CHAPTER 3

PROBLEM STATEMENT AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research work is carried out to identify the various factors involved in implementing ERP application in the apparel industry. ERP implementation is complex in nature which involves huge investment, time and effort by the organisation. This chapter throws light on the problem definition, objectives framed and hypotheses adopted in this research.

3.1 PROBLEM DEFINITION

Enterprise Resource Planning software integrates processes and functions of various departments and shares information resource across the organization to ensure the smooth functioning of organizations. In general, ERP implementation is complex in nature and difficult to implement. Many leading companies failed while implementing ERP applications and, in some cases failure led to closure of huge business enterprises. Some of the major failures which ended in legal battles include Epicore, Nike, Montclair state University, Marin country, HP, Hershey Food corporation, Fox Meyer and Waste Management Inc. Settlement of these legal battles ran into billions of dollars. ERP implementation not only involves money, but also involves human capital, business strategy, and future of the business. Therefore it is important to study ERP implementation in the apparel industry.
3.2 MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

The main objective of the research is to offer an appropriate solution for sustainable ERP implementation in the apparel industries.

3.3 SUB OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

The sub objectives of the research are

- To identify various ERP systems used in the apparel industries.
- To identify the barriers in using the ERP systems and difficulties involved in the implementation.
- To provide a set of guidelines for implementing ERP systems in the apparel industries.
- To evolve a Road map for the sustainable ERP implementation.
- To compare the performance of the proposed model in cost analysis with the traditional model cost analysis.

3.4 HYPOTHESES

The following hypotheses were formulated to test the objectives:-

1. A standardized functional procedure in the Apparel Industry exists.
2. Automation in manufacturing in the apparel Industries prevails.
3. Software including ERP systems for automation process in the apparel industries is available.

4. There exist the barriers in implementing the ERP systems.

5. Willingness in implementing the ERP systems for automation in the apparel industries existing.

6. There exists a need to identify the functional performance of the software used in the apparel industry.

7. Need for guidelines to gear up the effective implementation of ERP software in the apparel industries is made available.

In order to achieve the main objective as well as the sub objectives methodology is framed and illustrated in the form of frame work for ERP system in Chapter 4.