CHAPTER III
HYPOTHESIS AND METHODOLOGY

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Chapter III
HYPOTHESIS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research of Hypothesis:

Hypothesis are required to undertake any scientific inquiry. For the present study on “Analytical Study of the impact of the Crimes of Women Culprits in Akola District on their Family and Society” following Hypothesis are selected.

1) The atmosphere of family spoils due to the criminal activities of criminal women.
2) Family status declines due to the criminal activities of criminal women.
3) The criminal activities of criminal women make adverse effect on their children.
4) Criminal women remorse after criminal act.
5) Social atmosphere polluted due to criminal women’s criminal activities.
6) Criminal activities are responsible for the declined financial condition of criminal women.
7) Criminal women have no knowledge of law.
8) The rehabilitation of criminal women is made by education and providing them job.

3.2 Methodology:

The beginning of any scientific research on any social topic starts with deciding the appropriate theme for the research. The main objective of any kind research is to find out the facts; and for the purpose social researchers adopt scientific method. Prior to underline the problem for the study, it is important to understand the steps in research methodology. These steps mark the beginning of any vital research. According a famous dictum “Well beginning is half done”\textsuperscript{54}, possible difficulties in the undertaken research are put aside, if the appropriate methodology is used. According to Northrope, research is like a ship which assails from the port, but if initial mistake in navigating the direction could lead the ship aslant, despite the well built ship or the diligent sailor.\textsuperscript{55}

The main objective of any research is to delve out facts or truth. It is always required to solve any problems in human or existential world. Any research is taken up with specific problem, question, event, human tendencies or human conduct. Research is often related with common, abstract and intellectually conceived Hypothesis. After careful study, findings are highlighted and interpretations are focused to generalize the common interpretation. Research is a systematic process in any branch of human investigation or study. It is important for a researcher to decide on what factors of the selected topic of the study he should focus upon; i.e., he has to beforehand decide the direction of his research, otherwise research area may be
very extensive and unlimited. Again during research the curiosity of the researchers should be given priority. Thus, George Homanson rightly pointed out that either the research topic is of interest of a researcher or he has curiosity about the research. ³

Considering all these research priorities, the research has selected following topic for his research “Analytical Study of the impact of the Crimes of Women Culprits in Akola District on Family and Society”.

After affirming the research topic, it is necessary for the researcher to ascertain research design or draft for fulfilling his priorities and research objectives. Thus the researcher has to astutely plan before undertaking a specific research. Any research has certain objectives; to fulfill it, researcher has to design the research plan. These could help the researcher to remove possible difficulties which could be sprung during research process. According to Seltis and Jahoda, research design is a scheme to ensure the validity of facts and their valid analysis. This scheme could help researcher to save his time, money and efforts. ⁵⁶

It is practically impossible for researcher to do objective research without research design. To highlight the use of the design, Alfred said that research design proves utility of the undertaken research. It also helps to solve problems regarding methodology adopted for the research. ⁵⁷ Thus, main objectives of the research get fulfilled, if researcher would properly plan and make research design and take up required steps. Throwing light on research design R. L Alkoph said, “Design is the process of making decisions before the situation arises in which the decision is to be carried out”⁶ Carlinger points out, “Research design is the plan, structure and strategy of investigation concerned so as to obtain answers to research questions and to control variances.”⁵⁸

Thus, research design is such a scheme, which helps a researcher right from ascertaining a research problem to final research report and ensures completion of research with optimum result saving time, energy and money. Thus, researcher selected descriptive and diagnostic research method for his present research. Descriptive method is often used to describe any person, groups, society or any event with accurate and proper findings while diagnostic research is taken up to find out the real cause of any problem and to suggest solutions to solve the problem. Thus, the present research design includes both the descriptive and the diagnostic research method.

After ascertaining the research problem, the present chapter discusses the different steps of research methodology required for the present research. The present research design has been presented with following steps of research methodology.

1) Field Work Study Method
2) Sample Selection Method  
3) Fact Selection Method and  
4) Statistical Method

3.3 Field Work Study Method

The pivotal point in the present research is impact of delinquent or convict women on society and their families. Among different research methods being used for the present study, Field Work Study Method is important and vital for the present research. After ascertaining the Hypothesis and the research design, the researcher has to collect relevant data required for the research. For the purpose, he has to use different data collection methods, which include questionnaires, interviews, observations, interview schedules etc. Primarily, there are two data collection methods.

