CHAPTER – III

METHODOLOGICAL FRAME WORK

3.1 Statement of the problem

The aged were significant in terms of stabilizing the personalities within the family. Their experiences and expertise have been doing matchless jobs for the younger generation and in turn, the members of the families could provide care for the aged significantly. The aged contributions cannot be measured quantitatively and they deliver their best whenever the families require crucial supports which are qualitative in nature. However, in the name of development number of processes are in progressing such as urbanization, industrialization, globalization, privatization and liberalization all the social institutions are facing different kinds of pressurization. The families have been converted as small units and happen to live as nuclear families, once the joint families consist of the aged were predominant to transform the culture, traditional values, norms etc., The changes take place in the family units and coming up of old age homes in urban areas are the two major features encourage the researcher to go to the field to study the happenings for the aged. In addition to that, the increased longevity and life expectancy are also the other two factors due to advancement in the health scenario of the country create maladjustment between the younger generations and the aged.
These factors are being quoted by the researchers across the country and beyond provoke the researcher to get the ideas about the aged. The dimension is when the age is increasing the problems are also joining with them resultantly the aged need the different kinds of support for their survival. This is a cause for the present study which has been carried out in the Attur block of Salem district of Tamil Nadu. The solitary reason for the researcher to select the rural area is the rural elderly are contributing their best when compared to the elderly of urban areas even though their working hours are less, since the agriculture and allied activities are in a position to provide the work to the aged.

3.2 The Research Questions

1. What types of problems faced by the elderly?
2. Why the elderly need care givers and who provide the care?
3. What is the role play by the elderly in the family?
4. What is the nature of involvement in the family of the elderly?
5. What type of relationships is being maintained by the elderly in the family?
6. What are the social supportive systems available for the elderly?
3.3 Objectives

On the basis of raising research questions the following objectives have been framed

1. To study the socioeconomic characteristics of the elderly in Attur Taluk, Salem district of Tamil Nadu

2. To understand the problems of the elderly in the study area

3. To analyze the social supportive systems available for the elderly

4. To understand the role of caregivers in helping the elderly

5. To know the Government Schemes and programmes available for the elderly
3.4 Area Profile

Profile of Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu state is situated at the South Eastern extremity of the Indian Peninsula bounded on the north by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh on the east by the Bay of Bengal, on the South by the Indian Ocean and on the West by Kerala State. Tamil Nadu is divided into 32 districts for administrative purpose. It has 10 city corporations, 125 municipalities, 529 town Panchayats and 12, 524 village Panchayats. Salem is one among them. The sex ratio represents the number of females for every 1000 males. The sex ratio for Tamil Nadu has increased from 987 in 2001 to 995 in 2011. The sex ratio in India is 940 in 2011 as against 933 in 2001.

The State can be divided broadly into two natural divisions (a) the Coastal plains of South India and (b) the hilly western area.
Parallel to the coast and gradually rising from it does the broad strip of plains comprise the districts of Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Cuddalore and Vellore. The alluvial plains of the Cauvery Delta extending over Thanjavur and part of Tiruchirapalli districts and dry southern plains in Madurai, Dindigul, Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli and Tuticorin districts. It extends a little beyond Western Ghats in Kanayakumari District. The Cauvery Delta presents some extremely distinctive physical and human features, its power being a main factor in the remarkable growth, the towns of Tamilnadu have witnessed. It is associated intimately with the life of all its broader regions.

Profile of Salem District

Salem is the fifth largest city in Tamil Nadu. The name 'Salem' appears to have been derived from Sela or Shalya by which the term refers to the country around the hills, as in the inscriptions. Local tradition claims Salem as the birthplace of Tamil poetess Avvaiyar. The town is surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills, the Nagarmalai in the north, the Jeragamalai in the south, the Kanjanamalai on the west and Godumalai on the east. The Thirumanimuthar in the main division divides it. The district is well connected by rail and road networks. Gorgeous silks and gossamer cottons from the handlooms of Salem are well known to the women. The High Court dhotties are to assuage
the men folk. Recently the weavers have entered the Textiles Export Market in a highway and the Government of India has selected Salem City to be notified as a Textile Export Zone. “THE SHEVAPET” the commercial heart of the city dealing with anything and everything from Gold, Silver, Food grains, Oils, Yarn and Textiles to Minerals etc. “Salem Steel Plant” is a famous full fledged steel plant is yet to be realized in the city.

According to the 2011 census Salem district has a population of 3,480,008, roughly equal to the nation of Panama or the US state of Connecticut. This gives it a ranking of 89th in India (out of a total of 640). The district has a population density of 663 inhabitants per square kilometer (1,720 /sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 15.37%. Salem has a sex ratio of 954 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 73.23%. It had a population of 3,480,008 as of the census of 2011. It is 46.09% urbanized. The district has a literacy rate of 73.23%.

Profile of Attur Taluk

Attur is a Selection Grade Municipal town and also the head quarters of Attur Taluk in Salem District. Formerly it was a town panchayat and was constituted as a Municipality with effect from 1.4.1965. It is a class II town. The extent of the Municipal area is 27.62 km. The population as per 2001 census is 57519. Attur is
surrounded by Gangavalli on east and Valapady on the west. Recently, the railway station was rebuilt and the tracks expanded to accommodate a broad gauge. Train services runs via Attur from Viruthachalam to Salem, Bangalore to Nagore and from Salem to Chennai.

