CHAPTER-4

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In last two decades India has been growing with fast pace. The increase in road traffic is obvious outcome of economic growth. Effective traffic management is very important need for the economic growth of the country. The Transport infrastructure of the country has not been able to keep pace with the increasing traffic demand. The most worrying aspect is near stagnation in the growth of public transport in qualitative and quantitative terms. This coupled with surplus income in the hand of growing middle class has lead to disproportionate growth of personalised vehicles. This has led to serious traffic problems. If it is not handled effectively, in a timely manner, it may hamper economic growth of the country.

Bhavnagar is not different from the rest of India. The problems in the bigger cities of the country are reflected in Bhavnagar city, of course on a different scale. The rural areas share many common issues with the city; of course they have some other issues too. In this study the subject of traffic management for both Bhavnagar city and the rural areas are studied.

SCOPE:

The scope of the study is to study the subject of traffic management for Bhavnagar district in a systematic manner so that this subject is approached in a scientific manner. The major issues pertaining to traffic management are identified and studied in a systematic manner so that this subject draws attention of all the stake holders and they become truly aware and educated on this subject. They have clear opinions that are not hearsay or emotional or impulsive but are based on well researched facts and figures.

The scope of the study includes interaction with road users to get their views about traffic management in Bhavnagar district. It also included taking views of police officers responsible for enforcement. The Enforcement, Education and Engineering aspects are covered.
OBJECTIVES:

With economic growth and increase in vehicular traffic, traffic management has become a major challenge before the 21st Century. Right now our approach has been ad hoc. The enforcement agencies and the agencies responsible for town planning and constructions of roads have not been responding to this problem in a proactive manner. The response of different stake holders is also similar. They do not go beyond criticising these agencies. They are not in position of suggesting solutions or giving views that can really make difference in the long term manner. In western countries lot of studies have been done in this area but the problem of our country is all to gather different. It needs to be studied in a systematic manner.

Bhavnagar is a district with Bhavnagar city as district head quarters with a population of 6,00,000. It also has rural area. This district can be said to representing most of the districts of the country. Thus result of this study can be useful to stake holders in other parts of the country.

Looking to the above situation, this study aims at studying traffic management in a systematic manner to put up well researched facts before various stake holders so that they can form their own opinion and contribute to this issue.

The objectives of the study are as under:

1) To study the traffic problems systematically.
2) To study the existing traffic management system in Bhavnagar district.
3) To suggest measures to approach the issue of traffic management in systematic manner.
4) To bring forth perceptions of various stake holders about traffic management in Bhavnagar .district.
5) To examine the role of various stake holders in traffic management
6) To study the present status of the main three aspects of traffic management, i.e. enforcement, education and engineering.
7) To elicit views of police on enforcement and educational aspects of traffic management.
8) To suggest various measures for improving traffic management
9) To study traffic management plan of Bhavnagar city
10) To examine utility of finding of this research to other parts of the country.
METHODOLOGY

Following methodology has been adopted for this study:

Literature Survey:
The existing literature, including previous research done by the scholar was reviewed. The papers published and presented in various conferences were studied. Various books, journals, magazines, articles and reports on the subject were referred.

Survey method:
Primary data has been collected from all the stakeholders from Bhavnagar District. Two types of questionnaire were prepared one for the public and the other for the police personnel. Both the questionnaires were objective type. Pilot testing of the questionnaires was done. The data collected was analysed by using statistical tools. The result of this survey has been used to develop strategies to approach traffic management in a systematic manner.

Interview method:
The structured interviews of the police officers serving in Bhavnagar district have been conducted to elicit their view on the various issues relating to traffic management in Bhavnagar district.

Personal and telephonic interviews of police officers and citizens have been conducted to get their views in depth.

Observation method:
The different places in the district were personally visited and the issues studied through observation method.

Population:
All the citizens of Bhavnagar district is the population.

Sampling unit:
The major citizens of Bhavnagar district who can understand traffic issues and have opinion about it.

Sampling Method:
Non- probability convenient method of sampling has been adopted.
Adequacy of sample:

Bhavnagar district has a population of over 2.9 millions. Since all these 1287 respondents are chosen conveniently from cross sections of the society and also represent Bhavnagar city and all talukas of the districts, it is felt that the sample size is quite adequate.

Bhavnagar police has sanctioned strength of 1500 personnel, of these 161 respondents from different ranks, age groups, experience have been chosen. This sample size seems to be adequate.

Out of 1500 police personnel 99 police officers were personally interviewed to elicit their views. In all, 6 Police Inspectors, 26 Police Sub Inspectors, 20 Assistant Sub Inspectors and Head constables of Bhavnagar police were interviewed. 47 Police constables working in Bhavnagar district have also been interviewed through structured interview looking their experience in day to day handling of traffic. In the eyes of people, police can bring about major difference in traffic management. Looking to this large number of police personnel were chosen for structured interview.

14 police officers and 12 citizens were interviewed personally or telephonically to get in depth view from them.

SOURCES OF DATA:

Primary and secondary sources of data are as follows:

1. Primary data
   - Structured questionnaire
   - Structured interview
   - Personal and telephonic interview

2. Secondary data
   - Bhavnagar district police
   - Crime in Indian publications.
   - Regional Transport Officer, Bhavnagar.
   - Gujarat Pollution Control Board, Bhavnagar.
   - Most website
   - Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation.
   - District Gazetteer, Bhavnagar District.
   - Road and Building Department, Bhavnagar District.
   - District Panchayat, Bhavnagar District.
   - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, New Delhi
   - Different web sites.
   - Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Government of India.
The primary and secondary data were analysed using graphical and percentage method and used to derive conclusions.

**LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:**

1. The study depends on some of the secondary sources of data that may not be accurate.
2. The environment aspects of traffic management are not much covered in the study.
3. The finding of the study may lose its utility as time passes due to changes in the character of the traffic issues of Bhavnagar district.
4. The observations, conclusions and recommendations made in the study are based to some extent on the perception of the respondents and may be less accurate.