1) Census Method and  
2) Sampling Method

Census Method

Census method can be defined as when researcher establishes contact with a group of respondents and collect relevant data for the selected research topic. The method is useful when the respondents or units are limited to practically carry out the data collection and consequent research.

Sampling Method

When the units in the research area are numerous, it is not practically possible for the researcher to reach to each of the respondent to collect data. The use of otherwise beneficial census method is practically impossible. To overcome, these limitations, researcher has to use sampling method to collect relevant data required for the research. Using this method for the present research, samples from total delinquent and convict women have been selected from the selected area of Akola district. After collecting these units, data have been collected from these units. Different modern scientific methods or data collection techniques have been used to collect information from these selected respondents.

3.4 Sample Selection Method

Researchers often profusely use sample selection methods for social studies. When possible responding units in selected research area are too large to possibly collect information from them, then samples have been selected from the congruent research area, and relevant data have been collected from them to draw possible solutions for the research
problem. Instead of contacting all respondents in the research area sample selection method, representative samples have been selected from the group to draw relevant information and that information is regarded as that of the group or the congruent whole. This method is called Sample Selection Method.

In our daily lives, we often deftly used to draw conclusion through sample selection method. Clinical tests of patients are made from few drops of his blood. Again to check purity of water in a well, few drops are used to test its purity.

In social research, study of the congruent whole is practically impossible, sample selection method is accepted. According to Moser and Kalton, Sample survey should ideally be used only if the part of the population studied is selected by accepted statistical method. Again according P Y Thote, sample is reliable representative of the complete research area. According to Frank Marton, word ‘sample’ is used for a unit or a part of a congruent whole. This unit or a part is selected and regarded as the representative of the congruent whole.

In brief, it is suffice to study the reliable and representative samples from the selected research area. The main part of a sociological research is the sample selection process. It would be mistake to take it a easy or lucid method. In fact, it is quite intricate process and slightest mistake in sample selection not only could make the research invalid but also could waste his time, energy and money. Thus, following methods are used to ensure trustworthy and reliable sample selection and accordingly samples are selected consequent research design is drafted.

1) Research Whole

Before selecting samples for research, researcher has to ascertain the research whole from which samples are going to be selected. But it is not easy task to ascertain the research whole. Research is decided after carefully study of types of research whole. They are as following: Definite Research Whole and Indefinite Research Whole

a) Definite Research Whole – When the units of the research whole are definite, then it is called definite research whole. For example, city, village, district, college etc.

b) Indefinite Research Whole- When all the units in a research whole are not definite, such research whole is termed as indefinite research whole. For example, search of liquor addicts.

Thus, research whole has been ascertained as follows. Female Delinquents in Akola district constitute the research whole. Total women convict who are put in the district central jail since last 15 years are included in the research whole. The focus of the study has been kept on impact of the research whole on their families and the society.
2) Size of the Sample

There is definite law concerning useful and reliable size of units which are taken up for sociological research. However, it is necessary to keep the size of samples suitable for the research requirements to make authenticate the facts collected from the samples and findings drawn from these facts and to save time, energy and money of the researcher. For the present research on female delinquents and their impact on their family and society, 400 representative samples have been selected for the study.

3) Sample Selection Method

Sample selection method has been a part of sociological research. But understanding the study topic and purpose of the research, adoption of a single method for data selection would not be proper. Therefore sample selection method should be used understanding nature, scope and available time. There are two types of sampling.

i) Probability Sampling

ii) Non-probability Sampling

1) Probability Sampling

In this method, every unit in the research whole has the opportunity of being selected as a sample for the research. Probability sampling is adopted to provide equal opportunity to each unit of the research. The researcher cannot make any kind of partiality while sampling the units. The method is called probability sampling because there is probability of selecting all units of the research whole.

2) Non-probability Sampling

Non-probability sampling is used when researcher is neither aware of the exact figure of the units in the research whole nor he could access the exact probability of selecting unit. Thus, in this method, researcher selects samples as per his requirement and wish. In the present method, there is no restriction on researcher.

As there is no possibility of all the units to be selected samples, the method is called as non-probability sample selection method.

