CHAPTER - IV
THE RESEARCH DESIGN

Anthropology is scientific in the sense that it attempts to collect data through the trained personnel on the areas of professional interest. Ethnographic fieldwork tradition in Anthropology was set up by Franz Boas in America and B. Malinowski in Great Britain towards the turn of twentieth century (Srivastava 1997). Fieldwork is the primary way of anthropological data gathering. It entails through going into the life of the people. The anthropological research begins with the assumption that people's life is totality. The parts, even one part, can be studied properly in relation to the other parts of the totality.

The anthropological fieldwork is very different kind of enterprise from other social science research ventures. Precise initial definitions, elimination of factors and concentrating on only one specific issue is neither possible nor desirable. The whole procedure of fieldwork is based upon a total faith in human beings. It is usually conducted through the native tongue. It includes understanding of the totality even if the researcher is interested in only a part of it, conducting the study in a systematic manner and step by step without rushing these things through and participating in the activities to the extent it is possible, to do so are all of vital importance. They constitute the basic levels of anthropological fieldwork methodology. Among all the approaches of research study of the main anthropological fieldwork is a unique enterprise. No empirical study takes one to the depth as does depth observation and interview in anthropological fieldwork (Sarana, 2005).

The most distinguishing feature of anthropology is its holistic or multifaceted approach to the study of human beings. Anthropologists not only study all varieties of people, they also study many aspects of human experience. While describing a group of people, an anthropologist might discuss the history of the area in which people live, the physical environment, political and economic systems, settlement patterns, linguistic patterns, religious and other aspects of community. As specialization develops in anthropology in course of time, the individual
anthropologists concentrate their studies in specific area of subject. The thoughts and behaviour of the people can be viewed from two different perspectives from the perspective of the participant themselves and from the perspective of observers.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Research is an ongoing process which is based on a theory. In other words, for building a theory, proper research is necessary. Social research is a methodical and systematic study of a subject with the aim to generate new information, verify the existing knowledge in that subject and reach a new understanding. The process of planning a systematic study to seek probable answers to questions about social and cultural life is designated as social research. Research of any type commences with a problem the answer to which the researcher seeks to find out with an array of techniques, methods, and theoretical perspectives. In other words, the research process begins with the selection of the research question, followed by the selection of an appropriate methodology (Saran Takas, 1988). The sources a researcher taps will vary according to his interest, their accessibility and the type of study (Whyte, 1955). The manner in which the investigation will be steered depends entirely on the actual unfolding of the research situation. What the research methodology literature contains is an account of the ‘most frequently encountered techniques’ of investigation (Pelto and Pelto 1978). To proceed with the study researcher has to design a research project. The formidable problem that follows the task of defining the research problem is the preparation of the design of the research project, called research design.

The term ‘design’ means ‘drawing an outline’ or planning or arranging details. It is a process of making decision before the situation arises in which the decision has to carried out. A research design is planning a strategy of constructing research. It is a detailed plan of how the goals of research will be achieved. According to Henry Manheim (1977), research design not only anticipates and specifies the seemingly countless decision connected with carrying out data collection, processing and analysis but it presents a logical
basis for these decisions. William Zikmund (1988) has described research design as “a master plan specifying the methods and procedures for collecting and analyzing the needed information”. Martin Bulmer (1974) has said that “research design is the specification of the problem, conceptual definitions, derivation of hypotheses to test and defining the population to be studied.” Ackoff Russell (1961) maintains that research design is “planning various phase and procedures relating to the formulation of research efforts”. He further explains it as “an arrangement of the essential conditions for collection and analysis of data in a form that aims at combining relevance to research purpose with economy in the procedure”.

The research design is a systematic outline of the way in which a particular research will be carried out. In a research design, the researcher makes a distinction between the empirical phase and interpretive phase. The former deals with collection of data and the latter with the significance of the findings, which is conditioned by the nature of data and the theoretical approaches and conceptual models of researcher. “How he will select certain facts (his data), how he will seek to uncover the order or pattern in which they actually occur” (Riley, 1963).

