Chapter III

Profile of the Study Area, Concepts, Methodology and Limitations
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3.1 Profile of the Study Area

The Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu is roughly triangular in shape. It lies between 08.8° and 09.23° latitude and 77.09° and 77.54° longitude. The total geographical area of the district is 6,283 sq.km. The Tirunelveli District was formed in 1801 with S.R. Lushington as the first Collector. The District was bifurcated into Tirunelveli Kattabomman District and Chidambaranar District in 1986. At present the Tirunelveli Kattabomman District is renamed as Tirunelveli District and Chidambaranar District is called Thoothukudi District.

The total population in Tirunelveli District is 28,01,194 among whom 13,72,082 are male and 14,29,112 are female. The literacy level is 68.44 per cent. The Tirunelveli District has one University, twenty one Arts and Science Colleges, two Medical Colleges, one Siddha Medical College, twelve Engineering Colleges and one Law College. It has 1,521 Primary Schools, 394 Middle Schools, 114 High Schools, 11 Higher Secondary Schools and 6 Teacher Training Institutes.

Thoothukudi District is situated at the extreme south eastern corner of Tamil Nadu State. The geographical area of the district is 4,621 sq.kms. The total population in Thoothukudi District is 3,22,680 among whom 1,62,671 are male and, 1,60,009 are female. The Thoothukudi District has twelve Arts and Science Colleges, one Medical College, Three Engineering Colleges, one Fisheries College and one Agriculture College. It has also 10 Hospitals, 47 Primary Health Centres, 249 Health Sub Centres and two Indian Medicine Hospitals.

Economic problems in these Districts are unemployment, poverty and poor voluntary savings habit. The social problems in these Districts are dowry system, wearing of more jewels,
caste system, alcoholic drinking habit and being in the clutches of money-lenders. Agriculture is the main but a seasonal occupation.

The present study area covers the unbifurcated Old Tirunelveli District because the CSI Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association covers the unbifurcated Old Tirunelveli District.

3.2 Concepts used in this Study

The researcher used operational definitions to each of the terms used in this study.

3.2.1 Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association

The Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association is under the control of the pastoral care of a Bishop administration. The affairs of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association is administered by a system of Councils, Committees and Boards. The Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association shall herein after be referred to as Tirunelveli Diocese (CSI).

3.2.2 Pastorate

Pastor’s office is termed as Pastorate. The churches are under the control of the Pastorate care.

3.2.3 Church Council

The Church Council will review the affairs of the Pastorate in its area. It will look after the pastoral and evangelistic work.

3.2.4 Clergy / Pastor

The clergy/ pastor is an ordained person in the Diocese who is responsible for the spiritual formation of the congregation.

3.2.5 Diocesan Council

The Diocesan Council consists of the Bishop, Diocesan Treasurer, all clergymen on regular cadre and Congregations’ representatives. It is the supreme administrative body of the Diocese. A group of Pastorates are under the control of the Pastoral care of a Clergy called Council Chairman.

3.2.6 Sangam

“Sangam” for the purpose of election to Committees and Councils is ‘the amount recommended by the Pastorate Committee and approved by the Diocesan Executive Committee’.

3.2.7 Communicant

A communicant is who has been duly baptized and confirmed and is in the habit of receiving the Holy Communion, a member of the Church of South India.
3.2.8 Congregation

Congregation representative is 'an unordained member of the congregation who is not at the time of election employed on a salary under the Diocesan Standing Committee or the Sub-Committees.

3.2.9 Diocesan Worker

Diocesan worker shall mean 'a paid worker who is employed at the time of election, in any of the Diocesan institutions under the control of Diocesan Standing Committee or Sub-Committees'.

3.2.10 Pastorate Worker

Pastorate Worker shall mean any paid full-time worker on a scale of pay other than any ordained person who is a communicant and who is employed at the time of election under the Pastorate Committees'.

3.2.11 Church Worker

Church Worker shall mean any full-time ordained person who is both a communicant and employed in the church.

3.2.12 Clergymen

Clergymen shall include all presbyters or Deacons resident in the Diocese who hold the Bishop's Licence whether they are in active service or retired. They will come under the category of 'clergy' for membership in all Committees and Councils.

3.2.13 Layman

Layman shall mean any person who is not ordained as a clergyman.

