METHODOLOGY

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3.1. INTRODUCTION

The method adopted for the study is an analytical descriptive approach. The study aims to locate and analyze the educational ideas in Adhyatma Ramayana composed by Thunchath Ramanujan Ezhuthachan. The objectives of the study have been already stated in the introductory chapter. The methodological details of the study comprise the content of this chapter. The principal source of the theoretical details of the method adopted is based on Best and Khan. The approaches of several other authors have also been referred. All the research studies involve the elements of observation, description and analysis. Best and Khan tries to classify educational research under three main heads. 1. Historical, 2. Descriptive and 3. Experimental. They used the term “what was, what is and what shall be” to discriminate between the three types. Accordingly the present study falls under the category of historical research.
The notable features of the historical research are:

─ Historical research differs markedly from the sort of research conducted by most scientists, including behavioural and social scientists.

─ Historical analysis may be directed towards an idea, a movement or an institution.

─ People cannot be subjected to historical investigation without some consideration of their interaction with the idea, movement or institution.

─ Historical analysis helps the investigator to understand the how and why of educational movement those have appeared and continue to prevail.

─ It helps to understand the historical background of some contemporary educational movements and issues.

─ It helps to evaluate not only lasting contributions but also the fads and bandwagon schemes, interests and tendencies that have appeared on the educational scene to be discovered.
In the words of Aydelotte:

- “Our knowledge of the past both too limited and too extensive. Only one minute fraction of what has happened has been recorded”...

- “the points on which we need most information are those on which our sources are most inadequate”...

- “the fragmentary and incomplete information we do have about the past is too abundant to prevent our coming to terms with it”...

- “its sheer bulk prevents it, being easily manipulated or even easily assimilated”...

- “finality of knowledge is impossible in all areas of study”...

Accordingly a list of topics for educational historical research has been suggested by Brickman in 1982 as given in appendix.[Ap-3.1]

Adhyatma Ramayana was composed by Ezuthachan to inculcate and develop the spiritual knowledge and devotion among people, thereby raising their moral and spiritual values to lead a peaceful life with the ultimate aim of Self-realisation.
3.2. SOURCES OF DATA

The primary sources of data for this research work are the relevant passages of Adhyatma Ramayana. Secondary sources were collected from the remarks made by scholars on the relevant passages. Whenever it was difficult to recollect the meaning from the original text, secondary sources were utilized for the collection of data.

3.3. NOTES TAKING

The following procedure was adopted for taking down notes:

- The researcher went through the original text of the Adhyatma Ramayana by Thunjath Ramanujan Ezhuthachan, many times to enable himself to understand and locate the ideas having educational implications.

- The relevant lines, quotations and passages were noted. Each of them located has been put in index cards of “5 x 8” size.
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- Proper headings were given on the top and bibliographical citations at the bottom against each item in each card.

- Items were posted against each component that is, the educational ideas that are predetermined and shown under the objectives of the study.

- Sufficient explanations and interpretations were added to each item.

- More cards were added for notes wherever found necessary and they were tied together.

- Cards were filed under each component under the purview of the objectives so as to enable the researcher to handle the same easily at the time of writing report.
3.4. WRITING THE REPORT

Much care was taken in writing the report so as to enable the same being presented in tune with the theoretical details and objectives of the study.

The data collected and interpreted, as notes have been later got elaborated or concise subject to the contexts. Then the materials were modified and edited with utmost care so as to make sure that the final script is reliable and valid to the maximum level possible.

Bearing in mind the general faults noted by researchers in writing a historical report, maximum possible care was taken not to avoid any relevant fact. The interpretations of the first hand information or data from the primary sources have been carried out with novelty, as it is highly required in this type of study.
REFERENCES
