## CHAPTER IV

**METHODOLOGY OF INVESTIGATION**

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CHAPTER IV

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

Women among the Muslims are subjected to sharp restrictions in various spheres of their life. After the independence of India, the significant changes that took place for the betterment of women did not affect the Muslim women immediately and directly mainly because the Muslim community as such was then more involved and concerned over the partition of the country on the basis of religion. It was only later that the Muslim women started realising their own stagnated state of existence after observing the non-Muslim women who in the mean time had taken some advantage of the opportunities to better their social standing. The realisation of their backwardness coupled with all the exogenous factors for change have brought about meaningful changes in the situation of the contemporary Muslim families (Roy, 1979) (102).

Needless to say that accurate methodology is a must for any kind of research in physical as well as in social sciences. However, where human behaviour and attitudes are concerned, the application of tools and techniques with more precision, brings out many fascinating behavioural characteristics, that in one or the other way is associated with the objective of the study.

THE PROBLEM:

The contribution of occupation and education in increasing one's status whether man or women is fairly well established in all societies. In a traditional society, there are other factors contributing to status. The most important of this is age and religion. The
marital status, type of family and place of residence also determine a person's status. The present study attempts to find out the effect of employment, level of education, religion, age, marital status, and place of residence on the status of women.

The present chapter is dealt under the following headings:

I. Operational definitions
II. Hypotheses framed
III. Sampling procedures
IV. Selection and construction of tools
V. Variables and their empirical measurements
VI. Data Collection
VII. Statistical procedure for data analysis.

I. OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS:

1. EMPLOYMENT:

Employment is defined as the state of being employed to work for wages or salary (Webster, 1975) (131).

2. SOCIAL STATUS:

Status according to Bendix and Lipset (1957) (12) refers to rank-position or positions which an individual may occupy with respect, chiefly, to income, prestige and power one or all of these in sociological expression, it denotes neither rank for hierarchy but only position vis-a-vis others in terms of rights and obligations.

Anandalakshmi (1973) (6) defined "status of women" as implying the extent to which women can exercise their personal anatomy, and have access to knowledge, to economic resources and to political power as compared to men. She classified the status of women into
three broad categories - the ideal, high and low status. Ideal status prevails in a society when legal sanctions for equality with men in matters of personal autonomy and choices or options exist. In such a society, responsibilities are showed equality by men and women, as a way of life. High status implies a society where women are in a position to exercise their economic, social and political rights in society and their powers of personal autonomy in the family. Low status of women in evident in societies where cultural compulsions prevail in domestic life and dominance of male is the rule.

3. ATTITUDE :

Benn (1970) (12) defined that "attitudes are likes and dislikes; they are our affinities for and our aversions to situations, objects persons, groups or any other identifiable aspect of our environment, including abstract ideas and social policies. Attitudes refer primarily to the favourability of our feelings towards particular targets".

4. RELIGION :

The World Book Encyclopedia (1981) (123) defined religion as "an organised system of beliefs ceremonies practices and worship that centre on one supreme God or Gods.

5. EDUCATION :

Theodorson and Theodorson (1976) (121) have defined education as "The transmission of knowledge of either formal or informal methods, Although education is thought of in terms of schooling (formal education), effective training the individual's role in a constant process.
6. **AGE** :

The World Book Encyclopedia (1981) (122) defined age, as "the term used for any stage in the life of a person, such as - childhood, youth, adulthood and old age."

II. **HYPOTHESES** :

The following hypotheses were framed and examined in the present study. The hypotheses have been formulated under the following sub headings.

A. 1. **Status of women within the family - Effect of Religion.**

Religion will not have any influence on the

a. decision making power of women with regard to money matters.

b. the decision making power of women with regard to child-centred decision.

c. the freedom of women in spending income

d. the management of household responsibility

e. observing their traditional customs.