3.2.14 Resident in the congregation

The resident in the congregation shall mean a person who has been a resident in his congregation within the Pastorate or in the Municipal areas as the case may be for at least 120 days in the year ending 31st March prior to the date of election and also in each of the previous three years. The Pastorate Chairman shall decide the question of residence.

3.2.15 Resident in the Diocese

The resident in the Diocese shall mean a person who has been a resident within the area of the Diocese for at least 120 day in the year ending 31st of March prior to the date of election and also in each of the previous three years.

3.2.16 Evangelists

Those who work for the development of Christianity are called evangelists.
3.2.17 *Catechists*

Catechists assist the Pastors to conduct services in the churches. They maintain, submit monthly revenue and expenditure accounts of the Church to the Clergy /Pastor.

3.2.18 *Missionaries*

The evangelists who come to our country from foreign countries are called missionaries. A missionary is any one under church sponsorship sent to an area to spread Gospel or education or provide medical facilities and other social welfare activities.

3.2.19 *Protestant*

Protestant refers to the member of any of the Christian organisation that got separated from the Church of Rome during and after the Reformation.

3.2.20 *Church of South India (CSI)*

The independent churches in South India which wanted to form an inter-denominational union after 1947 under one fold as ‘The Church of South India” (CSI). There are twenty two Dioceses in the Church of South India. All the Dioceses are under the control of the Church of South India. The head quarters of Church of South India is at Chennai and is called SYNOD. The SYNOD is the supreme governing and legislative body of the Church of South India.

3.2.21 *Socio-economic development*

Socio-economic development is defined as the position occupied by an individual or family with reference to income, material possession and social participation. Education, caste, nature of family, house owned, occupation, social participation health, care and material possession of the respondents are taken into account to find the socio-economic development. This study makes an attempt to study the socio-economic development of both direct and indirect beneficaries of the Tirunelveli Diocese.

3.2.22 *Quality of life*

The quality of life refers to the standard of living on the basis of the housing pattern, the family possession, income of the family, expenditure, health conditions, education and social status. The amount and quality of food, clothing, housing, medical care and social services available to an individual or a family or a nation is called standard of living. In this study, the two terms ‘quality of life’ and ‘standard of living’ are inter-changeably used as synonyms.

3.2.23 *Direct Beneficiaries*

Direct beneficaries of the Tirunelveli Diocese include the Clergymen, Church Workers and the Diocesan Institution Workers.

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7 Encyclopaedia and Americana, p.450.
3.2.25 *Indirect Beneficiaries*

Indirect beneficiaries of the Tirunelveli Diocese include all the members of the Tirunelveli Diocese who are not ordained as Clergymen. They include all members other than the persons included under 'Direct Beneficiaries'. They pay sangam subscription to the Church and make contributions to the Local Church Fund.

3.3 *Methodology*

The voluntary organisations like the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association plays a vital role through initiating and encouraging several enterprises in poor sections for supplementing the family income by generating additional gainful employment. The aim of this study is to find the role of Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (C.S.I.) in the Socio Economic Development of the Beneficiaries, both Direct and Indirect in study area.

3.3.1 *Reasons for the Selection of the Topic*

The study on 'The Role of Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) in the Socio Economic Development from 1941-48' is conducted purposely for the following reasons.

(i) Tirunelveli Diocese is the biggest in membership
(ii) It has more educational institutions and hospitals than all other Dioceses in the Church of South India
(iii) It is doing more social service to the people
(iv) It is close in proximity to the researcher
(v) It is easy for the researcher to collect both primary and secondary data
(vi) The researcher himself being a Diocesan Institution’s employee, is quite naturally interested in making an evaluation of the role of the CSI Tirunelveli Diocese in the promotion of the socio-economic development of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Tirunelveli Diocese.
(vii) Two separate studies made by J. Manuel and Kingsley Arasakumar on the historical aspect of the Tirunelveli Diocese before Independence and the developmental history and impact of the Tirunelveli Diocese have largely motivated the researcher to enquire into the role of the CSI Tirunelveli Diocese since 1947 from an economists’ point of view.

3.3.2. *Data Collection*

The researcher has collected both primary and secondary data. The data published by the CSI Synod, Tirunelveli Diocese and other CSI Dioceses are used.

The primary data were collected to assess the socio-economic conditions of the Pastorate workers, Church workers and Diocesan workers. The primary data were collected from the beneficiaries with the help of two pre-tested schedules - Schedule I for collecting data from the
direct beneficiaries and Schedule II for collecting data from the indirect beneficiaries. Primary data were collected mainly with a view to assess the quality and standard of living of both direct and indirect beneficiaries on account of numerous activities, religious, educational, economic, medical and social undertaken by the CSI Tirunelveli Diocese since 1947.

