CHAPTER III
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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter contains the research methodology of the study. Map showing the village panchayats where data was collected and photographs taken during data collection have also been presented.

Field of Study

Tamil Nadu is the eleventh largest state in India by area and the seventh most populous state. It is the fifth largest contributor to India’s GDP and the most urbanised state in India. The state has the highest number (10.56%) of business enterprises in India, compared to the population share of about 6%. The state of Tamil Nadu is divided into smaller districts and the districts are further divided into blocks. There are 32 districts in the state of Tamil Nadu. Kancheepuram district is situated on the northern East Coast of Tamil Nadu and it forms the sub urban area of Chennai. The Old Mahabalipuram Road runs from Chennai through Kanchipuram District. For development reasons, Kanchipuram district is divided into 13 development blocks with 648 Village Panchayats.

The research was conducted in the Tiruporur block of Kanchipuram District of Tamil Nadu. There are 50 village panchayats in Tiruporur block. The Old Mahabalipuram Road runs through the Kanchipuram district and thus through the Tiruporur block. Many IT companies, Engineering college, Arts and sciences college and gated residential community are being built along this road in the past 10 years. The block has seen a hub of construction activity, especially construction of multi storied buildings of varied purposes. The migrants have settled in different pockets in this block.

In Tirupporur block of Kanchipuram Distric 7 village panchayats were chosen. The Villages Panchayats were chosen on purposive sampling basis ie the places in which the NGO ‘Rural Development Trust’ works. The seven village panchayats are Egattur, Semmencherry, Heranandhini, Chennaipattinam, Vembedu, Kelambakkam and Siruseri.
Table No 13
Village Panchayats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Name of the Village Panchayat</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Egattur</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Semmencherry</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Heranandhini</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chennaiapattinam</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Vembedu</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kelambakkam</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Siruseri</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rural Development Trust (RDT) is a registered organization under Indian Trust Act. It is a Charitable non-governmental People oriented organization established in 1992. It was founded by a group of youth who wanted to promote volunteerism to strengthen, empower and revitalize tribes, women, children, landless labour and dalith. It is currently working for social transformation of the migrant community in Thiruporur, Thirukkalundram, Kattanagathur, and St. Thomas Mount Blocks of Kancheepuram District.

Since 2004, RDT is making efforts and initiatives for the eradication of illiteracy among the migrant community especially those who are involved in construction work in Thiruporur and above mentioned blocks. In this process, RDT has been providing capacity building and promoting educational rights for Dalit, Tribal and Migrant Community. As part of this concept, RDT initiated 9 Special Schools for Migrant Construction Workers Children and 10 school for Dalits and Tribals in Kancheepuram District.

RDT is one of the NGOs working for the welfare of the migrant communities and safe guards the rights of the migrant people. Through the special schools, they are providing nutritional noon meal, health care, text books, learning materials, writing materials and school bags free of cost. At present they are running 9 special schools covering 954 migrant
children with the Assistance of 18 Teachers, 3 Coordinators and 3 Technical persons. They have been conducting follow up programmes to re-enroll the children to continue school education when they are returning to their native places.

Almost 5000 children between 6 to 14 years of age are unable to get education due to their migratory status. The nearest Government Schools doesn't enroll the children, since there are no teachers to impart education in Telegu medium. RDT has set up schools to help these children. The school aims to wean children away from construction labor jobs and juvenile delinquency by providing them with Telugu formal education opportunities. To this end, it serves as a bridge school, enabling children to study through 1standred to 8 in Tamilnadu, eventually helping them to continue their education in Telugu schools once their parents return to their Native Places.

Tamil Nadu District Map showing the region of data collection

- Region where data was collected
Kanchipuram District map showing the village panchayats where data was collected

Legend:
- National Highway
- Major Road
- Rail Line
- District Headquarters
- Major Town
- Other Town
- River

- Village panchayats were data was collected
Operational definition

Migrants - they are individuals who leave their place of stay and move to other places as a consequence of various social, economic and cultural constraints in the society they live in. For the purpose of the research, the respondents would be those migrated 2 years previously.