2. **Religion has no bearing on the attitudes of women towards education**

3. **Status of women in the office - Effect of religion.**

Religion will not have any effect on

a. respect received by the working women from their male superiors.

b. respect received by the working women from their male colleagues

c. respect received by working women from their male subordinates.

d. difficulty undergone due to their belonging to female sex

e. working women being a member in the office union.

f. participation of the working women in the union activities

g. the attitude of working women towards strike

h. the attitude of working women towards job.
1. The desire of working women to leave the job.

4. Problem of employed women - Effect of Religion

Religion will not have any bearing on

a. Health problems
b. Marital problem
c. Problem with children
d. Problem with household work
e. Recreation problem

5. Status of women in the wider society - Effect of Religion

Religion will not influence the

a. Membership of women in cultural organisation
b. Participation of women in activities of cultural organisation
c. The attitude of respondent that participation in cultural organisation gives a higher status.
d. Movement of women outside the home
e. Going out with others
f. Attitude of women towards eating in restaurants
g. Spending time in traditional hobbies
h. Spending time in reading newspapers or magazines
i. Taking part in extra-curricular activities

b. Attitude of women towards politics - Effect of Religion

Religion will not have any bearing on

a. Voting in election
b. Having interest in politics
c. Discussing politics with friends or relatives
d. Knowledge of ideologies of parties
e. Knowledge of the number of women member in various parties
6. (i) Attitude of women towards marriage - Effect of religion

Religion will not have any effect on attitude of women

a. towards dowry

b. opinion that dowry gives status to women

c. the marriageable age of girls

d. towards the choice of partner

e. towards the type of marriage

f. changing caste rigidity

g. towards inter-caste marriages

h. marriage through advertisement

i. towards divorce

j. towards widow remarriage

k. towards sati system

l. towards polygamy.

(ii) Attitude of women towards status of women - Effect of Religion

Religion will not influence the respondents' attitude towards

a. having equal right or status for women

b. their awareness about prostitution

c. their knowledge about prostitution as social evil

d. use of modern wear for women

e. education for women

f. employment for women

g. education and employment gives a higher status to women

h. relatives reactions regarding employed women.

(iii) Attitude towards family planning - Effect of Religion

Religion will not have any bearing on to the respondents

a. knowledge towards the ideal number of children in the family

b. Attitudes towards family planning.
7. Attitude towards religious practices and customs followed -

Effect of Religion - Religion will not have any effect on respondents.

a. Practice of prayer
b. Opinion of importance of prayer
c. observe fast
d. importance attached observing fast
e. reading religious books
f. reading religious magazines
g. observing purdah
h. importance of observing purdah
i. strictness in following religion

B.1. Status of woman within the family - Effect of employment

Employment will not have any influence on the

a. decision making power of women with regard to money matters
b. the decision making power of women with regard to child
   centered decision, the freedom
c. the freedom of women in spending income
d. the management of household responsibility
e. observing their traditional customs

2. Employment has no bearing of bearing on the attitudes of women towards education.
3. Status of women in the wider society - Effect of Employment

Employment will not influence the

a. membership of women in the cultural organisations

b. participation of women in activities of cultural organisation

c. the attitude of respondent that participation in cultural organisation gives a higher status.

d. movement of women outside the home

e. going out with others

f. attitude of women towards eating in restaurants

g. spending time in traditional hobbies

h. spending time in reading newspapers or magazines

i. taking part in extra-curricular activities.

