CHAPTER-II

Research Design and Methods adopted in Data Collection
"A nation would not march forward if the women are left behind". – Swami Vivekananda.

Anthropology as a human science 'fieldwork' is the essential method to have first hand data and empirical data about the people under study.

2.1 Introduction

Anthropology being a social science and demography studying a particular aspect of human being follow the scientific methods in the study. The field work is a long tradition and 'field' is the laboratory which feeds the researcher in the form of data for further analysis. Therefore field work with proper methodology plays the pivotal role in research. Anthropology adopts the field work method of first hand data collection and cross - comparative method for analysis of data. This helps them to have a cognitive and empirical knowledge about the people understudy. Any research in Anthropology or in demography requires a specific method for data collection relating to the objectives. Each research has its own design, if it does not already exist; the researcher has to develop his own design. Design regarding what, where, when, how, which, and by what means, concerning and enquiry or a research study constitutes a research design. Seitz et. al. (1962) defined research design as “the arrangement of condition for collection and analysis of data in a manner that aims to continue relevance to research purpose with economy procedure”. In fact the research design is the conceptual structure within which
research is conducted; it constitutes the blue print for collection arrangement and analysis of data. The design of research problem and application of methods varies according to the type of population and area of study. Therefore for a social scientist, theoretical and practical knowledge is highly necessary to take up social research systematically. Basing on the goal to be achieved specify methods are to be adopted to have qualitable result. Methods which are to be followed in the field would be in the mind of the investigator before conducting the collection of data. The field work is based on data collection, observation about the facts of a community under study. One can get a better insight into the social phenomenon of the society by the field work and through observation one can see what is happening in the society, the behaviour of the people in the contemporary situation. Through the field work the researcher can understand the situation better and the problems more accurately. In the process of field work the researcher can develop an overall knowledge about the people and the reality of their life. To bring the women into main stream of development government has continued to allocate resources and formulate policies for their empowerment, but they are still discriminated in the name of religion, culture, ethnic tradition etc. The basic issue that prevents women from playing full participatory role in the nation building is the lack of education and economic independence. Therefore empowering women will ensure better justice better living and stable society. Government also provides reservation for women. But what happens in reality? "Do women face different constraints when they work outside for economic independence and upliftment of their family living conditions and lastly building a prosperous society"? If no, need more improvement and if yes then what are the problems and how they can be overcome which needs proper methodology to asses before taking the steps for their development.
The present research therefore was conducted among the working women of Bhubaneswar with specific objectives and accordingly the methods are to be adopted for getting qualitative and quantitative information using the statistical methods. Women have now taken up professional roles in order to create a meaning for themselves. The traditional role of a housewife has gradually changed into "working women and housewife". They are playing the double role by working at different level starting from labourers to doctors, engineers, teachers and white collared executives. With the additional burden they are facing the double problems in the family front and work place. Though the employment of women is an index of their status in the society, but is not given the equal status par to men. The major issues and problems of the working women as found by different researchers or social scientists are to be tested among the studied population to identify their situation or problems which are to be solved for their betterment. Women are neglected since coming out the mother’s womb till death in different way and it is assumed women are empowered being educated and financial independence. The present research work therefore concentrate on working women, that to staying in urban center to highlight their social and demographic status. But it is a great difficult task for a scholar to adopt proper method for reaching the target when respondents are women, because the women are usually conservative. They can hide their own pain and try to keep the image of their family [both parental and in-laws] and fear to be exposed in the society even though they have not done anything wrong. In this research project as the researcher being the student of anthropology and a woman, has tried her best to adopt the anthropological approaches in the field work.

Therefore keeping the objectives of the study in mind, the data was collected by doing fieldwork among the working women, using
different anthropological methods. In anthropology the 'society' is the 'laboratory' where the different hypothesis are confirmed, discarded or modified depending on the result of the fieldwork. Therefore the result of the fieldwork should be qualitable and concrete and widely accepted depending on the methods adopted in the field and researchers sincerely and maturity. The following stages of research have been taken into consideration for designing of the research problem.

2.2 Stages of Research

2.3 Scope of research

2.3.1 Selection of Area

Depending on the objective of research titled "Status of working women in Bhubaneswar A socio-demographic profile", this research included the women working in both organised and un-organised sector and working in the capital city of Orissa. This study was opened for those women who are earning by working
outside the home. There is a lot of progress in varied spheres of activity like economic, political, social, educational, industrial, etc in Bhubaneswar. Due to modernization, urbanization, industrialization, setting up of a number of educational institutions, and due to availability of various infrastructural facilities for which population of Bhubaneswar is increasing very fast. These are the indirect reasons for increasing women’s participation in workforce in this Capital city.

2.3.2 Selection of Sample

Depending on the objective to conduct the work among the working women, both the married and unmarried women are included in the sample belonging to the age group starting from 15 years and above though the minimum age of the women should be 18 years to join in service. But as the women doing manual work are included in the sample the minimum age has been taken as 15yrs who are not children. Study was conducted among working women at random from institutions, offices, construction sites, etc. with only controlling factor was “Oriya Hindu women”. The purpose behind it is to avoid disparities in religious attitudes and to have a homogenous group. Depending on marital status of women employees the numbers of married and unmarried are classified but the total sample size was restricted to 600. Without any fixed target to collect data from married or unmarried women, the interview was made randomly and accordingly their proportion was calculated.

In this study the women are included having their monthly income upto Rs.2000/- to Rs.10,000/- and more, with the objective to maintain reasonable gap in income for better comparison among the groups for which in the organised public sector class- IV, class – III and class – II employees have been included.
The present research covers diverse aspect of the subject and discusses complexity of problems faced by women. This is a multi-disciplinary investigation into various aspects like socio, economic and political problems facing by the working women of Bhubaneswar city. As the theme of this research is to assess the status of working women in Bhubaneswar through some parameters demography aspect is given as much as importance as other aspects like social, economic and so on. For this research informations were collected from women working in both organised and unorganised sector of Bhubaneswar irrespective of their age and economic class. Again organised sector is divided into public sector and private sector. Out of 600 samples, 269 work in public sector, 148 work in organised private sector and the rest i.e. 183 respondents work in unorganised sector.

Women in the organised sector include all public sector establishments i.e. all services under Central, State and local Governments and occupations in public undertakings. The organised sector is characterized by the modern relations of production and is regulated and governed by laws that are meant to protect the security and the working conditions of workers and are also supported by the labour organizations that can look after their interest. Employment of women in the organised sector requires certain minimum educational qualifications and in such case the logical trend would be “the lesser the level of educational facilities the lesser would be the opportunities for employment in it”. Hence, their participation in the organised and white collar world is at its lowest ebb because their level of education always falls short of the required minimum qualifications, etc in the general competition. Among the organised sector, service sectors to some extent, offers wide scope for women’s employment. Besides the profession of teaching, medicine, nursing, scientific, clerical work,
women have room for jobs such as counseling, medicine representative, marketing executive, sales assistant or as secretarial functionaries and such other white collar jobs.

Women in the un-organised sector include a large segment of the female workforce in India. The unorganised sector is characterized by jobs of local nature which involves the local people around. Women, who are bound by the traditional sense of domestic responsibility, are concentrated in this sector. The unorganised sector in India remains intact from all the legal protection and economic benefits enjoyed by the workers in unorganised sector. In this sector the method of payment of wages, retrenchments are all arbitrary. The hours of work are longer than permitted by law and there is no overtime paid to them. Most of the women workers have never heard of overtime. Medical and maternity benefits are conspicuous by their absence. In brief the unorganised sector gives to women only insecure and unprotected employment with long hours of work and some economic reward.

The difference between the organised and un-organised sectors is not only functional i.e. where as the organised sector provides socio-economic securities to working class and other benefit along with formal rational relations between the employers and employees, the un-organised sector suffer from lack of these.

2.3.3 Hypotheses

The hypotheses of this study are:-

1. Economic empowerment increases the status of women and leads to social and political empowerment.
2. Economic empowerment raises awareness, confidence, and expansion of choices, access to and control over the living environment.

3. The women workers are not always offered equal wages as the men workers, in the same job.

4. Working women have small family size i.e. lower fertility rate.

5. Limitation of family size or use of family planning methods is more accepted by working women.

6. The attitudes of bosses, employers, parents and other family members and co-workers are not always necessarily congenial for women workers to progress and continue in their jobs.

7. Their physical and mental steadiness and abilities of women are also severely affected by various tensions, conflicts, stresses and strains that are caused in their day-to-day work.

8. Stress in the workplace can affect everyone at one time or other. Stress is not a disease or injury but it can lead to mental and physical ill health.

