Chapter III: Research Methodology

Introduction:

In a research activity, the methods of a study gains much importance than the research issue being handled. The methodological back up of a study makes the conclusions and generalizations more meaningful. The findings of a study, however, excellent they are will not carry academic weightage and consideration unless the study agrees upon certain methodological consideration. A study attempting to draw generalizations must ensure that the sample drawn is random and not purposive, is just an illustration how the methodological issues underpin the research process. It is also very important to ascertain whether the methods adopted for executing a study are relevant or not for the purpose they have adopted. Basically, the purposes or objectives of the study and the nature of the research issue being handled govern which methods should be adopted to carry out a particular research study. Once, the nature of research study and objectives have set forth, it is very important that the methods of research should adhere to these criteria. This chapter focuses on the discussion of the methods adopted by the present study. The methodological considerations of the study are discussed focusing on the following aspects of research methods:

- Research Design
- Population, sample and sampling method
- Methods of data collection
- Tools and techniques of data collection
- Field work
- Sources and types of data
- Methods of data analysis
Research Design:

The issues of leadership have been attempted by Anthropologists and Sociologists in the fieldwork and participant observation tradition. The studies that have adopted participant observation design usually produced a panoramic view of the village social system and have obviously failed to analyse rigorously the phenomenon of leadership. Moreover, these studies lacked the important property of scientific research viz, capacity of generalization. As the participant observation studies focused on single villages, they were unable to comprehend the scenario across different villages which vary in terms of composition of castes, exposure to the outside world and level of economic development, etc. Keeping in view this, it has decided to adopt a survey research design to study the emerging rural leadership in the present study.

The purpose of the present study is to study the phenomenon rural leadership and not the village social system per se. However, an attempt has been made to locate leadership amidst the rural social structure. This has been done by incorporating the important socio-economic variables such as caste, landholdings, type of family and kinship network. As the study aims at understanding the rural leadership across different villages it has been decided to develop a survey research design. Another important objective of the study is to fill up the gaps in the existing literature by proceeding towards generalizations. This warranted the selection of a sample which necessitates the adoption of survey design. The information (data) is collected with the help of standard set of questions from the respondents. However, the field notes and insights gained from the observation have duly incorporated to add the richness of the data. The data is put to the
tests of validity and is processed. The data is analyzed with the help of statistical methods and computer packages like SPSS. With help of statistical methods the major hypotheses have been put to test and valid conclusions and generalizations have been drawn.

The title of the study may give an impression the present study is based on a case study method. The term case study used in the title denotes the location of the study rather than the method of the study. That is why the term case study appears in the latter part of the title and not in the beginning of the title. The study follows a survey design and is not based on case study method or design. Further, the study attempts to fulfill both the goals of description and explanation of the issues involved in the emerging rural leadership in the Indian villages. The study can be better described as a study based on the explanatory survey design. It has undergone all the phases in the explanatory survey design such as the following:

- A comprehensive theoretical review has been done to evolve a theoretical frame work to the study.
- An intensive review of literature has been done to identify the gaps, contesting observations and emerging trends in the existing literature on rural leadership in India.
- A number of research questions have been raised and objectives of the study have been put forth explicitly.
- A number of hypotheses have been formulated keeping in view the theoretical frame work and the review of studies done in the field.
➢ The conceptualization and operationalization of the major concepts and variables has been attempted.

➢ An instrument of data collection i.e., interview schedule is prepared to collect the data to fulfill the objectives of the study by answering several research questions and testing the hypotheses.

➢ The interview schedule is pre-tested and modified and improved upon considering the ground realities.

➢ A sampling frame is prepared and a sample is selected based on the principles of sampling methods and purposes of the study.

➢ A comprehensive field work has been carried out to collect the required data from the respondents.

➢ The collected data has been processed scientifically — editing, coding, summarization of the data has been done.

➢ The processed data is analyzed with the help of statistical methods and the SPSS package and major hypotheses have been tested.

➢ The conclusions and generalizations have been made concerning the different issues of emerging leadership based statistical analysis.

Thus, the study is conducted on the basis of an explanatory survey design. As far as the time factor is concerned, the study is based on a cross-sectional survey design i.e., the study is one shot survey of the emerging issues in rural leadership. Though, the study is focusing on the issues of social change and dynamics as the study of changing dimensions of the rural leadership legitimately falls in the domain of study of social...
change and dynamics, the issue has been basically dealt with cross-sectional survey and not the longitudinal survey designs.

The aspect of change has been effectively addressed by providing a thorough backdrop to the study by way of comprehensive survey of studies on the issues of leadership spreading over a period of time. The review of literature has provided a comprehensive picture of the patterns and nature of rural leadership as evolved in different periods of time. The portrayal of the earlier studies on rural leadership is taken as the base line for the present study and in that background an attempt is made to analyze and explain the emerging dimensions of rural leadership.