(ii) Attitude of women towards politics - Effect of Employment

Employment will not have any bearing on

a. voting in election

b. having interest in politics.
c. discussing politics with friends or relatives

d. knowledge of ideologies of parties

e. knowledge of the number of women member in various parties

6. (i) Attitude of women towards marriage - Effect of Employment

Employment will not have any effect on attitude of women

a. towards dowry

b. opinion that dowry gives status to women

c. the marriagable age of girls

d. towards the choice of partner

e. towards the type of marriage

d. changing caste rigidity

g. towards inter caste marriage

h. marriage through advertisements

i. towards divorce

j. towards widow remarriage

k. towards sati system

l. towards polygamy

6. (ii). Attitude towards family planning - Effect of Employment

Employment will have no bearing on the respondents'

a. knowledge towards the ideal number of children in the family

b. attitudes towards family planning

7. Attitude towards religious practices and customs followed -

Effect of Employment - Employment will not have any effect on respondents'

a. practice of prayer

b. opinion of importance of prayer

c. observe fast
d. importance attached to observing fast

e. reading religious books

f. reading religious magazines

g. observing purdah

h. importance of observing purdah

i. strictness in following religion

Q.1. Status of women within the family - Effect of Education

Education will not have any influence on the

d. decision making power of women with regard to money matters

b. the decision making power of women with regard to child centered decision

c. the freedom of women in spending income

d. the management of household responsibility

g. observing their traditional customs

2. Education has no bearing on the attitudes of women towards education.

3. Status of women in the office - Effect of Education

Education will not have any effect on

a. respect received by the working women from their male superiors

b. respect received by the working women from their male colleagues

b. respect received by the working women from their male subordinates

d. difficulty undergone due to their belonging to female sex.

e. working woman being a member in the office union

f. participation of the working women in the union activities

g. the attitude of working women towards strike

h. the attitude of working women towards job

i. the desire of working women to leave the job.
4. Problem of employed women - Effect of Education
   
   Education will not have any bearing on
   
   a. health problem
   b. marital problem
   c. problem with children
   d. problem with household work
   e. recreation problem

5. (i). Status of women in the wider society - Effect of Education
   
   Education will not influence the
   
   a. membership of women in the cultural organisations
   b. participation of women in activities of cultural organisation
   c. the attitude of respondent that participation in cultural
      organisation gives a higher status.
   d. movement of women outside the home
   e. going out with others
   f. attitude of women towards eating in restaurants
   g. spending time in traditional hobbies
   h. spending time in reading newspapers or magazines
   i. taking part in extra curricular activities

(ii) Attitude of women towards politics - Effect of Education
   
   Education will not have any bearing on
   
   a. voting in election
   b. having interest in politics
   c. discussing politics with friends or relatives
   d. knowledge of ideologies of parties
   e. knowledge of the number of women member in various parties
6. (i) Attitude of women towards marriage - Effect of Education

   Education will not have any effect on attitude of women

   a. a. towards dowry
   b. opinion that dowry gives status to woman.
   c. the marriagable age of girls
   d. towards the choice of partner
   e. towards the type of marriage
   f. changing caste rigidity
   g. towards inter caste marriage
   h. marriage through advertisements
   i. towards divorce
   j. towards widow remarriage
   k. towards sati system
   l. towards polygamy

(ii) Attitude towards family planning - Effect of Education

   Education will have no bearing on the respondents'

   a. knowledge towards the ideal number of children in the family
   b. attitudes towards family planning

7. Attitude towards religious practices and customs followed -

   Effect of Education - Education will not have any effect on

   respondents'

   a. practice of prayer
   b. opinion of importance of prayer
   c. observe fast
   d. importance attached to observing fast
   e. reading religious books
   f. reading religious magazines
g. observing purdah
h. importance of observing purdah
i. strictness in following religion

D.1. Status of women within the family - Effect of age.