9. Causes of stress are many and varied in work place and social life which need to be dealt appropriately.

10. Attitude of working women towards different sphere of life is affected.

2.4 Method adopted in data collection

Methodology is the overall systematic concept of field work. Without the prior knowledge of methodology society cannot be well studied, examined and verified. So good field work must have sound knowledge about the concerned methodology. Anthropology being an empirical science gives adequate importance to methodology. The field work means investigation, exploration on research performed out look by engineers, surveyors, geologists,
sociologists and anthropologists. For Anthropologists, a field is that which is:

1. An area to carry out his activities and investigations.
2. An area having a set of natural resource satisfying his aims and objectives.
3. A spare of an area which must be a sphere of interest and knowledge.

Now the question arises whether the field work is ambulatory, ameliorative and rehabilitative helping anthropologists to prove their excellencies or it really has an applied value. Anthropologists are holistic and comparative in their approach; they always mark the likeness and contrast of the objects they deal with. A close acquaintance with the people under study dispels many commonly held strange views on them. Hence a field work is necessary for getting the actual facts.

2.4.1 Establishment of Rapport

Before collection of data from the respondents it is necessary to establish rapport with them which is the most important aspect of field work. The first and foremost duty of a field worker is to establish rapport with the people with whom he wants to work. It is a part and parcel of his study method. It is very essential for a field worker to be a good rapport establisher. Such rapport establishment deals with friendly co-operation with the respondent. Because it is a natural thing that nobody wants to disclose his own affairs before a stranger. I have also tried my best to establish good rapport with the informants by motivating them in various ways. The most important part of the field study is the rapport establishment. This can only be achieved by the atmosphere of friendly relationship with the informant.
As my study is among the working women, most of the women are literate and some are highly educated. Among the educated mass, it is not a very difficult task for collection of data. But among the illiterates, those who are daily labour and domestic worker etc., they took some time to understand my purpose. My repeated visit near them and motivation made them clear of my purpose. In course of time all of them cooperate of me and help me a lot in my collection of data.

In some cases the women also hesitated to express their worries and the troubles they are facing by their family members or the employee. When they were assured their names will be remain secret, nothing will be analysed individually, and then they came forward to answer my question. When the follow-up studies were made among the family members and their co-workers, then the answers given by the respondents were cross-checked.

To my knowledge, I have tried to utmost extent to gather the information from my respondents relating to my objectives.

2.4.2 Sources of data

Any empirical research requires collection of data in terms of figures, facts, numbers, and opinions, etc. which can be processed, analysed and interpreted. The main aim of such research is to gain deeper insight into the constituents of the hypothesis and to verify the relationship which leads to new knowledge. Data can be of two types –

a. Primary data

b. Secondary data
2.4.3 Techniques used in Data Collection

a. Primary data

Primary data were collected directly from the informant by way of schedule, interview, questionnaires and other methods.

i. Schedule method – The schedule is the form, containing some questions or blank tables which are to be filled by the investigator after getting information from the informant. The purpose of schedule is to provide a standardized tool for observation. By schedule every informant has to reply the same questions put in the same language and the field worker has no choice to get the desired reply by putting a different question or changing the language of the same question. The other purpose of schedule is to act as memory tickler. In the absence of any schedule the investigator may put different number of questions to different people or he may miss some information. So the schedule method keeps his memory refreshed. So the replies of the information regarding my question were the data which I have collected in forms of schedules. Schedules were taken to the field and were filled up by interviewing the respondents.

ii. Interview method – Interview may be regarded as a systematic method by which a person enters more or less imaginatively into the life of a comparative stranger. It is like tape recorder in which the post incidences, feelings and reactions of the subject are played back to the living present to be listened by the interviewer with a scientific approach. The purpose of interview is to secure certain information from the subject, who is known only to him/herself and cannot be gathered from any other sources. It is the only method of studying an abstract and intangible personal factor like attitude, feeling, reactions etc. During my field work
information regarding my topic was collected from the informant by personal interview method. The informants were mainly the women though in the cases where husbands and the family members were consulted according to the necessity.

For collection of data I have been to the workplace of the informants like offices, schools, colleges, construction sites, etc. For follow up, I have been to their houses, to get some information from their husband, family members, neighbours when necessary. I have also collected some data from the employer in their offices.

