CHAPTER 3 II

METHODOLOGY
To prepare the specific framework of our research project, comprising both theoretical and the field work operations, individuals and organisations have been contacted for whatever data they had on the subject. As a result, preliminary discussions were held with some of the officials of police and jail departments, persons and organisation who already worked on dacoity problem, social worker and agencies active in the field, ex-dacoit chieftains and a few dacoit's families.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Research design is the plan, structure and strategy of investigation conceived so as to obtain answers to research questions and to control, variance. The plan is the overall scheme or program of the research. It includes an outline of what the investigator will do from writing the hypothesis and their operational implications to the final analysis of data. The structure of research is more specific. It is the outline, the scheme, the paradigm of the operation of the variables. Strategy implies how the research objectives will be reached and how the problems encountered in the research will be tackled.

Research design is formulated as a part of research methodology which requires coverage of the following points for the empirical testing: 1

1. What others have contributed to the subject by now?

2. What more is proposed to be contributed?

3. Under what working definitions and hypothesis the study is being undertaken?

4. What are the criteria of selection of area and method of inquiry?

5. And last, the analysis of collected facts and findings in the light of either rejecting, modifying or accepting the old existing explanation of the object or establishing new facts.

The present study is both descriptive as well as analytical. At the descriptive level an attempt has been made to objectively assess the various elements of dacoity system. But while it explores the various elements of dacoity, it also seeks to analyse them in sociological perspective and corresponding socio-historical correlates. We seek to examine how for the previous researchs have made their contribution to explore the problem in scientific manner.

A hypothesis is a conjectural statement of relation between two or more variables. It is not always possible for a researcher to formulate his problem simply, clearly, and completely. There are three criteria of good problems and problem statements. One, the problem should express a relation between two or more variables. Two, the problem should be stated clearly and unambiguously in question form. The third criterion is often difficult to satisfy. If demands that the problem and the problem statement should be such as imply possibilities of empirical testing.  

In the same way there are two criteria for a good hypothesis and hypothesis statement. They are the same as two of those for problems and problem statement. One, hypothesis are statements about the relations between variables. Two, hypothesis carry clear implications for testing the stated relations statement that takes either or both these characteristics is no hypothesis in the scientific sense of the word.  

There is little doubt that hypothesis is an important and indispensable tool in scientific research. The study begins

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1. Kerlinger ..... p.15...

4. Ibid ......... p. 19
with the general assumption that dacoity is a product of social structure, and that the individual dacoit is only a symptom of the existence of the relevant structural conditions and processes. It is also argued, and perhaps with some justification, that odds in favour of dacoity are greater for those who are emotionally unstable and physically strong. In other words the present study attempts to analyse the socio-cultural matrix and establish the linkage between the society and dacoity.

The structural factors play largely a dominant role, so long as these factors persist in a society, the dacoity will continue to flourish. The basic assumptions implied here is that dacoity is a systematic product which has grown to its present institutional form through a long historical process. And dacoity last as long as these systemic conditions remain irrespective of individual will or choice. Briefly, then, the system of dacoity is governed by same general law that relate to the general structure of society.

Those who resort to infraction are governed by special conditions and special laws which are in turn determined by general conditions and general laws. In other words, though the the two perspectives, one relating the system and the other to the individual, are apparently distinct and exclusive, they represent two mutually interrelated viewpoints, in as much as they afford a coherent and complete understanding of the problem.

APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF DEVIANCE

There are three major approaches to the study of deviance. First there is structural model, in some form or other, propounded by Marx (1845) and Durkheim (1893) and carried further by Merton (1938), Sutherland (1939) and Parsons (1951). The major concern of this model is with the structural-cultural levels in the study of deviance. Applied to the present context it emphasizes precisely those socio-historical or systemic forces which relate etiologically to deviancy.

The second is the processual model. Prominent among those who have used this model are the labelling theorists, Lemert (1951), Becker (1963) and Sutherland (1971). While deviance in the structural model is regarded basically as rule breaking and emphasis on 'etiological condition', in the second instance the origin and continuance of deviance is commensurate with the degree of societal reaction brought upon it. The relevance of this model in the present context is limited because deviancy, as from being stigmatized, is almost a socially accepted affair in the society under study.

Third, there are the phenomenologists who change the level of emphasis by concentrating upon the individual. They lay emphasis on the inner life of a deviant, his motivation and the sense and meaning the attaches him when he turned deviant (Cicourel 1968, Matza 1969, McHugh 1970).

1. Singh, R.G., 1980 : ... op.cit., p.5-7
In our study of the central theme of this problem our attempt has been to adhere closely to the structural model in preference to the other two. For one thing an acceptance of the postulate that dacoity germinates not from the individual but from the social fabric makes it necessary to adopt a comparative method for unfolding the deeper layers of the broader social system responsible for its genesis. Besides the force that operate at the system level, there is yet another which acts at the individual level and gives rise to and perpetrate the system of dacoity in society.

From the viewpoint of an individual and his perception of deviance and his subsequent neutralisation of existing constraints to commit infraction and adopt a career of a deviate, the structural forces, regardless of their effect on him, are to be looked at independently (They are seldom perceived by a dacoit in his act of transgression). The societarian approach, a major source of inspiration for phenomenologists, has therefore been heavily relied upon to study the motivations behind a dacoit's (actor's) indulgence in dacoity (activity).

LOCATION AND SELECTION OF SAMPLE

As the study intends to deal with the problem of dacoity in the area of dacoits infested regions of Uttar Pradesh with special reference to Doab and Bundelkhand, these two regions are geographically separated but they have the bane of dacoity in common. Here, it would be better to mention that Uttar Pradesh
one of the largest state of India has been selected for analysing the dacoity system, since the dacoities have been showing tremendous increase in this state in comparison of other states of Indian territory.

It is rather difficult and risky to contact a good number of dacoits in open air due to the lack of adequate information about them and their availability besides the scattered universe. Hence it was proposed to conduct pilot survey of central and district jail of Uttar Pradesh. The present study delimits its concern to convicted and surrendered dacoits who have been imprisoned in above jails. According to the Jail Reform Committee\(^1\), 1980, the number of convicts (IPC) in dacoity was 1307 including female dacoits, out of which about 15% male dacoits were taken to interview in five central and seven district jails of Uttar Pradesh, including Bagh Sadhar Grah, Fatehgarh. Because it was not possible for an individual researcher with limited means and time to study all convicted and surrendered dacoits.

For the purpose of study, the permission to interview the inmates was sought from Inspector General of Prisons, headquarters, Lucknow (U.P.) with the help of Home Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

During the field work, it was found that Prison administration does not have any classified records of convicts according to I.P.C. Sections. So, first of all we had to prepare

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the list of inmate dacoits from records of jail register, then we conducted the interview.

These dacoits fall under three categories:

1. Those acquitted after trials,
2. Those released after the completion of their sentence, and
3. Those staying — (a) ordinary district or central jails,
   (b) Bagh Sudhar Grah, (Fatehgarh).

There were 1307 (including female dacoits) dacoit inmates inhabited in different jails of Uttar Pradesh out of which a sample of 224 male dacoits was drawn for the study purpose. It included the former dacoit chieftains 7 and sub-chieftains 3 confined to the 'Bagh Sudhar Grah' Fatehgarh, and other jails. The other dacoits in the sample were selected at purposive sampling amongst those in the central and district jails from last category.

### Table III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of the Jail</th>
<th>Convicted</th>
<th>Undertrial Arrested/ Surrendered</th>
<th>Surrendered Convicted</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Model Jail Lucknow</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Central Jail Bareilly</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Central Jail Fatehgarh</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Central Jail Maini</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Central Jail Banaras</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Dist. Jail Agra</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>--</td>
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<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dist. Jail Etah</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Dist. Jail Mainpuri</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Dist. Jail Stawah</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Dist. Jail Fatehgarh</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Distt. Jail Jhansi</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Distt. Jail Banda</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Besides the obvious advantages of easy traceability and accessibility, there is some qualitative justification for this kind of selection and its approximation to representativeness. The dacoits in the last category were mostly simple dacoits not ruthless criminals while the surrendered dacoits were ruthless hardened criminals with long criminal records.

Data Collection: First of all, the initial information were gathered from various sources like existing literature, contacts with officials as well as non-officials etc. Then, an interview schedule was framed to conduct interview with inmates of jails. The whole subject was divided into six sections:

(i) Personal Identification: This part of interview schedule consisted mostly of questions on demographic features such as age, education, occupation, caste, religion, marital status etc. of the sample.

(ii) Family Background: It involves an inquiry into the nature of family, background such as, nature of family, its occupation and income, family problems and family life before coming in dacoity.

(iii) Criminal History Before Dacoity: Dealt mainly with informations on the criminal background of the dacoits including their details of crime and punishment given by court.

(iv) Details of Dacoity Life: This is the main part of interview schedule which cover a variety of questions on the nature of dacoity system. A deep inquiry has been made about the personal causes of dacoity, decision making process.
conditions for admission in a gang and rationalisation about their decision etc.

(v) General Informations:— It complements the data collection phase through questions on various issues relating to the life of dacoits and their needs.

(vi) Gang Organisations:— A supplementary interview guide was prepared to interview with dacoit chieftains to know about gang organisation and its different aspects.

Pretesting:— The drafted schedule was given for pretesting to the ten dacoits in two prisons - district jail Data and Tikamgarh (M.P.). And then, the necessary changes were made. Inquiries on personal habits and hobbies were added. Likewise some other items which appeared irrelevant or where the interviews were found hesitant, evasive or deliberately misleading, were deleted. Generally the dacoits did not want to talk about their crimes committed before conviction. Data collection on such matters, however was not possible easily through any reliable source. At the same time, some new items which were felt to give added tonnage to the problem under review, like the dynamics of gang, were included. A separate interview schedule was served to gang chieftains to know about gang organisation.

Interviews:— For comprehensive study it was decided to collect informations regarding the object at three levels:

1. Interviews have been taken with inmates on the basis of interview schedule,
ii. In some cases, free associational interviews were also taken.

iii. In addition to these interviews, the help of Prison Personnels have been taken time to time.

