Chapter – III

METHODOLOGY
3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the methodology. For this purpose, it begins with objectives and hypotheses which are derived from the reviews of the previous chapter.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To understand the life of the refugees in their home country, Sri Lanka.
2. To know their life during crisis of war times and transition.
3. To study their life in the refugee camps in India.
   - To describe the social dimensions of the refugee population; age, gender, family system, marriage, religious practices, social problems etc.
   - To identify the economic dimensions of the refugee population: occupation, job opportunities and income.
   - To understand their cultural dimensions; education, entertainment and media influence, health related concerns etc.
   - To study their psychological problems and concerns.
   - To analyse the political dimensions including the host governments both Tamil Nadu State Government and the Central Government assistance to the protection of refugees.
4. To study the role of NGO’s and their activities.
5. To suggest the probable measures for the future.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There is a significant association between gender and the monthly income level of the respondents.
2. There is a significant difference between the occupation and the monthly income of the household heads.
3. There is significant difference between incomes earned by the household heads in different camps. (Comparison of monthly income by Camps)
4. There is a significant association between dowry practices in Sri Lanka and in Tamil Nadu.

5. There is a significant association between the refugees in the camps and the local people in maintaining a cordial relationship.

6. There is a significant association between the family system in camps and the social problems.

7. There is no significant difference between the age groups and their perception on social problems.

8. There is no significant difference in the average percentage score in social problems among the various occupational groups of the respondents.

9. In the perception of the parents, there is a significant association between the camp life and the effect of mass media on children.

10. There is a significant association between the location of the camps and the reasons for diseases.

11. There is a significant association between gender and psychological problem.

12. There is a significant relationship between the family system and the psychological problems.

13. There is a significant relationship between age groups and psychological problems.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

"Refugee" in this study means that "the Tamils who fled from Sri Lanka due to ethnic war and settled down in government established temporary refugee camps in Tamil Nadu".
AREA PROFILE

The map denotes the location of the refugee camps in Tamil Nadu. The researcher made research on 8 camps out of 103 camps spread out across the state. They are Gummidipoondi, Chinnapallikuppam, Mettupatti, Bhavanisagar, Kottapattu, Lenavilakku, Sevalur and Naranammalpuram. They are highlighted in the map below.
Chart 5. TAMILNADU REFUGEE CAMP MAP

AREA OF STUDY

1. Gummidipoondi
5. Chinnapallikuppam
44. Mettupatti
54. Bhavanisagar
61. Kottapattu
64. Lenavilakku
87. Sevalur
95. Naranammalpuram
Thiruvallur Dt.
1. Gummipundi
2. Puzhal

Vellore Dt.
3. Banavaram
4. Abdullapuram
5. Chinnappallikuppam
6. Palanakanicut
7. Gudiyatham
8. Minnor

Villupuram Dt.
9. Keelipudupet
10. Chinnasalum

Thiruvannamalai Dt.
11. Thavasi
12. Arani
13. Adiyannamalai
14. Kasthambadi
15. Athiyanthal
16. Thenpalipattu
17. Kondam
18. Osur
19. Velapadi
20. Papanthangal
21. Vilvarani

Dharmapuri Dt.
22. Thumballahalli Dam
23. Nagavathi Dam
24. New Pambai Dam
25. Old Pambai Dam
26. Vanniyar Dam
27. Kesarkuli Dam
28. Sinnardam
29. Thoppaiyar Dam
30. Kelavarpalli Dam

Cuddalore Dt.
31. Viruthachalam
32. Kurinjipadi
33. Kallanchavadi
34. Kattumannarkoil

Perambalur Dt.
35. Thiraimangalam

Salem Dt.
36. Sentharaipatti
37. Pavalathanoor Eri
38. Athikattanoor
39. Nagiyampatti
40. Kurukkupatti
41. Sitherkoilkeel

Namakkal Dt.
42. Paramathi
43. Erumaiapatti
44. Mettupatti

Coimbatore Dt.
45. Pooluvapatty
46. Perumanallur
47. Avisani
48. Paruvai
49. Aliyar Nagar
50. Vedarcolony
51. Kottur
52. Thirumooorthy Nagar-1
53. Thirumooorthy Nagar-2

Erode Dt.
54. Bhavanisagar
55. Arachalur
56. Enjampalli
57. Kangeyam

Karur Dt.
58. Irumpoothipatti
59. Rayanoor

Trichy Dt.
60. Valavanthkottai
61. Kottappatu

Pudukottai Dt.
62. Aliyanilai
63. Thoppukollai
64. Lenavilakku

Dindigul Dt.
65. Adiyanoorthu
66. Thotanoorthu
67. Batalagundu
68. Puliyampatti
69. Sivagiripatti
70. Virupachi

