CHAPTER-III
METHODOLOGY

The social position of an individual in society determines its possessor’s personal attribute or social status, degree of respect, prestige and influence. When we talk about status of women, many questions arise as, what place do they possess in the society. Are they considered higher, equal or below the level of men? What type of role they are playing in the society? Are they taking part in the decision making process? The responses to these questions reveal true status of women in any society. Thus status of an individual in such societies depends not only on the nature of his hereditary occupation but also on the family history. Therefore, an individual’s personality is moulded to fit into a pre-determined status as given by his society. This is not so in a metropolitan community. In urban complex societies a person’s status is always associated with his social and economic function. Therefore after age, sex and race, the occupational designations are the most convenient method of assigning status of an urban dweller.

THE FIELD AND STUDY AREA:

The universe of this research study is all women in legal profession in twin cities of Hubli-Dharwad, in Karnataka state. The main focus of the study concerns married and unmarried women in legal profession. Women in legal profession are mostly, if not exclusively, to be found in an urban setting in great numbers. The avenues of work open to them are concentrated in big cosmopolitan cities, medium and small towns. No doubt in recent times in India, the legal profession is spread all over the country. Respondents from Judges, Lectures have not been included in this study. Further the problems faced by women in legal profession is quite different from typical problems faced by women judges, and public prosecutors.
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The major objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the socio-economic background of women in legal profession.
2. To examine the impact of (legal) profession on their role as women.
3. To know and understand the problems faced by women lawyers in legal profession.
4. To find out whether the professional status confers more prestige on women in legal profession both in the family and in society.
5. To understand the opinion regarding the practice, facilities benefits or advantages provided by the authorities.
6. To identify the discomforts and constraints of women lawyers in legal profession.
7. To ascertain the perceptions of women lawyers regarding their status in the society in comparison with their male counterparts.
8. To examine and investigate the extent of help received from family members, legal institutions, government and other agencies.
9. To offer pragmatic suggestion to sensitize women to overcome the problems faced in the legal profession.

HYPOTHESES:

Keeping in mind the framework of the research study, the following hypothesis has been formulated for the purpose of testing them in the light of empirical data collected for the study.

1. Female participation rate in legal profession is comparatively less than in the other profession.
2. The Socio-economic and situational factors, determine the choice of the occupation. Most of the times women without having real
intentions, enter into this occupation and later they develop interest and skill.

3. Women lawyers often encounter a “glass-sealing,” which makes them difficult to reach the top level of the profession.

4. Women lawyers are restricted and marginalized by the court due to certain barriers and constraints.

5. Most of the clients hesitate and fear, to approach the women lawyers because of gender prejudice and misperception about their abilities.

6. Male lawyers, prevent the clients to approach the women lawyers.

7. Women lawyers are discriminated by their other male colleagues in working place.

**TOOLS AND TECHNIQUE OF DATA COLLECTION :**

To obtain a detailed and complete data a standard, questionnaire technique was selected to collect the information from the respondents regarding their profession and problems in performing their dual role. The questionnaire was the main tool of data collection. The questionnaire consists of five sections viz., section (1) Personal Information (2) Family Background of the Respondents, (3) Professional Profile, (4) Role of women in legal profession, (5) Problems of women in legal profession.

The main sources of data collection of the present study is
1) Primary sources and 2) Secondary Sources

In addition to supplement the primary data literature regarding professional women lawyers was also collected.

**PRIMARY SOURCES :**

The data from the primary source was collected by the researcher through field survey (work). To collect information, structured questionnaire schedule was administered to the respondents in the sample (study) to elicit data for analysis in order to arrive at objective conclusions.
QUESTIONNAIRE:

The questionnaire focused specially collecting the primary sources, keeping in the objectives, hypothesis and theoretical framework in mind. The data pertaining to professional women lawyers, their socio-economic background, their professional career profile, their role, in legal (profession) and problems of women in legal profession etc., were directly collected from women in legal profession, in Hubli-Dharwad courts. The questionnaire schedule is divided into four parts viz., sections.

Section-A: Personal Information
Section-B: Socio-Economic Background
Section-C: Role of women in legal profession
Section-D: Problems of women in legal profession

SECONDARY SOURCES:

The secondary data were collected from District Gazetteer Journals, bulletins, Karnatak University Library and Karnatak University of Law Dharwad. District Census, Handbooks, Publications, Books, Government Institutions and various libraries, CMDR library, Court Library Dharwad, Articles, Magazines, that through more light on the subject under study.

PROCEDURE FOR STUDY OR UNIVERSE FOR PRESENT STUDY:

The procedure for this empirical study is derived from women in legal profession, in the twin cities of Hubli-Dharwad. It was a very convenient place to conduct the field work as the High court is also situated in Dharwad. This is one of the main reason for selecting the area. On account of proximity to the work and place of research, collected the information about the number of women lawyers in legal profession, i.e. from Hubli-Dharwad courts and High court. Further the library of the courts also provided a proper list of lawyers. At the second stage a list of women in legal profession, identified in courts
was made. Further the researcher came to know that in every court, lawyers have their own association, organization, etc which meets sporadically to identify the specific professional problems of their women in legal professionals.