Culture and Tradition

Attur is a very ancient town and it is known as the river town too and it is situated on the southern bank of the Vasista river. The name was shortened to Attur at the end of the 18th Century. It was formed part of Hyder domines till 1768. Then it surrendered to the Mr. Wood of East India Company. Again Hyder regained it from that company. After that company won a decisive victory in the 3rd Mysore war against Thippusultan. The fort was garrisoned in 1792 by the 23rd Madras battalion of the company under the command of captain compbell. The fort remained so until 1854 when it ceased to be military station. Attur fort is now ruined stone fort and situated on the northern bank of the Vasista River occupying an area of 62 acres.

Agriculture

The economy of the town also depends on agriculture and allied activities. The mentionable cultivated crops are such as tapioca, turmeric, corn, coleus-medicinal plant, sugar cane etc. One of the famous cultivated crop is tapioca (cassava roots), and there
are several tapioca-based industries today which manufacture products like sago for markets across India. It has many medicinal plant cultivators. Some of them are MGP (Coleus-medicinal plant), south India herbs (coleus). Attur is one of the four places in India to produce hybrid seeds (Cotton, BT Cotton) on Industrial scale. Attur is also notified for Rice Mills which supplies Rice to all parts of India.

Attur is the main exporting center next to Trichengode for Betel leaves to North Indian cities besides Tamil Nadu Towns. There are more than fifteen betel mandies located within the Attur Town in addition to twenty more finding place around the town. About 12 hectares of agricultural land are under betel leaf cultivation within the town.

Industries

Apart from the sago factories, the rice mills are also Attur. The Industrial use occupies 17.59% of the developed area and 2.20% of the total area of the town respectively. There are 25 Sego Factory, 2 Ginning Factory, 20 Rice Mill, 10 Flour Mill, 40 Small Scale Units are situated in this area. The Attur block is the study area for the present study, because many aged are surviving in this area when compared to other locations in Salem district of Tamil Nadu.
3.5 Type of research

This research follows the principles of basic research which emphasizes that the findings of the study may strengthen the scientific body of knowledge in ageing research.

3.6 Research design

The researcher has used descriptive research design for this study. The study described the problems of the elderly regarding their physical, economical and social problems as well as the available social supportive systems.

The researcher has used various sources like Village Administrative Officers, Panchayat Presidents, District Collectorate, Health Sub Centres to obtain the number of Aged in the study region. She identified 2560 elderly above the age of 60 were living in the five villages like Ammampalayam, Chinna Krishnapuram, Narasingapuram, Manjini, Thulukkanur of Attur Taluk. She has included 20% (512 from 2560 respondents) of the sample from the universe as by using Multi Stage Stratified Random Sampling.

3.7 Universe and Sample

The researcher could get information about the number of aged living in Salem District of Tamil Nadu through various sources which include the District Collector Office, Salem, Village Administrative Officers, Panchayat Presidents, Primary Health
Centres (PHCs) and its sub-units, Health Sub Centres (HSCs). She identified 2560 elderly above the age of 60 were living in the five following villages located in Attur taluk:

1. Ammampalayam
2. Chinna Krishnapuram
3. Narasingapuram
4. Manjini
5. Thulukkanur of Attur Taluk.

She has included 20% (512 from 2560 respondents) of the sample from the universe as by using Multi Stage Stratified Random Sampling.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Salem District</th>
<th>Attur Taluk</th>
<th>Villages</th>
<th>Total No. of Elderly</th>
<th>No. of Elderly selected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Manjini</td>
<td>328</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ammampalayam</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chinna Krishnapuram</td>
<td>326</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Narasingapuram</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thulukkanur</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2560</strong></td>
<td><strong>512</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.8 Pilot study and Pre-Test

The researcher has been visited a number of times in her area of study to get necessary information before constructing the interview schedule. These visits certainly helped her to ascertain the relevant information with regard to the problems of elderly
related to their health, economic, social and adjustment as well as the available supportive system for them.

She has kept on discussing with the research supervisor to construct the interview schedule. After several rounds of discussions, the semi structured interview schedule has been prepared. The Pre-Test helped the researcher to finalize the tool, interview schedule. The researcher interviewed fifteen respondents in the study region to pre-test the prepared interview schedule. In this process of finalizing the interview schedule a few questions have been added, a few deleted and at the end the interview scheduled was finalized.

3.9 Methods and tool of data collection

The researcher has used observation and interview as the methods of data collection apart from the interview schedule, as a tool for data collection.

3.10 Period of Data Collection

The data are being collected from 1st February 2012 onwards and completed 30th of April 2012.

3.11 Statistical Tests used

Besides the percentage analysis the researcher has used Chi-Square test to analyze the data from reaching the meaningful conclusion.
3.12 Chapter Schemes

The chapter I Introduction deals with the demographics of ageing, information related to the problems of the elderly, the policies and programs available for the aged and so on, the chapter II reviews the literature pertaining to the study of old age people, the third chapter devoted its attention on methodological framework which portrays the details of the present study and the way it has been carried out, the chapter IV analyzes the collected data in detail and the final chapter focuses its attention on the summary, conclusion and presents the essential suggestions.

3.13 Limitations of the Study

The researcher had to establish contacts with the aged and collected the data. Many of the elderly respondents are unaware of their real age and the researcher had to depend on others to obtain the necessary information in connection with the age.