Secondary data were collected from the CSI Synod, Madras, CSI Diocesan office, Tirunelveli, official magazines and Diocesan Council Reports of the CSI Tirunelveli Diocese, souvenirs, articles by eminent men of letters, both by foreigners and nationals on the history of the CSI Tirunelveli Diocese. Secondary data were collected mainly to make an in-depth study of the historical growth and development of the CSI Tirunelveli in terms of several dimensions which were later on highly useful in making a performance appraisal of the Diocese on the direct and indirect beneficiaries through the researcher’s eyes.

3.3.3 Period of study

The period selected for the research study is from 1947 to 1997. These two years are used to mean 1947-48 and 1997-98 respectively. The researcher selected the year 1947-48 because of its great political significance that she got her independence in 1947. Further, the Tirunelveli Diocese came under the control of the newly formed Church of South India (CSI) in 1947 and the year 1997-98 marks the Golden Jubilee Celebration Year. Hence the rationale for the study of the CSI Tirunelveli Diocese from 1947-48 to 1997-98.

The researcher used interview-cum-schedule and it was collected between 2002-2003. The respondents were interviewed from April to June 2003 about the activities of the Diocese.

3.3.4 Survey Method

The researcher used two types of interview schedules for this study. The interview schedule I is meant for the Direct Beneficiaries of the Tirunelveli Diocese and interview schedule II is for the Indirect Beneficiaries of the C.S.I. Tirunelveli Diocese. The interview schedules I and II are prepared in English and during data collection a Tamil version of the same is carried out for easy administration.

3.3.5 Sampling Design


Apart from this classification, each council is divided into more than fifteen Pastorates. In order to give equal representation to each Council and to every Pastorate in the Tirunelveli Diocese, it was decided to take twenty five sampling units from each Council. To analyse the direct beneficiaries, two hundred sampling units were selected from Church Workers, Diocesan
Workers and Diocesan Employees and one hundred and four sampling units from indirect beneficiaries of the Tirunelveli Diocese.

Table 3.1
CSI Tirunelveli Diocese
Universe and Sample of Direct Beneficiaries and Indirect Beneficiaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Name of the Council</th>
<th>No. of sample units</th>
<th>Percentage of sample</th>
<th>No. of sample units from Indirect Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Percentage of sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Central</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>East</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>North</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>South East</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>North West</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>South West</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Computed from primary data

3.3.6 Sampling method used

The schedule was operated on a systematic random sampling method. From eight Councils two hundred respondents were taken from direct beneficiaries and one hundred and four respondents from indirect beneficiaries. On the whole, twenty five direct beneficiaries and thirteen indirect beneficiaries from each Council have been chosen as sampling units.

3.3.7 Design of Interview Schedule

The interview schedule I, proposed for direct beneficiaries, was prepared to elicit general information (name of head of the household, council, age, sex, caste, occupation, household composition, sources of income, education, employment, assets (housing, land, etc.), savings, investments, indebtedness, involvement in church activities, health facilities enjoyed, employment opportunity available, social welfare activities, educational opportunities, contribution to the Diocese, opinions regarding the Diocese, etc. of the respondents.

The interview Schedule II, proposed for indirect beneficiaries, was prepared to elicit information regarding the name of the head of the household, Pastorate’s and Council’s names, age, sex, caste, household composition, assets particulars, educational status, welfare schemes enjoyed, assistance received, monthly earnings, welfare activities of the Diocese, suggestions for improvement etc., of the respondents.

3.3.8 Pilot Study

Both the interview schedules were designed and they were circulated for comments. The comments were incorporated into the interview schedule. Thereafter twenty five respondents of
the C.S.I. Tirunelveli Diocese were interviewed separately to pretest the interview schedules I and II. On the basis of the data gathered through the pilot study and an analysis made therefrom, both the interview schedules I and II were reformulated. Adequate caution is exercised to make the schedules unambiguous, clear, complete and understandable. A copy of the finalised schedule is given in the appendix.

