CHAPTER IV

METHOD OF THE STUDY

4.1 Type of research

Qualitative research method followed in this study. Initially, this research started with deductive reasoning model. Since the completion of the pilot study, the inductive reasoning model continued to complete the research.

4.2 Data collection

Data for this study collected through the following approaches and methods,

Participant observation of observation method used to collect data from the field (Struggle areas), social networking groups (cyber-space), focus group discussions (6 groups) and over phone call interactions (60 respondents). Initially, the Phenomenological approach followed to collect data and ethnographical approach also added after the pilot study. Additional data collected through phone call interaction from 60 respondents who are active in the theoretical debates in social media regarding the present conflicts in Tamil Nadu (based on Dravidian, Dalit, Communist, Tamil nationalist and Indian nationalist ideals). The data collected and recorded as written documents, videos, audios and images. Secondary data collected from books, research articles magazines, newspapers and electronic media.
4.3 Sampling framework

4.3.1 Universe

The mass resistance regions in Tamil Nadu and the cyberspace (social networks) are the universes of the study.

a) Mass resistance regions

1. Nuclear project - Koodan Kulam region
2. Methane project - Tanjore region
3. Neutrino project - Theni region
4. Mullai Periyar dam issue – Theni region
5. Gail pipeline project - Kongu region
6. Students’ uprising against Eelam ethnic destruction

b) Social Networks

1. Facebook
2. Twitter
3. