Chapter – 3

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

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3.1. Introduction:

The methodology is the way that one adopts to interpret his feelings, experiences and facts all around him. The method is the way of observing, classifying and interpreting the facts. The knowledge derived through the application of scientific methods constitutes natural sciences like physics, chemistry, biology, etc. the knowledge gained through the application of logical and to some extent scientific methods constitute social sciences like sociology, economics, political science, etc.

Methods are specific to the subject. The nature of methods is decided by the fields in which they are applied. Therefore, at large, the methods of natural sciences are different from those of the social sciences. It does not mean that the methods of both natural and social sciences could not be exchanged for academic purposes. We are passing through the age of science and technology. Each subject claims to be a science. The current trend is that social sciences are also borrowing and utilizing the concepts, tools and methods of natural sciences to gain greater objectivity and empiricism.

Sociology is mother of all social science subjects. It is a science of social relations found among the individual and group of society. It is a science of reference of one to other be it an individual or group. Whether sociology applied pure scientific method or not, is a matter of controversy even among the sociologists of today. Some stands for scientific methods and while other argue for logical or philosophical methods. However, when we concede the claim that sociology to be a science, all controversies in this connection are of no significance.
The present research study is related to analyze the violence acts against women in Gulbarga district. Here the natures of the variables include age, religion, caste, health, education, employment, social status, family background, etc. Keeping in view the diverse objectives framed for studying extent of violence against women, a variety of tools and techniques that suit best the requirement of the present study are adopted.

3.2. Sources:

Totally three information sources are used for the present study as under.

1. Statistical Sources:

The information records on women victims that are maintained in Police Stations which revealed the Case No., Type of Violence, Name of Victim, Name of the Accused, Address, Area, etc. The Police Officials were rejected to provide information on these sources, but the researcher was assured that such information should be kept confidential and not to be published anywhere and in this way, the Police Officials were convinced. Later, on the assurance of the researcher that these records should be deleted after reference, the Police officials were given these records. In this way, the statistical sources at local level were collected. Further, the research reports published, research papers, books, web based statistical sources such as Indiastat.com, were searched to collect the statistics on violence against women at national and state level.

2. Secondary Sources:

The violence against women is multidimensional and of different types. As such, to study the different types of violence, extent of exploitation, gender based atrocities, secondary sources such as books, research papers published in research journals; conference proceedings, web sites, newspapers, etc were referred.
3. Primary Sources:

The research study is mainly based on primary sources of information. To collect the primary data, the researcher collected primary data with the help of interview schedule. The interview schedule containing information on different aspects such as socio-economic, education, violence acts, etc of the respondents acts as primary sources of information for the present research study.

3.3. Research Methodology:

The discussion of concepts, variables in the study, the step by step procedure in the research work are studied under following headings.

1. Meaning of the Concepts:

Following terms are used in defining the research problem and the meaning of these terms and concepts are discussed as under.

**Violence** : 1. Physical force used so as to injure, damage or destroy; extreme roughness of action; 2. intense, often devastatingly or extreme roughness of action; 3. a) unjust or callous use of force or power, as in violating another’s rights, sensibilities, etc. b) the harm done by this. 4. great force or strength of feeling, conduct or expression; vehemence; fury; 5. a twisting or wrenching of a sense, phrase, etc. so as to distort the original or true sense or form; 6. an instance of violence; violent act or deed.

**Sociological** : 1. of or having to do with human society, its organization, needs, development, etc.
2. Variables Studied:

Keeping the objectives in mind, it was decided to have vast information on various background characteristics such as socio-economic, demographic, cultural, attitudinal, behavioural, etc of the respondents was collected. However, the variables which have been taken into account in this study are based on relevant theoretical and logical grounds. Moreover, for a clear understanding of the nature of these variables further, classification or different grouping of variables on the basis of location such as rural and urban was done. In the justification for the selection of the determinants (Variables) and their hypothesized relationship is well presented.

In order to test the hypotheses mentioned in the first chapter, a few social variables were listed for the cross verification analysis and these variables are as follows.

Demographic Variables:

The major demographic characteristics of the respondents which are included in the present study are the occupation, age of the respondents, marital status, caste, religion, etc. These characteristics were considered to be important to evaluate the qualitative aspects of the study.

Economic Characteristics:

The significant economic characteristics of the respondents were undertaken for the study of different age groups of the respondents, economic conditions of the family, worth of properties owned, etc.

Social Characteristics:

The major social characteristics of the respondents studied here are: place of residence, religion, caste, type of family, number of members in family, education, etc was also gathered.
**Behavioural Variables:**

The important behavioural characteristics of the respondents considered to be like making discussions on different aspects of family, different situations faced in family life, etc.

**3. Samples:**

Sample procedure can be compared to a mirror, which gives reflection true to the original. Goode and Hatt defined ‘Sample as a small representation of the larger whole’.

Nanline defined it as ‘a subset of cases from the population chosen to represent it. By using the characteristic and the subset, we can infer the characteristics of the populations’.

Hence, the use of sampling allows for more adequate scientific work by making the time of the scientific method worked count. Instead of working many hours over the analysis of a mass of material from one point of view, it is suggested to use that time to examine a smaller amount of material from many points of view. In others words, to do a more intensive analysis of fewer cases were done. Another obvious value of sampling is that it also saves time and money and thus makes investigations possible, which could not otherwise be undertaken.

**4. Collection of Statistical Data:**

Before collection of primary data, it is essential to collect the statistical data on the women victims. This statistical information is available in Police Stations as the women victims were lodged complaints with Police. Hence, statistical data on the cases of violence, name of women victims, address, age, etc are collected from Police Stations located at different parts of Gulbarga district. It is emphasized that the Police authorities did not allowed to
give the identification particulars of the women victims, but on assurance from
the researcher to keep the information confidential and only used on the basis
of averages and academic use only, the information was shared by the Police
Department.

5. Sample Size:

Having identified seven talukas in the district and based on the women
victims staying in different talukas and villages, a question was arise that how
many respondents should be covered under the study as there is limited frame.
Keeping in view time and money constraints the approach was that the number
should neither be so large that it becomes unmanageable for a single researcher
nor it should be so small that any meaningful analysis becomes difficult.
To stake a balance it was decided that the study would cover a selected
samples, i.e., 500.

6. Sampling Procedure:

Having decided the size of sample it was considered to select the
500 women victims, of which 250 respondents from rural areas and
250 respondents are from Gulbarga city and towns. It is noted that primary data
was collected from 35-40 respondents from each town, namely, Gulbarga,
Jewargi, Sedam, Chincholi, Afzalpur, Aland and Chittapur and total number of
respondents from these towns is limited to 250 and about the researcher also
visited 5-6 villages under each of these talukas and depending on the
availability, surveyed 5-6 respondents from each of the villages surveyed
depending on the availability of the cases. Different aspects such as type of
cases, family background, age, education, occupation, etc are considered while
selecting the sample units.
During the pilot study, opinions were sought from few respondents on their experiences and opinions on the different aspects mentioned in interview schedule.

7. Tools and Techniques for Data Collection:

After conferring the study to the selected towns and villages located in Gulbarga district and sample size, the problem of collecting information appears. Focused interviews gave an insight into a number of relevant problems, provided valuable information and acquaintance with major current trends and developments of opinion. All these could not be subjected to statistical analysis and interpretation.

For the purpose of the study, the researcher preferred to adopt the method of structured interview schedule which consists both fixed alternative question (closed questions and open ended questions). Such schedule set to ensure that answers are given in a frame of reference that is relevant to the purpose of inquiry and in a form that is usable in the analysis. Some of the open ended questions were also set to permit a free response from the subject rather than limited. The respondents were interviewed with help of interview schedule. It is a method, which reveals relevant data through a set of stimulus questions. Before to start the data collection a pilot study of 15 respondents was conducted with a view to eliminated and minimize the ambiguity. Thus, ambiguous words, phrases and emotional questions are deleted and leading questions were included. In this way, the final interview schedule was prepared and the problems and situations of violence against women were analyzed, so as to assess the physical and mental problems faced by women victims due to gender based violence.

The objectivity of the research depends much more upon the way of approaching and establishing rapport with the respondents for purposeful information. Besides, sampling, interview schedules which are the great tools
by which the researcher enters into the inner life of respondents to several secret information. Even the researcher worked as observer. As Webs puts it, “deliberate and sustained personal observation is an indispensable part of the study of any social institution. Even if the social institution itself is invisible and intangible in its wholeness”.

The units, items, parts are particular manifestation of the institution are often open to observation. This method has been in vogue even before the emergence of organized research in the social sciences. Young has defined it as “deliberate study through the eye; which may be used as one of the method for scrutinizing the totality”. The researcher is observed many of the women victims’ daily life so as to analyze their socio-economic life and problems and challenges derived from violence. When asked with few of such women, they have helped the researcher to give different aspects related to situations of violence, causes of violence, persons responsible for such violence, etc and their present family life. The researcher personally studied the information collected from these respondents on different aspects.

The objectivity of the study is further strengthened by the adequate secondary data. In this regard relevant and required information for the present study are gathered through documentary sources such as books, research journals, news papers, magazines, annual reports, gazetteer, web pages in internet, etc have helped much to know about the facts. Some of the Government web sites also helped to collect the statistical information on the gender based violence and violence against women.

8. Analysis and Discussion of Primary Data:

A large volume of data collected, manual handling of such voluminous data was quite cumbersome and unmanageable, besides sophisticated statistical analysis of data was also very difficult to handle manually. Therefore, it was guided to handle the entire data through computer. The data was primarily
analyzed in terms of variables and multivariable analysis. Thus, the data are statistically analyzed and statistical co-relations between different variables are established. Thus, the work is done in framework of these methodological dimensions.

9. Challenges Encountered:

All the researches conducted in social sciences give due importance to objectivity and correctness of the information gathered through techniques available, every man doing his research has to face a lot of difficulties in course of field work. However, it is expected that the researcher would face them all and would create a favourable atmosphere to secure relevant information.

A researcher is always treated as a stranger. Being female research scholar pursuing research on violence against women, it was become a difficult problem for the researcher to collect the primary data from women victims as these women were shy and not cooperated initially to give the acts of violence. Hence, the researcher faced much difficulty to convince and oblige women victims to provide the information correctly. Further, the family members of few of the victims were also suspicious on the researcher and it was assured to the respondents and their family members to accept the facts and their names should be kept confidential. In many cases, the respondents were not come out, but their parents including brothers of the women victims were furnished the information that is required for the research study.

Park and Burgess (1924) aptly described the coordination aspect of rapport. “Rapport implies the existence of a natural responsiveness, such that every member of the group reacts immediately, spontaneously and sympathetically to the sentiments and attitudes of every other member”.

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The researcher started establishing rapport with women victims at different towns by visiting 2-3 times to their houses. In about six to eight months’ time with a special effort to focus the problems of violence against women, the researcher wins the sentiments of these women victims. With the discussion about their problems, the women victims responded positively to the researcher. In many cases, the family members especially mother and father of women victims were literally crying with sorrow regarding the violent acts of persons against their daughters. Few of the family members of women victims were illiterate and asked to the researcher for legal measures to be taken against violence. The researcher consoles these parents of the respondents with suitable suggestions.

The researcher started the field work in January 2014 and the first visit of the researcher was made to almost respondents on Sunday or general holiday, so that researcher can find free time along with the respondents. The problems multiplied as field work progressed; once initial rapport was established and association with women victims or their family members living in various towns and villages were recognized by different sets of informants, they become suspicious of my activities and the purpose of the work. To overcome this difficulty, few of them checked my identity card and letter from the Department of the University. Their doubt is dispelled by verifying these proofs and they fostered confidence and responded positively to my study. Even few of their family and social problems were clarified and solved by the researcher during the field work.

The survey of the victims staying in villages under different talukas was made in April-May 2014. The researcher visited two small villages located nearby or a town in a day and met the nearest women victims and interviewed. Hence, interviews of the women victims or their relatives were conducted during day time in their families (residences). Even few of the respondents or
their relatives were shared their personal and family problems with the researcher.

Hence, these interviews were normally completed in three to four sittings and each interview on an average took two to four hours and at times more depending upon the willingness of the respondents to convey the information. That is how the desired sample of 400 interviews was completed in about six months.
3.4. References:

