3.1. Introduction:

The methodology plays significant role in determining different stages of research work. The present study is made on the scheduled tribes that include the different people belonging to tribes living in Bellary district of Karnataka State. Hence, the universe of the present study is Bellary district and the variables are scheduled tribes. Based on the nature of the scheduled tribes, the different aspects of the tribal’s are classified into social, economic, education, health, political and religious aspects. There are different criteria such as rural and urban, age groups, education, different occupations, marital status, etc. were considered while selecting the samples.

After deciding upon the subject, the researcher, in consultation with the research supervisor went through the available literature on tribal’s work. A review of literature revealed that there were practically no studies were made on problems and development of scheduled tribes in Bellary district in particular and Karnataka State in general. Then the researcher contacted and had discussion with the experts on the subject such as Social Welfare Officer, the caste based organizations such as scheduled tribe organizations and associations, community organizations and associations, whose communities are listed under the scheduled tribes, etc. The proposal or statement of the problem was finalized on the basis of discussion with these experts, who are experts in the field to provide the knowledge and information needed for the present research work.

3.2. Meaning of the Concepts:

While defining the research problem, a few terms that were frequently used in the problem were needed to clarify their meanings. Webster’s Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language defined the terms used in the present research study.
**Problem:** 1. A question proposed for solution or consideration
   2. A question, matter, situation or person that is perplexing or difficult;

**Tribe:** 1. Among preliterate peoples, a group of persons, families or clans believed to be descended from a common ancestor and forming a close community under a leader or chief;
   2. A group of this kind having recognized ancestry;
   3. Any group of people having the same occupation, habits, ideas, etc.

**Schedule:** 1. A paper with writing on it;
   2. A list, catalog or inventory of details, often as an explanatory supplement to a will, bill of sale, deed, tax form, etc.
   3. A list of times of recurring events, projected operations;

The general meanings specified for the above stated terms are general in nature and they don’t depict the contextual meanings of the terms. The term ‘Scheduled’ here refers to the list of tribes stated in Indian Constitution. Further, tribes are clans or groups of persons with unique characteristics, occupations, living, culture, etc.

**3.3. Sources of Data:**

Two sources of data were to be collected from the researcher as under.

**1. Secondary Data:**

The secondary data on the socio-economic, educational and political problems and conditions of the scheduled tribe was collected from the leading research journals, books, web sites, etc. These data sources formed for understanding the theoretical concepts for the present study.
2. Primary Data:

Collection of Primary data is an important step in every research study. The researcher visited household, where scheduled tribes are living in different areas in villages, towns and Bellary city. Primary data is also collected from the respondents through interview schedules. It is observed that majority of the respondents are illiterates, low-educated and a few also highly educated, the researcher personally interacted with the each of the respondent of the tribes and collected information on their personal, socio-economic, educational, political and religious aspects and the problems derived from these aspects. The researcher also observed the living conditions of the scheduled tribes, which reveals the socio-economic conditions and problems of the scheduled tribes.

3.4. Variables Studied:

Keeping the objectives in mind, it was decided to have vast information on various background characteristics such as socio-economic, demographic, cultural, attitudinal, behavioural, etc of the respondents was collected. However, the variables which have been taken into account in this study are based on relevant theoretical and logical grounds. Moreover, for a clear understanding of the nature of these variables further, classification or different groupism of variables was done. In the justification for the selection of the determinants Variables) and their hypothesized relationship is well presented.

In order to test the hypotheses mentioned in the first chapter, a few social variables were listed for the cross verification analysis and these variables are as follows.

Demographic Variables:

The major demographic characteristics of the respondents which are included in the present study are the age of the respondents, gender, number of children, etc. These characteristics were considered to be important to evaluate the qualitative aspects of the study.
Economic Characteristics:

The significant economic characteristics of the respondents were undertaken for the study purposes are Family Occupation, work or occupation of scheduled tribes, family income, economic conditions of the family, worth of properties owned, etc.

Social Characteristics:

The major social characteristics of the respondents studied here are: place of residence, caste and community, type of family, number of members in family, education, conventions, traditions, etc was also gathered.

Behavioural Variables:

The important behavioural characteristics of the respondents considered to be like making discussions with the other caste members, leaders in the caste groups on different occasions, social festivals, etc.

3.5. Sample Size and Selection Procedure:

It is noted that 34.64 lakh population belongs to scheduled tribes in Karnataka as per the Census of India 2001, of which, 18.0% of the scheduled tribe population is living in Bellary district. In Karnataka state, the scheduled tribe consists of communities such as Adiya, Beda, Bhill, Chenchu, Gond, Gowdalu, Hakki-pikki, Harnshikari, Hasalaru, Kudiya, Melakudiya, Malasara, Maler, Medaru, Meda, Toda, Siddhi, etc. As the population of scheduled tribe is large to cover under the present study, the samples are selected on the basis of Stratified Random Sample Method. While selecting the sample units, the sub-caste of the tribe, education and occupation are considered as major strata or criteria. Further, totally 450 scheduled tribe people in ten talukas of the Bellary district. The sample units will be tentatively selected as equal, i.e., of the 60 respondents from each taluka, Kudligi, Sandur, Hospet, Hagaribommanahalli, Hadagali and Siruguppa. But, Bellary taluka is urban area and having large population and about 90 respondents will be surveyed from Bellary Taluka. However, the number of total respondents should be limited to 450 respondents in Bellary district.
Selection of Sample:

It has been already pointed out that due to limitations of time and money, the researcher could afford to study only 450 respondents. Of course, a sample of 450 out of a vast population of scheduled tribes is difficult. Hence, the samples are selected using Stratified Random Sampling Method.

However, despite our best efforts to collect responses from more respondents, many respondents did not cooperate in giving required answers. Finally we had to drop their interview schedules.

3.6. Preparation of Interview Schedule and Pre-testing:

In accordance with the objectives of the study an exhaustive interview schedule was prepared both in Kannada, the regional language of Karnataka and English. The Interview Schedule is composed using different scales like dichotomous, multiple choice, descriptive and rating. In addition to this, the researcher adopted personal observation technique to ascertain the attitudes of respondents towards social practices, conventions, traditions, beliefs, culture, girls’ education, etc.

To make the survey and to collect the primary data interview schedule was used. It is assumed that majority of the respondents are illiterates and low educated and hence, interview schedule is a suitable tool for collection of primary data. Interview schedule is by far the most important instrument used for the data collection. The interview schedule was addressed to the persons both male and female belongs to the scheduled tribes grouped by the Government of Karnataka and living in villages, towns and Bellary city.

The primary data collected through the Interview Schedule is represented in the form of Tables. The tables are analyzed with the percentages, so as to make analytical study and also help for comparison of different kinds of the data. Statistical techniques such as Chi-Square and Correlation are also used wherever necessary. Further, on the basis of collected data certain generalizations are stated as findings and conclusion.
While preparing the interview schedule, the researcher was in constant interaction with the respondents from different community backgrounds grouped under scheduled tribes have deep insights into the subject. The schedule was constantly modified before being given final shape.

A formal pre-testing was held on 25 respondents from scheduled tribes to know if the respondents understood the schedule and answered the questions the way they were expected to.

The results of pre-testing showed that the respondents did not feel any confusion and ambiguity in understanding the questions and answering the same.

**Methods of Data Collection:**

Data was collected by employing the interview method. The respondents were contacted at their residence or places of their work. On an average every day 5-8 respondents were contacted and their interviews completed. The fieldwork took three months to complete. The study was carried out in June to August 2014.

As mentioned in the scope and limitations of the study, a sample survey was made to collect the primary data. That is the researcher chosen 05 villages in each taluka with town and Bellary city. It is noted that respondents were selected from total 35 villages. Hence, total 450 respondents were selected to collect the primary data.

**Coding and Tabulation:**

The data was manually coded by the researcher. It took about three months. Coding was checked and rechecked to get perfection.

A tabulation plan was prepared. The coded data were tabulated by the subject experts in Dharwad. Chi-square tests and Correlations were applied to selected tables to find out the relevance of the primary data.

Based on the analysis of primary data, findings are derived from the study, which clearly stated the socio-economic, education, political and such other problems faced by the scheduled tribes in Bellary district and suggestions are given to solve the problems of scheduled tribes. Finally the study is concluded with summaries and suitable remarks.