CHAPTER II
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RESEARCH DESIGN

INTRODUCTION:

Age is a basic component in the ever-changing social structure. And this structure, in turn, influences age-related phenomenon for every person in the society from birth to death (Riley M. W., & Waring, J. 1976). In every society the individual must, in the course of his life cycle, perform many different roles, a considerable portion of which are prescribed for him on the basis of his age-sex category membership. The behaviour expected of him at one period in his life cycle is often sharply differentiated from that expected at another period and would seem to require, for its successful performance, a markedly different personality configuration. Nevertheless, we know that the average individual in all societies is able to make the transition from one age category role to another without serious personality disturbances and to function successfully in roles which often appear quite incompatible (Linton, R.; 1942).

The function of the aged as bearers and transmitters of the techniques, knowledge, and skills of their society depends to a large extent on the rate of technological and social change in their society. Slow change puts a premium on accumulated knowledge and long experience;
it makes possible an age-graded role allocation which shifts older people to positions that are less arduous and exacting and yet are of central importance in their society. Conversely, rapid and pervasive change undermines their importance (Talman; Y, 1966).

In traditional society statuses were ascribed to the individuals on the basis of age, sex, family etc. In traditional agrarian society, the rate of influx of knowledge into the society was very slow. In such societies elderly people occupied a key position in family and so in society. In such societies old people were the reservoir of society's accumulated wisdom and knowledge. In such societies elderly people used to command respect and honour from the younger people.

In the traditional society the old persons occupied position of prestige, privilege and power. Traditional agrarian society treated the aged with respect and they usually had a role for them to play. The elderly were the repositories of society's accumulated wisdom and knowledge. As one grow older one received greater privilege and honour (Kasthuri, R., Paper I).

From time immemorial people are growing old. But aging has become a new social problem, because of certain values imbibed in industrial society. The industrial society
is achievement-oriented and utilitarian in nature. At old age, people are no longer regarded useful for the society from economic point of view. As their productive role in society comes to stand still, old age becomes a problem for both old and young in modern society.

In India we will have approximately 80 Million aged by the end of this century; one seventh of all World's elderly population. It is one opinion that India has no problem with the aged because of the acceptable attitudes and behaviour of the old as part of its Cultural System. But the real picture is that changes are occurring as every whereleg and the integration of the aged within the family and society is a problem. That's why I developed interest in doing research on the problem of retired persons.

Indian society is changing rapidly. In this context old values are giving place to new. Old people were respected in old set-up, when they were useful for knowledge and advice to the younger generation. But with the change in the nature of techniques, knowledge required for modern forms, with its changing educational and social structure, many times we find old people are losing their significance in the family and society. Their knowledge and expertise are becoming obsolete. So they seem to be left out from the social structure. This situation has created problems for the old people. So as
sociologist, my attention was drawn towards the problems of these old people who constitute a part of the weaker section of the society. Old people pose a special category of social problems because they are handicapped from several angles in this life situation. Physically, Psychologically, socially, and economically, old people suffer. So, I wanted to find out as to what were their exact problems and how are they adjusting to the changing situation in their life.

So I tackled the problem of old people from six vantage points of view -

1) Socio-economic Dimensions of Retired persons at the time of retirement.
2) Living conditions since retirement.
3) Health Status after retirement.
4) Socio-Phychological Stresses in family after retirement.
5) Retired Person's commitment for the society and by the society.
6) Importance of Planning for Aging.

I have selected for my study, retired persons, who retire from various occupations, as my respondents.

Retirement is a stage which indicates that one has become old and has finished the most useful and active part of one's life. Retirement suddenly affects the life of person. Retirement makes a man feel that he is no longer
wanted by society. Retirement impresses that his function to the society has come to stand-still. Retirement thrusts upon the men that now they are old; and he should accept his old age. So I have selected for the study of old people, the retired persons, who retire from various occupations.

For any scientific study 'Methodology' used in the treatment of the subject plays a very vital role. Its importance cannot be more emphasized than when we say that the degree of accuracy attained on the subject depends more or less on the methodology used. Thus, I normally had to be very careful in the selection of tools for the study and the approach adopted for the collection of the data. The present chapter deals with the research procedure, which I have followed in the present study.

1) THE OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

Although, in India the problem of old age was not so acute in the past mainly because of the joint-family system, where an old person was not considered a burden on society, with the change in the way of living, the problem is drawing attention. New trends warrant attention of the social reformers and administrators.

Due to various reasons number of old people is increasing in India. 4 crores old people are reported in 1981 census. 6.5% of the total population belong to the age-group
of 60 and over in Indian Society. So day-by-day the old people are increa"ing in India. Hence, I thought that the study of old people even now is necessary.

The following are the objectives of this study.

