Chapter 4  
Research Methodology

4.1 Introduction:

This chapter describes the methodology adopted in the present study. Methodology forms the heart of any scientific enquiry and helps to arrive at valid generalizations about the problem under study. The methodology in social sciences in general and social work research in particular comprises selection of study area and sampling, data collection, analysis, and application of statistical methods to arrive at the findings of the study. A descriptive research design was employed in this study. The study began with a review of literature so as to identify the research gaps. It was found that there are very few studies undertaken on the problems of deserted women.

This chapter attempts to describes the following factors

1. Describe the research methodology adopted
2. Explain the procedure of sample selection
3. Procedure used in designing the instrument and collecting the data
4. The statistical procedures used to analyze the data.

To satisfy objectives of the study quantitative methodologies were employed.

4.2 Research Design:

The design of the study is the end result of a series of decisions made by the researcher concerning how the study is to be completed; the design is closely associated with the framework of the study and guides us to plan for implementing the study (Burnss and Grove, 1997). Bryman (2007) explains that the nature of the research question guides decisions about the research design and methods adopted in order to answer the research questions. A design is used to structure the research, to show how all of the major parts of the research work together try to address the central research question. Therefore, descriptive research design was adopted due to the nature of the study. Descriptive research describes the data and characteristics about the population or phenomenon being studied. Thus, on the basis of the above, descriptive research design is considered appropriate for the present study.
4.3 Objectives of the Study:

In order to fill the research gaps identified based on the review of literature, the following objectives have been formulated:

1. To explore the psycho-social status of deserted women.
2. To study the economic status of the deserted women.
3. To measure the coping strategies adopted by deserted women.
4. To evaluate the benefits of the programmes made available by the Government and NGOs to support deserted women.
5. To suggest social work interventions for empowerment of deserted women and to prevent women desertion.

4.4 Formulation of Hypotheses:

The detailed review of literature, field visits, and interactions with the experts has enabled the researcher to develop logical assumption about the status of deserted women in relation to objectives of the study.

1. Indicators of desertion, mainly dowry, marital adjustment, and physical and mental harassments influence the psycho-social status of deserted women.
2. Lower the economic status higher the incidences of women desertion.
3. There is association between psycho-social and economic status of deserted women and the coping strategies they adopt.
4. Adequate and proper programmes made available to the deserted women have something to do with their empowerment.
5. Social work interventions for deserted women have a bearing on gender justice and gender development.

4.5 Universe of Study:

The universe of study is an important factor in deciding the scope and area of the study. The geographical area of the study is Kalaburagi district of Karnataka. It includes the 7 talukas, which are Kalaburagi, Jewargi, Afzalpur, Aland, Chincholi, Chitapur, and Sedam. The specific group of the study is the women who were deserted by their husband for the past two years (as on March 2014). On 1st November 2015, Government of Karnataka has renamed Gulbarga district as Kalaburagi. Hence, the research was used Kalaburagi district instead of Gulbarga district in the present study.
4.6 Sample Design:

The study population is infinite; hence, it was difficult to decide the sample size, and therefore, the researcher decided to select proportionately 50 samples from each taluka. The initial criterion for sample selection was that all respondents should be deserted by their spouses for a minimum 24 months at the time of the interview. Further, the study relied on non-probability sampling technique, so snowball sampling method was adopted for the selection of the sampling unit.

Further, the researcher selected 2 Grama Panchayats from each taluka to cover the 50 samples, if the required number of samples are not available, further went to the adjustment Gram Panchayat villages. Simple random sampling method was employed to select the Grama Panchayats with the help of the lottery method. The researcher sought the help of Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, NGO workers, and Grama Panchayat members for this purpose.

Table 4.1 Sample Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Taluka</th>
<th>No. of Samples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kalaburagi</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jevargi</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Afajalpur</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sedam</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chitapur</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chincholi</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Alanda</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Sample Size</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.7 Inclusive Criteria:

1. Women deserted by husbands for a minimum two years were included in the present study.
2. Only those deserted women who were living in rural areas were included in the study.

4.8 Exclusive Criteria:

1. Women deserted by husbands for less than two years were excluded from the present study.
2. Deserted women living in urban areas were excluded from the study.
3. Deserted women, not from the selected villages of Kalaburagi district, were excluded from the study.