Age will not have any influence on the
a. Decision making power of women with regard to money matters
b. the decision making power of women with regard to child
   centred decision.

c. the freedom of women in spending income
d. the management of household responsibility
e. observing their traditional cust;

2. Age has no bearing on the attitudes of women towards education


Age will not have any effect on
a. respect received by the working women from their male superiors.
b. respect received by the working women from their male colleagues
c. respect received by the working women from their male
   subordinates
d. difficulty undergone due to their belonging to female sex
e. working women being a member in the office union
f. participation of the working women in the union activities
g. the attitudes of working women towards strike.
h. the attitude of working women towards job.
i. the desire of working women to leave the job

4. Problem of employed women - Effect of age

Age will not have any bearing on
a. health problem
b. marital problem
e. problem with children

5 (i) Status of women in the wider society - Effect of age

Age will not influence the

a. membership of women in the cultural organisations

b. participation of women in activities of cultural organisations

c. the attitudes of respondent that participation in cultural
organisation gives a higher status.

d. movement of women outside the home

e. going out with others

f. attitude of women towards eating in restaurants

g. spending time in traditional hobbies

h. spending time in reading newspapers or magazines

i. taking part in extra curricular activities

(ii) Attitude of women towards politics - Effect of age

Age will not have any bearing on

a. voting in election

b. having interest in politics

c. discussing politics with friends or relatives

d. knowledge of ideologies of parties

6. (i) Attitude of women towards marriage - Effect of age

Age will not have any effect on attitude of women

a. towards dowry

b. opinion that dowry gives status to women.

c. the marriable age of girls

d. towards the choice of partner
e. towards the type of marriage

f. changing caste rigidity

g. towards inter caste marriage

h. marriage through advertisements

i. towards divorce

j. towards widow remarriage

k. towards sati system

l. towards polygamy

6. (ii) Attitudes towards family planning - Effect of age

   Age will have no bearing on the respondents'

   a. knowledge towards the ideal number of children in the
      family.

   b. attitudes towards family planning

7. Attitude towards religious practices and customs followed -
   Effect of age - Age will not have any effect on respondents'

   a. practice of prayer

   b. opinion of importance of prayer

   c. observe fast

   d. importance attached to observing fast

   e. reading religious books
f. reading religious magazines

g. observing purdah

h. importance of observing purdah

i. strictness in following religion

III. SAMPLING PROCEDURE:

a. SELECTION OF THE AREA:

The study was conducted in selected districts of Tamil Nadu state where there is a larger concentration of Muslims. Accordingly Madras, Rameswad, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam, Madurai, Tiruchi and South Arcot were considered.

Since one of our objectives was to test whether there is any difference in status between Muslims and non-Muslims, we selected for comparison, from the same area another sample of 100 non-Muslims who compared favourably with the Muslim women in the Education, employment and age.

Table 1 gives the area-wise distribution of the sample.
MUSLIM WOMEN IN THEIR TRADITIONAL ATTIRIES
MUSLIM WOMEN IN THEIR TRADITIONAL ATTIRE
ASPIRING YOUNG MUSLIM GIRLS WHO MAINTAIN THEIR TRADITIONS...
# TABLE - I

Area-Wise Distribution of the Sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Muslims</th>
<th>Non-Muslims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Madras</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ramnad District</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Pasumpon muthuramalingam</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Madurai district</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Tiruahi district</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>South Arcot district</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### b. SELECTION OF THE SAMPLE :

The sample consisted of 205 Muslim women residing in Madras and in some selected districts of Tamil Nadu.

In order to compare the Muslim with non-Muslim women 65 Hindu women and 35 Christian women were selected from the same area.

Table - 2 gives the distribution of the sample.

### IV. SELECTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE TOOL :

The data was collected using the questionnaire. Personal interviews were also conducted, wherever possible group meetings were conducted to discuss their problem in their field of work and their community.
Showing the distribution of the sample

Andhra Pradesh
Madras
Pondicherry
Bay of Bengal
Palk Strait
Gulf of Mannar
Indian Ocean
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Muslima</th>
<th>Non-Muslima</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>205</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 34 years</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 - 44 years</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 and above</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>205</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-graduate</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matric</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schooling</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>205</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of family</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>205</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>205</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madras</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of Tamil Nadu</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>205</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE

EDUCATION WISE

Professionals
Post graduates
Graduates
Intermediate
Matric
School Education
Illiterate
Religious Education

AGE WISE

18-34 years
35-44 years
45 years and above

EMPLOYMENT WISE

Employed
Unemployed
DESCRIPTION OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

The questionnaire contained the basic sociological data which include the age, educational status, type of family, income, occupation and place of residence, followed by the questions on the following sub headings regarding the status of women.