Selective intensive probing interviews were conducted to seek clarifications and to reinforce the observed data informally guided conservation in group interview revealed attitudes, values, practices, belief system concerning their fertility and family planning pattern. It also gave us an insight about social aspects, demographic information, fertility pattern, attitude towards the family size, acceptance of family planning methods etc.

iii. Observation - Observation is probably the oldest method used by men in scientific investigation. His first knowledge of the universe around him begins with observation. Observation means what we see in our naked eye. It is our basic method of obtaining information about the world around us. All observations, however is not scientific tool for the researcher to the extent that it serves a formulated research purpose which planned systematically and related to more general theoretical propositions, record systematically and is subjected to checks and controls on validity and reliability.

Observation may serve a variety of research purposes. It may also be used to gather supplementary material that would help to
interpret findings obtained by other techniques. Observation can also be used as the primary method of data collection in descriptive studies as also in the experimental studies designed for testing casual hypothesis. In my fieldwork my observation method content both participant and non-participant method.

- **Participant observation**: The observation may be participant or non-participant. When the observer participates with the activities of the group under study, it is known as participant observation. Thus a participant observer makes himself a part of the group under study. He need not necessarily carry out all the activities as carried out by other members of the group. But his presence as active member of the group is necessary.

- **Non – participant observation**: When the observer does not actually participates in the activities of the group, but simply observes them from a distance, it is known as non-participant observation. Purely, non-participant observation is extremely difficult. We cannot imagine a kind of relationship in which a person is always present, but never participates. It is most likely to make both the observer and group uncomfortable. A golden means is therefore, sometimes the observer activities, while remains only a distant observes in others. A non-participant observation is therefore in practice only a quasi-participant observation. Therefore in field work I have used both the participant and non-participant observation method for better understanding of the problems.

iv. **Case study method**

The analysis of the findings is to be described in general or through statistical methods. But there are some ideal cases
which either describe the attitude of the people towards certain aspects of life or represent the development among the people. Those unique cases are also described.

b. Secondary data

Secondary data normally gathered from available sources such as Census, NSS, State statistical bureau, administrative organizations gathering such information as by – products of administration, monitoring and evaluation agencies, research bodies etc. Generally such data are quantitative. Quantitative data are those which are expressed in measurable units whereas qualitative information is mostly descriptive. The available data base on women employment is rather weak and awareness of the need to undertake research on women’s issues has been gaining momentum in recent years. Whatever little is available through population censuses and other surveys leads to the conclusion that women lag behind man in literacy, education, employment, participation in decision-making etc. They are also not able to take advantage of new opportunities due to their multiple roles.

2.5 Limitations of the study

1. A number of issues chosen for an in depth study in this research work are purely of a highly personal nature and too delicate and private. Some of the responses collected and analysed are reported in this study may lack perfect accuracy. However, every conceivable effort is made to check up the accuracy of these statements by the researcher. This is one of the serious limitations of this study.

2. Most of the observations, findings and analysis, etc presented in this study are based upon the conclusions drawn by me with the help of the in depth studies of the various problems
of the working women in Bhubaneswar. When same generalizations are made on the basis of their findings, naturally there will be a slight margin of error and these generalizations may not be valid or applicable, hundred percent, in all situations of working women in elsewhere in our country. This may be considered as another limitation of this study.

3. Some people denied straight to answer my questions. Some also gave wrong information about them and also some questions of my schedule remain blank because they hesitate to answer some questions like their income, savings, and name of the family planning method information about abortion, miscarriage and dead children. Even then every possible effort is made to collect the required data from the women. This may be considered as another serious limitation of this research.

4. In some cases the employees or the office bearers were contacted to disclose some facts like working efficiency, income, relation with other colleagues etc.

5. To gather the issues related to women in the family, the family members were interviewed.

6. The neighbors were also consulted to verify or to collect some information on the respondent and her family when it was conduced.

7. More emphasis was given on interviewing the husband, children and the parents or in-laws for collecting their views in addition to the interview to the respondents.
2.6 Analysis of Data

After collection of data using the different techniques, the findings are arranged in tabular form. The findings are presented using the different statistical methods i.e. in terms of number, percentage, average etc. The data are to be presented in graphical form i.e. bar chart, histogram etc. The analysis of data was made in three major headings i.e. women working in organised public sector, organised private sector and unorganised sector. No detail classification of work is made as they are engaged in varieties of works and the sample is found less in different categories which can not provide any valid information on them. Where necessary analysis has also been made according to the present age of the respondents. Because age is the most important character which affects activities and attitude. The analysis has also been made according to the marital status as they have different environment in which they live. After the completion of analysis the findings are to be presented in the specific chapters of the report.