CHAPTER - III

Methodology
CHAPTER - III

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

Methodology is the system of methods and use applicable to research. Research is a concept which is distinguished by its purpose. The success of any research depends upon a methodic approach. The various methods of approach in research parlance are classified as historic research, survey research, experimental research and case study research.

The present research study hinges upon the concepts of historical research, coupled with survey methods. Any survey it is well established involves the collection of data.

Data Collection

Research allows the collection of primary, as well as, secondary data. Primary data are those lists of information emanating from either personal interview with or without the help of an interview schedule or through questionnaires.

Information that is culled from primary sources such as books and other documents, which form the basis of research study, also fall in this category.

The secondary sources are books and documents on which the researcher depends to fortify his arguments. Secondary sources could be in the form of an interview schedule or a questionnaire which information has been collected by others who have reported their findings. In other words the personal efforts of the researcher to come by the information is called primary data and
efforts of the researcher to glean information from the efforts of others is known as secondary data.

The present research has collected its primary data, through personal interviews with various individuals, groups, organization and organizational heads.

The secondary sources of data are vast and varied. Starting with the Census of India of the past century, the researcher has collected the information from the documental records of State Departments such as the Archives, Agriculture Department, the Education Department, the Social Welfare Department, the Industries Department, the Irrigation Department, the Panchayat Offices, Municipalities, other Revenue Offices and the various Libraries at Kancheepuram and Chennai.

There have been interlinked information available from the various sources which have been carefully segregated, labelled and stored and retrieved where and when necessary.

The Kancheepuram Central Library, Kancheepuram, Chennai Archives, The Madras University Library, Connemara Library, Chennai, British Library, Chennai, Madras Institute of Development Studies Library (MIDS), Chennai, Adyar Library, Chennai and the State Resources Centre Library (SRC), Chennai are the main places which the researcher has frequented in order to elicit pertinent information.

The early and medieval history of the Kancheepuram district especially Kancheepuram region has been collected through books and documents as also
from physical evidence such as the inscriptions at Uthiramerur inscription as well as Kancheepuram Temples Inscriptions.

A fund of information has also been found in the Tamil poems of early poets of the Chola and Pandya and the information regarding their conquests, their administration and heroic activities and the social atmosphere are clearly vouchsafed for by the eminent expressions of the early poets.

Inhuman acts which demean human tendency, the temples and churches yield a plethora of information on the architectural grandeur and constructional capacity of this district. These traditional festivals of temples and churches have nurtured the song and dance sequences and the form of folk dances of this region.

It is not only art and architecture but even the effectiveness of Siddha medicine can be found in ancient days from the written records of the District.

The ancestors of those who inherited the palm leaf records kept the sacred information within the household, for centuries. Not only medicinal particulars, but even the gurukulam education, royal status of the Guru, Varma Sastra and the theme of Astrology are all found in abundance from the primary sources.

Most of these lists of information have permeated to the succeeding generation by oral tradition and the same can be witnessed in the religious ceremonies of the different castes in the District.

No study can be successful without a clean set of objectives, Guilford (1973), advocates the proper formulation of a research problem, which in his words is “more than half the battle”.

47
Too many experienced investigators think of a question or a problem and rush to gather data before totally understanding what it is that they want to observe; a well-planned investigation should always include in its design, a clear consideration of the specific statistical operators that have to be employed. The setting out of one’s objectives is a vital must in research. The objectives, in other words, are the aims of the researcher to identify the research problem and focus on its resolution. In order to achieve one’s targeted results; one has to formulate one’s objectives.

**Main Objectives**

- To trace the historical importance of the Kancheepuram District.
- To trace the heritage of the district of Kancheepuram.
- To catalogue the Socio-Economic conditions of the people of Kancheepuram District with reference to community, caste, religion and education.
- To categorize tradition/culture/habits such as food, clothing etc., festivals and religious ceremonies and social/religious rituals.
- To evaluate the social significance of secular and diversified Indian from a study of the microcosmic Kancheepuram District.

Since the present research is a Historical research based on the descriptive method there are no explicit statistical operations employed. However, a certain amount of percentage calculations mean and median methods as also interpretations through mode have been attempted and augment the findings with the help of derived tables.

**Design**

The present thesis is exploratory in design and employs partially a survey method and falls under the system of Historical research through a qualititative study.
There are occasions where the researcher has employed quantitative methods to analyses the data of the specific areas and to list out the findings. But by and large the thesis revolves round a qualitative analysis of the primary and secondary data.

**Scope of the study**

The present study has limited its observation to the Geographic, Historic and Social features of Kancheepuram District within the time span of the early stage to till date especially a five decade period after the reorganization of Indian States. In order to present a comprehensive picture of Kancheepuram District in its present form, the researcher has gone back in time to the period even Before Christ (B.C) and treated the developments and changes that have occurred over centuries of time with special reference to such ramifications during the study period.

The researcher has studied the geographic profile of the research area with regard to Physical and Human Geography. The third dimension of the study is directed towards the Social and Tamil culture aspects of the State. These have been organized into relevant chapters.

**Organization of Chapters**

The First Chapter discusses the research problem and traces the historical significance of the area of the study i.e. in the introduction chapter.

The Second Chapter in consonance with the research methodology deals with review of Literature. Literature pertaining to the study is reviewed from the angles of History, Geography, Social and Cultural aspects, such as tradition and habits and also political systems and their working.
The third Chapter is based on the methodology and gives detailed information on research methodology in general and the research methodology employed in this particular research, the objectives, the design, the analyses processes and the limitations.

The fourth chapter specifies the historical background and the heritage of the Kancheepuram District.

The fifth chapter enhances the social conditions of the people of the Kancheepuram district and the sixth chapter enhances the scope of the present study by commenting on the economic conditions of the people of Kancheepuram District.

The seventh and last chapter is the concluding chapter lists the findings, draws conclusions, sets out recommendations and identifies areas for further research.

**Limitations**

The present study confines itself to the specific period right from the early period to till date especially 1950-2000 and so many small changes in matters of religious tolerance and social interaction have not been specifically analysed with reference to the present day.

The study pertains to the Historical and the Social Survey method and does not attempt to compare and contrast inter district or intra district groups and there is absolutely no comparison in this regard to the happenings elsewhere in India or with regard to others living in other parts of India.

The researcher has meticulously gathered information from all available sources such as libraries, Archives, Government and other office records.
The information which the researcher has compiled has been voluntarily given and the researcher has not influenced officials in Government or quasi Government Department by way of directives to help in the eliciting of information.

The relevant materials for the present study have been collected during the period 1950-2000 by personal visits to the various organizations and in personal and telephonic conversations, as well as from books and other official records.

The researcher has travelled extensively over Tamilnadu, especially to the study area Kancheepuram, the adjoining districts of Tiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai and Chennai.

The research material has been compartmentalized in the form of chapters and in keeping with research traditions, the chapters have been devised as introductory, review, methodology and analysis, during the relevant period the social-economic and cultural aspects and final findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Since the present research study is perform to economic history, the researcher has striven to entwine the concepts into a single stand and at the same time has endeavoured to distinguish the two disciplines by giving natural coloring to their respective concepts and adding luster to the entire thesis by setting forth relevant points of convergence and divergence.

Kancheepuram district focus attention, on the positive and negative involves the disciplines of history as well as social and cultural aspects of these areas in the matter of the quality of life and its progress among the various constituent inhabitants of the northern part of the Tamil Nadu.