1) To explore the Socio-economic dimensions of retired old person at the time of retirement.

2) To explore the living conditions since retirement and their efforts to adjust with situation.

3) To enumerate their worries about retirement centered around income and health due to their concern about missing the job. Hence, I wanted to know the details about health, diseases, extent of mental depression and degree of loneliness.

4) In addition to health and personal depression, I wanted to know about kinds of familial stresses or problems arising out of living together with children, daughter-in-laws and other members of their family.

5) The elders are the element of our society. Due to old age and job rules they have to retire and retirements creates many problems. Retired persons have some expectations from the society; about their problems. On the other hand the society expects them to spend their leisure time for social work with the help of their great experience and knowledge. I wanted to explain the retired person's will for commitment for the society and expectations by the society for them.
6) Although retired persons are supposed to have source of income and economic security, much depends upon planning and socialization during their pre-retirement years. I wanted to know about the trends among the old persons towards planning and their economic behaviour after retirement. I wanted to assess their active social participation after retirement.

2) **METHODOLOGY** :

    It is the analysis of the adjustment patterns as well as factors related to elder's problems. Retirement thrusts upon the man that he is old, and he should accept his old age. I have selected two hundred retired persons from Marathwada region, as a sample of respondents. Out of these two hundred retired persons 123 persons have retired from Government employment and organized sectors, at a fixed retirement age. Remaining 77 older persons have retired from their respective occupations, voluntarily or optionally.

(a) **UNIVERSE OF RESEARCH** :

    When I selected topic for research the problems which I faced were about the selection of the universe and the choosing the sample. I selected retired persons from Marathwada region, as my universe and my sample was of 200 retired persons staying in the Marathwada region.
Marathwada region is in the Eastern part of Maharashtra State. It joined in Maharashtra State in 1956. Previously this was part of Nizam’s regime. Nizam’s regime neglected the development of this region. After reorganization of the States and formation of Maharashtra State from May 1, 1960, Marathwada has made considerable development in all spheres of life.

Marathwada region at present is divided into seven districts and these are, Aurangabad, Parbhani, Nanded, Jalna, Beed, Osmanabad and Latur. According to 1981 Census, the population of Marathwada is 9747796. The area of Marathwada region is 64806 sq.kms. Nearabout 87% people are living in rural area and the agriculture is the predominant activity. 88% people depend upon agriculture and its subsidiary occupations. Marathwada is still the least urbanized division in the Maharashtra State. Since the process of economic development is usually associated with urbanization the predominantly rural character of this region reflects its economic backwardness. Transport and communication facilities in Marathwada are very meagre as compared with those in the other parts of the State.

In Marathwada, Aurangabad, Nanded, Latur, Jalna, Ambajogai, Parali, Osmanabad, Beed, Parbhani, these are main and important cities. Since, 'Aurangabad', is a divisional place of Marathwada it has administrative importance. It is
connected with other cities of Maharashtra, by railway, airway, and road transport. It attracts tourists from various parts of India and the World because of the world famous caves of 'Ajanta' and 'Ellora'. It has been growing fast especially since 1956, when the 'Marathwada' was merged into 'Maharashtra'. The city being a centre of the Division comprising the seven districts of Marathwada, in administrative, commercial, industrial, educational affairs etc. has undoubtedly attracted a considerable immigrant population.

According to 1981 census population of the Aged (i.e. 60 years) is about 6.5 per cent only of the total population in India. Population of the Aged in Maharashtra is 4008812. According to 1981 census the strength of Aged people in Marathwada is 662709. As the census report indicates, that this may increase due to improved health care and increased life-expectancy. This does not mean only increase in the population of Aged, rather this does mean increase of very old person and their more dependency on others. The condition of those Aged who are in unorganised sector and belong to lower class is very pitiable; due to economic stringency and physical incapacity that is generally found in India especially in Marathwada. As there is no concept of institutionalization for Aged in Marathwada, State Government has not introduced any old-age pension scheme so far.
In Marathwada the number of pensioners, in 1981, (5)
was about 10 thousand (Kapadia, R. 1981). And the number is
increasing every year. In Marathwada there has been
educational and industrial progress under process. The cities
of Aurangabad, Nanded, Latur, Jalna, Parbhani, Beed and
Osmanabad have been improving in industry. The process of
urbanisation, on the whole, has been started. As a result
Aged residing in urban areas and also engaged in organised
sector are facing number of problems of Aging (Desai, 1976).
The problems of Aged residing in cities have been expressed
through the local Newspapers. There are two association of
the Aged namely, "Marathwada Pensioners Association" and
"Senior Citizen's Association" in Aurangabad, which function
and work for the Welfare of their members.

