Chapter-II

METHOD ADOPTED
CHAPTER - II

METHODS ADOPTED

The search for answers to the questions about crime and attempt to control it eventually leads most researchers to data about its nature, background of the criminals and distribution of crime pattern. In contemporary period the data sources are being used to unravel reasons for crime, estimate the changes in the pattern of crime model the career of offenders determine the reasons of social deviance many such questions. Jackson writes that “a fundamental point is that no data source is useful for addressing all questions that arise in the study of crime” (1990).

Most researchers in sociology of crime, criminology or criminal justice would describe what they are doing as behavioural or socio-pathological experts. To them the research connotes facts rather than opinion, with description of social relations rather than beliefs about how people ought to behave. The rapid change in the precision of science in contemporary era it might be thought that intimations and presentiments have little to do with the social sciences. This is true in the direct sense perhaps but not true when one examines the matter in terms of contexts and ambiences. The ‘lost individual’, such as the prisoner, has been of as much concern to the social sciences that deals wit the criminological studies as to philosophy and literature. Ideas of alienation, anomie, identity crisis, and estrangement from norms are rife among the social sciences, particularly, of
course, those most directly concerned with the nature of the social bond, such as sociology, criminology, social psychology, and social pathology and social work. In countless ways, interest in the loss of community, in the search for community, and in the individual's relation to society and morality have had expression in the work of the social sciences. Between the larger interests of a culture and the social sciences there is never a wide gulf-only different ways of defining and approaching these interests.

Estimating the amount of crime actually committed has troubled criminologists for many years; the figures for recorded crime do not give an accurate picture because they are influenced by variable factors such as the willingness of victims to report crimes. It is widely believed that only a small fraction of the crime actually committed is reported to authorities. For this reason the criminal who is detected is not necessarily representative of all those who commit crime, and thus attempts to explain the causes of crime by reference to those who are identified as criminals must be approached with caution.

The public view of the frequency and gravity of crime, obtained largely from the news media, may be seriously distorted, as the media tend to concentrate on serious or sensational crimes and often fail to give a full and accurate picture of what has happened. One of the important objectives of the news media is its business prosperity and for that it circulates the sensational news with tactful connotation. A brief report of a case in court, for instance, inevitably is selective; much of the evidence that the court has heard is omitted. A more detached view
may be provided by detailed statistics of crime compiled and published by a Home department of government in India. Like western world we do not have effective institutional base that regularly publishes the un-bias crime reports. For instance, in USA the Federal Bureau of Investigation publishes an annual report every year. In England the Home Office produces each year a volume entitled Criminal Statistics, England and Wales, which (among other things) gives an account of the trends in different types of crime. Official statistics such as these are frequently used by policymakers as the basis for new procedures in crime control. They may show, for instance, that there has been an increase in the incidence of a particular type of crime over a period of years and over the areas specifically represented by a specific type of ethnic groups and suggest, therefore, that some change in the methods of dealing with that type of crime is necessary. For the greater democratic national interest we avoid mentioning the crime and their association with specific ethnic groups. If necessary, we refer the minorities to diffuse the tension.

In fact, many official statistics of crime are subject to serious error and may be almost as misleading as the general impressions formed by the public through the news media, particularly if they are used without an understanding of the processes by which they are compiled and the limitations to which they are necessarily subject. The statistics are usually compiled on the basis of reports from police forces and other law enforcement agencies and are generally known as statistics of reported crime, or crimes known to the police or recorded in courts. Because only incidents observed by the police or reported to them by victims or
witnesses are included in the reports, the picture of the amount of crime actually committed may be distorted. One factor accounting for this distortion is the extent to which police resources are allocated to the investigation of one kind of crime rather than another, particularly with regard to what are known as "victimless crimes", such as possession of drugs. These crimes are not discovered unless the police set out to look for them, and they do not figure in the statistics of reported crime unless the police take the initiative. Thus, a sudden increase in the reported incidence of a crime from one year to the next may merely show that the police have taken more interest in that crime and devoted more resources to its investigation. Ironically, efforts to discourage or eliminate a particular kind of crime through more vigorous law enforcement may create the impression that the crime concerned has increased rather than decreased, because more instances are detected and thus enter the statistics.

A second factor that can have a striking effect on the apparent statistical incidence of a particular kind of crime is a change in the willingness of victims of the crime to report it to the police. It is believed by most criminologists, on the basis of research, that the crime reported to the police amounts to only a small proportion of the crime actually committed. Estimates of the so-called dark figure (the number of unreported crimes) vary, but it is thought that in some cases the reported crimes may constitute less than 10 percent of those actually committed. For example, the crime against the women is normally concealed because the family of the victim becomes apprehensive of its prestige and future social image. Victims of crimes have many reasons for not reporting them: they may not realize
that a crime has been committed against them (children who have been sexually molested, for instance); they may believe that the police will not be able to detect the offender; they may be afraid of involvement in the processes of the law as witnesses; they may be embarrassed by their own conduct that has led them to become the victim of the crime (a man robbed by a prostitute, for instance, or a person who has been the victim of a confidence trick as a result of his own greed or credulity). A particular type of crime may not appear sufficiently serious to make it worthwhile to inform the police, or there may be ways in which the matter can be resolved without involving them an act of violence by one school child against another may be dealt with by the school authorities, or a dishonest employee may be dismissed without prosecution. All of these factors are difficult to measure with any degree of accuracy, and there is no reason to suppose that they remain constant over a period of time. Thus, a change in any one of these factors may produce the appearance of an increase or a decrease in a particular kind of crime, when in fact there has been no such change, or the real change has been on a much smaller scale than the statistics suggest.

A third factor that may affect the picture of crime presented by official statistics is the way in which the police treat particular incidents. Many of the laws defining crimes are imprecise or ambiguous concepts such as reckless driving, obscenity, and gross negligence may leave a great deal to interpretation. The result may be that, conduct which is treated as a crime in one police district, and thus appears as such in statistics, may not be treated as the same crime in another, because the law is interpreted in a different manner there. Another practice that
may have the same result is the way in which a particular incident is broken down into different crimes. The theft of a number of items may be recorded as a single theft of all of them or as a series of thefts of the individual items.

The thesis raises question from human ecological perspective that, why some individual commit a great deal more crime than others, although, Cohen and Machalek (1988) stress that crime can be ‘ 'normal' behavior performed by normal individuals in unexpected social systems. Criminologists have for many years endeavoured to obtain a more accurate picture of the incidence of crimes and the trends and variations from one period to another. Two research methods have usually been employed – the victim survey and the self-report study. The victim survey requires the researcher to identify a sample of the population at risk of becoming victims of the kind of crime in which the researcher is interested, or of crimes generally, and to ask them to disclose any crime of which they have been victims during the period specified in the research. The information obtained from the survey, after a large number of people have been questioned, is compared with the statistics for reported crime for the same period and locality, giving an indication of the relationship between the actual incidence of the type of crime in question and the number of cases of that type reported to the police. Although criminologists have developed sophisticated procedures for interviewing victim populations, such projects are subject to a number of limitations. Results depend entirely on the victim's recollection of the incidents, his ability to recognize that a crime has been committed, and his willingness to disclose it. The method can be applied only to crimes that have victims; it does not help to identify the incidence
of victimless crimes. Research of this kind, however, undertaken with an awareness of the limitations of the process, undoubtedly extends knowledge of the actual incidence of particular types of crime and, if it is carried on over a period of years, may provide a clearer picture of trends in crime than official statistics. One major survey of this kind, the British Crime Survey, is expected to last for many years and as it obtains information from a very large sample of households, may be more representative than smaller ones.

An alternative approach favoured by some criminologists is the self-report study, in which a sample of the general population is asked, under assurances of confidentiality, if they have committed any offences of a particular kind. This type of research is subject to the same difficulty as the victim survey the researcher has no means of verifying the information given to him, and the subject can easily conceal the fact that he has committed an offence at some time but surveys of this kind have often confirmed that large numbers of offences have been committed without being reported and that crime is much more widespread than official statistics suggest.

