CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 TARGET POPULATION

There are 13 Panchayat Samitis in Jaipur district, namely Jhotwara, Sanganer, Bassi, Chaksu, Amber, Jamwaramgarh, Kotputli, Shahpura, Sambhar Lake, Phagi, Dudu, Govindgarh, Viratnagar. All the Panchayat Samitis have been selected for the study. Rural women were selected as the respondents. From these 13 Panchayat Samitis, 250 women, i.e. 20 from each Panchayat Samiti, were selected. From the point of view of comparison, 250 rural women who were not the members of SHG were selected i.e. 20 from each Panchayat Samiti. However, out of 250 women belonging to SHG and Non-SHG group, 230 women, respectively replied to the questionnaires being asked from them, thereby making the response rate as 92%.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The exploratory design has been used for the study. Since, the study is based on exploratory design, the factors: economical, social and political being the independent variable has been probed to the rural women; the dependent variable being effectiveness of SHG. The study also explores the factors which will need to be focused more by the SHG in the future for the empowerment of rural women. The questionnaires were framed in such a manner that even the illiterate women could answer. Due to the social background of the women, the authors had to first establish a rapport with the women by indulging in social talks. The questions were asked by women either at their houses or under the shade of the tree. Convenient sampling has been done for the purpose of exploratory research. However, the SHG women, which were chosen for the study had the membership of the group for more than three years.

3.3 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The tools that have been used for the collection of data are Questionnaire and Likert Scale.

Collecting the first-hand information from the rural women for the purpose of getting the right information was a difficult task. The only solution was to meet all the respondents personally. This required a rapport to be built with the respondents so that there is no ambiguity among the
respondents while answering the questions. Tools were constructed in such a manner that even the illiterate respondents were able to understand the meaning and answer it.

3.3.1 Questionnaire - A set of predetermined questions was developed and asked by the rural women. The questions in relation to their, social, economical, political empowerment were asked. From the SHG women, in addition to the questions relating to social, economic, political empowerment, questions relating to the working pattern of SHG were also asked.

3.3.2 Likert Scale - A Likert scale having five degrees was prepared for obtaining the data. For each of the item on the scale were assigned a weight: ranging from five (strongly agree) to one (strongly disagree).

3.4 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA - Comparative analysis has been done and has been graphically represented. On the basis of the responses of each respondent, a score card was made. The analysis of data is done through Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

3.5 HYPOTHESIS OF THE RESEARCH

H01: SHGs are not effective in social empowerment of rural women

H11: SHGs are effective in social empowerment of rural women

H02: SHGs are not effective in economic empowerment of rural women

H12: SHGs are effective in economic empowerment of rural women

H03: SHGs are not effective in political empowerment of rural women

H13: SHGs are effective in political empowerment of rural women

H04: SHGs are not effective in empowering rural women

H14: SHGs are effective in empowering rural women

3.6 LIMITATIONS OF RESEARCH
3.6.1 The area of research is vast and it is not feasible to cover the entire state, hence the study will be restricted to rural women in Jaipur only.

3.6.2 There are many self help groups in Jaipur but for the purpose of the study, the researcher has covered 50 SHGs comprising of 250 women respondents. Rest 250 women respondents were those who were not the members of SHGs. 4

3.6.3. Some of the women were not friendly and were apprehensive in responding to the questionnaire and hence the data related to 230 women belonging to SHG and 230 women belonging to Non-SHG have been taken for the analysis making the total response rate as 92%.

3.6.4 The differences in the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents might have caused a divergence in scales and may have affected the accuracy of the primary data.