CHAPTER II

Methodology

There has so far been no readily available authentic study based on direct and recent survey of women empowerment in rural sectors in North East India. As such the present study is handicapped by an acute paucity of data at virtually all stages in dealing with the pattern of women empowerment in the study area.

The study is based on both primary and secondary sources. Secondary sources of data have been collected from different volumes of census of India, statistical handbook of Assam, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD), National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Directorate of Panchayats and Rural Development (PNRD), Office of the Election Commission, respective Block offices, District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Kamrup District, Directorate of Rural Health Mission (DRHM); Guwahati, Directorate of Char Areas Development; Assam, Tea Board of Assam, Assam Institute of Research for Tribal and Schedule Caste, National Agricultural Bank and Rural Development (NABARD) etc, and different published books and journals.

For collection of primary data, an intensive field survey has been carried out following a random sampling method with the help of questionnaires administered through personal interviews.
2.1 Sampling Plan

A three stage of simple random sampling plan has been followed to complete the field survey. Simple random sampling refers to that sampling technique in which each and every unit of the population has an equal opportunity of being selected in the sample. In simple random sampling, item gets selected in the sample is just a matter of chance, personal bias of the investigator does not influence the selection. (Gupta, 1995).

2.1.1 The first stage of sampling plan

The first stage of sampling consists of identification of community development blocks viz Boko, Chandrapur, Hajo, Kamalpur and Sonapur to represent the Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Char Community, General Caste and Tea Garden community population respectively. The Schedule Tribe population constitutes a major share i.e. 51.14 percent in Boko CD Block against district and state average of 9.93% and 2.41 percent respectively. The Schedule Caste population is found at17.12 percent in Chandrapur block against the district average of 6.76% and the State average of 6.85%. A large portion of the Hajo C D block constitute of riverine sandbars or “chars”. The same is considered for representing Char community. Likewise a good number of small Tea gardens are found in Sonapur C.D. Block and therefore the block is chosen for understanding status of Tea garden community. Kamalpur C.D. block is dominated by general caste people. This population composition is illustrated in Chapter III, (Table: 3.6)
2.1.2 The Second stage of sampling plan

The second stage of sampling considers selection of two sample villages from each of the blocks. For this purpose Composite Z-score method is employed using socio economic indicators implying status of women.

Geographers are mostly involved in studying the spatial variation in status of women. Among the geographers, perhaps Lee and Schultz (1982) were the pioneers in depicting the regional patterns of women status. They tried to determine both absolute and relative status of women considering the indicators like income, education and occupation applying Z-transformation technique. Andrews (1982) has made an effort to devise an ideal composite status-of-women index (SWI) for mapping the worldwide regional variations. She has included three social indicators, such as female life expectancy, female literacy and total fertility rate in her composite SWI. Kumar (1993), in a study on ‘Regional Dimensions of the status of women in India’ has found out the status of women on the basis of 8 variables by applying Z-scores technique.

In the present study, the Composite Z-score is calculated based on 11 Socio-Economic indicators for which 2001 Census data is used. The Composite Z-score can be fruitfully used for analyzing the composite scores of a number of parameters to find out the Status of women. The indicators selected for Z-score are: X1: Female Work Participation Rate (Main + Marginal) (FWPR), 2001, X2. Female main workers (FMW), 2001 X3: Female Marginal Workers (FMGW), 2001, X4: Female Main workers, Cultivators (FMWC), 2001 X5: Female Main worker, Agricultural labours (FMWAL), 200 X6: Female Main workers, Household Industries (FMWHI), 2001 X7: Female Main worker, other workers (FMWOW), 2001 ,X8: Female Marginal Workers, Cultivators (FMGWC),
Fig 2.1: Variation of women status in the villages of Boko C.D. block
Fig 2.2: Variation of women status in the villages of Chandrapur C.D. block

Chandrapur Community Development Block
KAMRUP DISTRICT, ASSAM
91oSr0"E  28*n TFN 91*57'0"E 92WE
Fig 2.3: Variation of women status in the village of Hajo C.D. block

Status of Women
Hajo Community Development Block
KAMRUP DISTRICT, ASSAM

Legend
Z Score Ranking
- 1 - 4 (Lower Medium)
1 - 7 (Upper Medium)
3 - 8 (High)
NA Not Available

Kilometers
Fig 2.4: Variation of women status in the villages of Kamalpur C.D. block

Legend
- Z Score Ranking
  - Below 8 (low)
  - -7 to -4 (Lower Medium)
  - -3 to -1 (Medium)
  - 2 to 4 (Upper Medium)
  - Above 5 (High)

Status of Women
Kamalpur Community Development Block
KAMRUP DISTRICT, ASSAM
Fig 2.5: Variation of women status in the villages of Sonapur C.D. block

In order to bring about a comparative scenario on status of women among the villages the Composite Z-scores of the villages in the 5 blocks are compared according to a common scale. The high and low Z-scores of the blocks are 7.76 to -12.29, 7.89 to -10.40, 8.39 to -10.63, 10.27 to -10.04 and 7.41 to -11.81 in Boko, Chandrapur, Hajo, Kamalpur and Sonapur C.D. blocks respectively. Therefore, the Z-score values of the villages of each block are grouped into five categories like Low (Less than -7.5), Lower Medium (-7.5 to -3.5), Medium (-3.5 to 0.5), Upper Medium (0.5 to 4.5) and High (4.5 to 8.5). The percentage share of villages of each block falling against the aforesaid ranges are displayed in table 2.1. The Composite Z-score level of low and lower medium level may be considered as problem villages where Chandrapur block has relatively larger share of villages (18.41%) followed by Hajo (15.38%). The upper medium and high Z-scores signify relatively better level Medium level Z-score is prominent in Sonapur, Kamalpur and Boko blocks, percentage share of villages being 51.42%, 50.0% and 44.2% respectively. (Table: 2.1) Based on Composite Z-score the blocks may be viewed as per their status of women. For this purpose the village wise Z-scores are added up to find out the total Z-score for each block. This is followed by finding out of mean Z-score for the respective block. Kamalpur block depicts a relatively brighter picture occupying the first rank in terms of Composite Z-score followed by Boko Sonapur, Chandrapur and Hajo C.D. Block; (Table: 2.2).
Table 2.1: Village grouping in terms of Status of Women in the identified C.D. blocks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the C.D. blocks</th>
<th>Village groupings on the basis of Z- scores</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low (Below 7.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boko C.D. block</td>
<td>2 (1.44%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandrapur C.D. block</td>
<td>3 (7.89%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hajo C.D. block</td>
<td>6 (6.59%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamalpur C.D. block</td>
<td>3 (4.54%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonapur C.D. block</td>
<td>4 (2.85%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Calculated on the basis of Census of India, 2001. Figure in parenthesis means percentage (%) of villages.

