Chapter V

Research Methodology

> Method of Sampling:

This research has been proposed to study the situation of the elderly women in urban communities through a questionnaire based survey of appropriate sample. The samples were collected by survey in and around Kolkata. Though the study was on the elderly women in Kolkata, yet for a comparative analysis some data were collected from the elderly men. The samples of this study are purposive sample.

> Characteristics of the Sample:

1. The size of the sample was 500 (250 elderly women and 250 elderly men).
2. The study was conducted on urban women and men.
3. The area of study was Kolkata.
4. The age group was 60 years and above.
5. The samples were collected from the middle-class urban people.
6. The samples comprised educated, uneducated, married, unmarried, widow, widower, separated, divorced elderly population.

> Field Venue:

The present study was conducted in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal and was surveyed amongst the elderly women and men in different areas. The data were collected from the middle income group elderly persons.

> Description of The Tools:

**Questionnaire:** This research work was carried out through questionnaire method. The questionnaire was formatted on the socio-economic condition of the elderly women. It was prepared both in Bengali and English languages. The reliability of this questionnaire which is based on socio-economic condition is Cronbach’s alpha 0.8*.
Method of Administration of Tools:

A rapport is to be established with each elderly people to gain their confidence and after that the objectives of the study are to be explained briefly. The elderly people are to be assured that their answers will remain confidential and in no case their identities will be disclosed.

Administration of the tool:

At first a rapport was established with the people. Then questionnaires and instructions were given to them to fill up the sheets.

Pilot Study:

It was necessary to survey some elderly women to get some idea for the present work, 30 elderly women and 30 elderly men were studied. It helped to frame the questionnaire.