**Population:**

The study is with special reference to Bagalkot district in the Karnataka state. Therefore, the members of Panchayati Raj Institutions at all the three levels in the Bagalkot district constitute the population of the study. The members of the zilla panchayat, taluk panchayats and gram panchayats who were elected on the basis of Panchayat elections held in the state in 2000 are considered as the population of the present study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>PRIs</th>
<th>No. of members</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Zilla Panchayat</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Taluk Panchayats</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gram Panchayats</td>
<td>2505</td>
<td>95.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>2630</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from data collected in the field work

It is notices that Bagalkot district has 2630 members of different levels of panchayat raj institutions. Out of total 2630 members, the highest number of members
(95.00%) are from the lowest rung of the PRIs i.e., gram panchayats and 99 members (4.00%) are from the intermediary bodies i.e., taluk panchayats and only 26 members (1.00%) of the members are from the highest body i.e., zilla panchayats. This trend very much matches with over all scenario in Karnataka state. The members of the gram panchayats constitute the largest chunk of the total members of the panchayat raj institutions.

The Bagalkot district consists of two administrative sub-divisions — Bagalkot sub-division and Jamkhandi sub-division. The Bagalkot sub-division consists of three taluk panchayats — Bagalkot, Badami and Hunugund and 395 villages and 85 gram panchayats. The Jamkhandi sub-division consists of three taluk panchayats — Jamkhandi, Mudhol and Biligi and 213 villages and 77 gram panchayats.

Table 3.2: The distribution of members of PRIs in two sub-divisions of Bagalkot district in 2000:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-divisions</th>
<th>No. of members of PRIs</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zilla Panchayats</td>
<td>Taluk Panchayats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagalkot sub-division</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamkhandi sub-division</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from the information collected in the field work

It is noticed that both the sub-divisions have more or less the same number of members of panchayat raj institutions. It is seen that the Bagalkot sub-division has more number of members than the Jamkhandi sub-division. However, the difference is very less. Further, the difference in the number of members of zilla panchayat and taluk...
panchayat is negligible. In case of gram panchayat members, the Bagalkot division has 126 more members than the Jamkhandi sub-division.

**Sampling Method:**

The cluster and multistage random sampling method is used to select the sample for the purpose of the study. The Bagalkot district is administratively organized into two administrative sub-divisions — Bagalkot and Jamkhandi.

**First Stage:**

In the first stage, out of two sub-divisions, one sub-division i.e., Jamkhandi sub-division is randomly selected. All the members of the zilla panchayat and taluk panchayats from Jamkhandi sub-division have included in the sample.

Table 3.3: No. of Zilla Panchayat and Taluk Panchayat members of Jamkhandi sub-division in 2000:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Taluks</th>
<th>Panchayat Raj Institutions</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zilla Panchayat</td>
<td>Taluk Panchayats</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jamkhandi</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mudhol</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Biliqi</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from the information collected in the field work

The Jamkhandi sub-division has 12 members of Bagalkot zilla panchayat and 47 members of three taluk panchayats. Since, the number of these members is less in comparison with the number of gram panchayat members; it has decided to include all the members of zilla panchayat and three taluk panchayats in order to ensure their due
representation in the sample selected. Thus all the 59 members of zilla panchayat and
taluk panchayats of Jamkhandi sub-division are included in the study. The three talukas
of Jamkhandi sub-division are representatives of district and state level scenario as these
three talukas are of different size. The Jamkhandi taluk with 5 members of zilla
panchayat and 20 members of taluk panchayat is bigger one and the Mudhol taluk with 4
members of zilla panchayat and 16 members of taluk panchayat is moderate in size where
as the Biligi taluk with just 3 members of zilla panchayat and 11 members of taluk
panchayat represents the smaller taluks in the district.

Second Stage:

The Jamkhandi sub-division with 77 gram panchayats has 1,193 members of the
gram panchayats. Since the number of gram panchayat members is very large, it is
decided to choose a sample of gram panchayats from the three talukas of the sub-
division. Thus, four gram panchayats each from a taluk have been randomly selected in
the second stage of the sampling process.

Table 3.4: No. of Gram Panchayats in the Jamkhandi sub-division in 2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Taluks</th>
<th>No. of Gram panchayats</th>
<th>No. of Gram panchayats included in the sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jamkhandi</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mudhol</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Biligi</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from the information collected from field work.

It is seen that 12 gram panchayats are randomly selected from the list of 77 gram
panchayats spread over three talukas of the Jamkhandi sub-division. That is about 15.00
per cent of the gram panchayats of the sub-division are included in the sample.
Third Stage:

The 12 gram panchayats selected in the second stage of the sampling consists of 191 members. All the 191 members of these selected gram panchayats are included in the sample of the study. That is out of 1193 members of gram panchayats in the Jamkhandi sub-division, 191 members (about 16.00 per cent) are selected as part of the sample of the study. The sampling processes, thus ends up with the selection of gram panchayat members who are the main focus of the study.

