CHAPTER - III
METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction:

The present research work is primarily intended to study the role of socio-economic conditions on cultural norms / practices which perpetuate and influence on the dynamics of child marriage in the rural setting of an underdeveloped district Bijapur in Karnataka State. The methodological aspects of the study are discussed in this chapter under the following heads. Some Objectives; The Study on Child Marriages; Conceptual Framework; Events in the Process of Child Marriage; Hypotheses; Area of the Study; Sample Frame and Size; Data Collection Procedures and Data Analysis; (Schedule-cum-Interview, Case Studies, Observation, Discussion etc.); Difficulties in the Study; Limitation or Scope of the Study.

3.2 Objectives:

Following are the major objectives of this research work.

- To study the pattern and trends of age of girls and boys at marriage in rural areas.
- To find out the role of socio-economic and cultural factors in influencing the limitation and variation of child marriages over a period of time.
- To find out the causes and consequences of child marriages.
- To examine the role of legal measures and to chart out the future actions to reduce the practice.
3.3 Conceptual Frameworks - Review of Literature:

Many researchers have proposed different theoretical frameworks to study the marriage patterns (Goode, 1963; Becker, 1973; Dixon, 1971; Duza and Baldwin, 1977; Smith, 1980-1983; Smith and karim, 1980; Lee, 1982). Most of these models are either economic or sociological in nature, dealing with specific countries and focus on specific determinants of age at marriage. Of course, in the recent work of United Nations (1988), a comprehensive and detailed conceptual framework has been developed incorporating both aggregate and individual factors that affect the marriage patterns i.e. both timing and prevalence.

Even in the Indian context too, a number of attempts have been made to study the patterns of age at marriage at the aggregate level focusing, more on the literacy, work participation, urbanization and other developmental aspects of the society / community (Agarwala, 1962; Goyal, 1988). In the micro level, some special attention is paid to explain the timing of marriage of the girls in Karnataka and Kerala States (Caldwell et al, 1983; Zachariah, 1984; Rao et al, 1986). Very recently, some major research works, exclusively focusing on the determinants of age at marriage of girls, were carried out in Uttar Pradesh (Misra and Saseendran, 1988; Singh, 1989), Tamil Nadu (Richard and Rao, 1988), Andhra Pradesh (Audinarayana, 1990) and Pondicherry Union Territory, 1992). Most of these studies have taken into consideration some selected cultural practices or (norms) that
govern the female age at first marriage, besides the socio-economic characteristics of the concerned bride and bridegroom, at times even their parents.

Empirical studies from several developing countries in general and in India is particular, basically support Goode's (1963) explanation i.e. the effects of modernization factors on timing of marriage. Educational status of girls, especially whether a girl has completed secondary school level, is the powerful factor in deciding their entry into wedlock. Its influence on postponing marriage is complex which includes the role of changing norms and traditional values related to mate selection such as puberty, chastity, endogamy, consanguinity, type of family, place of residence, religion, horoscope matching, dowry and all these) (J. Sheela – 2003). The empirical support to the association between the female work participation and age at marriage is not uniform and mostly depends upon the socio-economic development of the areas besides the cultural settings. In addition to these, parents' socio-economic status would also play an important role in influencing the age at marriage of their children. This is because marriage in the Indian context is primarily meant for extending the relationship between two families preferably with similar socio-economic status (or higher than their own from brides side) i.e. a form of assortative mate selection.
Radha Krishna Sharma (1981, in his study documentary study based on secondary data, interrelated with the national movement and the movement of social reform among Indian women has discussed the impact of these on the position of women in India during the period from 1921 to 1937 in detail. Author while making an appraisal of the suffrage movement, women’s organization, female education and social reform in enhancing the status of women, thought that the rise in the age of marriage for girls has been brought about by advance in education, movements of women’s emancipation, social reform and the growing desire to impart a reasonably high standard of education to the girls Further he has mentioned that, growth of western education and contact with the west, growth of industrialization, disorganization of joint family system, improved means of transport and communication, employment opportunity and economic independence of educated girls and loosening of the caste bonds and practice of inter-caste marriage and all these conditions would prove fatal and effective checks on the system of early marriage.

Dr. S. Pothen (1970, in her empirical study done in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, (Divorce, the Causes and Consequences in Hindu Society- Shakti Books, New Delhi, 1987) has observed and discussed that unfortunately the child marriage is still practiced as a custom in many of the communities, especially among the lower castes and classes even today; although legislations against it exist for quite some time now (starting from the
Sharada Act, 1929). Further the author found out that these marriages would pose problems. The misunderstanding the meaning of marriage on the part of children, disparity in education, training, enlightenment and employment in course of time on the part of spouses and not staying together until the gauna is performed which keeps the spouses in the long gap of separation, these three factors will create maladjustment and cause divorce among couples who had child marriage.

Studies conducted by population Research Centre, Visakhapatam, on Age at Marriage in Andhra Pradesh Region (1980-1994). Some of the sample surveys conducted by population on Research Centre over a period of 14 to 15 years from 1980 to 1994 and other individual surveys conducted by some researchers on age at marriage in the different districts of Andhra Pradesh revealed that the mean male age at marriage is in between 21 to 22 years (21 - 50 years) and the mean female age at marriage is found to be in between (14 to 17 years).