In the background of such prevailing condition of
Aged in Marathwada, it is highly relevant to assess their
problems. Hence, I have undertaken this work for research.
(b) **SAMPLING**: 

For selecting samples for my study I had to go
through a very hard time. I had approached the 'Marathwada
Pensioner's Association' for the list of their members. Which
are only pensioners. But as per my research purpose, I wanted
to collect data from those retired old persons who retired
from their own occupations. Who may not be getting pension.
It was difficult to get such types of elderly's list. So, I
thought that it would be better to adopt purposive sampling technique. Finally, I selected two hundred retired old persons from Marathwada Region on the basis of purposive sampling from the availability of elderly who retired and collected information for the present study.

The retirement age in most of the retirement plans in India is either 55, 58 or 60; and because of the lower expectation of life in India; age 55 was considered to be the beginning of old age. But in rural area, majority of rural old persons never retire. Even in urban area, those who are engaged in business of private production oriented activities do not retire as long as they are physically fit. So, for the present research work, I chose, those old persons as a sample, whose age is above 55 years, who are retired from their occupations and they are civilion of Marathwada region. Since, in my two hundred respondent's sample, 123 old persons are retired from Government services and organised sectors, and other older persons retired from their own occupation and unorganized sectors.

(c) PILOT STUDY:

As present study of retired old persons is exploratory one, I thought it was necessary to take a pilot survey of few retired persons. I prepared a rough interview guide and approached ten retired persons for interviewing and collecting information from them. On the basis of the
information which I have collected from the retired persons, I prepared a final schedule for collecting data from the retired persons about the adjustment patterns of old age. The purpose of pilot survey was to find out the different factors which affect the old people after retirement. The aim of searching these factors which affect old age, was to collect information about salient variables affecting old age.

(d) **HYPOTHESIS**:

As the study is exploratory in nature, it is an analysis of almost all the problems of old age. For the present research work the working hypothesis is as follows:

"Problems faced by the old persons in India though equally universal as in countries outside has some peculiar cultural aspects due to socio-economic and familial conditions in Indian society".

(e) **FIELD WORK AND PROCESSING OF DATA**:

For the collection of data I adopted method of interviewing with the technique of interview schedule. The field work for this study was carried out in Aurangabad, Nanded, Jalna, Latur and Ambajogai. I used to go in morning and in evening for interviewing respondents. I contacted two hundred respondents. The field work was carried out for almost one year and the data were collected. Hence, I did not have any difficulty in data-collection, except delay from some respondents.
After collecting information from the respondents, relevant data were processed by myself. Firstly, the schedules were read and re-read and then the data were coded and hand processed. Simple tables and pie-charts were prepared for the analysis of the data. As the respondents were two hundred in numbers, there was no problem in getting percentage. Roughly two months were required for coding and data processing.

(3) **DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**:

The First Part of the schedule was devoted to the personal information of the retired persons. In this Section, variables such as age, sex, education, religion, marital status, age at the time of retirement, native place, house arrangements, were used. Another set of variables was used to collect data about present financial position, pension, present sources of income, income and personal needs. Some questions were asked to elucidate information from these retired persons about their socio-economic dimensions and living conditions. Information about personal life and living conditions was necessary, because nowhere information about their personal life and living conditions may give me some insight into the working of old age problems.

Old age is a peculiar problem even in relation to family. Family is the important institution in the Society.
It gives security and asylum to the individual for his life. Old age or retirement means a stop to the economic role of man. When a man earns, he is regarded useful to the family. But when he no longer earns he is not respected in the family. This situation create some kinds of socio-psychological stresses, in family life of older persons. So, I wanted to know the nature of socio-psychological stresses which facing by these retired persons in his family-life. I also wanted to know whether the Aged are respected or not in the Indian family.

It is said that in a joint family, old people are shown care and concern. I wanted to know whether, it is still continuing in small family set-up. So questions were asked about family life of the retired persons. In the schedule, questions were set about number of children, family-type, with whom they are living present, and any relations, these variables with care-giver in his sickness, the opinion about frequent disagreement with children, the opinion about feel freedom reduce on account in the son's family. Questions were asked about adjustment whole living with the son's family; are they subject of criticism at home or not. Some questions were asked about how their family members treat them and changing nature of family life. Questions were asked about considering their advice about important decision by family members. Two open questions were asked about their opinion
about, their family is better than most of his age-mates, and their opinion and experience about "children taking care in old age" in relation to other older persons. These questions were asked about family matters to find out the socio-psychological stresses in his family life and real status of the old people in family.

The third part of the schedule was devoted to the health status of the retired persons after retirement. Declining health is generally a predisposing factor in old age or retirement rather than a consequence. So in this Section of schedule questions were asked about present health conditions, suffering from any disease, medical treatment, undergone any operation since retirement, hospitalized day, visit to doctor for health problems, financially in a position to get the best treatment and adjustment patterns with failing health. Some questions were asked about their behaviour regarding physical exercises, for keep body fit. These questions were asked about their present health conditions to find out their health status after retirement and their health problems.