In the context of the present research, probability sampling is used adopting simple random and other types including lottery types are used. It is a simple method of sampling. All the units are enumerated on strips of papers, which are kept in box. All strips of papers should be of same size and colour. After properly mixing the strips, samples are selected at the hands of innocent child. In this method, there is equal opportunity of sampling for units in the research whole. Thus, serially, lottery method is adopted for the present research.

Above described lottery method is used for the present study. All the units 472 of the
research whole are enumerated on strips of paper. Single type of paper was used for all the strips. After folding these strips in uniform fashion, these were put in a box. Then, the box is rotated to mix all the strips properly. Then 400 samples have been selected at the hands of innocent child. The chosen units were reckoned as samples. All these units were given equal opportunity.

3.5 Data Collection Schemes

After ascertaining the research topic, it is important to collect required data for research activities. To search out the truth, it is paramount important to collect authenticate data concerning the research topic. Facts and data should be useful and related to the research topic. To collect proper data, researcher has to know the means and process of data collection.

According to Durkhiem, “social is a phase of behavior, thinking, feeling or action, which can objectively, been observed and has a coercive or compelling nature.”

According to Bodhankar, “Facts are either concrete or abstract. They are generalized, actually happened event whose authenticity could be assessed and measured by well accepted methods.”

According to Good and Hat, “Fact is an empirically verifiable observation. Thus, the above discussion elucidates that Fact is event or actual observation which could impart authenticity and validity to research and help to draw reliable findings.

The data collection has been divided in two types.

a) Primary Data Collection
b) Secondary Data Collection

A) Collection of Primary Data (Fact)

When the researchers goes in the field of his research and collects fact about the research topics; then that collection of facts is called collection of Primary data or primary facts. According P H Maan, primary data are collected on the primary level and the facts derived from this data are vital for the research. As researcher, himself, goes to the field of his research and contact relevant respondents to collect the required data, this method of data collection is termed as Primary Data Collection Method.

The researcher has used following Primary Sources to collect data for his present research, which include observation, interviews, questionnaires are the primary sources of the data.

1) Observation:

Observation is vital part of human life as often we take decision after careful thought
and minute observation. Observation is an important scientific method of data collection. Most of the facts or data required for the sociological research are collected through proper observation. In brief, observation is one of the important methods, in which facts are collected right from the study area by first hand observation.

According to social researchers Selitiz, Jahoda, Devatsch and Cook, observation is not one of most pervasive activities of daily life, it is primary tool of scientific inquiry.  

Observation is thoughtful process made through eyes; which is used as a scientific method to study collective as well as individual actions of the respondents selected for a specific sociological study.

Observation, though, not separately adopted in the present research, the researcher has practically taken benefit of interaction with as many as possible respondents by meeting them individually at the district central prison and observed their life style, their family and social background, causes behind their derelictions and crimes. Again facts about their condition in prisons, their children and rehabilitation are observed and taken note of these observations which would prove during the analysis and diagnosis of the problem.

2) Interviews:

The most important and effective method of data collection in social research is the interview. The researcher attempts are aimed at the collection of the required data. Accurate and more data are always required for the research. It is because there is dictum that as are the fact so are the finding. So naturally, the usability of interview technique is on rise. Interview is an oral method of data collection. It is the process in which researcher directly contact respondents of the chosen research area and derive the first hand information from them. According to a noted social scientist P. V. Jung, “it may be seen as an effective, informal verbal and non verbal conversation, initiated for specific purposes and focused on certain planned content areas.”

The interview method is adopted for the data collection for the present research. It is because the present method allows researcher to can interact with the respondents and can understand their views. He can directly observe the thoughts, emotions, intensions of the respondents and could collect information by discussing with them. Thus, interview method is adopted to collect the real information and data concerning the research area.

The central topic of the present research is the impact of delinquencies and criminal backdrops of convict or under trial women on their families and society at large. Thus, interview method is adopted to derive complete and authentic information about their lapses in crime and their impact on their personal, family and social life. It helped to trace out the
important answers. Similarly, firsthand knowledge of mentality and emotions of these delinquent women could be properly understood. Again informality is one of the best qualities of the interview method. It helped researcher to derive information without posing any burden on the respondents. As proper privacy and confidentiality is assured to the respondents, they readily gave the answers. It helped immensely in data collection.