The worth of all scientific findings depend heavily on the manner in which data were collected and analyzed. The theoretical basis of social / criminological investigations rest on the statement of facts. There has been a sea change in understanding the situation of investigation of crime caused by offenders and their socio-cultural background. Till 1960s the value of the criminologists has been somewhat a discount in the world of affairs. His feeling of inferiority has saved
his energy, and somewhat esoteric methods that he has adopted in his work have tended to take him out of common social circulation. Many efforts are being made to reconnect criminologist/researcher of sociology of crime with reality. The criminologists are now discovering new knowledge—no more relying upon the static body of information and criminological research is born out of men’s problems. The attempt to satisfy man’s craving for more understanding, to improve his judgment, to add to has power, to reduce his burden of work, to relief suffering and in increase satisfaction is the fundamental goals of all research. Identification of suitable criminological research problem is itself a problem to the researchers. It is high time that the research takes up challenges to locate meaningful socioeconomic problems are being faced by our society and there by offer situation to reduce social tension in contributing to the reduction of factors causing crime.

In criminological research selection of unit has been a methodological necessity. The tools used for data collection and data interpretation, quality of materials and validity of findings are equally important in research to reach at certain generalization. The logical analysis leading to valid discussions on the trend and issues of the research problem occupy the position of central nervous system in the body of the thesis. Pathy writes that methodology is some thing beyond the processes that terminate at generalization and is based on epistemological principle, conceptual coherence, logic and finally techniques and tools linked with theories which are conditioned by philosophies (1987).
The empiricist theory of knowledge and methodology ignore that the observable facts would not be independent by themselves but are only logically connected constituents of an entirely invisible reality. Crime as a social fact and human act, therefore has to be seen as an integrated part of the logically connected whole. Navock (1971) writes that facts cannot be treated as independent entities rather should be seen in their hidden internal relationship and processes of their development. It has been argued that since every statement of fact embodies a selection procedure, the theoretical assumption, point of view of ideological bias they can hardly provide grounds for theories (Popper 1959:59) It is further stated that unless facts are organised from conscious point of view and in accordance with their theoretical perspectives. Facts Quo facts are of little consequence to knowledge (Pathy 1987) The organisation of facts for their meaningful interpretation therefore needs to be closer by the inductive and deductive processes together. The case analysis as an ideographic process must come together with the interconnected facts deduced from the complexity of causation.

Pilot Survey

While trying to prepare a design of the research proposal, it was felt necessary to conduct a test / a pilot survey to ensure the workability of the design before giving the final shape to the question. The pilot survey was mainly conducted for the following reasons:

To determine the sample size, to test the questionnaire, and to restructure the techniques of data collection while dealing with the prisoners in relatively
isolated space within the jail boundary. The reasons referred to above for the sample size and qualitative status of the questionnaire specify the matter of judgement involving the use of data. The quality of data referred mainly depends upon the responsibility of the researcher and the degree of his involvement. To formulate an effective design the pilot survey becomes essential. While drawing the requisite sample from superintendent’s office of the respective jails and the sample from police records excluding the under trial prisoners care as taken to cover the important areas of offenders so as to represent the universe. After making a thorough study on secondary data on the prevailing trends and issues in mitigating the crimes in the state the pilot survey was conducted. These records considered prior to set out for the pilot survey was representing the intensity and extent of socioeconomic indicators of offenders.

Some investigations reveal that mental depravity of offenders makes them delinquent and hence a system of clinical treatment seems to be appropriate. However, for any research purpose there is a need to classify the offenders on the basis of some bio-social and socioeconomic markers such as sex, age, gravity of offence, ethnic background, income, family size, education level, mental condition and a few more subjective parameters. Like habitual offenders, recidivists, juvenile delinquents, insane criminals, sex offenders and the like. The department of police while giving statistics on crime rate has classified the criminals on the basis of type of crimes. The present work has by and large honoured the police classification due to the fact that such classified data is valuable and are helpful for the purpose of the comparison and analysis.
Subjectivity and Objectivity