Still more interesting findings are also revealed by the child marriage study conducted by PRC in Krishna District during 1985 period. This study brings to forward that nearly 82 per cent of the respondents in the study area are not having the knowledge of minimum legal age at marriage laid down by the 1978 Act. As many as 50 per cent of the Hindu Castes / religious groups want to get their daughters married before the age of 18 years.
Further, most of the early childhood marriages are found among Hindus illiterates with lower levels of education, the cultivators, agricultural labourers, and the lower income groups in the study area. It is strange and interesting to gather the different reasons for the practice of child marriage in Indian Society by different castes / religious groups and the backward and Scheduled Castes and Tribes. The reasons are 1) difficulty in getting a girl married at late age, 2) marriage of a girl must be performed soon after puberty in general, 3) late marriage of a girl is not appreciated by the society, 4) possibilities of sexual deviation / assault, if a girl is not married at an young age. All these different reasons for the practice of child marriage area mainly social and cultural factors having a predominant influence on the people especially the rural illiterate poor people contributing to the persistence of the same social practices in Indian Society. The study has also brought out that people with higher socio-economic status have more unfavourable attitudes towards early marriage of girls.

Dr. M. M. Krishna Reddy (1982) is an empirical study taken in Chittor District, Andhra Pradesh. While studying the rural communities of sub-urban areas of Tirupati temple city found that the average age at marriage of both males and females is observed to 21.03 and 14-64 years respectively. But the low female age at marriage is not in any way becoming a hurdle in the adoption of family planning or sterilization in the study area. However, the late age at marriage of female, marriages to fertility
and positively associated with acceptance of family planning. The study has revealed that the increase in the age at marriage of female is indispensable for both decreasing the high rural fertility and for promoting the acceptance of family planning in the rural communities of Andhra Pradesh region in particular.

Dr. N. Adinarayan (1986), in his study on age at marriage in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh on a sample 600 couples drawn on the stratified proportionate random sampling procedure among the three cultural groups of caste Hindus, Muslim and Harijan revealed that there is a general inverse relationship exists between the wives age at marriage and fertility behaviour. But there is a positive relationship between the wives' age at marriage and family planning behaviour acceptance. These patterns are found to be varied among the different cultural groups of rural Andhra Pradesh significantly. These findings explain the need to adopt a differential and decentralized policy on raising the female age at marriage for cultural groups in different region of Andhra Pradesh. There is the possibility of increase in the adoption of family planning methods as a result of increase in the age at marriage also.

The same investigator (1990) in his one more study, on age at marriage in Pappampatti village in Coimbotore district of Tamil Nadu on 415 respondents who got married during October 1978 and September 1988
brings forward the following findings. It is observed that all the socio-economic characteristics under consideration viz. educational status, occupational status and economic status of children and their fathers exerted a significant positive influence on the age at marriage of the respondents. So the improvement in the socio-economic status of both the younger and the older people will have its corresponding effect on the enhancing the marriageable ages of such people in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu. He is convinced by the empirical observations that through the increase in the socio-economic status of the parents they can postpone the marriage of their offspring by giving them the higher education, making them to involve higher income generating activities and moreover, the members of the younger generation may postpone their marriage by spending more time in school or college and by getting reasonably good income through self-employment or other jobs. So, the increase in age at marriage is expected from the better socio-economic conditions of both parents and their children in society.

In the NFHS (National Family Health Survey, 1992-93), found that the singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) for females is 20-3 years in urban areas, 17-3 in rural areas and 18.1 years overall. The respective figures for males age 25-6 years for urban 22-8 years for rural and 23.6 years in total. Age at marriage is higher in urban areas with urban women marrying on an average three years later than rural women. On average,
males marry about 5.5 years later than females both in the rural and urban areas. The SMAM for females has risen by three years during the last three decades (from 15.2 years in 1961 to 18.1 years in 1992).

The NFHS findings in Andhra Pradesh has also revealed that, only 38 per cent among females and 27 per cent among males correctly identify and have the knowledge of minimum legal ages of 18 and 21 years for females and males respectively. Only few proportion of one-third of the people in Andhra Pradesh are having knowledge on legal age at marriages for both males and females and while a majority of two-thirds of the same people are not even have the knowledge of the legal age same leave alone the practice of it. It has found that there is the direct reflection of illiteracy, ignorance, and poverty of the people over such practices in Andhra Pradesh. The knowledge is also found to be poor among Hindus in contrast to other religious groups of Muslims and Christians. The knowledge on base legal ages are also observed to be very low in the case of both the scheduled castes and tribes in Andhra Pradesh.

Even the NFHS has observed some of the findings with regard to marriage between relatives. Marriage between relatives is a form of inbreeding that has implication for mortality and morbidity as well as fertility. One-fourth of ever married women in Andhra Pradesh married a first cousin, (either on their father’s side or their mother side). Ten per cent
(10%) married a second cousin male or other blood relative, and 1 per cent married a brother-in-law or other non-blood relatives. Thus, consanguineous marriages are common in Andhra Pradesh. All these findings on marriage among the blood relatives is found to be a cultural expectations of old tradition practiced from the ancient period till to this day. Impact of modern education, employment etc., people in Andhra Pradesh are still sticking on to the traditional type of cross cousin marriages and other types of blood relationship marriages even to this day.

M. M. Krishna Reddy, by his documentary and secondary study on Marriage, Population and Society. Demographic perspective of a social Institution (1998) endorsed that the types of marital unions impact on demographic behaviour and family planning profiles is different in societies. The different forms of marriages such as polygyny, polyndry and monogamies impact differently on fertility, mortality and migration patterns. The another has found that the monogamous types of unions are observed to be positively related to higher fertility and less mortality conditions in the study area. The marriage has also been causing a lot of internal migration of the female members due to the practice of married woman moving to the husband’s families after their marriages. In his study he has brought forward that the early marriage practices in rural and tribal families of country causing lot of maternal and infant mortalities especially during younger ages and at the same time damaging the reproductive health of the young
wives and mothers. The researcher has found out that still many of the people in the rural and tribal areas specially the backward and weaker sections are practicing early marriages detrimental to their health leading maternal and infant deaths in the country. The age at marriage of the female can be enhanced through encouraging women education and employment. Another point he has emphasized that the migrants have lower fertility and mortality conditions in contrast to other non-migrants who involve in marital ties in the same village or neighboring villages in the case of rural areas.