The total number of people in legal profession in Dharwad city courts was, according to 2007 and 2008 1267, among them were 182 women lawyers. And Hubli city had 901 lawyers and among them were 120 women lawyers by the time the researcher made an attempt to identify the respondents, it was found that some women lawyers had already married and left their profession and some had gone to different places to achieve their goals and to fulfill their wants, and to meet the challenges in the legal profession. Further researcher selected to take whole universe of lawyers to the present study.

The researcher initially selected a total number of 307 women in legal profession as respondents, for this research study. However, about 5 respondents were excluded as they were not keen on cooperating with researcher and avoided giving information in the questionnaire, giving the excuse that they were busy and not interested to give any information, and some refused to give the required information. Here after excluding the 5 women lawyers the number of women lawyers arrived was 302 for deriving information through recognized research technique.

**LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:**

Women Judges, Women Lectures and Professors of Law, Public Prosecutors. Women Judges being very few, and also as they belonged to a higher position in the legal profession are not included among the respondents.

**PILOT STUDY :**

A pilot study was conducted before the main interview schedule was finalized in order to ensure the suitability of the questions. A draft of interview schedule comprised of structured answers was used for the purpose of the pilot study. The pilot study helped the researcher to
add a few more questions and responses, so as to meet the objectives of the study. Thus the questionnaire was made ready for the main field work.

**FIELD SURVEY:**

Field survey is the most crucial and important and very difficult part of the research procedure. The success of the field study depends on the respondents and their responses. This depends to large extent to the nature of information required. In spite of the fact that family and income, response of the family member etc. are strictly personal matters most of the respondents were very co-operative. The respondents were assured that the information given by them would be treated as strictly confidential and would be used for no purpose other than that of research. The main problem faced during the field work was to fix up time to meet the respondents. They were always busy with their important and responsible cases of the clients in their profession. They often expressed the inconvenience to overcome from this problem. The researcher chose either their free time; rest hours or after the court time, further researcher distributed the questionnaire in the afternoon as it was the rest time for the women lawyers.

**STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:**

To analyze the data obtained for this research work mainly simple statistical tabulation and statistical tools have been used for providing suitable conclusion, simple statistical tools like percentage, average etc, have been used whenever appropriate and suitable. This helped the researcher to gain proper understanding of the topic under study.

In the questionnaire, where the respondents had the option to choose more than one answer, they were asked to ‘Tick’ them in order of preference, then the statistical average was computed.

Further the data has been analysed through accepted norms of pictorial representation, such as bar diagrams, line graph, pie chart etc. This method summarizes, analyses the statistical data.
CHAPTER SCHEME:

The final study is presented in the following order of chapter for the purpose of systematic analysis and interpretation.

CHAPTER-1
INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the subject of study e.g., A brief historical sketch, is given. The origin background of the court dress or black coat, (Status of women), meaning of profession, and legal profession, development, entry of women in legal profession.

CHAPTER-2
BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY AREA

This chapter indicates data on the area in which the field was conducted, eg. The commercial hub and cultural capital of North Karnataka that is Hubli-Dharwad city. The chapter traces the location, the historical background and the socio-cultural environment of the area.

CHAPTER-3
METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methodology aspects about the study and aspects like the Objectives and Hypothesis, and the chapter also deals with a discussion on the whole universe or procedure of the study, which was selected by the researcher. Tools of data collections and the techniques of data analysis etc. The chapter presents data on the area in which the field work was conducted, the historical background and the socio-economic and cultural environment of the area of North Karnataka that is Hubli-Dharwad city, and also here there is discussion about the theoretical support for the present study selected by the researcher.
CHAPTER 4
SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF WOMEN IN LEGAL PROFESSION

This chapter deals with the socio-economic characteristics and the family background of the respondents variables such as age, level of education, place of education, caste background, religion, income, housing condition, respondents husbands education and fathers education, occupation, income are discussed and analysed here.

CHAPTER 5
LEGAL PROFESSION FOR WOMEN – MOTIVATION AND EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN ADVOCATES : AN ANALYSIS

In this chapter relevant issues pertaining to the professional background of the respondents like reasons for taking up the job, opinion regarding work, further ambition, marital relation, division of house hold work decision making in the family etc, are discussed.

CHAPTER 6
ROLE OF WOMEN LAWYERS AND PROBLEMS OF WOMEN LAWYERS : AN ANALYSIS

In this chapter relevant data is analyzed, relating to the respondents views and opinions on the problems, faced by women lawyers in legal profession. Such as, working condition, professional relation which colleagues, relationship with clients, courts environment for women lawyers etc are analysed and discussed, and also this chapter deals with respondents views, regarding, whether profession hinders their marital life, etc, are discussed.

CHAPTER 7
RESEARCH FINDINGS, SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The final chapter summaries the findings of the studies. It includes the broad conclusions derived, and tries to pose the problems
through a realistic analysis of the data. It attempts a detailed and important enquiry for further studies in this regard. The chapter concludes with suggestions which are intended to the women in legal profession, particularly in solving some of their professional problems. The focus of this study is to find out the major problems faced by women in legal profession, and also to study the factor and problems relating to the dual role of professional women, and to analyse the specific or relevant data on such issues which affect professional women. This was attempted through a quantitative a qualitative analysis of data to understand the changing perspectives in the domestic lives of professional women, taking into account women in legal profession as a specific case.