Madurai Dt.
71. Anaiyur
72. Koodalnagar
73. Uchappati
74. Thiruvathavour

Sivagangai Dt.
75. Okkur
76. Thalaiyur
77. Kariyur
78. Moongilloori
79. Thayamangalam
80. Natarasankottai – 1
81. Natarasankottai – 2
82. Natarasankottai – 3

Ramanathapuram Dt.
83. Mandapam Camp

Virudhunagar Dt.
84. Mallangnaru
85. Kulur Santhai
86. Annakootam
87. Sevalur
88. Vembakottai
89. Mottamalai

Thirunelveli Dt.
90. Boganallur
91. Sanmugarengapuram
92. Perumalpuram
93. Gopalasamudram
94. Thalaiyuthu
95. Naranamalpuram
96. Chettimedu

Tuticorin Dt.
97. Thapaththi
98. Kulathuvaipatti
99. Thalamuthunagar

Kanyakumari Dt.
100. Perumalpuram
101. Pazhavilai
102. Kozhivilai
103. Gnaramvilai
CAMPS:

Urban Camps:

1. **Gummidipoondi (Govt. land huts):**

   Gummidipoondi of Thiruvallur district, a gateway to Andhra Pradesh, is one of the biggest camps in Tamil Nadu. There are 559 families with the population of 2485. It is 3 kilometres away from Gummidipoondi town. Both rail and bus routes connect this town. This town being an industrialized area becomes a center for employment. The different companies are able to give jobs to many people. Car companies and Iron companies are well established there. The refugees are not allowed to get employment in car companies. Instead they get employment in Iron industries. The work is hard, tedious and odd. A few refugees have died at the work spot. Being refugees, they were denied of compensation. There is a recognized middle school (but not aided) exclusively for the refugee’s students inside the camp. The teachers are paid with nominal remuneration sponsored by JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service).

2. **Bhavanisagar (Govt land huts and colony type housing):**

   This is the second largest camp in the state located in Erode district. This camp with 638 families and a population of 2445 residing in the vast space is quiet attractive because of the beautiful mountainous climate. The location of the camp lies on a dam site, the famous Bhavanisagar dam. It is about 25 kilometres away from Sathyaamangalam. Though it is located in the urban agricultural setting, most of the refugees go for work outside the camp: mainly in hosiery companies at Erode and Triupur. Only a handful is engaged in agricultural coolie work. Sanitation facility is bad with minimum toilets built by the Government. All of them are now under-utilized. There is no electricity throughout the day being a large camp. Q branch police is always on the alert.
3. Naranammalpuram (ex-servicemen building, go-down nature):

It is located just behind the Sankar cements at Sankar Nagar, Tirunelveli. It has 170 families with a population of 561 populations. The refugees are not given work in the cement factory. They go to work elsewhere; they take up coolie work, some work as load-men, some do painting etc. This camp is of a go-down type. People suffer during the rainy season. Many are prone to get TB as the camp is located in the smoke tainted area.

4. Kottapattu Camp

It is a unique camp compared to all other camps. Once a Police Quarters, turned out to be a transit camp in the year 1979. Located in SF (Survey Field) No.35/2 of Kottapattu Revenue Village in an extent of 8.25 acres at Kottapattu, in the suburban of Tiruchirappalli town, has been functioning as a permanent camp since its inception. It is a terraced building structure entirely different from all other camps in Tamil Nadu with compound walls raised. It is situated three kilometres away from Tiruchirappalli town just opposite to the Central jail and just two kilometres away from the Airport, Tiruchirappalli, bound for Pudukottai – Rameshwaram National Highways (NH). Now 404 families are living in the camp with the population of 1435.
Cash doles, ration and other materials are provided to them like any other camp in Tamil Nadu. Rice: It is being supplied to them. Sugar and kerosene are also supplied to them at the rate and norms fixed for the family card-holders in the fair price shop which is located in the camp cite. Regarding clothing: Sarees, lungies and readymade garments are being supplied once a year. Bed sheets and vessels are supplied to them once in two years. Water supply: Well water is being supplied through overhead tank. One overhead tank capacity of 45,000 litres is connected by 15 taps.
Primary Health Centre and Sanitation:

These are made available within the camp premises with the following personnel.

- Medical Officer: 1
- Pharmacist: 1
- Maternity Assistant: 1
- Nursing Assistant: 2

Sanitation: No. of Toilets available for men - 25
No. of Toilets available for women - 25

Rural Camps

5. Chinnapallikuppam (Govt land huts):

It is 9 kilometres away from Vaniyambodi and a remote camp in Vellore district. There are 201 families with the population of 721 living in the camp. People go for coolie work, coconut fibre work etc. Employment is at risk being located in a remote place.

6. Mettupatti (Govt land huts):

Located 17 kilometre away from Namakkal town of Namakkal district marks a unique camp. This is the last established camp in the year 2001. Now there are 170 families with a population of 660 living amidst a dry rocky place. Electricity is a dream for these people. Mostly people go for coolie work in poultry yards and fileds.

