CHAPTER II

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

(a) Methods of Investigation implied.

In majority of the economic investigations conducted the scope has not been scientifically defined with the result that the data collected is not comparable at two points of time or at two places, because the date pertaining to any enquiry are not accurately collected. It is most important that the purpose and scope of enquiry should be precisely defined at the out set. The method of manner of investigation and collections of data will naturally depend upon the purpose. For example, an enquiry into wages may be conducted for different purposes. It may be with a view to find out the distribution of income in the different strata or to judge the effects of income levels on birth and mortality rate or standard of living. Therefore, in the interest of scientific accuracy of the data to be collected in any investigation, it is very desirable that the method of investigation, purpose and scope should be explained.

For making an enquiry into the economic and social condition of Bearer at Aligarh, it is also an important task to decide an exact scope, which the enquiry of their socio-economic status cover, and also the method of conducting the investigation.

(b) Field of Investigation.

The field of investigation was the bearers of university hostel of Aligarh. The information regarding different purposes, was obtained by direct enquiry. Great part of enquiry was done by the help of fitting schedules. The first step consisted of the pilot survey with a tentatively prepared questionnaire while fitting in the schedule minute details of the bearer's life, came across. This helped in filling the gaps in original questionnaire and the
preparation of the final questionnaire with which the study was started.

The method w.r.t. earnings presented more difficulty because some of the bearers were getting some food. Besides this, but in line with the bearers were getting some irregular earnings in the form of tips etc., which were unmeasurable. But because of direct approach each and every bearer the earnings could be completed. Direct personal investigation helped me in knowing the facts and figures regarding the bearers.

(c) Unit of Investigation and Technique.

After defining the purpose, scope of enquiry, now we come to the unit of investigations and technique of investigation. All bearers were interviewed and were put questions. It was feasible because of limited number of the bearers. The technique of concuss was commonly followed in conducting the enquiry. The questionnaire method was also adopted for collecting the necessary information for each and every bearer. Bearers are generally literate but uneducated. Therefore firstly they could not understand the correct implications of the survey but when they knew they cooperated in filling the schedule. But one bearer from Abdullah Hall was not willing to supply the information sought, and the other bearer from S.S. Hall tried to mislead. Thus these two questionnaires of these bearers were rejected out of questionnaires of this survey. The investigation began in August, 67 and the work was practically completed by the end of February, 68. The bulk of enquiry was therefore, completed within about six months. Some errors must necessarily exist in a detailed enquiry of this kind. But I am satisfied that the informations obtained is substantially correct and is bound to yield fruitful results.

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Technique in labour investigation chapter XIII pages 242 ed. C. Port.
Purpose and objective of the study of the problem:
As already explained in the previous chapter the purpose and objective of the study of this socio-economic problem of the University bearers is to survey socio-economic conditions of the bearers. Their income, consumption pattern and background of their lives and ambitions etc. are to be viewed. An eminent scholar has said "To be poor is the greatest sin in the world." According to this motto the study of socio-economic problem becomes more and more important in the present socialistic pattern of the Indian Society. Most of the sins and ills creep into the society due to the poverty. Thus the future prospects are also governed by the present economic conditions of the family.

The University bearers, living under miserable conditions require immediate study of the causes of the socio-economic problem and side by side their remedies are also to be studied.

My objectives and purpose of this study is to bring into light the various socio-economic problems of these hostel-bearers and also to suggest measures to be adopted for their uplift.