Chapter III

Locale and Research Methodology

3.1 Introduction

The present chapter attempts to present brief information of the area of this study besides the research procedures adopted for collecting and analysing the data so as to achieve the specified objectives. It is necessary for the researcher to design a methodology for the problem chosen as it gives the work plan of how research is to be carried out. Research methodology is a systematic way to solve a problem. It is a science of studying how research is to be carried out. Essentially, the procedures by which researcher goes about their work of describing, explaining and predicting phenomena called research methodology. It is also defined as the study of methods by which knowledge is gained. Its aim is to give the work plan of research.

3.2 Locale of the Study

The state of Punjab occupies an extremely important place in India. It is the country’s largest grain producer, and plays a crucial role in defending India against military aggression. In the last century, the state’s geographical boundaries have shifted twice—the violent partition of India in 1947 and the administrative division of Punjab state in 1966 into present day Punjab and the states of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. In recent years, the state has also faced two periods of internal crisis. There was the Naxalite inspired Left movement of the 1960s and 1970s. The 1980s and early 1990s saw the state plunge into a militant movement. Yet, in spite of these disturbances, today human development indicators in Punjab rival the best in the nation.

Punjab, the land of five rivers was and is called the crown of India. Some people call it the sturdy and strong arms of India. The Punjab – its land and people hold a unique and very important position on the mosaic of India. Dr. B.P. Saksena in his presidential address to the Punjab History Conference Proceedings, Third Session, in March 1969 said, “To my mind the Punjab is India in miniature. It is the entrepot of
Indian History and Indian Culture. Its contribution to the rest of the sub-continent is immeasurable both in terms of quality and content.

The Present Punjab came into existence on November 1966 at the culmination of Punjabi Suba Morcha. It is now unilingual state. The present Punjab has the smallest ever size in its history. The southern parts of pre-1966 Punjab were formed into a new State called Haryana. North-eastern hill areas were merged with Himachal Pradesh. Thus, the present Punjab is predominantly a plain region state with Sikhs as the major inhabiting group, and Punjab as the main and the official language of the state.

Punjab is located in the north-western part of India. It is the western component of the Great Northern Plains or the Satluj Ganga Plains of India. It extends from 29º 30’ to 32º 32’ North latitude and from 73º 55’ to 76º 50’ East longitude. Its north-south distance is about 335 km. and it extends for 300 km. in East-west direction. It shares international border with Pakistan in the west. Jammu & Kashmir lies in the north and it is bounded by Himachal Pradesh in the north-east. The state of Haryana lies in its south. It shares border with Rajasthan in the south-west.

Rupnagar is named after its district headquarters, the town of Rupnagar. Formerly known as Ropar, the town of Rupnagar is said to have been founded by a Raja called Rokeshar, who ruled during the 11th century and named it after his son Rup Sen. The town is of considerable antiquity. Recent excavations and explorations conducted at Rupnagar indicate that the first civilized folk to settle here were the Harappans, who apparently reached the upper Satluj towards the close of third millenium B.C. District was carved out on 1st November, 1966 at the of re-organization of the State. The District has rich historical and religious significance behind it. A new district S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali) has been created on 14-04-2006. Two blocks Kharar and Majri of earlier Rupnagar District have been merged with the newly created district.

Rupnagar district, included in the Patiala Division of Punjab falls between north latitude 30º-32’ and 31º-24’ and east longitude 76º-18’ and 76º-55’. Rupnagar (formerly known as Ropar) town, the district headquarters is 42 Kms from
Chandigarh, the state capital. The district adjoins Nawanshahar, Mohali and Fatehgarh Sahib Districts of Punjab. The district comprises 4 Tehsils, Rupnagar, Anandpur Sahib, Nangal and Chamkaur Sahib and includes 624 villages and 6 towns namely Rupnagar, Chamkaur Sahib, Anandpur sahib, Morinda, Kiratpur Sahib and Nangal. All the towns except Chamkaur sahib fall on railways line. The Satluj river passes close (2 to 5 km) to the towns of Nangal, Rupnagar and Anandpur Sahib.