The Z-score when applying over the maps gives us a spatial understanding that villages of different blocks form clusters or groups. The clusters are formed taking as minimum as two villages and as maximum as 15 villages. Rest of the villages are scattered all over the block. In Boko C.D. block medium group (-3 to 1) of villages are found mainly northern and southern side of the block. Upper medium ranges (2 to 4) of villages are found to be scattered in the block. The high (above 5) group of villages is located toward the south-eastern side of the block where there is Choygaon C.D block. (Fig: 2.1). In the Chandrapur C.D. block low
group (below -8) of villages are found at the midst of the block and lower medium (-7 to -4) group of villages are located near the river Brahmaputra and southern side of the block. Medium (-3 to 1) group of villages share major part of the block everywhere. The upper medium (2 to 4) category of villages is located in the east, west and northern side of the block. The villages with high score are found on the eastern side of the block where two major rivers namely Digaru and Kalang are flowing. (Fig: 2.2). In the Hajo C.D. block the low (below-8) and lower medium (-7 to -4) group of villages are found on the south western and western side near the river Brahmaputra. The medium (-3 to 1) group of villages shares major parts of the block and located towards the northern side. The upper medium (2 to 4) group of villages are located in the northern side of the block where as high (above 4) category villages are found to be scattered. (Fig: 2.3). An interesting picture is revealed where some amount villages of highest score are found to be located near the river Brahmaputra along the char areas. In Kamalpur C.D. block, low group (below -8) of village is located on the eastern side and lower medium group (-7 to -4) of village constitute majority of villages found to be located almost along the four sides of the block. Medium group of villages (-3 to 1) are found mainly toward the northern side. The Upper medium (2 to 4) and the high (above 4) category villages are lying either along the road or rail route of the block. (Fig: 2.4). In the Sonapur C.D. block low (below -8) and lower medium (-7 to -4) group of villages are located at the midst of the block. The medium (-3 to 1) and the upper medium (2 to 4) group of villages constitute most of the villages found to be located scattered. The high (above 4) category villages are confined to either road roots or rail roots. (Fig: 2.5). The unevenness of scores reflecting women status followed by its variations may be linked to the physical setting of the area and
Table 2.2: Status of women in terms of Socio-Economic indicators in the identified C.D. blocks, Kamrup district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of The C.D. blocks</th>
<th>Selected female related socio-economic indicators</th>
<th>Total scores</th>
<th>Composite Z-score</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X1</td>
<td>X2</td>
<td>X3</td>
<td>X4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boko C.D. block</td>
<td>0.034511</td>
<td>0.05176</td>
<td>0.04274</td>
<td>0.02793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandrapur C.D. block</td>
<td>0.019763</td>
<td>0.00852</td>
<td>0.00932</td>
<td>0.00210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hajo C.D. block</td>
<td>0.040052</td>
<td>0.01465</td>
<td>0.00153</td>
<td>0.01111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamalpur C.D. block</td>
<td>0.072051</td>
<td>0.05206</td>
<td>0.01141</td>
<td>0.00378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonapur C.D. block</td>
<td>0.005432</td>
<td>-1.1971</td>
<td>-3.614</td>
<td>0.01375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Calculated from the Census of India, 2001; Tables on workers, 009 to 015a

Selected Socio-Economic Indicators

X1. Female Work Participation Rate (Main + Marginal) (FWPR), 2001
X2. Female main workers (FMW), 2001
X3 Female Marginal Workers (FMGW), 2001
X4 Female Main workers, Cultivators (FMWC), 2001
X5 Female Main worker, Agricultural labours (FMWAL), 2001
X6 Female Main workers, Household Industries (FMWHI), 2001
X7 Female Main worker, Other workers (FMWOW), 2001
X8 Female Marginal Workers, Cultivators (FMGWC), 2001
X9 Female Marginal workers, Agricultural Labour (FMGWAL), 2001
X10 Female Marginal workers, Household Industries (FMGWHI), 2001
X11 Female Marginal worker, other workers (FMGWOW), 2001
availability of the infrastructural facilities as well. These inequalities on women status stands as a background for carrying out the study on women empowerment.

As such, for selecting the sample villages two villages, one from Lower Medium (LMV) and the other from Upper Medium (UMV) from each block have been considered for selecting the sample villages. Lower Medium villages are Dakhilipara in Boko, Niz-Panbari no 2 in Chandrapur, No 4 Dokonia Reserve in Hajo, Laukuri in Kamalpur and Amching Tea Garden in Sonapur C.D. block. The Upper Medium villages are Agchia in Boko, Panikhaiti no 2 in Chandrapur, No 3 Shrihati in Hajo, Maniari in Kamalpur and Luri Tea garden in Sonapur C.D. block.

