized most of the girl children, weren’t able to compare directly the life as a daughter of SHG mother with that of their friends whose mothers were not part of SHG. But they revealed many such significant changes while explaining small incidences they encountered in their peer group. There were days when my visit to participants especially Non-SHG participants with joint family sometimes ended up talking with all the family members except my target participant. Then after winning over the confidence of all the family members especially their husbands, mother-in-laws, other educated and employed family members, I got access to my target participants in my next meeting.

I always took care of the issues I confronted during the pilot study and tried to extract the information without inconveniencing the participants. Depending on the situation, I tried to put limits on use of my field notes assessing the situation or psychology of the participant.

Though one flash card for each parameter didn’t reflect all underlying experiences girl children came across, but it was prepared in an intention to draw the initial attention and initiate the conversation with girl children. Apart from that, it was a great help to head their conversation from one parameter to other keeping them focused on the line of objectives. Though I created an environment to keep them focused on defined parameters but never objected them to share their peripheral experiences around main objectives during conversation. Sometimes those stories helped to get an insight about an aspect which wasn’t directly focused on the flash card and sometimes created a lighter moment to refresh the environment for greater bonding with their world.

- Till the time I applied this method in the field for the nutritional assessment among girl children, I couldn’t realize this tool would bring so much enthusiasm and excitement among girl children. Girl children showed tremendous interest not only in taking their weight and height but also insisted me to allow their siblings and friends to take their weight and height. Thus introducing this tool was not resisted rather highly co-operated by my target group.
Methodology

The method of **24 hours Diatery recall** though seemed simple to apply, I felt a very clear hesitation on the part of participant while discussing the quantity of their food especially the curry, dal they used to take on their plate. They were extremely co-operative as long as I pursed my investigation about their ‘what’ and ‘when’ of their food taken in last 24 hours. This is the particular section of my investigation of 24 hours dietary recall method, when girl children’s mother abruptly interfered and showed the dismay of revealing the quantity of the food taken in measurement bowl. This type of hesitation on the part of participant I had encountered during my pilot study. So whenever I encountered such resistance, I decided not to put them in embarrassing situation and tried to assess the approximate quantity from the serving plate which most of them use for serving all items of each meal. The participant who did not hesitate to share the information by measurement bowl, I noted down but the number was very less in comparision to the former who weren’t willing to disclose the quantity by measurement bowl.

After day long hectic schedule in my field, every night I used to sit with all the sources of my data collection from the data collection tool to the image, gesture of the participant, I had imprinted in my memory and jotted it down so as to confirm not to miss out any important information during interaction with the participants. This long process of venturing into Dharavi to get access to my participants and their horizon, took more than one year and the whole journey was so engrossing that I couldn’t realize how this time passed. After the data collection, I sat with all the information I had collected by using tools-recorder, field notes, weighing machine, measuring tape, measurement bowl and field notes I also included some non-verbal cues – silence of participant on a particular issue to simply a pause for thought which were important elements of a conversation. Then I started writing down the transcripts of each participant which allowed me to one more step ahead i.e towards analysis.

**Process of Data Analysis**

There are no ‘quick fix’ techniques in qualitative analysis. Data analysis was an ongoing and continuous process, as is customary in qualitative research.(Lincon and Guba,1985; Donovan, 2000; Henning et al, 2004).
- As the sample of my study includes two separate target groups i.e women and girl children, initially I prepared two separate sheets for data analysis each for one group.

- After reading and re-reading the transcripts several times keeping objectives in centre I could organize the data into retrievable Sections i.e the process of familiarization.

- After familiarization of material, I jotted down some preliminary coding. Under each code I tagged the relevant material from the transcripts.

- Then thematic categories were developed. The tagged data was grouped and leveled to develop and refine categories.

- Categories were systematically reduced to core themes. The themes were identified using both informant’s words and idea from review of literature and other studies in the field.

- Core themes were identified and clustered (with details of the tagged data) to convey the description of the overall experience from each participant.

- Each theme was verified against the complete record of the research participant to ensure explicit relevancy and compatibility (as well as to the objectives of the study).

- Then themes were put in a sequence keeping objectives in mind.

- The last step is to make connection between the data of individual description of girl child and her mother and to develop a pattern.

During this entire process of data analysis from writing transcription to developing pattern I was always in dilemma what to include and what to omit from such vastness of information. I followed a route that Muchmore (2002) explains in writing a life history study of a teacher. He used the following four questions: (i) Is it relevant? (ii) Is it accurate? (iii) Is it necessary? and (iv) Is it ethical? I too asked these questions through which helped me to remain focused.
Methodology

**Code of ethics**

Brill (2001) refers to codes of ethics as “windows into a profession”. A code of ethics is one component of ethical practice and is essential from a professional and regulatory perspective.

**Informed Consent**

Ethical guidelines require that researchers inform participants of the general nature of the research, so they can make an informed decision about whether or not to participate in the research. I as a researcher explained each and every participant about the intention of the study. Sometimes when they felt hard to understand my intention, they sent other family members to confirm and I as a researcher never showed an iota of hesitation to elaborate my intention again and again before getting her consent for the part of my study.

**Non-Deception**

Deceptive techniques are justified by the study’s potential value. Researchers shouldn’t deceive participants about any aspects of the study that would cause them physical harm or excessive emotional discomfort. At any stage of my study, I didn’t deceive to extract information from my participants. Sometimes during hearty conversation, participant revealed some private issues of behind doors which latter she requested not to expose it to any of her family members. I assured, the data collected for research wouldn’t be used for any other purpose until participants give consent to do so. The data wouldn’t be used against the interest of any individual or institution.

**Privacy/Confidentiality**

Though most of the participants except two had no problems using their names in my research but I preferred to maintain the professional conduct to ensure the welfare of the participants so that none of them wouldn’t be harmed or embarrassed in future due to the study and decided to use fictitious names to protect the identity of the real participants.
Methodology

**Project worthiness**

Project worthiness of a project is a specific ethical issue that needs attention from the conception of the study to the findings of the study. The present study has a potential to contribute to both women and girl child development or to the integrated effort promoted by different developmental agencies for a larger vision of women development.

**Credibility** I have shared and documented the experiences that I have encountered at each step of my journey to ensure credibility. My experience covers from conceptualizing, conducting and analyzing study with all sincere and genuine approach.

To sum up, the data generated was large with number of variables. It was a challenge to analyse, interpret and ‘make sense of’. The next chapter contains the profile of the participants (ii) logical coherence to reduce to themes (iii) a descriptive style to discover and interpret the underlying reasons of particular manifestation making sense of objectives in centre.