Sub Urban – a habitat a little remote (away) from the city limits. Sub urban Chennai refers to the habitats little away from the Chennai city.

Married – it is a status in which an individual will have to play different roles like spouse, father or mother and they are responsible of the offsprings of the marriage.

Construction Workers - they are individuals who are employed in the construction industry on any given day of a year in the past 1 year.

Multi Storied building – Buildings which have a minimum of 3 or more floors.

Social – the life led by the women construction workers including the ownership of Voters identification card and ration card.

Economic- the financial condition of the women construction workers which includes their work participation earnings, expenses, savings and debt.

Psychological – the current emotional status of the women construction workers which includes their security, satisfaction level with life.

Working conditions- the environment in which they work with all the safety provisions and facilities available at the work spot for their effective functioning.

Mother and child care– the care/ services given or taken by the women construction workers before and after birth to themselves and the child which they have borne.
**Occupational hazard** – The dangers faced by the women construction workers because of their work in the construction industry.

**Gender discrimination** – the bias or inequality faced by the women construction workers because of their gender (Sex) in terms of conditions of work and physical exploitation met out to them.

**Sexual Harassment** - unwelcome sexually determined behavior such as physical contact, advances, sexually coloured remarks, showing pornography or making sexual demands.

**Objectives**

**General Objective**
To study about the migrant women construction workers in the sub urban areas of Chennai.

**Specific Objective**
1. To study the demographic profile of the migrant women construction workers.
2. To study the process of migration of the migrant women construction workers.
3. To study the psycho–social conditions of the migrant women construction workers.
4. To study the economic condition of the migrant women construction workers.
5. To study the working conditions and occupational hazards of the migrant women construction workers.
6. To study the issues related to mother and child care of the migrant women construction workers.
7. To study the gender discrimination met out to the migrant women construction workers.
8. To study the awareness, access and utilization of the welfare benefits available to the migrant women construction workers and unionization
9. To prepare a social work intervention model to empower the migrant women construction workers
Research Design
The researcher adopted the descriptive research design for the study. As this study describes the various characteristics like the social condition, economic condition, working condition, mother and child care, health & occupational hazards, harassment of the migrant women construction workers, this research design was adopted. There is triangulation of Qualitative and Quantitative method of research in the study. Quantitative method like collecting data through Interview Schedule has been used and Qualitative methods like Case Study, Focused Group Discussion and Structured Interview has been used for collecting data from the respondents.

Selection of Respondents
Universe
The universe consists of all the migrant women construction workers who are married, living in the Tiruppurur block of Kanchipuram district, who are employed in construction of multi-storied buildings for a minimum period of two years since they migrated. They should have also have children in the age group of 0-10 years. Each unit or the sample will be the migrant women construction workers. The units will be taken from a cross section of the universe i.e. respondents will be a mixed group from various states, districts, villages. This area was chosen because of the high number of multi-storied buildings being built for residential and commercial purposes. In addition 90% of the construction workers working in this block are migrant workers from Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa. The researcher identified a NGO named Rural Development trust at Tirupporur, which works for the cause of the migrant construction workers and with their help proceed with the data collection.

Sampling method
Non probability sampling method of Purposive Sampling was used in this research. The researcher used this type of sampling because the researcher had to purposively find married migrant women, working in the construction industry for a minimum of two years and should also have children in the age group of 0-10 years. Data was collected from the respondents in the areas in which the NGO Rural Development Trust runs multipurpose child care and learning centers. The NGO runs these centers at 9 village panchayats in
Tirupur Block of Kanchipuram District of Tamil Nadu. Non probability sampling method of Convenient Sampling was used to choose seven village panchayats. The seven village panchayats are Egattur, Semmencherry, Heranandhini, Chennaiapattinam, Vembedu, Kelambakkam and Siruseri. The researcher took a quota of 50 respondents from each of the village panchayats. From each of the area, using purposive sampling 50 respondents were chosen.