2.1.3 The Third stage of sampling plan

The third stage of sampling unit takes into account identification of women Self-Help Groups which are considered as the stepping stone towards socio-economic empowerment of rural women. Here five women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are taken into consideration in each village except the sample villages of Sonapur C.D. block where the sample unit has to be restricted to two SHGs only. This stage is followed by selection of households to which the selected members of SHGs belong. An equal number of households i.e. 100 for each block with 50 for each village has been selected as sample units as against the total households of 246, 167, 257, 318 for Boko, Chandrapur, Hajo and Kamalpur C.D. block respectively. The samples constitute 40%, 60%, 39%, 30% of total households of the aforesaid C.D. blocks respectively as referred in chapter III (table 3.8). Although, the sample unit for Sonapur block is confined to 40 households only, it is due to the fact that the SHGs and household from Tea Gardens only are taken in to consideration, The sample is not representative for the
The households are categorized into 5 income groups like Low income group, Lower Medium income group, Medium income group, Upper Medium income group and High income group with mean annual income of below Rs. 11000, Rs. 11000-21000, Rs. 21000-31000, Rs. 31000-41000 and above Rs. 41000 respectively. The Low Income group is considered as the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families according to the Census of India Report prepared by the government of India in 5th April, 1994. The government of India decided to define the poverty line in rural areas with reference to an income level of Rs. 11000/- per annum for a family. On an average, a rural family was considered with 5 members and thus families having an income from all sources of less than Rs. 11000/- per annum was treated as living below the poverty line at that time. (SIRD, 1998).

With regard to the other income groups the Author carried out a vigorous discussion with respective block officials and the village Headmen. For this purpose a preliminary study has to be completed covering all the sample villages. Keeping this information at this backdrop the aforesaid income groups have been found out so that this can be representative unit for all the sample villages. In the next stage with the guidance from the village headmen the sample households in each income group has been identified for collecting relevant data.

With regard to the study on political empowerment, women involved directly in Panchayati Raj Institutions i.e. Gaon Panchayats are considered as sample units. Number of gaon panchayats in the C.D. block is not uniform. There are 12 gaon panchayats both in Kamalpur and Sonapur C.D. block. Maximum gaon panchayats are seen in Hajo C.D. block with 20 numbers followed by Boko and
Chandrapur with 15 and 4 number respectively. (Table: 2.3). At this stage two gaon panchayats from each C.D. block have been selected, on the ground that the sample villages must fall under the selected gaon panchayats. A total of 30 women members i.e 6 from each Gaon Panchayat, have been considered as sample units which constitute 11%, 37%, 9%, 15% and 16% of total women members of the selected gaon panchayats of Boko, Chandrapur, Hajo, Kamalpur and Sonapur C.D. block respectively.

2.2 Sampling tool

After selection of the sample household, necessary data and information have been collected with the help of questionnaires administered through personnel interviews. Collection of data through questionnaires is quite popular, particularly in case of big enquiries and collection of data through schedules is very useful in extensive enquires and can lead to fairly reliable results. (Kothari, 2010).

2.2.1 Design of the survey schedule:

The design of a meaningful and an effective schedule cum questionnaire is highly essential for household level primary data collection in any socio-economic survey. It is also the same in the case of the present study. Three sets of Survey Questionnaires have been prepared. These are (1) House Hold Survey Schedule (2) Self Help Groups Survey Schedule and (3)Survey Schedule for representation of women member in Gaon Panchayats. A checklist has also to be used to collect relevant information.

2.2.1.1 Questionnaire for the household survey: This schedule is prepared to collect the information from selected household. Here the questionnaire is framed towards obtaining a variety of information associated
Table 2.3: Selection of Samples from Gaon Panchayats in the study area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the C.D. blocks</th>
<th>Total Gaon Panchayats in the block</th>
<th>Total women members in the G.P</th>
<th>Sample G.P. (%</th>
<th>Name of the sample G.P. (one sample village is under one selected gaon panchayat)</th>
<th>Women members in the Sample G.P. (total)</th>
<th>Sample women members in the sample G.P. (percentage of sample women is of total G.P women members)</th>
<th>Leadership position of the women in the G.P.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boko C.D. block</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2 (13%)</td>
<td>No 10 Dakhin Boko</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 (11%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No 9 Dakhin Pub Boko</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandra Pur. D. block</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2 (50%)</td>
<td>Chandrapur G.P.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 (37%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Panikhaiti G.P.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hajo C.D. block</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2 (10%)</td>
<td>Bamundi G.P.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6 (9%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Saniadi G.P.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamalpur C.D. block</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2 (17%)</td>
<td>Bartekpar G.P.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6 (15%)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Athgaon G.P.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonapur C.D. block</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2 (17%)</td>
<td>Tetelia G.P.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 (16%)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Naratap G.P.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey
directly or indirectly with women. The schedule is segmented into 42 items which may be discussed under the following headings. (Appendix I)