The term subjectivity in social science research including criminological research refers to the doctrine that all knowledge limited to experiences by the self and that transcendent knowledge is impossible. Similarly objectivity refers to the state or quality of being objective which means that the facts revealed are assuming the status being external to the mind. Positivist proclaim that the irrelevance of ideology in social science research. The methodological influence of natural science has distorted the understanding of society and deliberately ignored the very fact that man stands in a constant dialectical relation to the society and he is both a creator and a creature of this temporal society. No social science is free from subjectivity and it is inevitable in social research. Fabians states that detached observers isolated from subjects is erroneous and naïve for the observer can not but enter into social relationship with the respondents and relationship are shaped by his specific interest and personality (1971) and scientific activity does not proceed in a socio-political vacuum. It has close relationship with the forces operating in the wider social environment. The very process of explaining social processes therefore involves evaluating them and evaluation presupposes a framework of values. The values originate not from scientific sphere but from the socio-cultural sphere (Ibid 1977 : 59) The social science researcher including criminological investigators while interacting with prison inmates for their study can not but become subjective because they themselves are the products of social reality and are bound to understand the social realities in terms of the dimension of the concerned system, space and time scale of the concerned events. The
researcher's own experiences and socio-cultural orientation also contribute to it. Whether the researcher adopts reputation approach, subjective approach or objective approach to the problem under investigation, the subjective intervention ought to come into force therefore neutrality of data collection is never possible. Therefore, the criminological study on the offenders inside the jail boundaries as a product of an amalgamation of objective and subjective interpretation of facts can not be bias free.

It is useful at this stage to arrange the whole research scheme by way of making a blue print of the study. The design of the structure of the study consists of seven stages. A few of them followed consequently while a few others concurrently. These are:

1. The pilot survey,
2. Sample size determination,
3. Sample selection,
4. Questionnaire design,
5. Validity and reliability of the tools through the tests,
6. Personal interaction with the subject and
7. The analysis and the interpretation.

The major objective of the questionnaire and the psychological tests were to identify the association of socioeconomic factors responsible for the erosion of the human value among the offenders. The scope of the study has been reasonably wide but properly specified. Through the study of individual cases, this
explanatory research intends to offer explanations through the test of hypotheses objectively.

To have homogeneity in the survey and interview all over the sample a structured method was used. Before going for the sampling we went through the Orissa Jail Manual written by Ratho (1997). To cover geographic region with proper representation of all Orissa jail inmates jails have been selected on the basis of stratified random sampling method. It is expected that the structured method will make the generalization and prediction more reliable. To make the questions more simple and less time consuming the researcher has adopted direct approach without diluting the prison rules and with in the limits of jail manuals. To avoid any misgiving / doubts, the interviews were made face to face to the prisoners inside the jail in presence of the jail officials in jailor's chamber directly. However care was taken to collect data only after it was realized that the required rapport was established. To do so the researcher had to do informal interaction for some time. Nowhere at the first interaction the data collection was undertaken. To cover all the prisoners of Orissa it was beyond our time, budget and cost resources. Hence, the scope of the study was kept limited to the sample size.

A few psychological tests have also been made to evaluate the prisoners' capacity of social readjustment. For this the researcher has followed the established psychological tool proposed by T.H. Holmes and R.H. Rahe published in Journal of Psychosomatic research Vol. 11 in 1967. The other tool used was intended to evaluate on the contribution made by others (the personnel responsible
for the prisoners such as jailor, warders, advocates, adult family members of the
prisoners, co-prisoners, jail doctors and other personnel serving inside the jail
administrative units) to shape the life of the prisoners. To measure the locus of
control, internal and / or external, the tool adopted by J.B. Rotter in 1971 was
followed.

For the purpose of avoiding confusion the researcher has used the jail and
the prison in loose term since the subject of study are the offenders remained in the
jail not less than five years since he got arrested. While interviewing inmates of the
sample jails covered under this study, the researcher had also interviewed the jail
personnel whose responses were taken for consideration in order to cross check the
uniformity of the statements and surfaces the realities. However, a trade – off
between ideals and economics of time and finance may be inevitable (Ahmad 1991 :
42) We may cite number of reasons in this regards : that, it may be impossible to
get round all people who are distantly located because of periodic inter-prison
transfer of inmates and that, some people may be unwilling to be interviewed but
still might be ready to supply limited information sought in some other way than
by interview. The research has made certain compromise by way of limiting the
scope of study only to six main jails. However, since the prisoners are transferred
from jail to jail, the linked jails had to be visited to locate the realities of
socioeconomic aspects of crime causation. And observe the change in the
behavioral areas of the prisoners.
Selection of the Unit

Most sociologically oriented criminological studies are done on the assumption that considerable insights can be gained about the causal factors of crime commission by studying the individuals and carefully analyzing the type of information derived from direct observation, face to face interview and typical case studies. Since the sample represents the sub universe and yet reflects the basic tenets of the totality, it was realized that the proportion of heterogeneity based on caste and other ethnic markers have equal probability in appearance. Even with all these types of care taken, there is a possibility to over represent or under represent special analytical value of extreme cases.