Fieldwork is central to anthropological work. Fieldwork is the 'crowning jewel' of anthropology. Seligman is said that 'fieldwork was to anthropologists what the blood of the martyr was to church'. Margaret Mead (1964) wrote, 'we still have no way to make an anthropologist except by sending him into the field; this contact with living material is our distinguishing mark'. Anthropology is a field discipline (Sarana, 2005).

The word methodology is used to refer to the methods and general approach or technique/strategy employed to describe or to manipulate data and acquire knowledge. In a particular study, the methods chosen will be dependant upon a variety of considerations such as, the nature of the problem addressed, the theoretical stance, the time, and money available.

These considerations operate as strong constraints on the choice of research methods. Debate on the quantitative and qualitative approaches has
been fierce. Some researchers are committed to quantitative survey method and refuse to acknowledge the strengths and validity of other methods, while others whose preference is for qualitative methods refuse to countenance of quantitative techniques. A technique is considered unjustified and it is being suggested whenever possible, social research should seek to triangulate different research methods.

As a part of research design, the researcher decides whether to gather new data rather than use available materials, take a larger rather than a few samples of cases, the way in which the techniques and methods will be administered and which of them will combine.

**SELECTION OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM**

The importance of continuing research in social anthropology becomes evident in case of social problem. Social problems are products of human activity, social anthropologists find out what conditions produce those problems. Through an understanding of human relationship, anthropologists may be able to change the conditions and solve the problems. This piece of work done by the researcher is based on a social problem. The problem of unbalanced sex-ratio and the reason behind the problem is the preponderance of sex discriminatory abortions. This is a social issue which is a product of both patriarchal tradition of son preference and the arrival of technology which is male friendly.

In terms of patriarchal tradition in the particular community studied by the researcher, it has been observed that the son preference is highly prevalent. There is immense love and desire for a son and a dislike for daughters. Son preference rests on the premise that there are more benefits in upbringing a son than a daughter-economic, cultural, as well as social. To balance their desire of the members of a particular family there is a deliberate manipulation to limit the birth of the girl child. Major reason for doing the present fieldwork was to get an insider’s view of the essence and reality of the problem.

Researcher has tried to examine each aspect of the problem and go in-depth to study the Punjabi community as well as the members of the community.
Researcher has tried to observe, describe, and understand them in the best traditions of demographic anthropology.

**PILOT SURVEY AND PRE-TESTING**

In social research, it is considered advisable to do some field observation and as such the researcher may undertake some sort of a preliminary survey or what is called pilot survey. Field pre-testing is a survey instrument that is tried on a small sample of persons from the area of study. Pilot surveys and pre-testing in the field are necessary for framing a schedule. A pilot survey was undertaken before a schedule was drafted and a pre-test was taken after it had been completed. It is the preliminary study of the universe in question to get an early idea about it. It may be taken without any hypothesis or with provisional hypothesis. It gives an idea of different variables involved, nature of problem, possible difficulties in interviewing and kind of response likely to be available, etc. It is on the basis of this information that the actual schedule is formed.

When the schedule had been prepared it was tested once again to find if any discrepancies had been left out. It is known as pre-testing. After the pilot survey, the researcher was able to find out the drawbacks of the schedule i.e. which questions were to be deleted and which were to be added or modified. An idea about the extent of response or non-response was also formed. Necessary corrections and modifications were made keeping in view the objectives of the study. In order to check that whether the respondents understand the questions and the context, a pre-testing was done.

A pre-test is a trial test of a specific aspect of the study such as method of data collection or data collection tools i.e. schedule, mailed questionnaire or measurement scale. So pre-testing means trial administration of the instrument to a sample of respondents before finalizing it. It has several purposes like to test whether the instrument would elicit responses required to achieve the research objectives, the contents of the instrument are relevant and adequate, and the wording of question is clear and suited to the understanding of the respondents. It also checks other qualitative aspects of the instrument like question structure
and question sequence and also to develop appropriate procedure for administering the instrument with reference to field conditions.