Child marriage in India" based on secondary data by K. P. Yadav (2006) (Adhyayan Publishers & Distributors, New Delhi 2006) mentioned that child marriage is a serious national problem wherein half of all marriages taking place in India in a year. According to 2001 census, the girls are underaged, 6.5 million young people under the legal age of 18 are married. The girls are underaged, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttara Pradesh, Haryana, Orissa, Chattisgar, Jarkhand and Bihar, where child marriages are rampant haven’t moved towards compulsory registration. He has analysed the consequences of child marriage in two contexts i.e. in the epidemiological and sociological context that as a result of child marriage, the girls child’s reproductive and sexual health are affected the most. These girls suffer from high rates of obstetric complications, intrauterine growth retardation, pregnancy induced hypertension, premature delivery,
miscarriages or still births. These risks are exacerbated by poverty, male nutrition and inadequate access to maternal and child health care services. And in the sociological context that the child marriage that causes the human rights violation and takes away the educational opportunities of adolescent girls. As a consequence, it limits their opportunities for employment and income generation. Sowing the seeds for a lifetime of dependency. The resulting lack of education limits woman's ability to make informed choices. In terms of development, child marriage prevents women from participating fully in the life of the family, community and society. Energies, which might be directed towards social good and development are curtailed. Women potential and their contribution towards development and growth are important aspects of the development process. Child marriage prevents women as well as society from realizing their full potential.

K.G. Joshi (1993), in his empirical study defined that the mass marriages are simple economy marriages arranged / organized by a temple, a math or an association of section of a society to minimize the expenditure and simplify the rituals. And in such marriages, the researcher has observed that marriages in caste specific function are held according to their tradition and in open type of melas, most of the rituals are performed separately for the couple of each caste. Due to the loose vigilance of organizers marriages of under aged brides, inter-caste couples, marriages
without the consent of parents would take place without proper documenting / registering in the marriage registration office of the Government. So in such organizations child marriages are peeped into happening.

Jaya Sagade (2005) expert in Family Law, in her socio-legal and human Rights Dimensions of “Child Marriage in India”, focuses on the issue of child marriage of young girls, which has been debated for more than a century in India but has never been considered as a serious threat to the life of young girls. It has remained a low or no priority subject for those who are in power.

The book analyses social, legal and human rights dimensions of the issue of child marriage of young girls from the feminist perspective. The book highlights the magnitude of the problem of child marriage prevalent in India, analyses diverse reasons for the continuation of the practice of child marriage and focuses with the help of available social science data on the various adverse consequences on the health, development and personality of young girls. It brings to light the huge cost that society is required to bear due to the widespread practice of child marriage. It takes account of the legislative efforts made in the last decades of the 19th and initial decades of the 20th centuries and critically scans the present legislative provisions and judicial decisions.
Finally, the book suggests some law reforms and legal strategies to be carried out. It also recommends ways in which more responsive and responsible roles could be played by various actors and agencies at local, national, regional and international levels.

Mohammad Ahmed Qureshi (1978), through his study "Marriage and Matrimonial Remedies" pleads for a Uniform Marriage Code, after shifting and legally evaluating hundreds of matrimonial cases, decided by the courts of law. The study is by itself a unique legal and sociological document, critically examining the various marriage laws in India along with the remedies available to the estranged spouses.

Besides being an indispensable legal document for the use of lawyers, the book is also an excellent commentary on the religious and social aspects of marriage, divorce, dowry and the place of women in the contemporary society, thus inviting the lawyers, the sociologists and the religious scholars to an intellectual feast.

**Reports, Surveys on Child Marriages:**

Some of the reports and surveys have endorsed that the practice of child marriage is highly prevalent in our society, in almost all communities, even today. In Rajastan, a survey of more than 5000 women, conducted by the National Government in 1993 showed that 56 percent of girls were married before they were 15, of these three percent married before they
were five and another 14 percent before they were 10, hardly 18 percent were literate and only three percent used form of birth control other than sterilization on 11, 1998 marriages. Though, illegal persist in India;

The United Nation Population Fund Projection of 2003 showed that more than 100 million girls would marry before their 18th birth day, over the next decade, of whom many are as young as eight or nine - most of them against their will. This, despite the fact, that most countries have outlawed child marriage and declared 18 to be the legal minimum age for marriage.

According to the Rapid Household Survey Conducted accross the country, 58.9 percent of women in Bihar were married before the age of 18, 55.5 percent in Rajasthan, 54.9 percent in West Bengal, 53.8 percent in U.P., 53.2 percent in Madhya Pradesh and 39.3 percent in Karnataka, Jammu and Kashir has the lowest percentage of underage marriage which is 3.4., followed by Himachal Pradesh (3.5) and Goa (4.1). Despite high female literacy, close to one - tenth of women in Kerala are married before attaining the legal age of 18 (child marriage mean child labour for daughters, by Sudha Ramachandran, http://www.Panosorg.uk/newsfeatures/feature details, aspid = 1002)

Times of India report on Child marriage by Ramachandra, 2005) reported that the child marriages are practiced and prevail still in almost all BIMARU (Bihar, M.P., Rajasthan and Uttar Prades) states in India
which are socially and economically unhealthy states and more particularly in Rajasthan, 90 percent of child marriages are performed and the practice of such evil practices has been declining in South India States, like in Karnataka, Andra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala as these are socially and economically developed to some extent.