The fourth and fifth parts of the schedule were devoted to the leisure time activities and the Aged view about old age and death. Certain questions pertaining to following matters, how they lead their life of retirement,
their entertainment activities, favourite entertainment, their full day general time-table, how they spend their leisure generally, interest in the current socio-political issues, participation level in these issues, their plan after retirement, their opinion about how can retired person do for the society in his leisure time. Questions were also asked about death, think always about death. Some questions were also asked about the need of old age-home in Indian society; changing nature of Indian society; their expectations from the Government and Society. Information about all these matters is important for the clarifying the problems of Aged.

The sixth and last part of the scheduled was devoted to the present problems of retired persons. In this part, questions were asked about the social, psychological and health problem of the retired persons. Questions were also asked about the planning for old age or retirement. Also questions were asked about their attitude towards life after retirement.

Thus the schedule which was used for the data collection was devoted to the questions pertaining to personal, and socio-economic variables, family, health, society, psychological aspects of retired persons. Respondents were taken in full confidence, so that they will give free and frank information. I have no difficulty in
collecting information from the respondents. These retired persons were very happy when I met them and gave co-operation in giving information. The questions were framed in Marathi language. The purpose of preparing Marathi schedule was to get information easily and to establish rapport with the respondents.

(4) **DEFINITION AND EXPLANATION OF CONCEPTS AND TERMS:**

With greater awareness of the need for precision in research certain terms as well as expressions are used with definite but specially scientific meaning. The following definitions of some concepts considered important are adopted for this particular study.

1) **Aging** : (Concept):

A general term used for various biological, psychological and social processes whereby an individual acquires the socially defined characteristics of old age.

2) **Dependency** : (Concept):

A social state in which the individual must rely on others for financial or physical support.

3) **Disengagement, individual** : (Concept):

The process whereby the individual withdraws commitment to various social roles. May be manifested either by dropping various roles or by "going through the motions".

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4) **Disengagement, Societal**: (Concept):

The process whereby society withdraws support from the individual and ceases to seek a commitment from him or her. May be active, such as in compulsory retirement, or passive, as in no compulsory retirement, or passive, as in no encouragement of the older individual to stay on.

5) **Engagement**: (Term):

A commitment on the part of individual to a particular social role. Commitment can be to one role or to several, it may be deep or superficial, and it may be real or symbolic.

6) **Life-Course**: (Term):

The life of an individual seen as a series of stages, such as infancy, childhood, adulthood, middle age, later maturity, and old age. The life history of an organism.

7) **Life-expectancy**: (Term):

The average length of time a group of individuals of the same age will live, given current mortality rates. Life expectancy can be computed from any one, but is most often computed from birth.
8) **Old Age** : (Term) :

A stage of the life cycle socially defined or typified by increasing frailty and disability, much introspection and concern over the meaning the life, district awareness of approaching death; financial and physical dependency, isolation boredom, and loneliness.

9) **Older Person** : (Term) :

Conceptually, an individual in the later maturity or old age stages of the life cycle. Socially, people are usually classified as older if they are chronologically 65 or older. Legally, there are several chronological ages that are used to define people as old, beginning as early as 45.

10) **Pension** : (Term) :

A periodic payment to a person or his or her family, given as a result of previous on-the-job service.

11) **Retirement** : (Concept) :

The period following a career of job holding, in which job responsibilities and often opportunities are minimized and in which economic support comes by virtue of having held a job for a minimum length of time in the past.
12) **Retired Person**: (Term):

The term "Retired Persons" was broadly defined to include those who had left their regular lifetime occupations, including older persons who are working irregularly or part-time, persons who had never worked or who were living on inherited wealth or savings wives of the foregoing, unless they working full time, widows of retired men, and other widows, aged 55 or over, who did not work or who worked part-time only.

(5) **LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**:

The present study was conducted for getting Ph.D. degree. This thesis is the first attempt of myself. I would like to study in this area even after Ph.D. At present few books are available on the problems of Indian old people. So this is also a limitation of the study, however, it will be the responsibility of sociologists and gerontologists to write more.

The information collected for this study was connected with only two hundred respondents from Marathwada. The generalizations and finding of the study are based on information gathered from these two hundred respondents. I am aware that the sample is not sufficient proving external validity of my hypotheses. However, internal validity could be substantial.
While preparing this thesis, I had tried to be as much objective as possible and stick to scientific generalizations, since I did not have any elderly respondents as personally known nor I myself belong to that category, I could observe the phenomenon with impersonal perspective.

REFERENCES