1. Status within the family:
   a. Power of making decisions - both money-centred and children-centred
   b. Freedom in spending family income
   c. Household responsibility and
   d. Freedom in deviating behaviours which discriminate against women

2. Status in the office

3. Problems of Employed women

4. Attitudes towards Education

5. Status of women in the wider society

6. Attitudes towards the general status of women.

7. Attitudes towards religion and religious customs followed.

METHOD OF SCORING:

The status within the family, status in the office, and attitudes towards Education were scored using three-point scales. The mean of the scores of the items were taken as the score of the respondent in that area. Higher score denotes higher status while lower score lower status.

RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY:

Split - half Method:

In order to find out the reliability of the questionnaire split half method was used. In this method, the items in the
questionnaire were divided into two equal halves coupling up the odd items and the even ones. The scores for the two halves were obtained and the product - moment correlation was worked out between the two sets of scores. The correlation co-efficient was obtained. The co-efficient after applying Spearman's Brown prophecy formula was 0.78. It was evident that this instrument was reliable.

V. VARIABLES AND THEIR EMPirical MEASUREMENTS :

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VARIABLES</th>
<th>EMPirical MEASUREMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. DEPENDENT VARIABLES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Status within the family</td>
<td>Questionnaire developed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Status in the office</td>
<td>for the study (Appendix)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Problems of Employed women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Attitudes towards education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Status of women in the wider society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Attitudes of women towards the general status of women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Attitudes towards religion and Religious customs followed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. INDEPENDENT VARIABLES :</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Religion</td>
<td>Information obtained from questionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Employment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Age</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEPENDENT VARIABLES:

The questionnaires were administered to the respondents.

VI. DATA COLLECTION:

PRELIMINARY STUDY:

A preliminary study was conducted in order
1. To find out the difficulties if any, that respondents may have.
2. To find the reliability and validity of the instruments and tools used.

MAIN STUDY:

After establishing the reliability and validity of the questionnaire, the main study was conducted.

The questionnaire as administered to the various respondents both employed and unemployed. In the case of uneducated women the questionnaire asked and the answers were noted down. An interview process was also held to get necessary information pertaining to problems in the society and also with the employers, under whom they are working. These interviews were conducted in homes, hostels and offices. Most of them held in homes and some in the hostels.

HARDSHIPS ENCOUNTERED:

The employed were personally contacted. They were not co-operative. Some of them were suspicious and inhibited. On the whole the field work with respondents who were lukewarm or indifferent was a tiring experience. Some of the working women wanted the schedule to be left with them and collected some other day. In most cases the investigator did not find the schedule ready on the day it was promised. It took more coaxing and it was many
months before, the investigator was finally able to collect the entire data.

The factors behind such hesitation or non-co-operation were several. The women were initially shy because the researcher was an utter stranger. Some of them were unwilling to part with personal information regarding themselves and family. Assurances regarding anonymity were never accepted fully. Many of them did not appreciate the meaning and purpose of the academic venture the investigator was undertaking. Many of them remained secretive or evasive about some sensitive areas of their life. These include marital problems and family income. It is therefore likely that despite utmost caution on the part of the investigator, some distortions may have crept into the data in these sensitive areas of life.

VII. STATISTICAL PROCEDURE FOR ANALYSIS:

Analysis of the data was done on the basis of the following variables.
1. Religion,
2. Education
3. Employment
4. Age
5. Marital Status
6. Place of residence.

The chi-square test has been used in most cases to establish association between the variables. The level of significant for acceptance of relationship was 0.05, where chi-square test could not be applied or while the tables are self explanatory, the data was presented as such and percentages calculated.