Chapter – V

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based mainly on field observations and draws upon a selective review of literature on women leadership. Around 50 women leaders from 31 wards in Narsapur Municipality of West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh were met and spoken during this course of study. The interviews are based on a one time interaction and there were no follow up visits. However, even with these limitations the interviews provided a glimpse of the qualities of leadership that have emerged in many places and the difference it has made to the lives of many women in this town.

METHODOLOGY:

The following stand as the hypotheses of the study:

1. Family background helped the women to emerge as political leaders.

2. There is a positive correlation between women literacy and political participation.

3. Social status is a significant source for women to emerge as leaders.

4. Younger women prefer to enter into politics and become leaders.

5. Financial dependence is an obstacle for women to become effective leaders.

6. Women leaders give priority for problems of health, hygiene and education etc., when compared to long term priorities of male counterparts.

7. Women leaders face practical problems to balance the dual responsibilities, i.e., socio-political and family roles.

8. Traditions and practices of the society cause for the encouragement of proxy leadership.
PROCEDURE

Upon completion of review of literature and the existing theoretical considerations, a pilot study was conducted. On the basis of the observations of the pilot study in the municipal town ‘Narasapur’ selected as universe for the purpose of this study, the hypotheses were formulated within the scope of the objectives of the study. Women who either served or serving at the time of the study as the members of the deliberative body of the Local Government are chosen as sample. The total size of the population itself is small.

A questionnaire was prepared and administered for raising data. Scientific procedures and techniques were followed for collecting the data. The data were classified and categorized as per the pre-determined categorizations. The data were analyzed for significance without employing any higher statistical methods, for the size of the sample is small. The analysis of the data was corroborated with the findings of the earlier studies besides determining the extent of compliance with existing conceptions. Further, it was used to determine whether the hypotheses and objectives of the study got validated by the data or not. Findings of the study largely confirmed and upheld the hypotheses. The study resulted in many observations fit to be inputs for policy makers and implementers.

The thesis is organized into chapters and each chapter reflecting the progress of the study as well as the links with the previous and next chapters. In all the thesis contains eight chapters besides Bibliography and the select appendices.

The present study entitled "The Emergence of Women Leadership in Narsapur Municipality : A Case Study” is an empirical study. It is based on both primary and secondary sources of data.

Tools for Investigation
The researcher gathered the data and information through published material, official documents, books and government records. The method adopted in this study is case method approach. The study is supported by data collection, observation, interviews etc. For the purpose of collection of primary data the research tools used in are:

1. A pre-structured interview schedule meant for eliciting information from the sample women respondents. The women local leaders of the town constituted the sample of our study. Altogether 50 women councilors, Chairpersons, ex-councilors etc., formed the sample of the study.

2. The technique of observation and

3. Personal interviews and discussions with the women leaders, home makers and the local government functionaries.