2.2.1.1 **Basic information:** The purpose of this section is to acquire information on the name, age, sex, education, occupation, marital status, yearly income of the family members, address, language spoken at home as well as outside, family type like single, nuclear, joint or extended type, religion and caste of the family.

2.2.1.2 **Housing condition:** Here relevant information are collected on the main occupation of the family, ownership of the house, housing condition like size, type and material used in the roof, wall and floor.

2.2.1.3 **Facility available in the household:** This section of the questionnaire includes kitchen condition, sanitary facilities, source of light in the households, drinking water sources and types of fuel for cooking etc.

2.2.1.4 **Land resource and agricultural production:** Information pertaining to Land resources like- cultivated land, fallow land, leased land, government land etc, are collected. Types, amount and purpose of agricultural production are attempted in this section of the questionnaire.

2.2.1.5 **Households amenities:** Households amenities includes type of livestock in the households like- cow, buffalos, pig, goat, poultry etc., types of households amenities includes television, radio, tape recorder, types vehicles; bicycle, scooter, motorcycle, car, bus, truck etc. households goods like- sewing machine, knitting machine, vacuum cleaner, water filter, aqua guard etc. agricultural machinery like tractors, threshers machine etc.

2.2.1.6 **Social aspects:** Information is gathered with respect to celebration of social festivals, visit to religious place and dress pattern etc.
2.2.1.1.7 **Daily work load:** Information are collected on daily work schedule of women both for adult and young with regard to cooking, child care, washing cloth and utensil, fetching fuel and water, cleaning house, animal rearing etc and leisure time of the women.

2.2.1.1.8 **Decision making:** This part of the questionnaire is meant for collecting data on women’s involvement in decision making on education of children, family day to day expenditure, medical treatment and family planning etc.

2.2.1.1.9 **Access to health facilities and status of women’s health:** Access to health facilities is collected on health center, dispensaries and hospitals, free medicine like- pulse polio, baby free vaccine, taxied, DDT spray, iron folic acid tablets, ASHA workers. Information on fertility rate, mode of delivery, assistance during delivery, and after delivery, marriage age, maternity death, family planning measures, common diseases are also gathered.

2.2.1.1.10 **Access to educational facility:** Information is collected on access to educational institute in the village like primary school, middle school, high school secondary school, college and technical institute in terms of distance required., access to facilities for children in school like- free text books, uniform, mid day meal, playing aids, separate toilet for girls, electrification in school, access to non-formal education, vocational education, adult education, access to welfare scheme', time for reading and playing at home and encouragement from guardian etc.

2.2.1.1.11 **Perception:** Perception study includes involvement in panchayati raj institution, self-help-group association, involvement with NGOs, social service, religious association, political involvement. Information have been collected if associating SHGs the women may benefited herself like gain financial
improvement, gain political focusing, gaining self confidence, knowledge, social respect, improving decision making capacity and other benefits.

2.2.1.2 Questionnaire for the Self- Help- Groups: The purpose of organizing the questionnaire is to collect data and information from the selected women self-help groups. The questionnaire has several sections to encompasses about 41 quarries. (Appendix II)

2.2.1.2.1 Basic information: The quarry about name of the women Self-Help-Groups, total male and female Self-Help-Groups in the village, date of formation of groups, total members, membership fee, name of the group leader i.e. president and secretary, the process of selection of group leader, name, age, education, religion, caste, occupation, marital status of every women members of the Self-Help-Groups has been made in this section.