Similarly, interviews were also taken of police officers at the prison, social workers, family members of the delinquents or convict women and concerned sections of the society to derive more information about their lives. The participating respondents in the research are convict and under trial women delinquents with crime backdrop of violent acts, theft, dacoit, murder, abduction, kidnapping etc. They are mostly poverty ridden and as such they have little or no education. Many of them were even illiterate. Thus, it was not easy to use questionnaires. Therefore, interview schedule technique is decided to adopt to derive factual data from the respondents for the present research.

3) Interview Schedule

Interview schedule is a written list of a set of questions required to fathom the facts from the respondents. It is one of the important methods to acquire authentic data for the research. It is a list of question sets to access the Hypothesis and the gist of the research. As the researcher himself asks the questions to the respondents, he could propel the respondents to speak and take out proper answer. According to Thomas Mecormic, “The schedule is nothing more than a list of questions which seems necessary to answer in order to test the hypothesis or Hypothesis.”

A close review has been taken on different welfare schemes, their secondary status in the society, poverty, criminal background, socio-economical factors behind their crimes and the different ameliorative steps of the government for rehabilitation. Talks were held with the officers implementing welfare schemes for these women, employees and beneficiaries of these schemes. After careful study, interview schedule is drafted to suit the Hypothesis and research objectives.

Interview schedule include a series of questions to depict individual information of the respondents, information about his family, education, criminal background, legal provisions, development policies of the government. Most of the questions in the schedule are closed or objective type with given alternatives. Thus, schedule is drafted.

Review of Interview Schedule

After drafting interview schedule for the research, a close review of the schedule is must for accuracy. To take the review, 25 samples have been selected from the research area
and tested what kind of answers is received from them. Some of the questions were obscure, incomplete and few with double meaning. Language of some of the questions was found to be intricate and difficult. Few of questions were found repeated. These short falling found in the schedule draft, which were removed and accurate schedule is made and taken prints of the schedule.

**Contact with the respondents and Data collection**

The research area is restricted to Akola district. The research congruent whole is delinquent or convict or under trial women in Akola district. Units have been selected from the congruent whole. As the research area is extensive, the researcher himself went to take interview schedule filled from the respondents.

In brief, different kind of data have been collected directly by establishing contact with the respondents and by adopting observation, interview and interview schedule techniques.

**B) Collection of Secondary Data:**

It is a method of collection of facts for the sociological research. It is a method of collecting validating and elucidating information concerning the primary data. The secondary sources include review reports, memories, travelogues, daily newspaper, articles, government records and related books on the selected topic etc. These are also used for collecting data for the research.

This information is vital to make the research more authentic and valid. Without going into the research area, these facts are collected through secondary sources. This information is collected from other persons or institutions. Different sources are included in the secondary sources.

The information received from the secondary sources is pure and authentic. It adds historic perspective to the research. Ludburge rightly points out, “Before beginning research on particular topic, it is imperative for the researcher to go through the available sources of information regarding his research area.” This review is important to avert repetition. According to Pollin Young, the facts are divided in two types: Text Source and Individual Source

**Text Sources** – these source includes biographies, autobiographies, diaries, letters, memoirs and other manuscripts

**Individual Sources** – these include persons who have real knowledge of the research area or individual who are related with the research area.
Secondary sources include both published and unpublished works.

In the present research, both the secondary sources are used as per requirement, which include news in different newspaper, government reports, reference books of different publications, government estimates, information received from different social organizations, views of person with authentic knowledge, officers and employees of the concerned department are used as the secondary data for the present research.

3.6 Statistical Method:

After collection of data from Primary and Secondary sources, it is necessary to classify the relevant information for the analysis. Further review of the data, their tabulation is also vital for the analysis. Analysis and Interpretation have a great role in social research. The data collected from different authentic sources are limited till the researcher analyze and interpret the data. It is only after analysis and interpretation, new definite meaning or set of findings could be derived.

According to Jules Henry Poshtkar, “science is built with fact as a house is built with stones; but a collection of facts is more scientific to make stones a house.” According to P. V. Jung, “a social analysis assumes that behind his accumulated data there is something more important and revealing than the facts and figures themselves. He assumes that carefully thought out, well marshaled facts and figures when related to the whole body of data have significant general meaning.”