The climate of Rupnagar District is characterized by its general dryness (except in the south-west monsoon season), a hot summer and a bracing cold winter. The year may be divided into four seasons. The period from about middle of November to February is the cold season. This is followed by the summer season from March to about the end of June. The south-west monsoon season commences late in June and continues up to about middle of September. The period from mid September to the middle of November constitute the post-monsoon or transition season. The temperature ranges from minimum of 4° C in winter to 45° C in summer. May and June are generally hottest months and December and January are the coldest months. Relative humidity is high, averaging about 70 percent during monsoon. The average annual rainfall in district is 775.6 mm. About 78 percent of the annual rainfall is received during the period from June to September. The soils of the District vary in texture generally from loam to silty clay loam except along the Sutlej River and chos where some sandy patches may be found. Chamkaur Sahib and Kharar blocks have sodic soils. The soils of Anandpur Sahib and Rupnagar blocks are undulating.

According to census of India 2011, the total population of the district is 6,83,349 and (the total population of Punjab State is 2,77,04,236). Moreover out of which 3, 57,265 male and 3, 26,084 females. The literacy rate of the district is 83.3 percent out of which 88.9 percent male and 77.2 percent female. The sex ratio is 913 females per 1000 males.

Table 3.1 Spatial Distribution of Population in Ropar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Literacy rate</th>
<th>Sex ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6,83,349</td>
<td>3,57,265</td>
<td>3,26,084</td>
<td>83.3 percent</td>
<td>913</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Census of India, 2011
3.3 Rationale of the Study:

The district Ropar comprises five administrative blocks, Rupnagar, Anandpur Sahib, Nurpur bedi, Morinda and Chamkaur Sahib and includes 624 villages. Since the implementation of PRWSS project is just not limited to the participation of community members and GPWSC members but also intends to look into the effects on the quality of life of the community members as well. The PRWSS project has started from 2008 still there is not a single study on this project but thus a need was felt to understand and evaluate the functioning, awareness and performance of the beneficiaries and the GPWSC committees towards achievement of the PRWSS goals. For the purpose of the study four villages has been taken from the each administrative block. Total twenty successful working Gram Panchayat Water Supply and Sanitation committee has been selected and studied.

3.4 Objective of the Study:

1. To study the socio-demographic profile of the member of the GPWSC committee.
2. To study the composition, process of formation and the functions of the GPWSC.
3. To evaluate the activities of the GPWSC undertaken towards meeting the intended goals of PRWSS Project.
4. To study the level of awareness about GPWSC committees among the community members.
5. To study the views of the community members about the working of the GPWSC.
6. To explore the problems and constraints faced by GPWSC committees.
7. To study the scope of social work intervention in improving the working of GPWSC committees.
3.5 Methodology

The present study was conducted in the villages of Ropar District. First, to observe the actual existing condition of Gram Panchayat Water Supply and Sanitation Committee, second, to watch the composition and process of GPWSC, and awareness among the community members regarding the functions and working patterns of GPWSC. The study furthermore explores the problem and constraint faced by the members of GPWSC. For describing the general features of the study and the pattern of the GPWSC at the District level, secondary data has been utilized, while primary data were collected directly from the selected respondents. The methodology adopted for the present study is primarily descriptive, interpretive and evaluative in nature. It attempts mainly to capture the Functioning of Gram Panchayat Water Supply
Committees under Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Ropar District.

Since this study has been carried out in the twenty villages of one of the districts of Punjab with, unique feature of the district is that geography of the district include Kandi Area, Bet Area and Plan Area, thus the researcher may be able to provide an overall picture of the functioning of Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project in entire state.

