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 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 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 people working in artistic occupations and handicrafts in general and women artisans and women engaged in handicrafts in particular. Here the natures of the variables such as different occupations are varied, complex, intangible and dynamic. Keeping in view the diverse objectives framed for studying the status and problems of women in artistic occupations, a variety of tools and techniques that suit best the requirement of the present study are adopted.

3.2. 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.

**Socio-economic**: of or involving both social and economic factors;

**Problem**: (i) a question proposed for solution or consideration;

(ii) Question, matter, situation or person that is perplexing or difficult;

(iii) A proposition requiring solution by mathematical operations, constructions, etc.

**Artisan**: a worker in a skilled trade; craftsman.

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, occupational, 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 groupism of variables on the basis of directions in the district and occupations 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, number of children, 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 different artistic occupations engaged by women working in artistic works, 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 with the other subject specialists or experts or women engaged in other similar occupations, 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. Sample Size:**

Having identified the seven talukas and towns of Gulbarga district and population settled in those directions, a question was arise that how many women are working in artistic and handicrafts works with different occupations. 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., 400 (200 from urban and suburban areas namely six towns and Gulbarga city and 200 from rural areas or villages of the Gulbarga district).

5. Sampling Procedure:

Having decided the size of sample it was considered to select the sample population from among those representing different occupational and socio-economic strata, rather than having a random sample, it was decided to interview respondents through purposive sampling taking care of age, occupation, taluka and village in which they are settled, religion, caste, etc representation in the sample. The entire sample is divided into the samples from rural background and settled in urban areas and those samples are from urban areas or city. Out of total population of the women workers in unorganized sector, about 400 respondents were chosen. Of which, 200 women artisans and women engaged in handicrafts are from each of the towns of Gulbarga district and city. Further, the respondents from different occupations were also considered as the respondents working as potters, black smiths, gold smiths, weavers, leather workers, painters, dramatists, matt/ rope/ basket makers, etc. The occupation-wise and direction-wise distribution of the respondents selected is shown in the following table.
Table No. 3.1. Selection of Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of Work</th>
<th>Urban Areas</th>
<th>Rural Areas</th>
<th>Total Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Smithy</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt/ Rope/ Basket Makers</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sculptors</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knitting, Stitching, Embroidery</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenter/ Agricultural Implements Makers</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobblers/ Leather Workers</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Jewelry Makers (Gold Smiths)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painters, Dramatists, Folk Artists, etc.</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the pilot study, opinions were sought from few respondents as to whom they would group as belonging to these occupations.

6. Tools and Techniques for Data Collection:

After conferring the study to the selected villages and towns 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 questionnaire 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 few free group interviews were 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 families of the women artisans were also interviewed to acquire the occupational information.

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”. As the researcher is observing many of the women daily working in artistic occupations, the work life of these women is generalized. When asked with few of such women, they have helped the researcher to give
different aspects related to their work life as well as their family life. The researcher personally studied the information collected from these selected women 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, newspapers, 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 number of women working in artistic occupations in particular and unorganized sector and self-employment in particular.

7. 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.

8. 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 educated, it was become a difficult problem for the researcher to collect the primary data from women who are illiterates. Hence, the researcher faced much difficulty to convince and oblige the women working in artistic occupations to provide the information correctly. Further, the husbands of these women artisans were also suspicious on the researcher and it was assured to the family of the respondents to accept the facts and their names should be kept confidential.

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”.

The researcher started establishing rapport with women working in different artistic works grouped under unorganized sector. In about four to six month’s time with a special effort to focus the problems of women in artistic occupations, the researcher wins the sentiments of these women respondents. With the discussion about their problems, the women artisans responded positively to the researcher. As such, with the help of few of these respondents, the researcher gained the contacts of other women artisans, who are working in different occupations under artistic works and handicrafts. The group discussion to analyze the problems of the women artisans were also undertaken during the field work. The participatory observation was also become one of the tools of data collection.

The researcher started the field work in February 2014 and problems multiplied as field work progressed; once initial rapport was established and association with women working in artistic works and handicrafts was 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 the study.

Most of the respondents were interviewed either in the morning or in evening, except those who are working in weaving as they were busy morning till evening. Hence, interviews of these women weavers were conducted during their lunch time. Even few of the respondents were shared their personal and family aspects with the researcher.

Hence, these interviews were normally completed in two to three sittings and each interview on an average took three 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 were completed in about two months.

3.3. References: