CHAPTER-3
METHODOLOGY

In the foregoing two chapters, the background of the present study and review of literature have been provided. The plan and procedure adopt for the study is being presented in this chapter. Any research activity to be carried out must be well planned before hand. Any problem educational, sociological or scientific can be resolved only when it is understood in its real sense and that understanding means approaching the problem with a well-set plan and procedure. The most important task before the researcher was to collect data. Data are like the rational productive seed without which production and research can never be thought of. Data collection involves the method adopted, the tools applied, techniques used etc. So, this chapter deals in detail with the design of the study. It has been specified earlier that the present study is aimed at studying “A PROGRESS OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION IN PUNJAB FROM 1966 -2008”. As the main purpose of the present study is a comprehensive study of existing condition, issues and future perspectives of elementary level of school education. The design selected will be a combination of historical and documentary techniques.

“Documentary Research method refers to the analysis of documents that contains information about the phenomenon we wish to study”. (Bailey 1994)

“The documentary research method is used in investigating and categorizing physical sources, most commonly written documents; whether in the private or public domain”. (Payne and Payne 2004)

“The research method is just as good as and sometimes even more cost effective than the social surveys, in-depth interview or participant’s observation. Documentary research has been a staple of social research since its earliest inception. Documentary products are especially important for the ethnographer, providing a rich vein for analysis”. (Hammersley and Atkinson, 1995: 173)

Silverman in 1993 has provided a classification of documents as files, statistical records, records of official proceedings and images.

Many researchers like bailey, Polit and Hungler, Treece and Treece, Webb, Campbell, Schwarz and Sechrest stated that document research includes institutional memorandums and reports,
census publications, government pronouncements and proceedings, diaries and innumerable other written, visual and pictorial sources in different forms and so on. In a similar view, Denscombe (1998: 163) said, “government publications and official statistics would seem to be an attractive proposition for the social researcher.” The research method is often marginalized or when used, it only acts as a supplement to the other general social research methods.

Historical research is a process of systematically examining past events to give an account of what has happened in the past. It is not merely accumulation of facts and dates or even a description of past events. Rather it is a flowing dynamic account of past events that involves an interpretation of the events that an attempt to capture the personality and ideas that influenced these events. One of the goals of historical research is to communicate an understanding of past events.

There are five reasons for conducting historical research.

1) Uncover the unknown (i.e. some historical events are not recorded)
2) Answer questions (there are many questions about our past that we not only want to know but can profit from knowing)
3) Identify the relationship between the past and present (knowing about the past can frequently give a better perspective of current events).
4) Record the accomplishment of individuals, agencies and institutions
5) Assist in understanding the culture in which we live. (e.g. education is part of our history and our culture)

There is no one approach that is used in conducting historical research, although a general set of steps is followed. This includes the following steps:

1. Identification of the research topic and formulation of the research problem or question
2. Data collection or literature review
3. Evaluation of materials
4. Data synthesis
5. Report preparation or preparation of the narrative exposition

**3.1 SAMPLE**

A sample may be described as a part of large number, which is called population, and the process of sampling means gathering information from many sources. Sampling helps to select
representative group from the whole population and then with the help of appropriate technique, the researcher is able to draw inferences about the entire population.

"Sampling, generally refers to the process of selecting a small part or specimen of something in order to determine some quality or characteristic of the whole" Deighton (1971). It is useful in many ways to select a smaller population representative of the large universe under study it is not only to save time, energy and money of the investigator but also facilitates him to study the problem in hand intensively. So, it is always useful to take a smaller representation of the large whole.

The present study is confined to the state of Punjab. Four districts i.e. Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Hosiapur and SBS Nagar are selected to see the progress of elementary education in Doaba area of Punjab. The number of schools in Punjab, Dropout Rate in Punjab, Pupil Teacher Ratio in Punjab, Number of Students in Punjab and Doaba region of Punjab and Number of Teachers in Punjab and Doaba region of Punjab, and Amount spent by the Punjab Govt. will be the highlighted issues of the present research. The researcher tried her best to collect the data on the above mentioned areas of elementary education from 1966 to 2008.

3.2 SOURCE OF DATA:

Both primary and secondary sources are used to collect the data. Primary data means original data that has been collected specially for the purpose in mind of the researcher. It means someone collected the data from the original source first hand. Primary data is more reliable, authentic and objective. The Primary data has not been changed or altered by human beings therefore its validity is greater than secondary data. The Secondary data is a data that has been already collected and readily available for other sources. In present research the data is collected from the following sources:

3.3 STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

Data will be represented in the form of percentage and statistical graphs.