It is noticeable that the gram panchayat members not selected directly from the total gram panchayat members in the sub-division. On the other hand, the gram panchayats were selected from three talukas of the sub-division following the principle of cluster and multi-stage sampling. This has been done to ensure the representation to all the taluks in the sub-division. The strength of the cluster and multi-stage sampling is that it ensures representative sample without compromising the principle of randomness. In our sample, the gram panchayat members from all — larger and more advanced Jamkhandi taluk, the medium size and moderately advanced Mudhol taluk and the smaller and relatively backward Biligi taluk are included by random selection with the help of cluster and multi-stage sampling method.
Table 3.5: The No. of members of gram panchayats selected in the sample from the Jamkhandi sub-division:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>Gram Panchayats</th>
<th>No. of members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bidari</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Halangli</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kannoli</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Savalagi</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Jamkhandi Taluk</strong></td>
<td><strong>74</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Kulali</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dadanatti</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mugalkod</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Shirol</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Mudhol Taluk</strong></td>
<td><strong>63</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Galagali</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Katarki</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Siddhapur</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Yadahalli</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Biligi Taluk</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Grand Total Jamkhandi Sub-division</strong></td>
<td><strong>191</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Compiled from the information collected in the field work.

It is seen that highest number i.e., 74 gram panchayat members selected in the study are from Jamkhandi taluk and 63 members are from the Mudhol taluk and 54 members from the Biligi taluk.

**Sample Size:**

The required sample is selected randomly from three sampling frames — the sub-divisions, the gram panchayats of each taluk in the sub-division and finally the four gram panchayats in each taluk. The total sample is 250 members of PRIs of different levels.

Table 3.6: The Size and Composition of the Sample selected for the study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Type of PRI</th>
<th>No. of Members included in the study</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gram Panchayat</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>76.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Taluk Panchayat</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>19.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Zilla Panchayat</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>250</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart 2.1: The Composition of Sample selected for the study

- 70% Gram panchayat
- 19% Taluk Panchayat
- 5% Zilla Panchayat
- 5% DZilla Panchayat
The population of the study which consists of the elected members of gram panchayats, taluk panchayats and zilla panchayats of Bagalkot district is 2630. Out of 2630 members, 250 members are selected and constitute the sample of the study. Thus, the sample works out about 9.5 per cent of the population. That is approximately every tenth member is included in the study.

Chart 2.2: The relative size of sample to the population
Methods of Data Collection:

The study has adopted Interview method as a major method of data collection. Since the study is based on survey design, interview method is considered as the most appropriate method of data collection. The nature of objectives, research questions and hypotheses of the study also made it feasible to follow the interview method for the data collection. The interview was conducted by using the interview schedule composed in English language. The respondents were posed a standard set of questions in the Kannada language as it is the mother tongue of the respondents and none of the respondent was conversant of speaking in English. The responses which were given in Kannada by the respondents were spontaneously translated by the research into English and were recorded in the schedule. There was no difficulty in doing so as the researcher hails from the same region and his mother tongue is also Kannada. Moreover, most of the questions in the schedule were close ended; there was no strain in recording them in English.

Besides, interview method, the observation method was also used to collect the information about the respondents. This was done not as substitute to interview but more as supplementary to it. The observation as method of data collection was used in three broad contexts; (i) while interviewing respondents, (ii) while visiting panchayat offices and (iii) while visiting villages for the field work. The relevant information gathered by observation was recorded properly and used as a measure of check and balance in obtaining information from the respondents. This has enhanced the reliability of the information collected. And also the information gathered from observation is used as additional information in the study and helped to understand issues under consideration in a more holistic and comprehensive way. The additional and something new information
collected by observation method is duly analyzed and meaningful conclusions have been arrived at.

However, the study used primarily interview method for the collection of the data. Almost all the objectives of the study have been fulfilled by using the data collected with help of interview method. It is worth to mention here that no particular items were specified in the beginning of the field work for observation. The researcher has collected data during the field work by observation as the things happened naturally. Therefore, the data collected by the observation method is not intended to serve any of the research objectives specifically. In general, data collected from observation has helped interpret the results of the study in a more meaningful manner. Thus, interview method is the method of data collection of the study. The data collected by the interview method is analyzed and has helped fulfill the purposes of the study.