3.3.9 Interview Administration and Response

On the basis of the pilot survey experience, both the interview schedule for direct and indirect beneficiaries were drafted and printed. The interview was conducted from April to June, 2003. The respondents were interviewed in their houses in the evening or week ends or holidays. The interviews with each respondent lasted for a minimum of sixty minutes to a maximum of seventy five minutes. The heads of the household were interviewed in 90 per cent of cases and in the remaining 10 per cent from women respondents.

The male respondents who were the heads of the households and the female respondents were the wives of the households. The information collected is 100 per cent reliable because the researcher himself had filled in the questionnaires-cum-schedules both I and II.

The collected data were analysed with respect to each of the objectives. Conventional tools of analysis such as percentages, ratios, etc. were extensively used. Extensive tabular analysis is abundantly employed.

The interview schedule II identified fifteen types of indirect beneficiaries and they were grouped under categories, namely (i) Agricultural assistance, (ii) Industrial assistance, (iii) Educational assistance, (iv) Medical assistance, (v) Housing assistance (vi) Vehicle assistance, (vii) Small trade assistance and (viii) Marriage assistance.

3.3.10 Analysis of data

On completion of the interview schedule, the collected data are coded, processed and tabulated to enable the researcher to draw relevant inferences and conclusions.

The researcher has used percentages and ratios for simple comparisons of the selected variables. The Karl Pearson's Coefficient of Correlation technique was employed to measure the amount of relationship between the selected variables. 't' test and Chi-square test were used to measure the difference and association respectively between the selected variables at 5% level of significance. Regression analysis was used to estimate the probable value of the selected variables at a future date. Anova Test was used to measuring the significant difference between the means of different groups. Index number is used for measuring differences in the magnitude of a group of related variables.
3.3.11. Scaling Technique

The levels of quality of life or standard of living are classified into three categories namely low, moderate and high by assigning scores 1, 2 and 3 respectively in the case of all the variables except in the case of incomes where the scores are 10, 20 and 30 respectively.

All the raw scores were converted into T score where:

\[ T \text{ score} = 10Z + 50 \]

\[ Z = \frac{X - M}{\sigma} \]

where \( X \) = raw score (raw score is converted into T score), \( M \) = Mean and \( \sigma \) = Standard deviation.

The levels are fixed as follows with the help of T score. The scores below \( M - 1\sigma \) are considered as low level. The scores between \( M - 1\sigma \) and \( M + 1\sigma \) are considered as moderate level. The scores above \( M + 1\sigma \) are considered as high level.

3.4. Limitations of the Study

Despite the sincere efforts and utmost care taken by the researcher, the researcher has confronted with the following limitations.

1. The researcher could contact only 90 per cent of both direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Tirunelveli Diocese and remaining 10 per cent are the wives of the heads of the households. It is, therefore, feared that the accuracy of the inferences and conclusions may be affected to a certain extent.

2. The primary data collected were approximated in the process of editing of collected data. Hence, figures of percentages may not tally.

3. The Tirunelveli Diocese has been bifurcated since 2003 and the new Diocese which was carved out of the Tirunelveli Diocese has been christened as CSI Thoothukudi-Nazareth Diocese. But the researcher had undertaken the study of the erstwhile Tirunelveli Diocese between 1947-48 and 1997-98. This study ignores the later developments which have taken place after 1998-99. But since this relates only to the historical part of the Tirunelveli Diocese, this will have no impact on the analytical and inferential parts of the study.

4. The benefits provided by the Tirunelveli Diocese include (i) employment generation, (ii) increase in educational facilities, (iii) improvement in medical facilities, (iv) social welfare activities of the Diocese, (v) income added to the people, (vi) increase in savings and investment of the respondents, (vii) increase in socio-economic status of the respondents family and (viii) increase in the quality of life of the people. The benefits (i) to (iv) were assessed from CSI Tirunelveli Diocese Council Reports from 1947-48 to 1997-98. The
benefits (v) to (viii) referred to above were assessed from the interview-cum-schedule from both direct and indirect beneficiaries. The accuracy of the inferences and conclusions are likely to be affected to a certain extent due to the dualistic sources of data.

5. Among the 200 respondents of direct beneficiaries, 181 belong to backward community. So the caste composition of the direct beneficiaries is not analysed.

6. Among the direct beneficiaries all the members are having own houses. So the housing condition of the direct beneficiaries alone is not analysed.

7. Since payment of Sangam to the respective Pastorate by all the members of the congregation is compulsory, it is not analysed.

8. All the direct beneficiaries are educated and hence education through the Diocesan Educational Institutions is not analysed.