CHAPTER 4

Research Method

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This Chapter discusses the method employed to study the conceptual framework.

4.1 Permissions and Approvals

A request was made on December 22, 2010 to the Secretary, Radhasoami Satsang Sabha, Dayalbagh, Agra, the Apex Administrative Authority of Radhasoami Faith (Dayalbagh) for permission to collect secondary data from the Agriculture department and to interview key officials of the department, about 50 voluntary field workers selected at random, about 50 students of DEI, 50 temporary visitors to Dayalbagh, and 20 Non-resident Indian and foreigner Satsangis and some 15 non-Satsangis for their feedback.

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the aforesaid permission letter of February 18, 2011, the Researcher requested the Secretary Radhasoami Satsang Sabha Dayalbagh on September 27, 2011 for convenient dates for interviewing the following key officials.

- Mr. Subedar Singh, General Manager, Agriculture Department
- Prof. S.S. Bhojwani, Chairman, Scientific Committee on Agriculture
- Dr. Dayal Prasad, OSD, Agriculture
- Prof. B.M. Gupta, Advisor, Agriculture
- Col. (Retd.) S.P. Satsangi, Manager, Gaushala
- Prof. D. Sarveshwar Rao, Head of Department, Botany
- Prof. K. Hans Raj, Faculty of Engineering, DEI

Secretary, Radhasoami Satsang Sabha, vide his letter dated 19.12.2011 conveyed the approval to interview the above officials of the Agriculture Department and the experts and advised that already published data (secondary data) in various publications of Dayalbagh may be consulted and cited for research purposes after due approval of the Secretary Sabha and the Primary data regarding spirit of services with regard to Dayalbagh Agriculture operations may be compiled from authorized respondents approved by Secretary Sabha in advance.
Lists of respondents together with the questionnaires for collection of primary data regarding the spirit of service with regard to Dayalbagh Agriculture operations were accordingly submitted on February 09, 2012 for advance authorization as required by the aforesaid letter. This authorization was received vide Secretary Sabha’s letter dated March 06, 2012; copy is attached at Annexure-5.

A questionnaire based survey was then initiated to gather the relevant data. Area of survey was extended to Dayalbagh, places within India, outside India namely USA, Europe, Australia and Asia.

The method used for conducting the survey is described below.

4.2 Instrument Design

A convenience and judgmental sample of 200 was proposed with sample composition comprising officials of the Dayalbagh Agriculture Department, local residents, and student volunteers of Dayalbagh, temporary visitors and industry experts. Different questionnaires were devised for different categories relevant to each. The questions were simple and easy to understand. Nevertheless, some terms not in common parlance were properly explained. But for sporadic queries, there was no general difficulty in comprehension of the questions. Keeping in mind the factor of possible non-responses, it was decided to address the appeal to over 300 prospective respondents identified in consultation with the local population with due regard to the age, gender, profession, status and regularity in field work.

The questionnaires as approved for different categories were distributed to the authorized respondents on different dates with the request for returning the duly filled-in questionnaires within one to three weeks. The request letter is at Annexure–6 and questionnaires are at Annexures –7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

The aim and purpose of this survey was to study linkages between Para Vidya and Management. Given the aims of the study as per Section 3.1 and literature review presented in Chapter 2, personal interviews were conducted with three officials of the Agriculture Department and two experts in agriculture. Each interview lasted for about 90 minutes. Summary record of interviews is attached at Annexure – 5.
4.3 Structure of Questionnaires

Questionnaires were structured to cull out the responses with regard to the spirit of Seva in the Agriculture Farm and the questions devised accordingly. Initial pool of 4 questions on the total residency in years in Dayalbagh and duration of work done in the agriculture fields of the R.S.S. Farm by residents, students, temporary visitors from India and foreign countries was generated. Five questions were generated only for Dayalbagh Residents with regard to the satisfaction level Vis a Vis prices and quality of agricultural produce.

Five questions were intended for assessing the motive and driving force behind Seva in the fields through clear statement correlated with thoughts and feelings for respondents of all categories. Another four were generated on the control and behavioural aspects of co-workers and supervisors.

Two questions were designed to elicit response to the respondents’ overall assessment of the Seva in fields and vote for the spiritual model of management.

Lastly, three questions especially focused on the three hypothesis namely (i) productivity of Dayalbagh Field operations has increased by engaging in field work, (ii) Para Vidya enhances intuitive capacity and (iii) satisfaction level with the purchase of Dayalbagh goods and produce, were devised for all the respondents to be measured on a 10-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree, 10 = strongly agree). Respondents’ gender, demographic, age, and employment characteristics were also recorded. The questions were pretested, and refined to provide better clarity and understanding.

4.4 Sample Plan Vs Actual

The synopsis had proposed a sample size of 200 with mix of population as given in Table PD-1 below showing category-wise number of respondents as proposed in the sample plan and the actual numbers who responded against the appeal. The shortfall in the categories of employees and experts was more than offset by responses in others. Finally, 223 respondents responded to the survey in addition to the interviews of 5 employees and experts aggregating 228 respondents in all.
Table PD-1: Sample Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officials of Agriculture Department</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local residents</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEI Students</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary visitors to Dayalbagh from India</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary visitors to Dayalbagh from Abroad</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry experts</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent observers</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.5 Electronic Responses

Out of all the responses, 55 responses were received electronically; in the category of ‘Temporary visitors to Dayalbagh from India’ (30), Temporary visitors to Dayalbagh from Abroad (21), DEI Student (01) and Independent observers (03). Overwhelming and willing response speaks for the interest generated amongst the participants in the survey for the topic of research.

4.6 Profile of the Respondents

The respondents for the survey were selected from a representative cross section of the sample comprising local residents, students of DEI, temporary visitors from all over the country, temporary visitors from foreign countries, independent observers, employees of the Agriculture Department and industry experts. They included serving and retired persons in senior positions in the Government and Army, students and teachers of colleges and universities, advocates, engineers, doctors and management personnel etc. who are regular in rendering voluntary service in the agricultural fields of Dayalbagh. Except for the independent observers, all the other respondents were either the initiated
Satsangis or the children of initiated Satsangis of Dayalbagh Tradition. Independent Observers were also such as had some knowledge about Dayalbagh and its institutions.

### 4.6.1 Category-wise, Gender-wise Distribution of the Survey

Category-wise, gender-wise distribution of the Survey is given in the Table PD-2 below:

**Table PD-2: Category-wise, Gender-wise Distribution of Survey**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officials of Agriculture Department</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local residents</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEI Students</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary visitors to Dayalbagh from India</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary visitors to Dayalbagh from Abroad</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry experts</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent observers</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>228</strong></td>
<td><strong>149</strong></td>
<td><strong>79</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4.7 Area of Survey

Area of survey was extended to Dayalbagh, places within India, outside India namely USA, Europe, Australia and Asia.