Another Report from UNICEF, 2005, (Early marriage; A Harmful Traditional Practice; New York: United Nation) reports that child marriage is still prevalent on a large scale in various states in India. This fact is known to all but caught everybody's attention by the brutal attack on an Anganwadi worker Shakunthal Varma who dared to stop such a marriage in Banghar village near Bhopal. The census of 2001 highlights that every year thousands of children are married off on the auspicious Akha Teej day and in other communities as soon as the girls reach puberty in open defiance of Indian law and under the nose of law enforces and officials. Because of these conditions prevailed, nearly three lack girls below 15 years of age are young mothers.

Recently, Times of India Report, Sept. 11, 2007 reported that Khiya Ram Jat, a 15 year old eighth grader at a Government High School in Barmer in Jaipur District in Rajasthan, became the proud father of a son. Like many children in Rajasthan where mass child weddings still flourish despite a ban, Khiya Ram was married off four years ago to a girl of two
years older. Most such under age weddings, fixed by parents sometimes soon after the kids are born, take place in southern and western Rajasthan on Akshaya Tritya day, considered auspicious since no muhurth are required.

Thus in the past child marriage were held due to the existing conditions like the invasion, wars and insecurity caused for the concentration of arbitrary powers in the hands of few rulers. But in the present days, the child marriages are going to be practiced due to the reasons like socio-economic backwardness of the people and motivation by some vested interests in some underdeveloped societies or states in India.


3.4 Hypotheses:

The present study has been carried out to test the following hypothesis.

1. Age at initiation of marriage of girls would be lower than the boys’ age.

2. Child / early marriages used to be more consanguineous in nature.

3. Most of the child early marriages would be intra - region marriages, i.e., age at first marriage of girl / boy is positively associated with the distance between the natal and conjugal families.

4. It is the socio-economic characteristics marrying children and their parent exhibit (i.e. education occupation and economic status ) Positively effect in the events to the process of marriage.

5. The higher the caste background of the children, the higher are their age at initiation and age at first marriage.
6. These are the mis-match marriages used to be the problematic marriages leading to the emergence of non-social institution in future.

7. Most of the child/early marriages used to be unregistered and illegal.

8. Some selected cultural practices (norms) govern the female age at first marriage.

9. Child/early marriages are the social evils lead to the emergence of epidemiological and sociological consequences.

In order to make the study concerning to child/early marriage more scientific, unbiased and logical, the researcher had resorted to some of the following techniques.

3.5 Scope of Study:

Scope means, it is the ingredients or the specific areas of study. Here the scope of this study is limited to the analysis of child marriage practiced in rural areas of Bijapur District during the period 2000-2006. It is pertaining to know that how marriages are arranged and at what age, it is to know about the socio-economic conditions of the child married couples and their parents and the public who motivate such marriages in this region. In this study an attempt is made to understand the nature of the causes which lead to this practice. This study is limited to know about the consequential issues which make this type of marriage as a social evil. Even it includes the study of general awareness of the respondents of study region about the
consequential laws, legislations and programmes which have been chartered out to reduce the practice of this evil.

3.5.1 Need for the Study:

To test whether the study area has all the backward socio-economic characteristics in resemblance with the other parts of our country where child marriage/early marriages are practiced, and to know the impact of development of indicators on the changing type of marriage in the study area, the study of child marriage has been undertaken in this area. For these two reasons the study seems to be more relevant in this rural part of this district.

3.5.2 Basic Issues and the Main Thrust:

We cannot deny the fact that, in the pre-developing days in one of the child marriages were practiced and prevalent when this rural part of the Bijapur district was socially and economically backward, but today this region of Karnataka has been developing to some extent. Inspite of this fact, it is equally true that the child / early marriages are taking place among certain lower castes, communities and tribes as per their customary law. In recent years Government of India has passed / amended such marriage prohibition laws / legislation which have made such practices as illegal and unwise. Under these conditions a few basic questions would arise as to whether consequent to the passing of these progressive laws, improvement
of socio-economic conditions, child / early marriages are decreasing or marriage initiation age for girls / boys increasing or changing in this society? Is this phenomena of early marriage in any way related to the socio-economic background of the marriage persons and their parents? The present study hopes to find answer to these questions.

Things being so, the main thrust of this study has been to find out whether or not these earlier findings / observations are valid even today? The study aims at exploring and explaining the socio-economic and educational and employment related factors as they are related to the phenomena of early marriage. Incidentally the study also proposes to examine the role of initiation of increasing age at marriage in bringing the changes in the life of girls / women status.

3.5.3 Sample Frame and Size:

It is researching and analysing done about child married (female) cases belonging to Bijapur District rural areas.

Bijapur is one of the most backward district in the northern part of Karnataka State, other districts are Bidar, Gulbarga, Bagalkot, Dharwad and Belgaum district of course, child married cases used to be found in almost all these six districts, but more cases are found in Bijapur district. Comparing to other districts in the state, it is lagging behind in the socio-economic development and this district has the lowest female SMAM (18
years or below) as per 2001, census Muthurayappa, R. (1997). Nair, P.S. and P.K. Koteswar (1987). Keeping in view all these reasons in view, about 250 respondents belonging to SC/ST castes, Lingayat and Brahmin castes have been selected randomly from the rural areas of the district. The Bijapur district is the old district which has been bifurcated from the new district of Bagalkot comprised with five talukas, viz, B. Bagewadi, Bijapur, Indi, Muddebihal and Sindagi. According to 2001 Census, the district had the total population of 8.80 lakhs and as per the 1991 census, this district had 2.92 lakhs SC population and 0.17 lakhs ST population. There were 948 women per 1000 men. Out of the total 57.46% literates 68.10% were male literates and 46.19% female literates in the district.