The statistical operation used for making inferences about this captive population required that sample must be drawn from known population. The random sampling process was adopted from each important sub groups namely; murder, kidnapping, abduction, docility, robbery, house break, theft, riot, cheat, and other crimes. In total, nine sub groups from six jails were covered in this sample. Care was taken to include proportional ethnic groups. The way the process of division of target population was made into different sub groups, the design deserved to be termed as stratified random sampling.

A few social scientists have stated that the spot observation on subjects provides better estimate of behavior than available methods (Simpson : 1979) A few others have suggested in favor of scan sampling which refers to abrupt sampling immediately after observation (Dunbar : 1976). In case of focal
sampling it has been indicated that the whole day activities recording in order to have an understanding on qualitatively different social interactions with the fellow inmates (Evanson, et al: 1978).

These studies on prisoners depend upon sampling procedures, geared upon multiplicity of levels based on regional cultural difference and categories of crime. There are 68 jails in Orissa within total captive population of 12432 which includes the convicts, and the under trials, prisoners belonging to both the sexes convicts have been deliberately excluded from the sample so also the under trail prisoners of both the sexes. This means the total universe includes only the male convicts numbering 9228. The sample at the initial stage representing the Orissa jails from among the six district jails numbered 1545 and the sample taken for the present research figured only about 20% which came to 328. The crime graph in the state of Orissa is on the rise despite claims to the contrary by the government, reported in news daily dated 18.05.2005. The deterioration in general law and order situation, apart from spurt in Naxal activities, has put the law –enforcing agencies in tight spot. The disturbing fact is that the law and order situation is virtually out of control even in districts like Khurda and state capital Bhubaneswar, which have better infrastructure facilities to control crime. For 2005 Khurda district topped the list with 5947 cognizable offences recorded, a rise of 3.3 percent over the year preceding. Cuttack district is close second with 5242 cases.

The trend was the increasing number of crimes against women across the state. While rape cases increased 799 during the year from 770 in 2004, dowry
related incidents touched 2550, including 458 dowry deaths. The number of cognizable cases recorded in the state also shot up by more than 25090 and touched 65029. Director general of police Mr. Suchit Das, however, said that despite the rise in number of cases, Orissa is a peaceful state compared to neighboring states where over one lakh cases are recorded in a year. The Director General Police attributed the increase in the number of crimes to the growth of population and overall economic development of the state. It is abnormal for the crime rate to come down when there is all-round growth. Das reasoned, adding there are various factors, which contributed to the increase in the number of cognizable cases.

According to the police department the shortage of personnel is a factor. To justify this the office of the DGP, in its report, mentioned that while at the all India level, for one lakh population there are 124 police personnel, whereas in Orissa there are 92 and thus a proposal has been submitted to the state government to increase the manpower. Citing an example, in an interview the DGP has stated that expansion of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack cities has put a lot of pressure on the police. Though the two cities have grown, the number of police stations remains the same. For Bhubaneswar, popularly known as info-city, the government has decided to open a new police station manned by efficient trained personnel. As some poorly inspected areas exist in Bhubaneswar, there are many areas with no effective police presence, the state is ill equipped with police supervision. To know the relationships between the rate of type of crime with other socio-economic factor, the age, the marital status, the educational
background, the mother tongue, the capacity of mastering the languages other their own, the religious affiliation, the ethnic background, the income categories, the type of family organization, the ordinal position, the family size, the years of imprisonment as a marker of experience, the nativity background (urban and rural), the other such socio-economic factors have been considered. The search of answer to question about crime and attempt to control it eventually leads to most researchers deal about the nature and frequency of distribution (Jackson 1990-21). The unit of analysis is the individual prisoner who has been declared by the state administration as convicts. One parameter has been selected with regards to the prisoners' duration of stay in prison. Only those convicts who stayed for more than two years and less than ten years were taken into our sample fold. By doing so, it has been presumed that prisoners have gone into the process of reformation through the jail administration.