3.5.1 Universe

The universe of the present study as is mentioned earlier, is the Ropar district in the state of Punjab comprising five blocks namely Ropar, Morinda, Nurpur Bedi, Anandpur Sahib, Chamkour Sahib. This district is having 6,83,349 total population according to 2011 census. The table 3.2 shows the population of five block in Ropar District.

3.5.2 Sampling

The study would cover 20 villages of Ropar District where the Punjab Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project is being implemented. For the purpose of evaluating the GPWSC, a random sample of 300 respondents would be drawn out of which 100 respondents would be from GPWSC members and the remaining 200 non-member beneficiaries. Accordingly, out of the 200 non-member beneficiaries, 100 would be male and 100 would be female.

To give an equal representation to each village and each committee, 5 members from each committee and 10 non-members (5 male and 5 female) would be randomly selected for the proposed sample.
Table 3.2: List of Block Wise Distribution of Villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Blocks</th>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>GPWSC Members</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ropar</td>
<td>Ropar</td>
<td>Katli</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Panjola</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kamalpur</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Khoaspura</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morinda</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dhianpura</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chitamali</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Badi Madoli</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Khabran</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurpur Bedi</td>
<td></td>
<td>Barrari</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jhandian Khurd</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jhingri</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Balewal</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anandpur Sahib</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jhingri</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dolewal</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Majher</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dhermajari</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamkour Sahib</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dholran</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhoje Majra</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bhero Majra</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mahetot</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total      | 1      | 5                | 20             | 100          | 200          |

3.5.3 Tools of Data Collection:

The tools for data collection would mainly be Structured Interview Schedule and on the spot observation from the selected sample of the present study. The Data was collected in the months of October and November 2010, with the help of a pre-designed and structured two interview schedule. The interview schedules consisted of two types, one for GPWSC Members and second for the beneficiaries of the PRWSS project. The interview schedules framed to collect the relevant information according to the pre-decided objectives of the present study. In the first interview schedules, beneficiaries were interviewed with regard to socio-demographic data, personal profile, and social life, study the level of awareness community members among the committee’s members about these committees, the views of community members about the working of GPWSC.

In the second interview schedule was designed to collect the information from the members of Gram Panchayat Water Supply and Sanitation Committee (GPWSC) regarding the socio-demographic data, personal profile, and social life, process of
formation of GPWSC and also the problem and constraints faced by GPWSC members. Observation was made with regard to personal profile of the respondents and living standard of the respondents.

3.5.4 Interview Schedule

Interview schedule for both Beneficiaries and Gram Panchayat Water Supply and Sanitation was designed and utilized for collecting the data from the field. Pre-testing of schedule was done to avoid redundancy and to make questions more lucid and clear. The questions were in English language but in the course of field visits, these questions were translated into Punjabi as well as the local dialect of the respondents. The interview schedule was based upon the objectives of the study. As a result, certain modifications were introduced in few questions. In order to have non-judgemental and unbiased answers, most of the questions were asked open ended and the responses later on were incorporated in available choices to facilitate easy and systematic coding of the Schedule for subsequent data analysis.

Depending upon the objectives of the study, the two Scheduled was designed each divided into five parts. The First part of the both Scheduled contain the questions regarding the personal profile of the respondent like his age, sub-caste, religion, education, marital status and the type of work etc.

The second part of the both interview schedule contain questions relating to the family profile like the type of the family, number of children, school going children, reasons of children not attending school Husband’s employment status, dependents in the family etc.

The third part of the both schedule contains questions relating to the economic profile like family income, expenditure, moveable and immovable property both at destination and the native place.

The fourth part of the first scheduled contains the questions relating to the level of awareness community members among the committee’s members about these committees, and the second scheduled also contains the questions relating to the process of formation of GPWSC.
The last and the fifth part of the first scheduled contains the questions relating to the views of community members about the working of GPWSC, and the second scheduled also contains the questions relating to the problem and constraints faced by GPWSC members.

Extra care was taken while framing the questions so that the respondents do not have any difficulty in interpreting and comprehending their meanings. Discussion proved as a useful tool to collect and verify the information collected through the both schedule.