3.5.4 Nature and Sources of Data:

This study is based on two types of Data viz. The Primary Data and the Secondary Data. The study is based to a great extent on the Primary Data although it has marginally relied on Secondary Data.

As for the sources, the primary data needed for this study, was collected by field work directly from the respondents (child married women and men and their parents). In the study area, the Secondary Data which was already existed and required for developing certain conceptual frame works/models had been collected from diverse sources like empirical studies, literature pertaining to marriage/early marriage conducted in
different states of India which include Ph.D. thesis, Printed Books and Journal Articles, project Reports. Even for the socio-economic background of the study area, the Karnataka State Gazetteer, Bijapur District Gazetteer, Bijapur District Census Handbook and the official records etc. have been referred. Thanks to the authorities of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi under whose scheme of study Grant, I visited Bombay for 30 days and collected a fund of information bout the topic of Research.

**Selection of Field:**

Once it was decided to conduct the field work for collecting the data needed for my study, I had to decide about my field. In fact child marriage / early marriages as such do take place everywhere. Bijapur district is one of the most backward districts of the Northern Karnataka State which is very near (about 15-20 kms) to the neighboring state of Maharashtra. Incidentally, it is also my own native district. Keeping all these reasons in view, ultimately I decided to confine my fieldwork to only Bijapur District.

After deciding about the broad field of my fieldwork, I had to still narrow it down. There are about 639 villages and 2 revenue subdivisions, 18 Hoblis in this district. Am I to visit all these places or am I to just select a few places? Before deciding about this matter, long before my actual fieldwork started, I just informally visited all the Hobli Centres and
Talukas, Headquarters in the district, women welfare centres, all important mutts, temples Ashramas etc. and held a series of just informal discussion with a few selected persons. After all these deliberations, following the method of purposive sampling I ultimately decided to select 10 village (selected at the rate of two villages from each of the five talukas of the district) and do my fieldwork in them. In selecting these villages two things were kept in my mind i) the place to be selected must have sufficient cases of child marriages, and ii) the place to be selected so, should be convinient for me to carry on my fieldwork. Although child married coules are found in towns and cities just as they are found in villages, child marriages are practiced more in the rural society than in an urban community. Most of the earlier studies in this field have indicated that early marriages took place in larger numbers and more frequently in villages rather than in towns and cities. For this reason, I decided to restrict my fieldwork to only the villages.

Selection of Respondents:

Once the villages to be covered in my study were selected, I had to select my respondents. Am I to take the interview of all the child / early married couples in these villages or am I to select a sample of such couples? After considering many things I decided to study all the child married couples in these selected villages, I put only one condition namely they should have married during the 30 years period (1975-2005) and all
those who come within this bracket have been studied.

The following table gives the details of the villages selected for my fieldwork and the number of Respondents interviewed from each of these villages.

Table – 3.1
Respondents Selected from The villages in the District:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Village</th>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>No. of Couples</th>
<th>No. of Couple interviewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Telgi. Kolar.</td>
<td>B. Bagewadi.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Chadachan Ballolli.</td>
<td>Indi.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Devar Hippargi Almel.</td>
<td>Sindagi.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>300</strong></td>
<td><strong>250</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey.

It is clear from the above table that although I had initially identified 300 couples to be interviewed, ultimately for some inevitable reasons I could not meet all of them, this was but natural. Twenty persons (in five villages) were not available for interview at the time of my fieldwork. Several persons (in three villages) refused to give any information on even when we tried our level best to persuade them and win their confidence. In the case of other persons (in two villages) interviews were disturbed due to their own family quarrel about something that had happened a day before.
Eliminating all these cases, ultimately I succeeded in taking the interview of only 250 respondents and this study is based on the primary data collected from these 250 child / early married women and men.

3.5.5 Tools used for Data Collection:

It was felt appropriate to make use of survey method for this research supplemented by the case study method. For the purpose of data collection, an interview schedule was prepared in line with objectives and conceptual framework. One interview schedule was developed and the same was pre-tested on a select sample of fifty women. In the light of experience gained, the schedule was suitably revised by re-ordering some of the questions. It consisted of structured as well as open-ended questions related to the following aspects. By asking these questions, the information had been collected about the following aspects such as:

- Current Individual and Family Characteristics:
- Particulars of age at first marriage of the respondents and their spouses.
- Socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the respondents and their husbands as well as their parents at the time of marriage.
- Respondents' knowledge about the reasons for early and late marriage.
- Respondents' opinion regarding ideal age at marriage, and
- Respondent's knowledge and attitude about the recent legislation, programmes on raising the age of marriage.
It may be observed from the interview schedule that it contained in all 50 questions grouped into five parts. Based on the type of information on sought to be collected, the schedule was divided into five arts viz. General information, information about socio-economic conditions, information relating to marriage, conditions which led to early marriage, information. About the consequences of such marriages and the information about the awareness of law, legislation, programmes etc. In the last page of the schedule some space was provided for recording something, noting down, scribbling etc. if at all I felt like doing so at the time of interview. Although some questions in the schedule are closed ended, there are also a good number of open ended questions giving sufficient scope for the respondents to explain the things in their own words and style. The schedule is printed in English, but while administering it I would ask questions to them in Kannada.

