CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

Methodology is the system of methods and use applicable to research. Research is a concept which is distinguished by its purpose. The success of any research depends upon a methodic approach. The various methods of approach in research parlance are classified as historical research, survey research, experimental research and case study research.

The present research study hinges upon the concepts of historical research, coupled with survey methods. Any survey it is well established, involves the collection of data.

Data Collection

Research allows the collection of primary, as well as, secondary data. Primary data are those lists of information emanating from either personal interviews with or without the help of an interview schedule or through questionnaires.

Information that is culled from primary sources such as books and other documents, which form the basis of research study, also fall in this category.
The secondary sources are books and documents on which the researcher depends to fortify his/her arguments. Secondary sources could be in the form of an interview schedule or a questionnaire which information has been collected by others who have reported their findings. In other words the personal efforts of the researcher to come by the information is called primary data and efforts of the researcher to glean information from the efforts of others is known as secondary data.

The present research has collected its primary data, through personal interviews with the various individuals groups, organization and organizational heads.

The secondary sources of data are vast and varied. Starting with the Census of India of the past century, the researcher has collected the information from the documental records of State Departments such as the Archives, Agriculture Department, the Education Department, the Social Welfare Department, the Industries Department, the Irrigation Department, the Panchayat Offices, Municipalities, other Revenue Offices and the various Libraries at Trivandrum, Nagercoil and Chennai.

There have been interlinked information available from the various sources which have been carefully segregated, labelled and stored and retrieved where and when necessary.

The Trivandrum University Library, Trivandrum Public Library, Bharathi Dasan University Library at Trichy, Kamarajar University Library at Madurai, Concordia Library Nagercoil, St. Hindu College Library Nagercoil, Womens Christian College Library, Nagercoil, the Scott Christian College Library, Nagercoil, Christian College Library, Martandam, Madras University
Library, Chennai and Connemara Library, Chennai are the main places which the researcher has frequented in order to elicit pertinent information.

The early and medieval History of South Travancore especially Kanyakumari region has been collected through books and documents as also from physical evidence such as the inscriptions at Sucindrum Temple at Nagercoil and Sculptures from Padmanaphapuram Palace and Adhikesavaperumal Swamy Temple at Thiruvattar.

A fund of information has also been found in the Tamil poems of early poets of the Chola and Pandya period and the information regarding their conquests, their administration and heroic activities and the social atmosphere are clearly vouchsafed for by the eminent expressions of the early poets.

Apart from the inscriptions the “Neetu”(Palmleaf Records of the Travancore Kings) in the Trivandrum Archives have also yielded information on the Achievements, Caste System, the atrocities committed in the name of castes and the general administrative set-up. The inscriptions from Sucindrum temple reveal the grim realities of those times. The monarchs of those days who had sympathy for the suppressed people came to misery at the hands of the caste Hindus such as “Nambudiri Brahmins” and “Nairs”, especially during the car festival of Sucindrum. Hence every car festival came to be a fearful experience for those monarchs who yielded to the human tendency of sympathising with the suppressed. The inscriptions , as well as, the temple records are the main evidence of the atrocities of Caste Hindus.
Apart from the atrocities and other inhuman acts which demean their human tendency, the temples and churches yield a plethora of information on the architectural grandeur and constructional capacity of South India. These traditional festivals of temples and churches have nurtured the song and dance sequences and the form Kathakali is a distinct feature of this region.

It is not only art and architecture but even the effectiveness of Siddha medicine can be found in ancient manuscript (Neetu) palmleaf records of the District.

The ancestors of those who inherited the palmleaf records kept the sacred information within the household, for centuries. Not only medicinal particulars, but even the gurukulam education, royal status of the Guru, Varma Sastra and the theme of Astrology are all found in abundance from these primary sources of palmleaf records.

Most of these lists of information have permeated to the succeeding generation by oral tradition and the same can be witnessed in the religious ceremonies of the different castes in the District.

No study can be successful without a clean set of objectives, Guilford (1973), advocates the proper formulation of a research problem, which in his words is "more than half the battle".

Too many inexperienced investigators think of a question or a problem and rush to gather data before totally understanding what it is that they want to observe. A well-planned investigation should always include in its design, a clear consideration of the specific statistical operators that have
to be employed. The setting out of one's objectives is a vital must in research. The objectives, in other words, are the aims of the researcher to identify the research problem and focus on its resolution. In order to achieve one's targeted results, one has to formulate one's objectives.

Main Objectives

➢ To trace the development and record the history of the district of Kanyakumari up to 1956.

➢ To catalogue the Socio-Economic groups of Kanyakumari district, with reference to community, caste, religion, education, income and any other.

➢ To analyse the agricultural inputs and outcome with special reference to irrigation, cultivatable lands, crop varieties.

➢ To record the extent and expanse of the industrial growth in Kanyakumari District (1956-1986) with reference to plan targets, social upliftments, increase / decrease in the per capita income literacy mortality etc.

➢ To categorise tradition / culture / habits such as food - clothing etc., festivals and religious ceremonies, rituals - social / religious.

➢ To evaluate the social significance of secular and diversified India from a study of the microcosmic Kanyakumari District.

Since the present research is a Historical research based on the survey method there are no explicit statistical operations employed. However, a certain amount of percentage calculations mean and median methods as also interpretations through mode have been attempted and augment the findings with the help of derived tables.

Design

The present thesis is exploratory in design and employs a survey method and falls under the system of Historical research through a qualitative
study. **There are occasions** where the researcher has employed quantitative methods to analyse the data of the specific areas and to list out the findings. **But by and large** the thesis revolves round a qualitative analysis of the primary and secondary data.

**Scope of the Study**

The present study has limited its observation to the Geographic, Historic and Social features of Kanyakumari District within the time span of 1956-86, a three decade period after the reorganization of Indian States. In order to present a comprehensive picture of Kanyakumari District in its present form, the researcher has gone back in time to the period even before Christ (B.C) and treated the developments and changes that have occurred over centuries of time with special reference to such ramifications during the study period. (1956-1986)

The researcher has studied the geographic profile of the research area with regard to Physical and Human Geography. The third dimension of the study is directed towards the social and cultural aspects of the State. These have been organized into relevant chapters.

**Organization of Chapters**

The First Chapter discusses the research problem, and traces the historical significance of the area of study.

**Chapter II** in consonance with the research methodology deals with review of Literature. Literature pertaining to the study is reviewed from the angles of History, Geography, Agriculture and Industry, Economy and Social
aspects, such as tradition and habits and also Political systems and their working.

The Third Chapter is based on methodology and gives detailed information on research methodology in general and the research methodology employed in this particular research, the objectives, the design, the analyses processes and the limitations.

The Fourth Chapter specifies the Socio economic and Political advantages accruing from agricultural and Industrial activities in the Kanyakumari district.

The Fifth and Last Chapter enhances the scope of the present study by commenting on the social cultural, religious traditional and other habits of the people in Kanyakumari District.

The sixth and concluding chapter lists the findings, draws conclusions, sets out recommendations and identifies areas for further research.

Limitations

The present study confines itself to the specific period 1956-86 and so many small changes in matters of religious tolerance and social interaction have not been specifically analysed with reference to the present day.

The study pertains to the Historical and the Social Survey method and does not attempt to compare and contrast inter district or intra district groups and there is absolutely no comparison in this regard to the happenings elsewhere in India or with regard to others living in other parts of India.
The researcher has meticulously gathered information from all available sources such as libraries, Archives, Government and other office records.

The information which the researcher has compiled has been voluntarily given and the researcher has had no backing from officials in Government or quasi Government Department by way of directives to help in the eliciting of information.

The relevant materials for the present study have been collected during the period 1996-97 by personal visits to the various organisations and in personal and telephonic conversations, as well as, from excerpts from books and other official records.

The researcher has travelled extensively over Tamilnadu, especially to the study area Kanyakumari, the adjoining districts of Nagapattinam, Tirunelveli and Madurai as also the adjacent state of Trivandrum.

The researcher has always met with kind response from the various agencies with which she has had to interact during the process of data collection. The researcher had set up a strict schedule of work and timings each day and is proud to acknowledge the strict adherence to her schedule. The researcher's day would start at 8.30 AM and arriving at about 10 AM at a library or office, data collection would progress uninterrupted for about 3 hours in the morning and after a lunch break and relaxation of about 2 hours, work would commence again at about 2 PM or 2.30 PM and go on till 6 PM or whenever the library or office closes, which ever is earlier.
However, after reaching her house the researcher would meticulously, catalogue the information culled out on that day and also make notes on the relevance or otherwise of the material on hand.

Months of such sustained work resulted in voluminous material collection which the researcher has assiduously segregated and analysed and like the proverbial swan (Annam) has utilised the milk of essence and left the rest as residual water.

The research material has been compartmentalised in the form of chapters and in keeping with research traditions, the chapters have been devised as introductory, review, methodology and analysis, economic impact on agriculture and industry during the relevant period the social and culture aspects and finally findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Since the present research study is perform to economic history, the researcher has striven to entwine the concepts into a single stand and at the same time has endeavoured to distinguish the two disciplines by giving natural colouring to their respective concepts and adding lustre to the entire thesis by setting forth relevant points of convergence and divergence.

The fourth chapter will analyse the economic impact on the twin sectors of agriculture and industry during the study period 1956-86 in the Kanyakukari district and focus attention, on the positive and negative involves the disciplines of history as well as economic, aspects of these areas in the matter of the quality of life and its progress among the various constituent inhabitants of the southern most tip of the Vast Indian subcontinent.