Therefore, after the collection of facts, they are classified and tabulated for analysis and interpretation. Analysis and interpretation are important in social research. Following steps have been followed before actual interpretation of the data.

1) Editing

After collecting the data from the primary and the secondary sources, careful editing is done. First, all the data is sequentially set. A careful review of respondents’ answers is taken and unnecessary and unrealistic information was removed. Thus, editing helped elucidating the data.

2) Coding

Coding of the data is the second step. It is a method to codify each response or reply of the respondent inform of figure. The edited data and responses are encoded to make the process of classification easy.

3) Classification
In any research, collected data is often dispersed. It is not easy to analyze such dispersed data. Therefore, classification method is used to differentiate and class wise organize the data. It helps to divide data in different groups or units. It helps to measure the data.

4) Tabulation

To help the analysis, data is tabulated. Tabulation is a method of putting the quantitative data in systematic and scientific way.

Dr. J. C. Chaturvedi observes, “the process of arranging the data in an orderly manner in to rows and columns capable of being read into two directions is called tabulations”65

Understanding the research problem, objective and collected data, the researcher has adopted statistical method to measure the data. It helped to analyze and interpret the data and present the accurate findings derived through the research.

3.7 Scaling Technique

In reference to the social sciences, scaling method is used to grant constitutional validity to qualitative and abstract facts. It is used to measure qualitative and abstract qualities like thoughts, emotions, views, mentality, confidence and other mental attributes and qualities of the respondents.

According to Good and Hatt, “the problem to which scaling technique are applied is that of ordering a series of items along some short of continuum. In other words, they are methods of forming a series of qualitative facts into quantitative series.

In brief, scaling is a measuring technique used to measure any facts or events and represent the qualitative facts into form of quantitative view. Understanding the present research, it was very important to understand the psychology of the selected 200 responding units. Thus, Likert scale is used to measure the data.

Likert Scale:

Noted social scientist Lkert developed a technique or scale to measure the attitudes of different people regarding imperialistic, national, international and other relevant issues in 1932.66 It was important to study the impact of government schemes on the female delinquents and their response to these schemes for their betterment. Thus, it is used to study the impact of different government schemes on the delinquents and their response to these schemes.

3.8 Problems in Data Selection

Different difficulties have to be faced while collecting data for the present research
topic. These difficulties prove hurdle in the pace of research work and also could pose danger to honesty, reliability and objectivity. Thus to avoid such difficulties, it is necessary for the researcher to be continuously vigilant and always ready for hard work.

1) Under trial and convict women are locked up in prison for their delinquencies and crimes. Some of them were ashamed of their wrong doings while others have knowing committed the offences. Thus, these women were not inclined to talk. They were not ready to give answers. When they were taken in to confidence by ensuring complete secrecy of their information and the importance of the subject is highlighted, then these women were ready to speak and answered the questions.

2) First, It was quite difficult to get entry into the district prison to get filled interview schedules. The permission was allowed. The researcher has to face different problems to get entry into the district prison. He has to meet senior police officers and also the district Guardian Minister Dr Ranjit Patil to get permission letter.

3) The officers at the district jail were not ready to give confidential and other information regarding female delinquent locked up in the prison. They were shown the permission letter and were told the importance of research, then only could the police officer ready to provide the required information. No attention is paid to female delinquents in the prison, as they are quite few in number.

4) Little material is available regarding the female delinquents. To get the secondary sources of information, researcher has to visit many libraries. Magazines, weeklies, newspaper were read and different internet sites were paid visit to gather the relevant information.

5) Female delinquents were not ready to speak freely with male researcher. It was intricate and quite difficult for the researcher to converse with them and get required information. It was altogether new experience for the researcher.

6) The main pivot of the study is the impact on the family of the female delinquent and society. Thus, it is vital to understand the mindset of their family member and society regarding their crimes or offences. When first visited, most of the family members were afraid to share anything with a stranger like the researcher. They were afraid of untold consequences. But when the researcher told them about his research and importance of their statements for the research, they became ready to share information. The same response is seen in the society as well.

7) When reach the district jail with purpose of interview schedule, terms of some of the female convict were over. It was necessary to know whether these women went to their
houses or searched any roof outside. This search was quite difficult and arduous for the researcher.