Chapter - III

PROCEDURE

In this chapter the procedure followed by the research scholar for collection of data is described. The following methods were used for collecting the data.

1. Interview Method
2. Questionnaire Method
3. The third method of data collection was through library sources. Books, journals, magazines, periodicals, newspapers, souvenirs, internet websites and annual reports of the clubs had been search thoroughly by the research scholar to collect relevant data for the present study.
4. Investigation of infrastructure facilities for soccer in the clubs was done by research scholar himself by visiting the clubs.

Selection of Subjects

The subjects selected for the present study were players (both Indian and foreign), coaches (both Indian and foreign), soccer administrators (both clubs and state soccer associations), sports journalists, veteran international players, referees and sponsors (who sponsors soccer tournaments and clubs in the country).
The players were selected from the leading Indian soccer clubs (which took part in the National Football League, 1998-99 season) and two newly formed professional clubs. The selected clubs were as follows: East Bengal, Mohun Bagan, Tollygunge Agragami (Calcutta); Salgaocar Sports Club, Churchill Brothers, Dempo Sports Club (Goa); Air India, Mahindra & Mahindra Sports Club, Bengal Mumbai Football Club (Mumbai); Indian Telecom Industry Sports Club, United Bangalore (Bangalore); Jagajith Cotton Textile Mills Club (Phagwara); F. C. Kochin (Kochi); and Indian Bank (Chennai).

From each club seven Indian players and two foreign players were randomly selected for the purpose of the study. All total 98 Indian players and 22 foreign players were investigated. Three clubs i.e. JCT, Air India and United Bangalore did not contain any foreign players in their team. Coaches and administrators of the above mentioned clubs were also investigated.

Other coaches of repute (of Indian senior, junior and sub-junior team coaches) and coaches of other clubs and state team were also investigated for the purpose of the study.

Administrative staffs (secretaries) of different state soccer associations were also investigated for the present study. The details of the subjects are presented in the table 1.
Table 1

DETAILS OF SELECTED SUBJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Nature of Subjects</th>
<th>Total Number of Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Indian Players</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Foreign Players</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Indian Coaches</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Foreign Coaches</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Soccer Administrators</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Veteran International Players</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Sports Journalists</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Referees</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Sponsors</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total = 310

Selected Areas of the Study

The main purpose of the study was to analyse the Indian soccer in the context of National Football League and to find out the reasons responsible for poor standard of Indian soccer. Following areas were selected for the purpose of the study:

1. Indian soccer and professionalism.
3. Clubs' status and functioning.
4. Infrastructure status.
5. Foreign players and coaches.
7. Performances of Indian soccer team.
8. All India Football Federation and its functioning.
9. Indian players' and their background in soccer.
10. Media and Indian soccer.
11. Sponsorship in Indian soccer.
12. Soccer referees and officiating.
13. Veteran players and their playing days.

The above selected areas were investigated by different selected methods. The areas listed above were not applicable to all the selected groups of subjects. For each selected group of subjects a selected areas within the above mentioned areas were selected for the purpose of the study.

With the experience of the research scholar, expertise of the advisor and available literature it was decided to limit the area of investigation for each group of subjects, so as to get more authentic and reliable information about Indian soccer.
Preparation for Research Interview

For the interview to be successful the research scholar did the groundwork prior to the actual interview with the subjects. Before the actual interview following preparation had been done by the research scholar:

1. Most of the subjects involved in the study were directly under the control of the clubs and All India Football Federation, the parent body for soccer in the country. To get best possible responses in the study, the research scholar obtained a permission to conduct the investigation from the secretary, All India Football Federation. The secretary, All India Football Federation was kind enough to permit the investigator to proceed with the research work. The secretary in his permission letter requested everyone to cooperate in the study (the letter is presented in appendix - A).

2. Selection and listing of subjects for the interviews.

3. The scholar appraised the clubs about the present study (via a request letter) and asked for their cooperation in the study.

Other selected subjects were also informed about the present study via a letter and with a request to cooperate in the study.

The details of letter are as follows:
A. Contents of covering letter:
   i) name of the research scholar
   ii) purpose of the study
   iii) request for convenient date(s) and time for interview

B. All India Football Federation’s letter (urging for their cooperation in the study).

C. A self-addressed and stamped envelope.

4. The area of investigation were demarcated separately for each selected group of subjects.

5. According to the area of investigation selected for each group of subjects, the statements and questions were prepared by the research scholar with the help of advisor and experts.

