Chapter III:
Methodology
3.1. Methodology

General method of research in this study is the anthropological method based on deep perspectives; hence, gathering data in such a research requires presence in the field and direct contact with the studied society (Shia Muslims of Mysore); descriptions and gathering and recording of data were carried out from the mindset of this group. In this method, I applied several popular techniques in qualitative research for gathering data, like documentary the rites, rituals, fairs and festivals thorough participation observation and applying research techniques like open interviews, deep interviews, semi-constructive and group interviews, photos and videos; also applied quantitative approaches by presenting questionnaires and analyzing them. In this research, different methods and techniques were applied for gathering and analyzing data. Major part of information in this study is to collect the qualitative data to gathering this data is one of the main aspects of methodology in qualitative research. Of course, this doesn’t mean that we have totally put aside quantitative methods of research, but by presenting questionnaires and encoding them, and by evaluating and analyzing the collected data, we carried out this study. Every study might apply qualitative and quantitative approaches in different stages of the process of research. We can find many works in this field in the recent years which have dealt with relations, differences or integrations of research both qualitatively and quantitatively. In this research also, while we have selected qualitative approach as the main approach both in collecting information and also in analyzing data, we have applied qualitative approach as well in different stages of the research by applying the principle of “multidimensionality” for completion of the information. Here, by multidimensional, we mean integration of several qualitative approaches together as well as integration of qualitative approaches to quantitative ones. In this way, methodological perspectives might complement each other in studying the subject i.e. they can overlap and recover blind points and weak points of each other. There is some wisdom behind this which shows itself gradually and that is: “qualitative and quantitative approaches must be considered as complementary camps for each other
not rivals” (Punch, 2005) But we should consider that although different approaches stay side by side, but still they stay separately and the common point between them in the studied subject. In this way, the writer has applied both qualitative as well as quantitative approaches for analyzing the data; therefore, this research also has tested different approaches to achieve the targeted goals. These approaches are as follows:

3.1.1. Qualitative approach of research

Qualitative approaches of research are applied in the fields of social sciences in increasing. Anyway, qualitative research has a long and distinguished history in humanities. In sociology, the achievements of the Chicago School in 1920s and 1930s shed more light on the importance of qualitative research for studying lives of groups of people. In this very time, great humanists came to carry out qualitative researches and went to non-Western societies for studying and investigating customs and traditions of other societies and cultures (Denzin & Lincoln, 2005).

3.1.2. The plan of qualitative research

The frameworks of qualitative and quantitative research approaches are different in various aspects, but in other aspects, they are considered as complementary to each other. The nature of data, and what the researcher considers as data, is one of the different points. All social researchers collect and analyze data in an orderly way to understand and interpret the social world (Williams, 1991).

3.1.3. Quantitative approach in research

Generally, quantitative approaches deal with counting and measuring some aspects of social life; whereas the qualitative approaches focus more on production of logical descriptions, discovering meanings and the changes of social activists (Blaikie, 2009) “By quantitative approaches, researchers mean randomized tests, quasi-tests, observation tests by pens and papers, multi-variant statistical analyses, sampling surveys, etc. On the contrary, quantitative approaches include ethnic case studies, deep interviews and participative observations (Punch, 1994). Quantitative data is usually created by encoding other data which by taking from the context and emptying its contents reduces into an odd number. After working on numbers, they are interpreted i.e. by adding contents and placing them in the context they are
expanded and this makes it possible for the individual to look again to the social
world through the lens of numerical signs (Seale, 1999).

3.1.4. Researcher’s activities in field study

The researcher follows collection of below activities in the field of study in a
planned way:

1. The common events and daily activities are observed as they happen in the
   natural environment, additionally; uncommon events are studied as well.
2. The researcher directly participates in the lives of studied people and
   personally experiences the process of daily social life in the environment and
   in the field of research.
3. The researcher undermines a path into the internal world of the individual and
   his perspective; but at the same time, he keeps his own analytical perspective
   or keeps his distance with the unknown individual or the studied case.
4. He applies different techniques and social skills in a flexible way and in
   accordance with the situations.
5. Production of data happens through detailed notes as well as by making charts,
   maps or photos for more detailed descriptions.
6. Observation of phenomena also is made both in their generality, in the unique
   individuality and in their social context.
7. Understanding people in the field and developing enthusiastic relationships
   with them and avoiding recording of coarse and spiritless facts are noticed.
8. Apparent and hidden aspects of culture are recorded and written down.
9. Observation of social events and processes happens without making any
   disturbance in them, without agitation and imposing any external perspective
   on them.
10. In the meantime, field study includes high levels of mental tensions for the
    individuals as well as uncertainty, moral issues and ambiguity.
3.1.5. Integrative evaluation

By integrating the two qualitative and quantitative approaches, a more comprehensive approach appears that is called the integrative attitude or approach. When we think about discussions and arguments over distinctions between qualitative and quantitative approaches and their advantages as well as limits, the first agreement that comes to mind is integration of these two approaches and reconciling the results that come from both of them.