4.9 Methods of Data Collection:
Both primary and secondary data were collected for the present study.

4.9.1 Primary data:
The primary data were collected by using research tools such as:

(i) Semi-Structured Interview Schedule
(ii) Mechanism of Coping Scale and by adopting the interview and observation technique.

4.9.2 Construction of Research Tool:
The researcher constructed a semi-structured interview schedule keeping in mind the objectives of the study. To collect primary data from the deserted women, a semi-structured interview schedule was developed. Further, to know the coping strategies adopted by the deserted women, a mechanism of coping scale was employed.

Table 4.2 Tools and Techniques Employed for Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Tools</th>
<th>Techniques</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deserted women Minimum two years of being deserted.</td>
<td>1. Semi-structured interview schedule 2. Mechanism of coping scale</td>
<td>1. Interview 2. Observation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.9.3 Semi-Structured Interview Schedule:
A semi-structured interview schedule was developed because it allowed greater flexibility in the discussion for the interviewee on the topic. This allowed the researcher to have a conversation with the respondent and to comprehend what had happened from their perspective. Thus, the data was collected using the interview method, with the help of the semi-structured interview schedule. This tool consists of 5 parts pertaining to the objectives of the study and the same is provided as Enclosure-I. The aspects covered in the tool were - Section I of the Interview Schedule gathered information on the demographic profile of the respondents’ age, caste, religion, family pattern, education, and occupation; Section II cited reasons for
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desertion; Section III dealt with social aspects such as discrimination, challenges, consequences, judicial approach, and remarriage; Section IV presented the psychological worries, feeling of loneliness, anxiety, and grief; Section V covered economic status variables such as own house, agriculture land, monthly income and monthly expenditure, loans, and dependents; Section VI put forth variables of the coping mechanism; and Section VII showed the variables relating to the expectation of the respondents.

4.9.4 Mechanisms of Coping Scale:

This scale was devised by Dr. Rajesh Parikh, and is a 30-item instrument derived from the “Ways of Coping Scale” by Folkman and Lazarus. Selected items of the original scale as well as 6 items relating to Fatalism are incorporated. The 30 items are divided into five factors that relate to five individual ways of coping, viz.,

i. Escape Avoidance,

ii. Fatalism,

iii. Expressive Action,

iv. Problem Solving, and

v. Passivity.

The subjects were administered the scale and the scores computed for each of the five factors. Then, the mean factor score was calculated. The average of these scores was then determined across the subjects. This is a time-tested method of scoring coping data (Hast, K.F., 1996).

To clarify the coping strategy the highest score of 60 and lowest 0 was classified as; 0-20 poor coping; 21-40 moderate coping and 41 and above was categorized as good coping. Thereby, higher the scoring good coping, middle the scoring moderate coping and lower the score poor coping was considered.

4.9.5 Techniques of Data Collection:

- Interview:

Interview is a two-way systematic conversation between an investigator and an informant, initiated for obtaining information relevant to a specific study. It involves not only conversation, but also learning from the respondent’s gestures, facial
expression and pauses, and his/her environment (O. R. Krishnaswami and M. Ranganatham, 2007).

- **Observation:**
  Observation is guiding through a set of questions that an investigator attempts to answer (Thomas, 2003). In fact, collection of the data through other methods, i.e., interviews, creates an opportunity to make direct observation (Yin, 2003). This technique enables the observer to understand and confine the setting with the respondent, to see and discover things that people in the location have not paid any attention, to get things that people will be reluctant to talk about in an interview, i.e., critical issues that go beyond the selective views of people (i.e., participants in interviews).

4.10 **Pre-testing of Research Tools:**
The tool semi structured interview schedule mentioned above, once prepared by the researcher, was administered on 5 deserted women living in rural, to find the effectiveness of the tool in eliciting the data required. After pre-testing the tool, necessary modification was made, with additions and deletions into the semi-structured interview schedule, on the basis of the findings of the pre-testing. The pre-testing exercise took about 10 days. The tool was standardized and finalized for the main study.

4.11 **Secondary Sources of Data:**
The secondary data was collected from websites, books, journals, newspapers, government documents, and official records relating to the selected topic of research.