6. The interview response to statements and questions were both structured and unstructured.

7. The research scholar also prepared for the use of tape-recorder for recording interviews, if the subject permits.

8. Practice sessions were conducted by the research scholar in the presence of the advisor to become well-versed with the skills of interview.
Administration of the Interview

Before the actual interview date, the research scholar personally met the subjects and introduced himself (this followed the letter of correspondence) and fixed the date and time.

Before fixing the date and time, the area of investigation was again briefed to the subjects and the total duration of interview period was told to the subjects. Most of the interviews lasted for 10 to 45 minutes.

Before the actual beginning of the interview, the research scholar handed over a letter to the subjects signed by the research scholar ascertaining that the responses of the subject will be kept confidential and only be used for research purpose, and no personal comments will be quoted in the study.

After the above briefing and formalities the interview actually began. The interview was conducted as per planned and formulated statements and questions prepared by the research scholar. The responses of the interviews were recorded in the recording sheets prepared by the research scholar and nearly fifty interviews were recorded in the tape-recorder.

The interview ended by expression of thanks from the research scholar in recognition of the subject’s generosity in sparing time and action.
Construction of Questionnaire

A questionnaire was framed and constructed by the research scholar in consultation with the advisor and other experts. Utmost care was taken to prepare the questionnaire ensuring maximum coverage of the area of investigation so as to get maximum, worthwhile and meaningful response from the selected subjects. The questionnaire was only constructed for the secretaries of different State soccer associations.

Attempt was made to make the questions simple, clear and relevant leaving no room for ambiguity. The responses of most of the question were 'YES' or 'NO' which were to be recorded by ticking the appropriate statements according to their choice in the columns provided. Questionnaire also included open-ended questions to allow the respondents to give their response according to their own experience, knowledge, ideas, observations, trends, and practice, and suggestions for the improvement of the game in the country.

A draft questionnaire was devised, observing the principles of questionnaire preparation. The draft was scrutinised by different experts. After the scrutiny all meaningful suggestions were incorporated in the final draft of questionnaire. A total of 54 questions were included in the questionnaire.
Administration of the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was only used to elicit data from secretaries of State soccer associations. The final draft of questionnaire was mailed to 28 different state secretaries. The mailed questionnaire included the following:

1. Contents of covering letter:
   a) name of the research scholar
   b) purpose of the study
2. All India Football Federation’s letter (asking for cooperation from the subjects).
3. The direction for filling-up the questionnaire.
5. Instruction for returning the questionnaire was also included in it.

After waiting for 6 weeks, the secretaries who did not responded were approached by a follow-up letter with the request to return the questionnaire. Waiting for a further period of 3 weeks, another attempt was made to collect the questionnaire. Finally the returned questionnaire were taken up for analysis.
Collection of Data

Data were collected as per plan. Details of the research scholar's visit for the purpose of the study are presented in the table 2.

Table 2

PLACES VISITED AND NUMBER OF SUBJECTS COVERED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Visited Dates</th>
<th>Visited Place(s)</th>
<th>Clubs/Academies Visited</th>
<th>Total Number of Subjects Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>14 May '98 to 20 May '98</td>
<td>Kochi Kannur</td>
<td>F.C. Kochin</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>22 May '98 to 28 May '98</td>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>United Bangalore Indian Telecom Industry</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3 June '98 to 6 June '98</td>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>Indian Bank</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>24 January '99 to 6 February '99</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
<td>Air India Mahindra &amp; Mahindra BMFC</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>7 February '99 to 15 February '99</td>
<td>Margao Vasco Panjim</td>
<td>Salgaocar Club Dempo Club Churchill Brothers Sesa Football Academy Mohun Bagan East Bengal Tollygunge Agragami</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>18 February '99 to 25 February '99</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Visited Date(s)</th>
<th>Visited Place(s)</th>
<th>Clubs/Academies Visited</th>
<th>Total Number of Subjects Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>26 February '99</td>
<td>Jamshedpur</td>
<td>Tata Football Academy</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>27 March to 3 April '99</td>
<td>Phagwara Nava Sahar Jalandhar</td>
<td>JCT</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The research scholar visited above mentioned places and personally investigated the infrastructure facilities of clubs. The data collected from library sources were related to trends and practices of professional soccer both India and abroad with respect to the purpose of the current study. Few European soccer clubs were also contacted to get relevant information about their clubs' administrative details.

**Data Processing**

After collecting data from all the sources, the data were categorised under different heads according to the area of investigation and purpose of the study for analysis.