3.5.5 Interview

As pointed out earlier, the interview with the respondents was based on the structured interview schedule. It gave an opportunity to the researcher to have a face-to-face interaction with the respondents. While administering the interview schedule, care was taken that the interaction between the researcher and the respondent is focussed and to the point. However, at times, it drifted away and resulted into an informal discussion, which, of course, proved very useful in having an in-depth insight into the problem. A few of the women respondents were interviewed in the presence of their husbands because they were reluctant to be talked alone.

3.5.6 On the Spot Observation

An observation has been one of most reliable tool of data collection in the sense that during the inquiry of facts many scheduled caste persons to hide the real information. The observations of the researcher were helpful mainly in the issues relating to housing conditions, social practices, work schedule, working environment and the interaction all patterns of the beneficiaries and GPWSC members in these villages. In order to develop a good rapport with the respondents, the researcher, engaged himself in their family chores and participated in many of their family functions.

3.5.7 Data Analysis

After the field work was over, all the schedules were checked and some of the information written here and there on the schedules was rewritten against the
appropriate choices of a particular question so as to facilitate subsequent analysis of this data. After that the whole data of each respondent was fed in to computer for further tabulation and interpretation. The help was taken from the Statistical Pack for Social Sciences (SPSS) and simple statistical methods like average, ratios and percentage were used at appropriate places for analyzing this data.

During the course of this field work, some difficulties were faced by the researcher. The most important among these difficulties was the apprehensions and the suspicion expressed some of the house-holds specially women, regarding the real identity of the researcher. But it was after much of the persuasive efforts that the researcher could prove his identity and secure their help and cooperation for interviewing them.

Data collection was a time consuming process and therefore a few of the respondents were not willing to spare a long time for the interview. However this problem was countered by the researcher by interviewing them while staying with their family during the leisure time and sometimes for the nights as well.

3.5.8 Chapterisation

The entire study has been divided into seven chapters:

1. Chapter one elaborates the problems and status of rural water supply and sanitation situation in India and Punjab.
2. Chapter two presents an in depth reviews of the literature regarding rural water supply and sanitation in India and Punjab.
3. Chapter three elaborates the research methodology of the study like the information regarding the universe, the sample, the tools of data collection, the schedule, the interview, the observation and data analysis, tabulation and its interpretation. The chapter also include the statements of the objectives and the hypotheses of the study.
4. Chapter four is devoted to the profile of the Beneficiaries and GPWSC member’s. It covers personal, family and economic aspects like the sub-caste, age, marital status, family type, income and expenditure.
5. Chapter five contains the information regarding the expectations, views and level of awareness of Peoples about GPWSC.

6. Chapter six contains the awareness regarding the functions and performance of the GPWSC and intervention strategies for problems and constraints faced by the GPWSC’s.

7. Chapter seven presents the findings regarding the role of Gram Panchayat Water Supply and Sanitation Committee. It contains a comprehensive account of the information regarding the formation, composition, functions and performance of the GPWSC and also the expectations, views and level of awareness of Peoples about GPWSC. Finally the entire work has been summarized and some conclusions and recommendations following the findings of the study. In, the last part a comprehensive bibliography along with some appendices also been presented.

3.6 Limitations of the Study:

The objectivity of the present study is largely dependent as how real and true information has been given by the respondents. Since the information collected from the respondents may not be hundred percent true and real, so the study may reflect gaps at places. But extra care has been taken so that the information is objective and real as far as possible.

Second limitation of the study is its limited scope. As majority of the respondents were doing labour, who is involved in a vast variety of activities ranging from agriculture, it is practically not possible to study such a vast population in such a vast area. Since the present study is restricted to only beneficiaries and the GPWSC members of the Ropar district in the entire villages of the country, it may not address the issues in the entirely.

However, spite of these problems, efforts have been made to make the study as objective and as close to the realities as possible.