Initially the inmates were curious about the investigator and suspicious of the object of this project. The first, we made an attempt to give a synoptic view of what the project implied. Still some of the dacoits were reluctant to tell their criminal history, but after a good deal of persuasion they agreed to unfold their activities during their dacoity career.

Interview schedule was applied as the main tool for the collection of data. Interview, in each case, was made purely on individual basis after establishing a good deal of acquaintance to make them reveal their heart. The investigator was given all possible facilities and opportunities by the prison authorities for conducting free interview as long as they were needed during the working hours of prison.

The selected inmates were generally interviewed in some lone places or room of concerning barracks of prison maintained sufficient privacy and absence of officials to assure more secret and reliable responses, those called for interview were usually brought by convicted warden with the permission of concerning incharges. Convicted warden tried to assure the inmate that none of the information given would
be harm him and that he would be free to speak openly and frankly. Before starting with the interview to take inmate in confidence was the prerequisite condition for the success of this technique. Each case was assured of the secrecy of the interview by the researcher also.

In beginning of the interview, the inmates dacoits were not willing to talk much. They were doubtful and suspicious about the intention of researcher and were very cautious in his speech. Also the sense of guilt and anger was very strong in them. Some of them were irritated at being questioned about their past specially their criminal history and dacoity career. Though, the group of surrendered dacoits was more responsive, bold and frank in talking about their criminal activities of the dacoity life but petty or local dacoits were reluctant to express their heart with ease. They were again and again reminded by the researcher that their talk with him would not harm them in any way and be helpful to the next generation of the land. To get full response it was decided to conduct free associational interview in some cases. Most of the gang chieftains were more prone to boast about their deeds committed during dacoity span.

For collecting the maximum factual data we had, therefore, not only to be sympathetic and tactful to the inmates but also had to accept their welcome. Still, the chances of giving some sensitive information correct by them could not be denied.
During the interview with dacoits and others the researcher has to use interview dialect.

For about three months, the researcher toured and visited the whole area of study. We met a number of people including persons in high authority of jails and police and even some victims of villages. We discussed with them the problem in all its aspects. Almost the main points of conversations and discussions were noted at the same time or before going to bed.

Case Studies: - A few case studies, some of seasoned dacoits and some of major mass murder incidents, have been prepared intensively to arrive at a deeper level of understanding of a deviate's psychological motivations. More specially, the probe has been centred on the study of ex-dacoit chieftains who had been eliminated during encounters with police in last decade.

Secondary Sources: - Besides the first hand data collected by researcher through interviews, valuable material has also been collected from secondary sources, major secondary sources were the records of the police and jail departments, census reports, district statistical hand books, and district gazetteers of north west province and central India. Recourse has also been taken to historical literature and different doctoral theses etc.

Reliability of Data: - In order to ensure the reliability of data collected through interviews, it was talked with the
findings of observation verified with others. Whenever and wherever thought necessary and appropriate, and lastly with the common sense knowledge of the problems. Jail and police records were also consulted for the purpose and jail officials including welfare staff were contacted for necessary informations.

Analysis of Material:— To draw out the general conclusions, the data, so collected were turned into tables. Most of the tables in the investigation represent informations selected even from more complicated preliminary tables. General conclusions were drawn after running the data through various stages of analysis classifying and tabulating the material on points of similarity and dissimilarity.

Limitations of the Study:— There are some limitations the present study focused on the nature and bases of dacoity system. To conduct the primary investigation the area has been limited to dacoits infested regions of Uttar Pradesh. Specially the regions of Doab and Bundelkhand. Besides it, the study does not cover any remedial measure of the problem, such as rehabilitation of surrendered dacoits, prison adoption etc. We could not authentically present the suggestions on the effective eradication of dacoity also.

Difficulty Faced:— The first and foremost problem faced before field work was to obtain formal permission for visiting the various prisons in Uttar Pradesh. The procedure adopted in the matter was a very loggy and tedious one. One has to go
under many interrogations of the authorities. Officers at high level in police and prison departments, particularly at the police headquarters, Lucknow were not very helpful. The delaying attitude of the officials of prison headquarters, Lucknow, in fact, placed many difficulties and obstacles in gaining the permission to interview the jail inmates. However, the cooperation extended by secretary, Home Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow helped to ease the problem and objection raised at prison headquarter level. At the same time, there is no gainsaying that the willing cooperation extended by I.G. Anti dacoity cell, Agra and superintendents of different central and district jails made my task easy.

In prisons the inmates are not free of constraint. They are busy in their assigned work from morning to late noon, still, I was given a lot of time and help to interview with them. Initially they were reluctant to furnish the informations fully and fairly. Thus, collection of data is very tedious and tiring job. To deal with criminals is not easy task. They generally, complained bitterly about their realness, especially those who had passed a good part of their imprisonment. They also criticised about the lack of reformatory view of prison officials. Thus, to concentrate them on our project was seen difficult in starting, but later on they responded well to some extent.

As the problem under study has many dimensions, the area of study is also wide and time consuming, a single hand investigator cannot work smoothly. The most difficult problem was economic. Any way I could complete my work.