During the pre-testing some problems were observed. There were certain questions which respondents were not comfortable in responding to. So the language of the question was changed in a way that even the respondents were comfortable enough to respond. Even then, there were some close-ended questions which were changed into open-ended questions as every respondent had their own particular response to that question. The other thing which was noticed during the pilot survey was that respondents were not comfortable to give response in front of any member of their family, be it their mother-in-law, sister-in-law, or any other member of the family. But they opened up more quickly when interviewed in front of their close friends who were also being interviewed. They used to support each others opinion and also initiate the one who was hesitant to reply some particular question. So the pilot survey turned out to be very useful for the researcher in field study because it enabled her to take certain precautions while interviewing the respondents.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Each piece of research contains aims and objectives. It gives direction to the field of inquiry and research. Every research work has to fulfill certain goals and behind every study there is a motive and a reason which is known as aims and objectives for a particular study. The following aims and objectives were formulated for the present study:

- To determine the position of the females in terms of gender discrimination and its effects.
- To study the possible factors or attributes responsible for a low or high sex ratio.
- In terms of spacing, the kind of measures used to avoid possible conception and unwanted pregnancies.
- To determine whether the community envisages deliberate attempts to manipulate its sex ratio, particularly the means of deliberate manipulation i.e. female foeticide and infanticide.
- To assess the demographic consequences of son preference i.e. sex differential in mortality, increase in fertility and imbalanced sex ratio.
- To determine the parental preferences for a particular sex of the offspring and the rationale behind them.
- To analyse the major factors responsible for gender discrimination, female disadvantage, and male preference.

**HYPOTHESES**

A hypothesis is an assumption about relationships between variables. It is a tentative explanation of the research problem or a guess about the research outcome. It is considered as the principle instrument in research. Its main function is to suggest new experiments and observations. It means a mere assumption or some supposition to be proved or disproved. But for a research, hypothesis is a formal question or a statement that a researcher intends to resolve. A hypothesis may be defined as a proposition or a set of propositions set forth as an explanation for the occurrence of some specified groups of phenomena either assisted merely as a provisional conjecture to guide some investigation or accepted as highly probable in the light of established facts.

Based on the aims and objectives of the present study, the following hypotheses were formulated:

i) Ours is a patrilocal and patriarchal community, which is culturally biased towards female child. A community has a functional role to play in matters of sex discrimination.

ii) Female foeticides and infanticide are most often practiced in societies which is believes that having a female child is culturally and economically less- advantageous than having a male child.

iii) Sons carry out religious ceremonies and traditional customs. Family lineage and family name is also carried out by sons only.

iv) The desire to have son is reason for the imbalanced sex ratio? Is there deliberate manipulation of sex-ratio? At what level it is operational? At prenatal?
v) The decline in child sex-ratio is alarmingly high in the states and communities that are economically and educationally much better off.

**SAMPLING AND UNIVERSE OF STUDY**

A universe is often too large for an individual to work upon. A sample, as the name implies, is the smaller representation of a large population or area. A large population cannot be studied in its entirety for reasons of size, money, time, and energy. So, in order to optimize time, money, and energy, various sampling techniques are employed in a research work. Sampling may be defined as the selection of some part of an aggregate or totality on the basis of which a judgment or inference about the aggregate or totality is made. It is the process of obtaining information about an entire population by examining only a part of it. The sample size is usually determined by the kind of problem to be investigated and the research tools used.

The present study is conducted in the district of Gurdaspur of Punjab. The reason for choosing the particular district is unfortunate because district Gurdaspur is one of the many districts having very low sex ratio. According to Census 2001, sex ratio of the district is 888 females per thousand males which is slightly higher than that of the state (874). Gurdaspur has minimum sex ratio in the urban settings of various districts which is as low as 729 in children ranging from age group of 0-6. It is a matter of immediate concern for the government as well as people of the district to take positive steps to control this trend of falling sex ratio.

