METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

The Government and other welfare agencies in India repeatedly manifest their concern for women and their welfare in general. The schools of social work, the social work practitioners, educators and the research scholars receive reading materials and other communication from the above mentioned agencies about welfare of women from all sections of society. By means of such materials the investigator became familiar with the problems of working women. Such familiarity was searching for factual data and research studies on working women. But only limited studies have been carried out in this area, and one has to explore various dimensions of working women in particular, under Indian context. This observation prompted the investigator to conduct this exploratory study.

This chapter describes the research methodology of the present exploratory study. It also covers the need and objectives, hypothesis, universe and sample, pilot study, tools of data collection, pre-testing, field work, collection of data, operational definition and the statistical techniques used.
NEED FOR THE STUDY

Owing to various social welfare measures and social policy of the Government, most of the Indian women are attending educational institutions for various reasons. The rate of illiteracy among women is slowly getting reduced. The ever increasing literacy rate among women has brought out many social changes in general. Education provides gainful employment for literate-women which in turn gives rise to new-roles and status to them.

Many working women, due to employment opportunities in cities and towns are away from home. They prefer to stay in hostels for working women, where they feel at home due to their group life. In spite of such secured and comfortable hostel experience, they face many problems which require sympathetic understanding and keen attention. While some of the problems are general in nature, many are specific and individualistic. Facing such problems in hostel life, many women react and reveal certain psychological problems in different ways and manners.

Many of the problems of these working women remain unexplored. The present exploratory study is an attempt to empirically study the level of adjustment problems, the level of life satisfaction, the level of insecurity feelings and religious attitude, and other related and relevant
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Normally working women have to face dual role performance at home and work spot as well. In the case of working women one more adjustment is added at hostel. She revolves around family, hostel and work spot. Still more miserable is the longing of the married women who can meet their children, husband and other family members only during holidays. For many women, the hostel life is totally a new experience. Some women have had hostel life experience during their study-period itself. For both categories there may be typical problems. The peripheral dimension of these problems appear to be manageable. But the inner dimension of these problems are not explored minutely. Hence, an exploratory attempt is made in this study to gain first hand empirical data about the problems of working women which remain unexplored for a long time.

The present exploratory study has the following objectives.

1. To study the personal and socio-economic background of working women who live in hostels for working women.
2. To find out the levels of adjustment problems among working women.
3. To know the levels of life satisfaction.
4. To measure the levels of insecurity feelings.
5. To explore the religious attitudes of them.
6. To find out the association between the selected socio-economic variables and key-variables namely the level of adjustment problems, the level of life satisfaction, the level of insecurity feelings and religious attitude.
7. To ascertain the relationship among the variables namely the level of adjustment problems, the level of life satisfaction, the level of insecurity feelings and religious attitude.

Estella Pugh (1987:42) observes that the research goes beyond description and requires analysis. It looks for explanations, relationship, comparisons, predictions, generalisation and theories. The researcher kept these observations in mind and has attempted to bring out many aspects in the present exploratory study.

The exploratory research is defined as a preliminary study of an unfamiliar problem about which the researcher has little or no knowledge (Krishnasamy, 1993). As regards the present exploratory study, the researcher had
He opted to cover the following two phases mentioned by Katz and Festinger (1953), in the present exploratory study.

1. At the first level is the discovery of the significant variables in the situation.

2. At the second the discovery of relationships between variables.

HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were formulated for the present study.

1. More the age of the working women, lower is the level of adjustment problems.

2. More the age of the working women higher is the level of life satisfaction.

3. More the age of the working women lower is the level of insecurity feelings.

4. There is a significant association between the age and religious attitude of working women.

5. Higher the educational level of the working women, lower is the level of adjustment problems.

6. Higher the educational level of the working women, higher is the level of life satisfaction.

7. Higher the educational level of the working women, lower is the level of insecurity feelings.
8. There is a significant association between the educational level and religious attitude of the working women.

9. Higher the monthly income of the family of the working women, lower is the level of adjustment problems.

10. Higher the monthly income of the family of the working women, higher is the level of life satisfaction.

11. Higher the monthly income of the family of the working women, lower is the level of insecurity feelings.

12. There is a significant association between monthly income of the family of the working women, and religious attitude.

13. Higher the level of adjustment problems, lower is the level of life satisfaction of the working women.

14. Higher the level of adjustment problems, higher is the level of insecurity feelings of the working women.

15. There is a significant relationship between the level of adjustment problems and religious attitude of the working women.

16. There is a significant inverse relationship between the level of life satisfaction and level of insecurity feelings of the working women.

17. There is a significant relationship between the level of life satisfaction and religious attitude of the working women.
There is a significant relationship between the level of insecurity feelings and religious attitude of the working women.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The present exploratory study was conducted in Coimbatore city. Since, the investigator has been living there for the past twenty five years he is familiar with the topography of Coimbatore. Such familiarity enabled him to identify different working women’s hostels in various parts of the city. This selection of the city resulted in saving time, money and resources for the researcher.

There are ten working women’s hostels. Out of ten hostels, one hostel did not give permission in spite of the researcher’s repeated request. So the investigator decided to collect data from the remaining nine working women’s hostels totally having a strength of 417 inmates. All the 417 inmates were selected as respondents for the present study.
TABLE 5
DETAILS OF DATA COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Nature of response</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Responded with complete data</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>80.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Responded with incomplete data</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>No response</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fifty six respondents did not return the questionnaires due to various reasons. Some of them were said to be on medical leave, maternity leave, marriage arrangement, close relatives marriage, training session in other out station and such a reason or other. They could not be traced by the researcher during data collection period. Hence, they could not be included in the present study.

On scrutiny, the researcher found that 27 questionnaires were incomplete and far from satisfactory and hence he discarded them. The ultimate sample size was 334.

PILOT STUDY

The researcher made frequent visits to the selected nine working women's hostels in the city to explore the feasibility of conducting the study. At first, he
contacted all the concerned hostel wardens and later contacted the hostel authorities.

By constant and continuous contacts, with the hostel authorities, the investigator was able to get permission for the present study. This attempt facilitated the investigator to select the relevant tools and construct a questionnaire having related socio-economic variables. Moreover it enabled him to prepare a schedule of field work and data collection. Incidentally the rapport established with the hostel authorities, the wardens and some of the inmates who served as volunteers helped him to prepare a preliminary plan about his study in general.

TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

As all the working women were educated and capable of answering the questions during their leisure time, the researcher used the questionnaire method.

The first part of the questionnaire consisted of selected personal and socio-economic variables. The other section included four tools of data collection which were used for the present study.

1. ADJUSTMENT PROBLEM INVENTORY

To study the levels of adjustment problems, the inventory developed by Ramamurthy (1968), was used. The tool
consisted of five sub areas of adjustment problems namely health, emotion, self, home and social. The same tool was also applied to measure the overall adjustment problems of the working women. The reliability and validity of this tool were established by Ramamurthy (1968).

2. **LIFE SATISFACTION INDEX - 2**

This tool was developed and standardised by Havighurst (1971) and the same was used to find out the levels of life satisfaction of working women. The reliability and validity of the tool for Indian sample were established by Anantharaman (1980).

3. **SECURITY - INSECURITY INVENTORY**

This inventory developed by Govind Tiwari and Singh (1975) was used to find out the levels of insecurity feelings. The reliability and validity of this tool were already established by the same authors.

4. **RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE SCALE**

Rajamanickam (1975) had developed this inventory to find out the religious attitude. The researcher also used the same tool. The reliability and validity were established by Rajamanickam (1975).

As mentioned earlier, the reliability and validity for all these tools have been established for Indian
population by the concerned authors. For the purpose of the present study, the researcher has applied split half coefficient test to establish the reliability for the above mentioned tools of data collection. The results of such tests to establish reliability are mentioned below.

**TABLE 6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of the tool</th>
<th>Standardized for Indian population</th>
<th>Values of the reliability coefficient in the present study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Adjustment inventory</td>
<td>Ramamurthy (1968)</td>
<td>0.7860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Life satisfaction index-2</td>
<td>Anantharaman (1980)</td>
<td>0.7663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Security-insecurity inventory</td>
<td>Govind Tiwari and Singh (1975)</td>
<td>0.9598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Religious attitude scale</td>
<td>Rajamanickam (1975)</td>
<td>0.5255</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRE-TEST AND FINALISATION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

The structured questionnaire was administered to ten working women who belonged to five different hostels and they were selected at random. The responses were carefully scrutinized and analysed. As all the tools were standardized, no revision or refinement were made. However,
certain words were pointed out by the respondents and the researcher clarified that they were quite common to all respondents.

