CHAPTER- IV
METHODOLOGY

Research is an unending search for knowledge and truth; it is an essential and powerful tool for any kind of development. The general procedure of research follows selection of the research area, definition of the problem, finding out the objectives, study of the related literature, methodology and analysis and interpretation. For undertaking research the researcher has to adopt proper methodology because a good research depends on a sound and effective methodology. It is the important step to solve research problem in a planned and systematic way. It provides the researcher proper direction to plan and solve research problem under study. The selection of research method depends on the nature of the research problem and its objectives.

4.1 Method of Study:

The present study employed Descriptive Survey Method. This method includes survey and enquiry of different kinds. It is designed to obtain pertinent and precise information concerning the current status of phenomena. They not only find out facts, but also formulate important principles of knowledge and solve significant problems concerning any issue. Descriptive studies involve description, recording, analysis and interpretation of the existing condition. The descriptive research method is the most popular and widely used research method in education. It is the means through which opinions, attitudes and suggestions for improvement of educational practices and instructions and other data can be obtained. They have immense value in solving problems about children, school organization, supervision and administration, curriculum, teaching methods and evaluation. Survey data may be collected from different unit of population or from a representative sample. The information gathered may be concerning a large number of related factors or may be confined to few selected items. The design of survey studies focus attention on the following aspects:

i) Formulating the objectives of the study.

ii) Designing the methods.
iii) Selecting the samples.

iv) Collecting the data.

v) Analyzing the data.

vi) Reporting the finding.

In the present study the investigator conducted various field works by administering Questionnaire, Interview schedule and School/College Information Blank. Survey studies are conducted to collect detailed descriptions of existing phenomena by employing data to justify current conditions and practices. Their objective is not only to analyze, interpret and report the status of an institution, but also to determine the adequacy of status by comparing it with the established standards. Survey studies provide three types of information-

(1) Data concerning existing status,

(2) Comparison of existing status with the established status and standards, and

(3) Means of improving the existing status.

Survey studies describe the educational phenomena; they include: (1) School survey, (2) job analysis, (3) public opinion survey, and (4) social survey.

4.2 Exploration of Documents:

The present study employed the descriptive survey including exploration of documents. In documentary analysis the sources of data are records, reports, printed forms, letters, autobiographies, bulletins, catalogues, syllabi, court decisions, films etc. Documentary analysis is conducted to interpret present events from available records which provide data to the investigator in relation to the research problem under consideration. It follows the approach of identifying relevant records for investigation, judging authenticity of documents, doing content analysis of evidence, organizing contents/ information, reviewing the content, making interpretations etc. Various research questions are answered through analysis of data available in the form of printed text viz. books, official records, research reports, review articles, research papers, information
bullets, prospectus, annual reports, periodicals, progress reports, experience of individuals, news items etc. There can be innumerable sources of obtaining documentary evidences and conducting relevant studies. A large amount of information on most aspects of our national life comes from the statistical data reports, white papers and government reports. These bulletins and reports often give the required information which can be utilized by the researcher instead of organizing laborious survey to find out the same. This way time and money can be saved. Similarly personal documents like diaries, letters, autobiographers and essays provide researcher details of which are not achieved by other standardized methods of social surveys. They can give insight into personal characteristics.

In order to drive the study in its proper direction and to reach the objectives, the investigator explored a number of documents to collect data. The investigator explored the following documents for the present study.

i) The relevant records of the office of District Primary Education Department, KAAC.

ii) The relevant records of the office of Inspector of Schools, Karbi Anglong.

iii) The relevant records of the office of Additional Director, Karbi Anglong.

iv) The relevant records of KAAC.

v) The relevant records from the office of Joint Director of Economics and Statistics, Karbi Anglong.

vi) The relevant records from the office of SSA, Karbi Anglong.

vii) Reports of different commissions and committees with regard to primary, secondary and higher education etc.

Besides these documents the investigator also visited different institutions mentioned below.

i) Assam Secretariat, Dispur

ii) Library of Assam University, Silchar
iii) Library of Gauhati University, Guwahati.

iv) Library of Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh.

v) Library of Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social change and Development, Guwahati.

vi) Library of Teacher Training College, Silchar.

vii) Directorate of Elementary Education, Guwahati

viii) Office of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kahilipara.

4.3 Population:

A population means any collection of specified group of human beings or non-human entities like any objects, educational institutions, geographical areas etc. In the words of Guilford (1981) the term includes all sets of individuals, objects that can be described by having a unique combination of qualities. In a research the population has to be clearly defined, otherwise a researcher does not know what units to be considered while selecting the sample.

In the present study the population comprised of all the heads of the educational institutions of Karbi Anglong, all the members and officials of KAAC and the renowned educationists of Karbi Anglong.

4.4 Selection of the Sample:

A sample is a smaller representation of the larger whole. It is a process by which a relatively small number of individuals, or objects, or events is selected and analyzed in order to find out something about the entire population from which it was selected. It is not possible to study a large size of population; in that case the representative group of that population is selected. In order to get the real and true representation of the population sample is systematically and scientifically selected after taking in to consideration the different characteristics of population.

The sample of the present study was comprised of -

i) Members and Officials of KAAC: - A representative sample of 20% (10) of the members and officials of KAAC were randomly selected for the study

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ii) Luminary figures in the field of Education. - In regard to luminary figures in the field of education, 23 were selected for the study. They were retired principals of the educational institutions of Karbi Anglong.

iii) Head of the educational institution: - There are 1402 primary, 324 middle, 175 high and 13 higher secondary schools and 15 colleges in Karbi Anglong. The investigator has taken 20% of primary school (280), 20% of middle school (65), 20% of high school (35), 20% of higher secondary school (03) and 20% of college (03). Moreover, the study also included heads of 20% (02) departments of Assam University Campus and 20% (02) teachers of Diphu B Ed College. The investigator used stratified random sampling procedure while selecting the institutions. She selected sample of educational institution on the basis of two strata, urban and rural. Hence, the sample comprised of the institutions from both urban and rural area.

4.5 Tools:

A tool is a technique which is used by the investigator for the collection of evidence or information in the study. It may vary in their complexity, design, administration and interpretation. The success of the research depends upon the tools used. The investigator used three kinds of tool in the present study:

i) Questionnaire,

ii) Interview Schedule and

iii) School/College Information Blank.

A questionnaire is a device consisting of a series of questions relating to any problem under investigation. It is a popular means of collecting data in research. In the present study the investigator prepared one questionnaire, one for the heads of the selected educational institutions and the other for the members and officials of KAAC. Before developing the questionnaire the investigator had to go through different books, journals, magazines etc. on primary, secondary and higher education, their administration and financial allocations, the problems faced by KAAC in respect to administration and finance, their inspection and supervision and provision of scholarship. The questionnaire was prepared keeping in view the objectives of the present study.
Schedule is a device consisting of a set of questions which are asked and filled by the interviewer in a face to face situation with another person. Interview schedule is administered personally and the investigator recorded the responses of the respondent. In the present study, the investigator prepared the interview schedule for the renowned educationists of Karbi Anglong.

A school/college information blank is a device consisting of a set of questions relating to the infrastructure, material condition, administration, finance, any problems of teacher, student etc. of a school or college. It is administered in the school or college under study to gather information. In the present study the investigator prepared the school/college information blank to collect information from primary and secondary schools and colleges of Karbi Anglong.

The present study is a descriptive one in which data and information were collected from the office of KAAC and all educational institutions by administering self-made questionnaires. Interview of the educational experts was taken with the help of interview schedule. The following tools were prepared by the investigator for collecting various data and information:

1. A suitable questionnaire was prepared for the members and officials of KAAC which contained 42 items.

2. An interview schedule was developed with 10 items for the renowned educationists of Karbi Anglong district.

3. A School/College Information Blank was also prepared for drawing information from the educational institutions of Karbi Anglong district which contained 18 items.