The district Gurdaspur comprises of three tehsils-Gurdaspur, Pathankot, and Batala. The total population of the district as per Census 2001 is 2,096,889. Out of this total population the number of male and female population is 1,110,406 and 986,483 respectively.

The data was collected from Block Sri Hargobindpur. The perusal of the number of households revealed that there were 1500 households in that block. In order to make a representative sample of 300 married women from the community living in the block, every fifth and sixth household was chosen from the voter’s list. In case of difficulty in finding out the family in question or then the
succeeding of following household on the list was taken up. A sequential random sampling was adopted for the present research work after taking the voter list of the area every 5th house was selected. 300 living married women with the age range of 18-45 years of age were chosen from households. Extra care was taken that the sample selected should be free from personal bias and was collected at random.

METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

The task of data collection begins after a research problem has been defined and research design/plan has been made. For the present study both primary and secondary sources were chosen. The primary sources are those which are chosen by researcher for the first time and are studied by the researcher on his or her own and information gathered from them is original in character. The secondary sources, on the other hand, are those which are collected from references sources like the i) public documents and official records, ii) private documents, iii) mass media, iv) physical, non-verbal materials; or it is also defined as a material which have already been collected by someone else and have passed through the statistical process.

COLLECTION OF PRIMARY DATA

There are two main methods of data collection:

i) Intensive field work methods: It includes observation, interview, case study, genealogy, etc.

ii) Survey methods: It includes questionnaire, schedule, interview guide etc.

For the present study both the qualitative and quantitative approaches were used for the collection of data by the researcher. Both the methods of data collection that is intensive fieldwork methods and survey methods of study were done. The tools of data collection used in the present study are as follows:

i) Schedule

ii) In-depth Interview

iii) Case study
iv) Genealogy.

**SCHEDULE**

The set of questions in which answers are recorded by the interviewer himself or herself is called a schedule. "Schedule is the name usually applied to a set of questions which are asked and filled by an interviewer in a face to face situation with another person" (Goode and Hatt, 1952). Two essential conditions for a good schedule are 'accurate communication' and 'accurate response' (Young and Schmid, 1961). We find accurate communication or response when the respondents understand the questions in the same meaning which the questions are expected to convey. Therefore, the questions were so worded that they clearly carried the desired sense. As a schedule can be used for both the illiterate and educated persons because a schedule consists of a series of questions, which were asked and filled in by the investigator in a face to face situation. It is used for the respondents located in the small area who can be personally contacted. Because of these characteristics of the schedule it has been used as one of the techniques by the researcher as her tool of data collection in the present study. As the area chosen by the researcher has both illiterate and educated population, a pre-tested schedule of data collection was successful in such a population. It had enabled the researcher to get first hand information regarding the research problem as well as it gave her an opportunity to establish a warm relationship with the persons in a face to face situation.

The schedule for this research included both structured and unstructured questions. There were dichotomous questions in which the respondents had to select any one of the two alternatives to which she agrees or which is applicable to her, multiple choice questions and open-end questions in which respondents have freedom to give reply according to their own choice and their own words. The questions in the schedule sought for three types of information:

- Demographic information which identifies the interviewee.
- Substantive information which is focused on the subject of study.
- Additional information which may support the substantive information.
To get the demographic information of the respondents from households, the questions asked were regarding mohalla, name, age, caste, education, age at marriage, self-occupation, husband’s occupation, income, number of children conceived (living or dead) were obtained through the schedule. The order of the questions in a schedule is of great significance because the order tends to influence the validity of the obtained answers as well as the invalidity. A combination of close ended and open ended questions was used in the present study. Close ended questions were used as they are easily scored and coded, which facilitates the analysis and even the respondents were able to express themselves more easily. Open ended questions were asked to get the in depth information about the perceptions and ideology of the respondents. The schedule was divided into eight sections:

- General information
- Education
- Decision making
- Use of contraceptives
- Methods adopted to have a desired sex
- Gender discrimination
- Awareness and impact of low sex ratio.
- Education and its impact on sex ratio

The wordings of the questions in a schedule are very important. The main aim of the researcher in wording a schedule was to communicate effectively with the respondents in her own language. Although the schedule was typed and printed in English. The researcher being Punjabi speaking and fully conversant with the language, translated the questions and then asked them in the native language. It made the responses clear and relevant. While framing the schedule precautions were taken not to include ambiguous, embarrassing or leading questions because if the questions were ambiguous then such questions did not convey the same meaning to all the respondents and, therefore, different respondents may give different answers to the same question. If the questions were embarrassing then the respondent would be a little reluctant to answer. But
in spite of taking adequate precautions while asking questions regarding use of contraception, females were a bit hesitant to respond. By asking the questions in simpler manner in their local language, they responded well. Same thing happened when questions were asked on sex-selective abortions, gender discrimination and gender violence.

INTERVIEW

Interviewing is the development of precision, focus, reliability, and validity in the common social act of communication. “Interview may be regarded to be a systematic method by which a person enters more or less imaginatively into a life of a complete stranger” (Young, 1960). In an interview of the simplest kind, two individuals interact—the respondent and the interviewer. Interview is a face to face situation between the interviewer and the respondent, which intends to elicit some desired information out of the latter. Interview is an act of verbal communication for the purpose of eliciting information. The interviewer tries to unveil the various areas of the subject of investigation by imaginatively motivating the respondents to speak out, without substantial bias in the process of interview. It is a type of probing conversation, which is a very powerful instrument for obtaining information. The interviewer is expected to show a considerable amount of skill and imagination in conducting the interview, and she should be able to motivate and encourage the interviewer, so that the accuracy of information she elicits may be maximized. There were certain advantages of interview like it allowed greater flexibility in the process of questioning. The interview has many uses. It is used to gain access to data and to open up opportunities for observation. It is also used in order to determine facts that may differ from person-to-person, as well as facts that vary from situation to situation. Interviews give good ideas of the inner feeling of the respondent. An interview may be personalized or generalized depending upon the perspective degree required. Basic or formative interviews seek primary information. Focussed interviews stress on particular topic of research.

In the present study the researcher had also used the in-depth interview technique because one could study the emotional relationships in terms of their
intensity and the interviewer could find out the emotional content behind the information supplied to her, whereas checking the answer category of a schedule by the respondent alone would not give any idea of the content. It facilitated the researcher in obtaining the desired information in-depth readily and quickly. To take the accurate response with the personal feelings and expressions of the interviewee, an interview is of great help. The technique of interview was put in use after first making an assessment as when the respondents will be comparatively free from their household chores or work. Most of the interviews were taken in the house of the respondents. The duration of the interview lasted for 1 hour to 1½ hours.

**CASE STUDY**

The approach used to explore and analyse the life of a social unit be it a person or a faculty or an institution or a community or even a culture is known as case study. It is a method of study in-depth rather than breadth. It is a particular method of qualitative research. Case study techniques involve an in-depth, longitudinal examination of a single instance or event. They provide a systematic way of looking at events, collecting data, analyzing information, and reporting the results. As a result the researcher may gain a sharpened understanding of why the instance happened as it did, and what might become important to look at more extensively in future research. According to Yin (1989) and Hammersley (1992) a case study is not a method of data collection rather it is a research strategy, or an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon by using multiple sources of evidence. Mitchell (1983) has also maintained that a case study is not just a narrative account of an event or a series of events but it involves analysis against appropriate theoretical framework or in support of theoretical conclusions. It can be simple and specific. The case study technique as a tool of data collection for social research is the oldest techniques. The purpose of case study method is to find out the determinants of behavioural patterns of a given unit and its relationship with the environment for tracing the natural historical developmental process of that unit in different social settings. It helps in understanding the real nature of the social unit or social structure or
institution in its historical, developmental and causal perspective. According to Burns (2000) there are six types of case studies. The case studies used in the present study are oral history case studies which are usually first person narratives that the researcher collects using extensive interviewing of a single individual. To develop case studies unstructured interview and sometimes structured interview was taken by researcher. The questions were normally open-ended with a conversational tone. Case studies have enabled the researcher to understand the behavioural patterns and supported the data collected, by knowing the personal experiences which revealed the respondent's inner strivings, tensions, and attitude towards the research problem. It has also enabled the researcher to analyse the history of the people as in many case studies. It has been observed that a narrow and negative perspective regarding females is the outcome of what respondents have inherited from their elders and their elders from their elders and so on. This phenomenon of gender discrimination is inherited by each respondent from their earlier generations. Thus, it has been observed by the researcher that case studies have enriched the research by providing adequate support to the data collected.

OBSERVATION

The observation method is the most commonly used in studies relating to social sciences. It becomes a scientific tool and the method of data collection for the researcher, when it serves a formulated research design, is systematically planned and is subjected to checks and control on the validity and reliability. Under this method, the information is sought by way of researcher's own direct observation without asking from the respondent. Observation may be defined as a systematic viewing, which is intentional and planned.

The method of observation used in the present study by the researcher is non-participant observation.

SECONDARY DATA

Secondary data means data that are already available i.e. the data which have already been collected and analyzed by someone else or is collected from
reference sources like the library, etc. There are five sources to collect secondary data:

- Printed material i.e. newspapers.
- Books and magazines.
- Documents.
- Filmed material.
- Records.

The researcher collected secondary data from the Census 2001 regarding various demographic variables and from different books, magazines like Femina, Outlook, Frontline etc; Newspapers such as The Times of India, The Tribune, The Hindustan Times, The Indian Express, etc. Filmed material by the news broadcast on IBN7, Zee news, Star news, Zee Punjabi, etc and material was collected from records such as block offices, University library, department library, national medical library New Delhi and information centers such as clinics and hospitals, etc.

RAPPORT ESTABLISHMENT

Rapport establishment is the key function for every field researcher. It facilitates, to a greater extent, the collection of data from the community. It is very important for an anthropologist as it includes forming a good relationship between researcher and members of area of study, knowing the people, telling them about oneself and one’s work. The knowledge of the language makes communication easier. Some friendships are also forged who then help out in understanding this culture and to introduce the anthropologist to their relatives and acquaintances. The ties of kinship and marriage become familiar. An understanding is gained about the relationships between individuals, the area they live in, and the way they see the world around them. Once appropriate questions and good informants are selected, a breakthrough has been made into another culture. As a field anthropologist, the process of rapport establishment then begins. It includes forming a good relationship with the people, knowing the people.
A properly conducted introduction to the head of the community or an influential person helps immensely in getting public support. An amiable manner is necessity, coupled with polite language and a sober dress. Small gifts may also help, though no false promises should be given. Establishing rapport helps the people of the community to trust the researcher. Rapport establishment is not an initial stage for the anthropologist; it is an ongoing process that may stretch a lifetime or even more.

The universe of study was Block Sri Hargobindpur. Before conducting actual fieldwork, researcher contacted a few of her key informants belonging to the area the researcher was interested in studying and whom she knew before, she explained to them the purpose her work and her area of interest. They introduced her to their relatives and acquaintances. It helped her easy entry into some of the households of respondents.

She used to leave her place after 9 in the morning that was the perfect time to talk to the respondents specially who were homemakers. It took the researcher 10-15 minutes to reach the residence of the respondents. They were either sitting at home watching TV or sitting with their friends and gossiping after sending kids to school and husbands to their work. To interview working women she chose Sundays or any local or national holiday. As she belonged to that place so her dress was not a matter of concern because she was aware of the dress to be worn. Respondents were very cooperative and kind towards her. The researcher was not allowed to leave their house without either having a cup of tea or something to eat. Inspite of her polite refusal they kept insisting until she had something. After couple of days with her they shared few of their personal problems with her (related to women issues) which further helped the researcher in her research. While discussing on some sensitive issue like sex discriminatory abortions, gender discrimination, and women violence, it is required to make a proper rapport with the interviewees, it was a pre-requisite since the emotional dimension of the life style of the respondents was equally important.