The researcher collected data from the migrant women construction workers at their dwelling place. For the focused group discussion and case studies also, purposive sampling was used. Purposive sampling was used to collect data from Mr. Elumalai, Director, Rural Development Trust, Mr. Venketraman, President of CITU Construction Workers Union, Kelambakkam, Assisstant Commissioner of Labour, Regional Labour Office (Central Government), Sashtri Bhavan and Inspector of Labour, Labour Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, DMS, Chennai.

Non Probability Purposive Sampling was used because (1) The exact size of the universe is not known and (2) The universe is a mobile group and keeps moving as soon as a construction project is over in one place.

Sample Size
The sample size for the study is 350. The 350 respondents were migrant women construction workers. Two FGDs were conducted. Each group consisted of 12 members each who voluntarily came forward to be part of the group discussion. Five case studies were done. The respondents for case studies were also taken in on voluntary basis.

Tools of data collection
Interview Schedule was used for the collection of the primary data from the respondents. This tool was resorted because first and foremost many of the respondents were illiterates. The Interview Schedule was advantageous because the migrants were from Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. Translators were used for the data collection process. The teachers who taught at the schools run by Rural Development Trust acted as translators. The translators
were briefed about the research and the tool. The data collection was done at the residential areas of these migrant workers. In addition to the interview schedule the researcher conducted 2 Focused Group Discussion and 5 case studies which was conducted to respondents who volunteered themselves in providing information.

Structured Interview method was used for data collection from Mr. Elumalai, Director, Rural Development Trust, Mr. Venketraman, President of CITU Construction Workers Union, Kelambakkam, Assisttiant Commissioner of Labour, Regional Labour Office (Government of India), Sasthri Bhavan and Inspector of Labour, Labour Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, DMS, Chennai.

Pre testing
Pre testing was conducted to check if all the questions asked in the interview schedule is appropriate and correct. The interview schedule was administered to 25 migrant women construction workers to check appropriateness of questions. There were few changes like addition of choices and rearrangement of choices in certain questions.
A respondent during a Interview

A respondent near her house
Respondents getting ready for a FGD (one half)

Respondents getting ready for a FGD (the other half)
Period of data collection
Data was collected for a period of one year. The actual Interview Schedule was framed in English and it was translated to Tamil. The help of translators was sought to collect data in Telugu, Hindi and Oriya. The teachers working in the schools run by the NGO Rural Development Trust helped as translators. The data through Interview Schedule was collected from March 2009 to September 2009. Data from Mr. Elumalai, Director, Rural Development Trust, Mr. Venkataraman, Mr. Venketraman, President of CITU Construction Workers Union, Kelambakkam, Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Regional Labour Office (Central Government), Sasthri Bhavan and Inspector of Labour, Labour Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, DMS, Chennai, was collected in the months of November and December 2009. FGDs and Case studies were conducted on Sundays in the evenings in March 2010.

Sources of data
Data was collected from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected directly from the respondents through Interview Schedules, Case Studies, Focused Group Discussions and Structured Interviews. The secondary data was collected from books, magazines, research publications, Government offices and Internet.

Limitation of the study
1. There was not much scope for higher levels of statistical analysis because a standardized tool was not used and many of the variables had multiple choice answers.
2. The data collection consumed a lot of time because the researcher and the translators could reach the respondents only on Sundays.
3. The migrant married women construction workers were very reluctant to answer questions on sexual harassment.
4. Language was a constraint when the interview schedule was administered. Since the researcher did not understand Telugu, Oriya or hindi, she missed a lot on the things communicated by the respondents during FGDs and Case studies.
Box 2: Diagrammatic Representation of the Research Methodology

1. Finalisation of the Research Problem & Review of Literature
2. Finalisation of Field of Study and Pilot Visit
3. Preparation of Interview Schedule, guidelines for FGD and Case Studies
4. Finalisation of Universe and Sampling technique
5. Pre-testing with 25 respondents
6. Selection of Samples using Non Probability Purposive Sampling and collecting data through the Interview Schedule from 350 respondents
7. Identifying voluntary respondents for 2 FGDs and 5 Case Studies Collecting Data
8. Analysis of Data using SPSS and MS Excel