All types of criminals are represented in our sample due to the fact that there are sampling limitations. The fieldwork was undertaken at the different phases from 1994 to 1997. For this purpose life history method was also adopted. Depending upon the requirement and in response to the problems encountered at the time of pilot survey the questionnaire was rearranged to accommodate the representative of the internal segments / categories of prisoners. A few jail authorities felt reluctant to permit us to use the tape recorder while interviewing them and the prisoners. Had we got the permission it would have helped us to go for content analysis effectively. The time factor was another impediment that did not allow catching hold the flow of data. Such limitations have contributed to the
research impairments of understanding the socioeconomic factors of the inmates in a holistic way.

Data collection through prison visits

In content and context collective identity is definitely different from individual identity. In criminology for the study of prison inmates the reference of collective identity is marginal. This is because each crime cause by the offender has specificity although similar crimes might reveal correlation for similar socioeconomic factors. This might even show the pattern of crime causation.

Interviewing individual criminals is methodologically too individualistic in a sense that it tends to treat the individual offender a social unit. According to Galtung this individualism is further emphasized by building a probability model into a sampling procedure so that the individual is literally turn out of the social context and made to appear in the sample a society of one person to be compared with other societies of one person. (1972: 150). Pathy puts it as a method that ignores the internal differentiation in the category and gives equal weight to every one an thus distorts the reality and provides false images (1987:76) This method, however, manifests verbal reaction to the question asked which provides a static reality. When the researcher interacts (interviews) with the researched often it generates confusion on the meaning of symbols used in schedule due to asymmetrical relationship between the captive in jails and relatively liberated researcher. Galtung treats such a method as instrument to control of underdogs than the oppressors (1973:159)
In this study one schedule covering basic information on socio-economic background of the convict was used. It comprises of data on household composition, size of the family, education, language known, occupation, social status of convicts before came inside the jail, ownership of resources, sources of income, incidences of earlier conflicts and their reasons and sources, dependents if any etc. The strategy adopted for interviewing the subjects for collection of data was in formal and informal mixed type. It was initiated through informal way and with the help of the interview guide, the data was collected. Then, the formal interview was made in subsequent sittings. In it some questions were open ended and some multiple choices type. The weakness of the 'informal' interview was that the respondents were allowed to talk while the researcher was 'sympathetically' responding him. The researcher did this to keep him with in the controlled quarries based on the focal theme of the problem. However, efforts were made to make the interview a pleasure talk between the researcher and the respondent. Impression was given such that during interaction both would feel friendly. The researcher was gauging the body language of the respondent and accordingly treating those statements, which he felt baseless. The objective was to understand the chain of facts that culminated into the final event.

Use of jail registers as a source of data:

The register has specific columns in which jail personnel maintain records against the names of the inmates such as date of entry, age, sex, caste, residential address, type of crime commissioned terms and conditions of punishment in short, and other identifying marks. It was observed that these are monotonous and often
repetitive and therefore can be treated as static and incomplete. The data in such registers by and large remained conditioned by the commitment of the jail personnel to his profession. However, they provide the preliminary important set of information, which helped the researcher to reach the area of enquiry. The repetitive scanning of past records against the name of the convicts provided insight on the contextual interconnected events. It helped to differentiate the habitual crime doers from those who fall victim of the circumstances. The life history and name of the persons often referred by the offenders are found extremely useful. The verbal statement expressed during the interview, when put against the recorded statements of the register, gave useful clues to the researcher for interpretation. Then feelings, the mode of expression, the attitudes and gesture (lamentation / aggression) reflected through the body language of the subjects provided indications of confirming or contesting the basic recorded information. Certain case studies illuminate the dynamic quality of experiences of remote past and recent past circumstances that the inmates had encountered. These offered the scope for re-integrative measures for the prisoners. These experiences represent indirectly the causal factors of crime committed by the convicts (Stimson and Webb 1975:90)

Until recently, one of the most neglected areas in research methodology was the secondary analysis of existing data. Attention to the potential strength and weakness of secondary data analysis is especially important at the time of recent calls in the field of criminology for conducting more longitudinal research (John et al 1990. Farmington et al 1986 Secondary data analysis can also be used for
comparative purposes with newly collected data or combined with other primary data for an assessment of various trends (Kiecolt and Nathan 1985, Stewart 1984). The government data and the reports available at the jail authorities were treated for comparison with the present data collected from the convicts.