During the fieldwork period the households that researcher visited, she tried to make the respondents at ease after talking to them on general issues like
how are the kids? Are they naughty or sober? How is their husbands behaviour? How do they feel after getting married? How is their parent’s family? Who all are in their parent’s family? These questions helped to make some intimate relationship with the interviewee as the researcher came to know about their family. Researcher has a habit of keeping sweets in her purse. She used to give those sweets to the kids of the respondents which also helped her in making a bond with the respondents.

**PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED**

Once in the field researcher faced difficulties also. When she entered households and tried to talk to the woman of the house, in the mean time her husband entered the house. The woman got scared, her husband started enquiring from the researcher. Who are you? What do you want? He looked a bit uncomfortable with researcher’s presence in his house, then the researcher explained the person everything about herself and then he seems a little bit convinced and supportive. He was at home for lunch so the researcher observed inconvenience so the research moved out with a promise of coming back when she was free and ready to respond.

The difficulty faced by her was in case of dealing with the illiterate and poor respondents, although respondents were known to her directly or by reference but were not ready to give the information. Even when they were told that the information was for purpose of research, few of the respondents could not understand what a research is for? After assuring them in simpler and local language that the confidentiality of the responses would be kept and it was for the purpose of her higher education, this research problem is assigned to her, therefore, she is enquiring them with these questions they were at ease. But the most frequently asked questions from her, which were normally asked by less educated and illiterate females of the area was what would we get after answering you these questions? Will government give us jobs as we are poor people once they come to know about our economic and family conditions?

Another incident which also gives the clear picture about societies mentality towards a girl child was, when researcher went to the girl school to take
photographs, headmistress enquired each detail and purpose of the study. She gave permission only when she was fully satisfied. While in boys school no one was even bothered about any kind of enquiry. Researcher just went and took the photographs.

The data were collected from February 2005 to December 2005. Fieldwork was a lifetime experience for the researcher. She experienced challenges, personal learning and developing relations with strangers. It was an intellectual journey for her.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data analysis is ordering of data into constituents parts in order to obtain answers to research questions. The data, after collection, have to be processed and analyzed in accordance with the research design laid down for the purpose of developing the research plans. This is essential for a scientific study and for ensuring that one has all relevant data for making contemplated comparisons and analysis.

In the present study, data analysis was followed in following steps: after collecting the data, the processing of data analysis is started which includes editing of the errors, such as entry in the wrong place or any writing error was corrected. It also included the rewriting of abbreviations, written in the fields and also translating the Punjabi words or sentence responses of respondents into English by the researcher. Once through with the editing part, the researcher categorized the various types of data into simple classes for easy tabulation. Tabulation is essential to represent a particular result of enquiry of investigation. A mass of data termed as ‘raw material’ can express no meaning unless they are properly classified and tabulated. In reality, tabulation is a process of representation of data. When the mass of data has been assembled, it becomes necessary for a researcher to arrange the same in some kind of concise and logical order. Tabulation was done by hand by the researcher. Data was fragmented in series of rows and columns for better understanding and statistical analysis of the data. The Statistical analysis of data serves several major purposes like it summarizes large mass of data into understandable and
meaningful form, statistics brings exact descriptions possible, it facilitates identification of the casual factors underlying complex phenomenon and it aids the drawing of reliable impression from observational data. Data is collected and analyzed in order to predict or make inferences about situations that have not been measured in full. A statistical test of the measure of percentages is used. The data was also presented in the form of bar diagrams, pie-charts etc. to depict data for better understanding. The instances of cases reinforced the inferences drawn from the quantitative data. A total of 37 case studies have been cited to bring out the inner feeling and nuances of the son preference and neglect of daughters.