All this information was collected from the ever-married women of 15-30 with the help of case study method, detailed information on the circumstances that have led to the women's early marriage was obtained. In all, 50 cases from each Hobli, Talukas, which are five in numbers with a due representation to three communities. SC/ST, Lingayat and Brahmin castes concerned under consideration have been considered.
3.5.6 Tools and Data Collection Process:

The reliable data which was required for the analysis of child / early marriage issues had been collected from doing field work in the study area. And for developing particular conceptual framework / models, the information had been collected from the literature pertaining to empirical studies conducted about marriage / early marriage in different parts of India which include the journal, books, articles and project reports.

Before starting the process of data collection the researcher did visit the study area to gain acquaintance with the rural settings. The researcher met the Block Development Officers, Panchayat Officers and the Assistant Statistical Officers of the Block and Panchayats concerned. They were informed about the purpose of research work and their co-operation was sought to select the sample in villages and introduced himself to the sample of villages. Even he has attended the mass marriage functions organised by Mutts, Temples and Caste councils. This facilitated the investigator to build up a good rapport with the public in general and with the respondents in particular, visiting and participating by the investigator in Mass Marriage function helped him to observe the happening of early marriages. Even he had discussion with the Block Level and District Level medical workers, doctors to know about the diseases/health problems by which his respondents are suffering. Visiting himself to the Panchayat Officers and Statistical Officer enabled him to confirm about the registration of marriage,
birth and death of the respondents, children etc., Actually the researcher had noticed and documented 300 respondents to be interviewed but when interviewing started about 50 respondents could not be available for the one or other reasons going on work in the Village; frequent migration to some other place. Thus ultimately the researcher could limit his selection to 250 respondents.

3.5.7 Variables used for the Analysis of Data:

The following variables were used in the analysis of data -

- Age at initiation of marriage of the women.
- Age at initiation of marriage of men.
- Age at first marriage of the women.
- Caste and consanguinity of both siblings position.
- Payment of dowry at the time of marriage.
- Persons who proposed the marriage proposal.
- Childhood place of residence.
- Educational status of the respondent and husband.
- Occupational status of the respondent and husband.
- Economic status of the respondent and husband.
- Educational status of respondent's father and mother.
- Occupational status of respondent's father.
- Economic status of respondent's father.
- Annual household income of the respondents.
- Deserted condition of the married.
- Remarried age of the women.
3.5.8 **Analysis of the Data:**

After the collection of data, all the responses were checked as well as edited carefully. Later, all the data thus collected was then tabulated by manual process. For this purpose, it took the help of one trained statistician who prepared the different tables.

The data in this study is presented in the form of simple contingency tables and analysis is made category-wise by comparing the percentage scores. The findings of this study are compared with the findings of earlier studies in the field and the generalization are made as objectively as possible.

3.5.9 **Limitation of the Study:**

As in any retrospective survey, here too, recall lapse of the respondents to a certain extent might have affected the correctness of the information provided by them. This may be more in the case of information about the parents' socio-economic background at the time of respondents' marriage. This may also be true to a certain extent in case of data on age at menarche and age at marriage. The norm to report age at menarche is mostly 13-14 years and that of the age at marriage as 16 or 18 years is seem quite common in such surveys. And more over, most of the respondents and their parents are uneducated or little-bit educated. So this may pose limitation on the data in two ways. Firstly, it is appropriate that
such information should have been collected from the parents. Since they are the principal decision makers for their daughters marriage and secondly, the information provided by the respondents and their parents may lack scientific reliability.

3.5.10 Field Experience and Problems:

The researcher had to face many difficulties in the study. Some of them are listed below:

1. Matters relating to marriages and family are quite intimate, personal and sentimental. Marital disruption / evils like child marriage, separation, desertion are very delicate and emotional. Outside inquiries into such phenomena are unwelcome in our society. Wherever the researcher approached early married women with many children, deserted or separated by her husband were unhappy and they used to be hesitant to divulge personal information. Therefore, the establishment of rapport and collection of data was indeed a difficult job. In many cases, one visit was not enough, the respondents were contacted several times according their conveniences. Thus, the researcher experienced the problem of wasting time and energy.

2. Wherever this researcher approached and entered into mass marriage organisation and asked about the age of and authenticity of the
children being married, they used to avoid him or hush up the real matter because of this reason. The researcher participated in disguised and observed the matter.

3. As the marriage / family system used to be dominated by man, when woman tried to answer, either her husband or father / elderly relatives; even the neighbors used to pose their nose and tried to answer while keeping her aside. And here the investigator / interviewer had to face the difficult job of avoiding such embarrassing situation and noting down the information.

The above are the difficulties experienced by researcher in course of interviewing, in which much tact, patient, time energy and money has been spent.

3.5.11 Chapterisation Scheme:

This research theme has been categorised and studied into seven chapters, viz. -

1. **Introduction** – Deals with the nature and form of marriages which are happening in india.
2. **Child Marriages** - The nature and history of child marriage.
3. **The Research Design and Methodology** - It includes the scope of study, use of tools and Techniques of data collection in the field. It also includes the profile of study area.
4. **The Socio-economic Background of Child Married Spouses.**
5. **Consequences of Child Marriage** - It includes the causes and consequences of child marriage.

6. **Causes of Child Marriage** - It deals with the remedial measures, child marriage prohibition legislation and programmes and schemes, to curtail this evil practice or to raise the age of marriage for girl children.

7. **Analysis of Child Marriages in the Study Region** - This includes the findings and suggestions to improve the situation or raising the initiation at marriage of girl children and to enhance the status of women.