DATA COLLECTION

This important work was carried out by the researcher from September 1994 to December 1994. After obtaining formal permission from the concerned authorities, he visited all the hostels and met readily available respondents, explained them in groups and gave them orientation about the questionnaire. He requested them to give their responses at their earliest convenient time. Then he handed over all the questionnaires under the custody of hostel wardens who in turn distributed them to the respondents.

In each hostel a minimum of two volunteers helped in the distribution and collection of filled in questionnaire and submitted them to the hostel wardens. Adequate steps were made by the investigator to orient and prepare such volunteers for the present study. However, care was exercised to maintain confidentiality. He visited periodically all the hostels, clarified their doubts and collected the completed sheets.
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data collected through questionnaire method were scrutinised by the researcher for the correct entry of data. After that a code book was prepared and with its help data were fed into computer for processing and analysis. According to Nachmias (1981:269) the data processing is a link between data collection and data analysis.

The data were processed and analysed with the help of SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) programme. Various statistical measures have been used in this study such as descriptive statistics and inferential statistics with yate's correction wherever necessary. Moreover partial tables have been used to examine and find out the real relationship between the test variables.

These statistical results have been presented along with frequency tables, cross tables and partial tables. In other words the data have been subjected to univariate, bivariate and multivariate analysis.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

COIMBATORE CITY

For the present study Coimbatore does not mean administrative classification like district or revenue division (taluk). But for practical reasons it means the
Coimbatore city having a radius of 8 km from the heart of the city.

**WORKING WOMEN**

Working women in this study refers to working women staying in the hostels for working women and attending their job.

**HOSTEL AUTHORITIES**

This term refers to the hostel management, representatives like president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

**COMMUNITY**

This term refers to the classification of different castes depending upon socio-economic deprivation caused by traditional caste system in India. This classification is made and notified in the Gazette of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

**JOINT FAMILY**

Joint family in this study refers to all the members of the family living together and are closely related to each other by birth.

**NUCLEAR FAMILY**

Nuclear family is one consisting of husband, wife and their child/children.
EXTENDED FAMILY

An extended family can be viewed as a merger of several nuclear families.

DEPENDENTS

The term 'dependents' means all the family members like husband, father, mother and others who directly depend on the income of the respondents.

MONTHLY SALARY

Monthly salary means the gross salary earned by the respondents.

TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME OF THE FAMILY

This refers to the total earning of the family members by means of occupation, business, or agriculture.

EXPERIENCE

This term refers to the total length of service in years, of the respondents in their occupation.

UNDER MARITAL STATUS

SEPARATED

This refers to women separated from the family without legal divorce.

OTHERS

The term 'others' refers to divorced women.
TEST VARIABLES

These refer to the key variables selected for the study namely adjustment problems, life satisfaction, insecurity feelings and religious attitude.

ADJUSTMENT PROBLEM

In the present study this refers to problems in the areas of health, emotion, self, home and social as measured in the adjustment problem inventory developed by Ramamurthy (1968).

The researcher used quartile deviation method to categories the adjustment problems into three groups, namely, high, moderate and less adjustment problem. The quartile scores and details are furnished below.

LESS ADJUSTMENT PROBLEM

In the present study, the individual scores upto 44 in the Adjustment Problem Inventory of Ramamurthy (1968) is termed as less adjustment problem. It means an individual who gets a score less than 45 has less adjustment problem.

MODERATE ADJUSTMENT PROBLEM

The individual whose score ranges from 45 and 86 in the Adjustment Problem Inventory of Ramamurthy (1968) is termed as moderate adjustment problem in this study.
HIGH ADJUSTMENT PROBLEM

The individual score of 87 and above in the Adjustment Problem Inventory of Ramamurthy (1968) is termed as high adjustment problem in this study.

LIFE SATISFACTION INDEX-Z

In this study it refers to the level of life satisfaction possessed by the respondents.