The items put in the questionnaire, school/college information blank and interview schedule were both closed and open type. In the closed type questions the respondent had to give only yes or no type answer and in the open type questions the respondent had to forward his views.

4.6 Procedure used for Collecting Data:

Both descriptive and documentary analysis method helped the investigator to study the role of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council in the development of education in Karbi Anglong. In the present study, data collection started from November, 2010 after finalizing the tools. The investigator went to different educational institutions, taken as a sample, for administering the
school/college information blank prepared for the head of the institution. The school/college information blanks were distributed among the heads of the sample institutions and they were made to understand the purpose of the study. They were asked to read the school/college information blank thoroughly and then to fill it up. Several institutions returned the filled up school/college information blank immediately and some took time. However, they were thanked for their cooperation.

With the questionnaire prepared for the members and officials of KAAC, the investigator went to the office of KAAC for eliciting information regarding KAAC. 20% members and officials were selected and they were distributed the questionnaires. They were also asked to go through it and to fill it up properly. They were also thanked for their cooperation.

The interview was taken from 23 noted educationists who were retired from different educational institution of Karbi Anglong. While administering the interview schedule, the interviewer was requested to recall the actual things as properly as possible. After taking the interview, they were extended thanks and gratitude by the investigator.

In the present study, the investigator also collected relevant data from the office of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, situated in Diphu, the district headquarter of Karbi Anglong district. The investigator visited the office, met various officials of education department of KAAC and went through various notices, reports, and records of KAAC with a view to acquiring data. The investigator also visited the office of the Joint Director of Economics and Statistics, Diphu, office of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Diphu and office of the Inspector of Schools, Diphu for collecting data. Other secondary sources like published text books, magazines, journal and newspapers etc. were also used. The investigator went through various books on the social life of Karbi people and political history of Karbi Anglong. Various magazines and journals published by various educational institutions, KAAC, district administration etc. also supplied the relevant data.

The investigator went to the selected educational institutions of Karbi Anglong, some of which are situated in urban area and some are in rural area. She found very easy to administer the school/college information blank in the schools and colleges of urban areas; but it was very difficult for her to go to the rural and remote areas. Some areas are very far from Diphu and there is also communication problem. At the time of collection of the school/college information blank,
she went herself wherever possible. Most of the institutions situated in rural areas sent the filled up school/college information blanks back by post which took a long time. She also went to Assam University Campus, Diphu and administered school/college information blank to the selected heads of the departments. She also went to Diphu B Ed College to administer school/college information blank to the principal and the selected teachers. After two weeks she collected the filled up school/college information blank from them.

The investigator went to KAAC to administer the questionnaire to its officials. She had to visit repeatedly the council for collecting them. The investigator also went to the retired principals of the schools and colleges for taking interview. The entire collection of the questionnaires took about eight months.

The secondary sources of the present study included various books, magazine, journal, souvenir etc. that were consulted from various libraries, private collections etc. Educational statistical records were collected from the office of Economics and Statistics, Diphu. The books, journals, magazines were obtained from various libraries of Diphu Government College, Tribal Research Centre, Diphu, Gauhati University, Guwahati, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam University, Silchar, Teacher Training Institute, Silchar, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati. Various reports, souvenirs, pamphlets etc. were collected from the office of District Primary education Department, KAAC, Inspector of Schools, Karbi Anglong, Additional Director, Karbi Anglong.

4.7 Data Analysis:

The data collected through questionnaire, interview schedule, and school/college information blank and from official records, books and journals etc are organized and analyzed by the investigator and presented in the fifth chapter i.e. Analysis and Interpretation. This involves classification of the data into different groups such as information regarding the development of primary, secondary and higher education, facilities provided by KAAC for their development, their present system of administration and financing, problems faced by KAAC in respect to its administration and finance and facilities and stipends provided by KAAC for the students of Karbi Anglong etc. Percentage was used as a statistical technique for analyzing the data.