3.6 **Profile Of The Study Area:**

In this chapter an attempt has been made to analyse the Profile of the Bijapur District. viz., origin of name, location, population, educational institutions, climates, co-operative societies, agriculture, financial institutions, industries, transportation, health, irrigation, sources & irrigation, area and major crops of Bijapur District, area under major fruit crops in Bijapur District, area under total vegetables, garden/spices crops and commercial flowers in Bijapur district etc.,

3.6.1 **Origin of Name:**

The district derives its name from its headquarter town, Bijapur, as do many other districts in the state. Bijapur is also called in Kannada as Vijapur which is the shortened from of the Sanskrit term "Vijapur" meaning City of Victory. It is not known when exactly the place was named "Vijayapura" and which victory if was intended to perpetuate. But massiveness and the character of the ornaments of a stone pillar, probably
a victory pillar, found east of the main gate of the citadel, Ark-Kissa, in the town, suggests that the pillar may be of not later than the seventh century. The town seems to have been a place of some importance during this period and there may be some connection between the victory pillar and the name "Vijayapur" city of Victory, given to the town. In that case, the origin of the name goes back to the seventh century. Some inscriptions discovered near about Bijapur reveal that the name "Vijayapur" was current from as early a period as to 36 AD¹. For instance, an inscription, belonging to the region of the Chalukya King, Jagadekamalla or Jayasimha II (AD 1018-1042) records a gift to the deity, Narasimha Deva of "Vijayapur" by Anandapala Mahapradhana Senddhipati of Jagadekamalla. The town was also referred to as Rajadhani or Raya-Rajadhani, meaning that it was royal seat, and as Pakshina Varanasi, Benares of the south, which gives the impression that it must have been an important religious center of the Hindus. There is a reference to Vijayapura in the Kannada work, Malli natha Purana, written by Nagachandra about 1100 A.D. and the late Sri. R. Narasimhachar, who was the Director of Archaeological Researches in Mysore, is of the opinion that if refers to the present Bijapur town. This view is further supported by one of the inscriptions found near about Bijapur and now kept in the Bijapur museum, which contains a verse from Nagachandara's works.

The Bijapur District Gazetteer published by the Bombay Government in 1884 mentions that Bijapur is on the site of the old villages, namely,

Gajakanahalli, Bajakanahally, Chandakeri, Kyadgi, Khatarekeri, Kurubanahatti and Kujankutti, were amalgamated to form one town named Bijjanhalli- when the town grew into a city, it is said, halli was changed to ‘pur’ and by dropping the ‘n’ if become Bijapur or Bijapur. Dr. S.C. Nandimath is of the view that if does not seem to be quite correct to call Bijapur, Gajaganhalli or Bijjanhalli, as the name Vijayapura in undoubtedly very ancient.

There were several attempts during the Adil Shahi rule to change the name of the town. Ibrahim II named it Badaypur and Sultan Muhammed renamed it Muhammedapur. In an inscription found on the wall near Ibrahim Roza, Bijapuris called Vidyapur, the city of learning. In an old Persian manuscript map, Bijapur is called Darul Zafar, ‘Abode of Victory’ But the place has retained the original name of Bijapur or Vijaypur in Kannada.

3.6.2 Location:

Bijapur is the historically potential district, is located in the northern part of the Karnataka, state with a geographical area of 10,541 Kms. The district accounts for the 4th largest area among all district in the state. Which covers 8.9% percent of the total area of the state. Bijapur
District lies between 15°19' and 17°12' north latitude and between 74°59 and 76°22 longitude. The district is at an elevation of about 590 meters above mean sea level. The district comes under northern dry zone and receives scanty rainfall i.e., 550 mm over 37 rain days.

3.6.3 Climate:

Climate plays an important role in affecting the characteristics of agricultural economy of Bijapur District. It can influence the chance of farming system either indirectly through such factors as length of the growing season, the occurrence of frost and availability of water for crop growth. The climate of Bijapur district, like the climate of adjoining district of the Deccan, is generally dry and healthy. The large variations in the rainfall from year to year both in the amount and in its distribution period through seasons render the district liable to drought and famine. The main seasons follow the pattern of the Deccan. The hot season begins by the middle of February and extends to the end of May. The month of June is followed by the South-West monsoon that extends up to the end of September. As a result, the weather becomes cool and damp. The north-east or the retreating monsoon season is spread over the months of October and November, while the cold season begins from December and last up to the middle of February. The monsoon winds have profound effect on the climate of the district and hence, it can be described as a tropical monsoon climate.
December is the coldest month of the year when the average minimum temperature is 19.0°C. The temperature begins to rise from the later part of February. The mean maximum temperature attains the highest level of 38.6°C, in the month of May with the onset of Monsoon (June) weather becomes cooler. The mean maximum temperature in the monsoon months does not differ appreciably from that of winter months. The highest maximum temperature ever recorded was 42.8°C in May 1951.

3.6.4 Rain Fall:

Bijapur is located about 200 kms away from the Arabian sea (west) and lies in the interior of the Deccan plate of India belongs to leeward side of the western ghat. The interior location and the leeward position of the monsoon rains (South-West). The uncertainty and all distribution is the significant characteristics of the rain shadow regions. Monsoon in the district help to lower the severity of temperature.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Rainfall (annually in m.m.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indi</td>
<td>492.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindagi</td>
<td>411.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muddebihal</td>
<td>497.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Bagewadi</td>
<td>503.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bijapur</td>
<td>504.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>482.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Statistical Department District Statistical at glance Bijapur district 2002-03, P-6.
Table 3.2 gives information regarding rain fall annually in Bijapur District. During 2002-2003 the highest rainfall received Bijapur taluka constituting 504.0 m.m. followed by B.Bagewadi taluka, amounting 503.5 m.m., Indi (492.8 mm), Muddehihal (497.mm), Sindagi (411.2). Further from the above table observed that the average rain fall in Bijapur district annually constituting 482 m.m.