2.2.1.2.2 Functioning of Self-Help-Groups: This part of the questionnaire is meant for collecting data on functioning of Self-Help-Groups with regards to monthly meeting, attendance of the women members in the group meeting, maintenance of the attendance register, collection of savings in group account, loan distribution etc. Information are gathered with respect to maintain of savings register, loan register and passbook, mode of collection of fund, operating of bank passbook. Data have been collected in this part to know if any women member drops out from the group, the probable causes of dropout etc.

2.2.1.2.3 Access of loan to women members: Information pertaining to total amount of loan availed by women Self-Help-Group members, loan supporting organizations both formal and informal, amount of subsidy, distribution of loan to women members from 2002-03 to 2006-07 are collected here. Questions have been
asked to the women members regarding distribution of loan, purpose of loan whether for education, treatment, social ceremony, food or other economic activities. Information are collected on loan repayment system as to whether the women Self-Help-Group returned the loan on time, if not the causes behind and if yes whether fully or partially.

2.2.1.2.4 Investment, expenditure and income: In this part of the questionnaire data have been collected with regards to investment for adopting different kind of economic activities like purchasing of raw material, processing goods, selling products etc. and generation of income.

2.2.1.2.5 Time management: Information pertaining to devotion of time by the women members to main activity, core activity, minor activity and other related activities.

2.2.1.2.6 Training: Information are gathered with respect to training imparted to the women members on production and marketing of goods, financial management and administrative skills and satisfactory level of women members on the training as a whole.

2.2.1.2.7 Access to development schemes facilities: This part questionnaire is meant for access to different schemes for the economic empowerment of women like- Udisha scheme, Swa-shakti scheme, Nabow / Baidew scheme etc.

2.2.1.3 Schedule for Gaon Panchayats women (G.P): The third questionnaire is designed to collect information about the gaon panchayats women who are elected in three tires Panchayati Raj Institution with regards to their involvement in the Government policies and development programmes. Here 22
items are arranged to collect information from the Gaon Panchayats women.
(Appendix III)

2.2.1.3.1 Basic information: Information are gathered with respect to name of the gaon panchayats, name of the women representatives in gaon panchayats, name of the village from where she is elected, her age, education level, religion, caste, occupation, marital status etc.

2.2.1.3.2 Status of the women members: This part of the questionnaire is meant for collecting data on total male and female members in gaon panchayats, status of the women in the gaon panchayats like- president, member, secretary or others, her tenure in the gaon panchayats and her previous experiences in the field of politics.

2.2.1.3.3 Awareness about the welfare programmes: Information are collected on the level of awareness of the women, her role and association in the rural development programmes like- Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Gram Rozgar Yojana (JGRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Watershed Management Programme (WMP) etc.

2.2.1.3.4 Awareness of basic knowledge in Political field: Information are gathered with respect to the voting rights of the women, women reservation, raising voice against conservation attitude and taboos like child marriage, child labour, dowry and awareness on different political issues etc.

2.2.1.3.5 Participation in panchayats related issues: In this part, information are collected about the participation of the gaon panchayats women in some decentralized administration programmes like Accredited Social Health
Activist (ASHA), Rogi Kalyan Samiti for good hospital management, children welfare schemes and gram sabha etc.

2.2.1.3.6 Women empowerment through involvement in gaon panchayats: This part of the questionnaire is meant for collecting data on perception level of the women as to whether she gets financial benefit from the gaon panchayats, gain political focusing, gaining self confidence, gain knowledge and social respect as a result of political involvement. Information regarding application of the voting rights and participation in political campaigning is also gather.

2.2.1.3.7 Difficulties faced by the women members: Questions are asked to the gaon panchayats women members as to whether she avails help and cooperation at home and at her work place as well to devote time for gaon panchayats activities.

2.3 Data analysis

All the primary and secondary forms of qualitative data are transferred into quantitative forms and analyzed with the help of suitable quantitative techniques. Weighted scores and Z- scores, Index of dissimilarity, coefficient of correlation, Multiple correlation, Analyses of Variance (ANOVA) are the principal techniques have been adopted in the study. Results have been displayed with the help of maps, graphs and tables based on which inferences are drawn.