**Tool of Data Collection:**

Interview Schedule is designed as a tool of data collection for the study. The adoption of interview method and the logic of survey design have made it feasible to use interview schedule as the tool of data collection. Interview schedule is developed keeping in view the major objectives, hypotheses of the study. It is prepared in such a way that the required data will be obtained to serve the purpose of the study. The interview schedule which included questions on almost all the dimensions of the research issue is prepared after lot of ground work. The prepared interview schedule was put to test in the pre-test study.
Pre-test:

In order to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of the interview schedule, a pre-test was conducted where in the prepared interview schedule was administered on 25 members of the PRIs of different level. When it was administered on the prospective respondents of the study, it was found that certain questions need to be modified and rewritten. The pre-test of the interview schedule helped to upgrade the prepared interview schedule and to make it more efficient tool of data collection. The pre-test of the interview schedule helped (i) to ensure uniformity in understanding the questions, (ii) to modify questions which resulted into ‘do not know’ kind of responses, (iii) to give more options to the questions so that the respondents will be in position to understand the wide range of issues involved in it.

Final Interview schedule:

The final interview schedule is prepared after a thorough pre-test. It addresses almost all the dimensions of the research issue i.e., the changing dimensions of rural leadership. The interview schedule is divided into three parts; the first part focused on the socio-economic profile of the respondents, the second part addressed the issues pertaining to emergence or formation of rural leadership and the third part dealt with the issues pertaining to the working style, values and attitudes of the rural leadership. The final interview schedule is very comprehensive and has yielded the required data to address all the research objectives and to test all the hypotheses formulated in the study. The interview schedule has both the open ended and close ended questions written in English. The interview schedule contains more close ended questions than the open ended questions. The interview schedule used in the study can be described as semi-structured
interview schedule. The formal interviews with the respondents were conducted with the help of the final interview schedule. The full version of the interview schedule is given in the appendix.

**Field Work:**

The field work was conducted to collect the data from the respondents. Most of the time of field work was used to interview the respondents with the help of interview schedule. However, during the field work several informal conversations and discussions with the respondents, villagers and the official of the panchayat raj institutions were conducted which also yielded meaningful data. Most of the interviews were conducted in the houses of the respondents. However, in few cases interviews were conducted in the farm fields of the respondents and in panchayat premises.

The initial visits to the field of the study started in the beginning of the research work way back in 2001. A thorough field work was conducted in the year 2004. The field work activity was carried throughout the year. The total duration of field work is about three months. During this the required data for the study is collected by holding interviews with the respondents. The field work conducted has ensured the collection of data required to address the research issue. The major difficulties faced in the field work includes; (i) the difficulty in locating the members of the taluk panchayats and zilla panchayats as they are very active in politics at the taluk and district level, they were hardly available in their respective villages. However, lots of efforts have made to find them and to have their interviews. (ii) In some cases the family members of the female respondents were bit hesitant to allow their females to talk to the interviewer. The
researcher has made lot of effort to convince the male persons of the family and finally had their interviews.

Sources and Types of Data:

Sources:

The main source of the data for the study comes from the primary data. The study is based on primary data collected with help of interview schedule and from field notes. The primary data is analyzed to address the research issues raised in the study. Most of the research objectives have been fulfilled with the help of the primary data collected by the researcher by conducting field work. However, certain types of secondary data have also been used in the study. These sources mainly includes monographs, reports of government and other organization, census reports, articles from journals and information available on websites. The secondary data has been collected mainly to create a background to the present study. Moreover, the secondary data has been the used for cross reference while analyzing the primary data. Thus, the secondary data is as supplement to the data collected with help of the interview schedule.

Types:

The study has used both the qualitative and quantitative data. The primary data, on which the study is based, consists of both quantitative and qualitative data. However, the quantum of quantitative data is more than that of the qualitative. Most of the research objectives and hypotheses have been addressed with the help of quantitative data. However, there are certain research objectives and hypotheses which required the collection of qualitative data. It is noteworthy that even the qualitative data has been
reduced and summarized into quantitative form and has been used along with quantitative
data address the research questions.

**Data Processing and Analysis:**

After, the field work, the collected data is processed thoroughly by way of
scrutiny of the schedules. The scrutinized schedules have been properly edited. The
information is then summarized and tabulated. The data definition file is created and the
data is entered into computer package. The computer software i.e., Software Package for
Social Sciences (SPSS) has used to tabulate the data. The statistical treatments like
percentages and application of Chi-square test have been carried out by using the SPSS.
The SPSS package is also used to present the data in the form graphs.

The analysis of the data has taken three different forms; (i) the frequency tables
and percentages have been used to fulfill the descriptive objective of the study (ii) the
cross-tabulation and percentages are used to unearth the underlying trends in the study
which in turn have suggested certain hypotheses from the study and (iii) the chi-square
test is applied to test the hypotheses formulated in the study. Thus, the data has been
analyzed keeping in view the research objectives and hypotheses of the study.