Almost all theorists of methodology who have written about methodology have advised applying both quantitative and qualitative approaches in an evaluative study. For example, Paten (1990) states that applying an attitude that integrates elements of qualitative and quantitative approaches creates a stronger form of evaluation. This is because the plans and programs are not followed in a Neutral lab environment, but they happen in a complicated social environment with factors that can be influential in success or failure of the plans. Similarly, we can say that in studying the behaviors and attitudes of human beings, applying some kinds of gathering data is more useful. In the process of evaluation, the evaluator can strengthen all collected data and minimize the weak points of the attitudes in the unit by applying sources and different approaches through different aspects. An approach in which an integration of several approaches is applied for evaluation (or in other words, one attitude with multilateral methods) can increase validity and justifiability of the evaluated data.

3.1.6. Analyzing

Finally, after analyzing the statistical data through SPSS software and evaluating it, different interviews were made with religious leaders of the Shia Muslims in the cities of Mysore, Bangalore, Aligarh, Lucknow and Delhi about the lives of Shia Muslims in India in the past and present, useful material also was collected about historical anthropology of Shia Muslims in India and Mysore for applying in the thesis. In addition, some studies were carried out on Shia women of Mysore, and the issue of globalization in relation to economy and social lives of Shia Muslims in India and Mysore.
3.1.7. Research works Act

1. Studying the objectives of research in relation to hypothesis and the questions of research.

2. Doing interview in the field of research and distribution of questionnaires among Shia Muslims of Mysore.

3. Entering the data of questionnaires in SPSS software and taking the output for analysis.

4. Collection of historical data about the ways of Shias’ entrance to India and to southern India where Mysore is also located.

5. Typing the collected data and classifying the data for writing different Chapters.

6. Providing photos from different rites, rituals, fairs and festivals ceremonies of Shias in Mysore considering the previous carried out researches.

3.1.8. Geographical area of the study

Regarding the fact that anthropology looks at the matters deeply, there is the necessity to limit the area of study; because it is only in a limited area that there is the chance of deep looking. In order to make it possible for perfect recognition, a limited society is selected for studying. In this way, the researcher can observe and interview by visiting house to house, and can record cultural customs and rituals. Therefore, I selected the Shia Muslims of Mysore.

3.1.9. Subject area of the research

Nominal and quantitative limitation of the research is the first step of research in anthropology. Nevertheless, by limiting and lessening a society, the qualitative importance of techniques, principles, correlations, and eventually cultural features of the society do not get limited. Therefore, in this thesis, regarding the subject, social and economic lives of Shias in Mysore in the goals of research, we had a look at economy and globalization and Shia women in Mysore. The time of research: since the focus of anthropology is on observation, the researcher has taken at least two
years of continuous observation of their social lives in different seasons. Naturally, it had its own problems, but this work was built upon continual studies.

3.1.10. The method of collecting data

In order to collect the data about social, economic and cultural lives of a society, we have applied quantitative and qualitative methods with techniques like applying questionnaires, interviews, observation, study of documents and proofs and have tried to present a more detailed study. Sampling: regarding the sampling method in applied.

3.1.11. Analysis tools and techniques

According to the stated analyses and studies in this research, qualitative (descriptive) as well as quantitative (statistical) methods have been applied. Quantitative analyses have been done according to the statistical output by SPSS (Software package used for statistical analysis in social science) software.

3.1.12. Hypothesis and variants are described in this way

Hypothesis includes:

1. It seems that there is some relationship between standard capitation incomes in India with capitation income of Shia Muslims in Mysore.

2. The influential elements on socio-economic positions that are studied through observatory and conceptual models.

   The utmost important elements subjected to this study are education of women and men who are heads of families, social situations, economic situations, income of family heads and income of the whole family, jobs and living places of Shias of Mysore.

3. It seems that the high levels of socio-economic positions among different educational groups are different.

4. It seems that the high level of socio-economic position differs by difference of incomes among people.
5. There is relationship between job and socio-economic position.

6. There is relationship between the income of family head and the socio-economic position.

7. There is relationship between the total income of the family and the social as well as economic position.

3.1.13. The main objectives of the Study

1. To Study the socio-cultural aspects of Shia Muslims in Mysore city.

2. To study the impact of globalization on the economic condition of the Shia Muslims.

3. To Study the rites, rituals and traditional practices among the Shia Muslims.

4. To study the women’s status among the Shia Muslims in Mysore city.

This research also has tested different approaches to achieve the targeted goals. Finally, after analyzing the statistical data through SPSS software and evaluating it, different interviews were made with religious leaders and Shia Muslims in the cities of Mysore. In order to collect the data about social, economic and cultural life of the society, and applying quantitative and qualitative methods with techniques like questionnaires, interview and participation observation. Samples are selected through random sample method and selected 250 families. In Mysore city their population is very less approximately 3500-4000. Among these families I have selected 250 families with an average of five members in each family. The present work was aims to study the Shia Muslims in Mysore city as mentioned in the objectives. In Mysore city most of the Shia Muslims are mainly concentrated in the Mondi Mohalla, Lashkar, Mohalla, Udayagiri, Rajivnagar, Bannimantap, Chantinagar, Tilaknagar, N.R,Mohalla, Gousianagar, Kuvempunagar, Jyothi nagar and J P nagar.