**Police records as source of data**

It was presumed that the subjects interviewed had some past police records. To know the background of the prisoners under study the addresses of the subjects were collected from the jail registers and the researcher had to make few trips to some of the captive's native area, specifically of those on whom the case studies were taken. The statements narrated by the prisoners might conceal some of the vital facts and these records offer scope to verify. Such type of collection of data may be referred to as investigative inquiry. Such data contribute towards the validity and reliability of data. However, it was also presumed that not all the recorded statement at the police office are correct. There were also contradictory data observed while the researcher had gone for comparison between the sources of data. In a few cases the concerned advocates were asked.

**Self reported data**

Besides asking questions concerning the convicts various activities such as membership in secret gang, places of decision-making, ambitions and unusual participation in assigned and expected activities, they were asked with respect to
their misbehaviour. They were qualitative in nature yet it revealed a type of relationship with the patterns of crime causation.

**Parent / family reported data**

The pioneer being the Glueck's research team conducted interview with parents (usually mothers) to obtain information about home atmosphere, family finance, and family background as well as the conduct of the concerned member's misbehaviour (Glueck and Clueck 1950). The interviews could also supplement to relate the crime with the causal factors.

**Official data**

It has been stated that it was expected that official data include number of arrests, the number of conviction, the correctional experiences over time, type of dispositions, offences – specific arrest sequences, and the length of time of all correctional experiences as well as the number of probation / parole revocations (ibid). It is reported that the report should focus on measure of misconduct's like drug and alcohol use, lunacy, etc and not only the crime so that the convicts can be viewed from holistic angle (1986). Undoubtedly, from criminological point of view the intermittent interaction with the same convicts inside jail generated new levels of rapport and confidence which help the researcher to put less labour with the length of time of interaction to collect relevant data. Sometime the data flooded to the researcher and at other times the flow of data showing inconsistency
generated doubts. The doubtful data were eliminated from the research scope before it was analyzed.

In the following chapter the researcher has provided a general background of the state Orissa and the crime rate for that is essential to understand the factors of crime causation to the level of approximation.

Socio-economic parameters of the study

The parameters for the study taken have been the ethic background, income category, age, sex, religion of the subjects selected through the sampling procedure. With the help of the interview guide within the jail premises interviewed the subjects with the 'presence' of the jail officials. The care was taken to keep the jail officials away in listening to the talk while the subject was interviewed. Not to damage, the individual's prestige of the concerned accused and the authority, the case histories have been represented through the pseudo names. The interview guide as a tool was used to elicit data through informal interaction within the jurisdiction of a formality. The subjects were made to believe that the findings of this research are no way related to legal bearing of the crime. The subjects were asked to reveal the event at his will for few minutes. After hearing the case, the questions were asked from within the boundary of the interview guide.

Data collection was made at different phases of time. The first phase was meant for collection of secondary data and the second, the collection of primary
data. The third phase of collection of data was mostly aimed at cross checking the data both for secondary and primary sources. During the third phase of data collection, in addition to the verification of data, the members of the jail authorities were interviewed to assess their self-monitoring capacity and commitment to their respective duties. This psychological tool used to evaluate the contribution for reformation supposed to come from jail authorities towards the inmates. On the basis of the information collected from the prisoner and the prison authorities the researcher arranged data in the form of tables with an intention to find out any association between the reformatory strategies and reformation caused among the different categories of offenders. In addition to the relevant data collected by means of the tools stated above few intrinsic data were also collected simultaneously through observation. The observation was made on interaction between inmate captives and the authorities and between the captives. This supplements the quality of data. Generally, the social realities have their antecedents and root into the past that help to have a deeper understanding on crimes as social facts.

Procedure of Analysis

The collected data was tabulated and a few simple statistical tests were made in order to identify the patterns of crime caused and their other associates.
Limitation of the Methods Adopted

The major sources that are used to elicit data for the present work are the subjects in the jails and the jail personnel as primary sources of data and the police records and records in the jails are the secondary sources. Only six jails have been considered as sample jails in this research. It is an admitted fact that all the variables of the jails could not be incorporated. The so called “series incidents” – victimization in which there are repeated incidents of offending, that could have been more accurately described as enduring conditions could not be done for paucity of time and other administrative barriers. The strength of the data would have been raised more had the victims / potentials victims (wherever possible) were taken in the fold of the research. This is one of the effective limitations.