4.12 **Main Study:**
The research topic being sensitive the researcher approached the respondents with the help of Anganwadi workers, ASHA worker, NGO volunteers, and GP members. The process of approaching each respondent and completing all interviews as per sampling frame were taken about 2 months time.

4.13 **Analysis of Data:**
The data collected from primary sources were verified, edited, classified, coded, tabulated, and processed on the personal computer. Univariate and Bi-variate tables were generated. Major statistical techniques were applied, including arithmetic mean,
and Chi-Square test, to analyze the data. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used for the statistical analyses.

4.14 Variable Design:

The study has considered the following as independent variables:

1. Age at marriage
2. Religion
3. Caste
4. Education
5. Type of parent’s family
6. Type of husband’s family
7. Occupation of respondent
8. Monthly income

Table 4.3 The Study Considered the following as Dependent Variables:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social status</th>
<th>Psychological status</th>
<th>Economic status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present living arrangement</td>
<td>Does the present life have many worries</td>
<td>Member of SHG group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived happily for how many years</td>
<td>Feeling of insecurity</td>
<td>Own house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination by society</td>
<td>How frequently feel tense and anxious</td>
<td>Own agriculture land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan to remarry</td>
<td>Feeling of isolation</td>
<td>Monthly expenditure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in socio-religious activity</td>
<td>Sleeplessness</td>
<td>Loan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--</td>
<td>Coping strategy adopted</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.15 Cross Tabulation Analysis:

Cross tabulation analysis, also known as bi-variate analysis, is most often used to analyze categorical (nominal measurement scale) data. A cross-tabulation is a two (or more) dimensional table that records the number (frequency) and percentage of respondents that have specific characteristics described in the cells of the table. Cross-tabulation tables provide a wealth of information about the relationship between the variables, which the researcher interprets as results of the study.
4.16 Limitations of the Study:

1. The study covers only the rural population.

2. The study is geographically limited to Kalaburagi district.

4.17 Chapterization Scheme:

The present research study is organized in the following chapter scheme.

As per convention, the first chapter of the study relates the background information of the research topic. Here, the research problem is clearly defined. The need for the study is discussed. The significance of the research topic is stated briefly. The aims and objectives are stated clearly. Some generalizations are fixed as hypotheses of the study. In this way, various sub-sections are presented in the first chapter under the title “Introduction to the Study”.

The Second chapter covers “Review of Literature”, which discusses the literature available in the area of study, and which overseas studies and Indian studies are relevant to the present research topic is stated in brief.

The area of the study is related to “A Study on Psycho-Social and Economic Status of Gulbarga District of Karnataka”. It discusses the socio-demographic and economic status of Gulbarga district. There is also a study on the geographical profile of the study area (Kalaburagi district). Hence, the third chapter is presented under the title “Profile of the Study Area”.

The methodology in social work research comprises selection of study area and universe drawing sample from, sampling design, tools of data collection, analysis, and application of statistical methods so as to get the findings of the study. Hence, the fourth chapter is titled “Research Methodology”.

The most important part of every research is empirical data, its analysis and interpretation. The fifth chapter accommodates the collected primary data in the form of tables with relative percentages, wherever necessary. Further, various statistical techniques and tests are applied, so as to derive the findings. Hence, the fifth chapter is entitled “Analysis and Interpretation of Data”.

On the basis of the analyses of the primary data, the researcher’s findings and hypotheses are tested, and certain findings and suggestions are presented. Hence, the
sixth chapter covers the conclusions drawn from the study and suggestions made to improve through holistic intervention strategy with the deserted women. Hence, the chapter is entitled “Summary of the findings, Conclusion, Suggestions and Implications for Social Work Intervention”.

4.18 Conclusion:

The research methodology for this study was designed to carry out the research work systematically. Research design, sampling method, and selection of sample procedure were carefully chosen to have equal participation among the taluks of Kalaburagi district. The data was collected through the tools viz; semi-structured interview schedule and coping strategy scale, and by using interview and observation techniques. The statistical tools employed in this study were cautiously selected to ensure accuracy in the findings; descriptive statistical tools were used to draw inferences.