3.6.5 Irrigation:

Irrigation is the artificial application of water to soil for the purpose of crop production. Irrigation confers many benefits on the farmers, increases the standard of living and creates employment opportunities when income increases, national wealth increases farmers can afford more nutritious food. Bijapur district net area sown is 12,65,773 hectares actual net area irrigated is 285799 hectares an average of 22.6 percentage in 1997-98. After the plants of grape and pomegranate are well established, in about six months, they can stand considerable amount of drought, and irrigation may be given at intervals of 2 to 4 weeks depending upon the soil, climate and weather conditions. Regular irrigation is essential from flowering to ripening of fruits as regular moisture condition results in dropping of flowers and small fruits. It may also cause development of cracks as mature fruits, which reduces market value and consumer acceptance. But as compared to other cash crops like sugarcane, cotton, etc., grape and
pomegranate require very much less amount of water and can be cultivated even in every poor soil.

6.3.6 Area and Population:

The total geographical area of the district 10541 kms. with 1808863 lakh population as per 2001.

Table 3.3
Taluka wise populating according to 2001 census

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.Bhagewadi</td>
<td>154919</td>
<td>148295</td>
<td>274632</td>
<td>28582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bijapur</td>
<td>292856</td>
<td>276025</td>
<td>253307</td>
<td>105690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>185197</td>
<td>171571</td>
<td>67885</td>
<td>5881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muddebihal</td>
<td>128237</td>
<td>125417</td>
<td>444119</td>
<td>7624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindagi</td>
<td>167341</td>
<td>159005</td>
<td>58249</td>
<td>5066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>928550</strong></td>
<td><strong>880313</strong></td>
<td><strong>334254</strong></td>
<td><strong>30051</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Statistical Department District Statistical at glance Bijapur District 2002-03, P-4.

Table 3.3 provide detail information regarding Taluka wise population. The Bijapur district devided into five taluka. B. Bhagewadi taluka total population 303214, out of that 1544919 were male, 148295 were female. The Bijapur taluka is the highest population among five taluka according to 2001 census is 5688 81 out of that 292856 male and 276025 were female. The Indi taluka total s population as per 2001, 356768, out of that 185197 were male and 171571 were female. The Muddebihal taluka total population 253654, out of that 128237 belong
to male and 125417 belong to female and Sindhagi taluka population as per 2001 were 326346, out of that 167341 belong male and 159005 belong female.

The further, observed that the density of the population of the district in 2001 is 172 persons per Sq. k.m. as compared to Karnataka, the density of the population is less.

3.6.7 Transport:

Bijapur District was well connected with Road, Rail etc., during 2002-2003 the total road length in this district was 5348 k.ms. The road under different categories are mentioned as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Road</th>
<th>Total K.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Highways</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Highway</td>
<td>388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Main Road</td>
<td>1154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panchayat Road</td>
<td>648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Roads</td>
<td>3629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td><strong>5995</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: District at Glance, Department of Statistics 2002-03, P-22 to 24.

Table 3.4 reveals that information relating to Road length of Bijapur district as on 2002-03. The total road length in Bijapur district
5995, out of that 176 k.m. National Highways, 388 km. state road, 1154 Km. district main road, 648 panchayat road, and 3629 km. other roads.

3.6.8 Railway:

The railway service was introduced long back. However at the end of 2002-03, the district had a railways track of 130 km. out of 130 km, 63 km meter gauge and 67 km broad gauge.

3.6.9 Educational Infrastructure:

The Bijapur district had its own popularity regarding education, especially Bijapur district have own place in northern Karnataka region, regarding quality of education. The rate of literacy of the population to the total population excluding 0-6 years age group according to 2001 census is 57.46% of which 68.10% are male and 46.19 percent are females.

Table 3.5

Educational Infrastructure as on 2002-2003

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluka</th>
<th>Primary school</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>P.U. College</th>
<th>Other college</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.Bhagewadi</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bijapur</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indi</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muddebihal</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sindhagi</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1772</strong></td>
<td><strong>299</strong></td>
<td><strong>71</strong></td>
<td><strong>9</strong></td>
<td>2149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: District statistical at glance, Bijapur District, Bijapur 2002-03, P-55-28.
3.6.10 Rivers:

The principal rivers of the district are Krishna in South, and the Bhima in North and another one river in Bijapur District (i.e., Doni river)

3.6.11 Banking:

Bijapur district can boast of having good banking networks spread over the entire district. The Bank have reached remote possible villages. The district has 28 commercial Banks, 44 rural Banks, 20 Urban Co-operative Banks, 5 other Co-operative Bank, etc.,

3.6.12 Industries:

As on 2002-03, the total industries in Bijapur district were 412, out of that 57 garment industry, 23 engineering industry and 332 other industries. However, employing about 6869 persons.

At the end it is conclude that any development in the district take place only on the basis of calculability of facilities like banking, roads, good communication network, reliable transportation, facilities, natural resources, availability of skilled and unskilled man power etc., Bijapur district which happens, to be the district under study, the district have insufficient facilities as compared to other neighbour district like Belgaum, in view of this, the industrial development to satisfactory.
The Bijapur district is endowed with rich natural and physical resources, most of which remain untapped till now. In view of this it can be said that there is plenty of scope for industrial development in Bijapur District. What needs to be done, without any loss of time is to utilize effectively the natural resources and facilities available in the form of incentives and countless promotional measures introduced by the govt. this necessarily requires development of entrepreneurship, which is a key factor in the economic development of any region.

References:

1. Bijapur District Gazetter.
2. Karnataka State Gazetter.
3. Census of India.