LESS LIFE SATISFACTION

An individual score of less than 7 in Life Satisfaction Index-z by Havighurst (1971) is termed as less satisfaction in this study.

MODERATE LIFE SATISFACTION

The score of an individual which ranges from 7 and 11 in the Life Satisfaction Index-z developed by Havighurst (1971) is termed as moderate life satisfaction in this study.

HIGH LIFE SATISFACTION

The individual who gets a score of 12 and above in the Life Satisfaction Index-z is termed as high life satisfaction in this study.

INSECURITY FEELINGS

In this study it refers to the emotional instability, feelings of rejection, anxiety isolation,
jealousy, low self esteem, irritability, inconsistency and tendency to accept the worst, general pessimism or unhappiness in an individual as measured by the Security-Insecurity-Inventory developed by Govind Tiwari and Singh (1975).

The insecurity feelings of the respondents were classified into high, moderate and less using quartile deviation method.

LESS INSECURED

The individual who scores upto 41 insecurity. Insecurity-Inventory developed by Govind Tiwari and Singh (1975) is termed as less insecure in this study.

MODERATELY INSECURED

The individual who gets a score between 42 and 71 in Security-Insecurity-Inventory of Govind Tiwari and Singh (1975) is termed as moderately insecure in this study.

HIGHLY INSECURED

The individual whose score is 72 and above in Security-Insecurity-Inventory of Govind Tiwari and Singh (1975) is termed as highly insecure in this study.

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE

In this study it refers to the total and consolidated responses given by the individuals towards
questions raised on the universe, god, temple/church/mosque, rituals, life after death, sacred books and religious festivals.

**POSITIVE RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE**

The individual who gets a score upto 73 in religious attitude inventory of Rajamanickam (1975) is termed positive religious attitude.

**NEUTRAL RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE**

The individual who gets a score between 74 and 86 in Religious Attitude Inventory of Rajamanickam (1975) is termed Positive Religious Attitude.

**NEGATIVE RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE**

The individual who gets a score above 86 in Religious Attitude Inventory of Rajamanickam (1975) is termed Negative Religious Attitude.

**PROBLEMS FACED BY THE RESEARCHER**

1. The researcher identified ten hostels for working women out of which only one hostel did not give permission. For one hostel, the researcher had to wait for two months to get permission through proper channel.

    The data collection had to be extended to four full months owing to so many reasons.
i. Some of the respondents were availing leave during weekends and caused inordinate delay to return questionnaires.

ii. Many respondents found no time to give their responses.

iii. Some of the respondents attended inservice training and career advance courses at outstation. Some others were on leave on medical ground or family or domestic obligations.

2. In five hostels the researcher had to depend on volunteers and on several occasions their absence made the investigator return home disappointedly. But this sort of difficulty is quite normal in any research.

3. Many hostel wardens and hostel authorities initially hesitated to grant permission for data collection. Later on they were flexible and gave green signal due to the rapport built by the investigator and his repeated contacts and appeals.

4. Many hostel authorities did not encourage the presence of the investigator in their premises after 8.00 pm. In a subtle way they disclosed this and the researcher honoured it.
LIMITATIONS OF THE PRESENT STUDY

The study is confined to working women staying in hostel for working women in Coimbatore city.

The study is limited only to know the levels of certain problems and not reasons for it.

The present research attempt is not to make any comparative study of women staying in the hostels and women who do not stay in the hostel.

There are still many aspects and problems of working women which remain unexplored.

The present study has been directed to investigate certain specific aspects of working women.

CHAPTERISATION

The present exploratory study is divided into four chapters.

The first chapter discusses the historical perspective of Indian women in general and working women in particular and the problems of working women staying in hostels for working women. A survey of existing literature on women especially working women is also presented in this chapter.
The second chapter is devoted to discuss the methodology followed in the present study. It covers the need and importance, aims and objectives, hypotheses, universe of the study, the tools used for the collection of the data, operational definitions, difficulties encountered by the researcher, limitations of the study and other related aspects usually found in methodology chapter.

The third chapter is full of results and interpretations of data based on statistical measures to draw meaningful inferences and conclusions. The chapter has six subdivisions.

The fourth and final chapter depicts the salient findings of the present study. The implications and the suggestions for future study are also discussed in this chapter.