7. Lenavilakku (Govt land):

It is just one kilometre away from the main road and 20 kilometres away from Pudukottai. 216 families with 766 population live in it. Their main occupation is quarry work (stone cutting) it is a hard job. Most of the people work in the quarry. In case of injury or accident, they are not paid anything.
8. **Sevalur (Prohibited land):**

It is a tiny camp consisting of 68 families with the population of 231 people. It is located two kilometres away from Alahapuri of Sevalur panchayat of Virudhunagar district. It is in the interior. Virudhunagar is 27 kilometres from here and Sivakasi is 22 kilometres. This camp was established in 1991 with the construction of huts with 10 x 10 metres. A small rocky ground is available for games. People go for agricultural coolie work, plantation and sugar-cane fields. Besides this they go to work in match and fire works of Sivakasi. Of late people go for quarry work. No sanitation facilities have so far been made available. Employment is at risk, being located at a remote place.

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

The study is descriptive and diagnostic in nature. The study describes the refugee's camp life and attempts to establish cause and effect relationship among the various factors.

**SAMPLING DESIGN**

The universe of the study is 103 camps spread across the state of Tamil Nadu starting with Chennai in the north to Kanniyakumari in the south. In order to get a representative sample from all the camps, the camps are divided into four regions namely Chennai in the North, Coimbatore in the West, Trichy in the Centre, Tirunelveli in the South. From each of these Stratums, one rural-based camp and one urban-based camp is taken at random. Thus totally eight camps are taken for the study. The NGOs like JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service) and OfERR (Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation) operate their activities on the basis of four Regions - Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy and Tirunelveli. Having this in mind, the researcher has selected two camps from each region: one is rural based and the other is urban based. From each camp fifty household heads are selected at random. For this purpose the sampling design
followed in the study is two-stage stratified random sampling with 400 respondents. This two stage stratified random sampling was adopted in delineating the population in the study.

**SOURCES OF DATA**

The researcher collected data from both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources were collected through interview schedules from the respondents. The secondary sources were collected from the Refugee sited books, Reputed Journals, Periodicals, Research Reports, News Papers and magazines.

**TOOLS OF THE DATA**

The main tool of the data collection was Interview schedule, Case Studies and Observation.

**STATISTICAL TOOLS USED**

The researcher has applied standard statistical tools namely, weighted average, ‘t’ test, ‘F’ test, Spearman’s Correlation co-efficient One way ANOVA and Two way ANOVA and ‘Chi-square’ test to prove the objectives and hypotheses.

**PILOT STUDY**

The researcher made a pilot study at Valavanthankottai refugee camp, which is 25 km away from Tiruchirappalli town on the Thanjavur high road and located 2 kilometres interior. There are 367 families living there. The researcher met 40 house-hold heads and gathered data by using interview schedule. The house-hold head provided the researcher with the necessary information possible. But at times the respondents were reluctant to share information. The researcher could overcome this difficulty by creating a good rapport with them. The researcher observed that there are many chronic
problems like water scarcity, sanitation and other social problems such as unemployment, drop outs, child marriage etc. The researcher met the directors of two NGOs namely JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service) and OfFERR (Organisation for Elam Refugee Rehabilitation) and collected necessary information to serve the purpose of the research.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The significance of the study consists in the identification of refugee experience as indicated below. On the basis of which some workable solutions could be arrived at.

1. Life in Home Country before war
2. Life in Crisis / Transition
3. Life in refugee Camps in Tamil Nadu – India and
4. Future possibility of Integration.

Since India is not a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention, the Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees are not covered by this convention. And hence they face several risks and hardships, which the present study proposes to describe.

**LIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The Sri Lankan refugee crisis is a sensitive area. Entering the refugee camps is difficult and collecting information from them is all the more difficult. Due to the time factor the researcher was able to cover only eight camps. The government officials were skeptical about entering the camps and many times permission was denied to enter the camps. With great difficulty, the researcher was able to enter the camps establishing a good rapport with the government officials and the refugees.
The hurdles faced by the researcher during the time of interview, is that the refugees were afraid to share some aspects about government subsidies given to them and the basic facilities provided to them, because it is to do with the government officials. In the pre-testing the researcher observed that the aspects of life in Sri Lanka and life in crisis/transition were missing and were added later while framing the interview schedule for further research and other necessary modifications were made in the interview schedule.

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE

The researcher bases micro theory to his research as it is most fitting in the context of force migration. As it is explained in ‘economic factor’ of the review part, forced migrants / refugees are forced by bad circumstances like conflicting situation of civil war, unpromising economic situation, political instability, etc. On such occasion people decide to leave their country of origin to other countries. A section of people from the northeast of Sri Lanka especially the Tamils have moved out of their country to India. So this movement of people takes place at the smaller level. Thus micro theory is most fitting in this research.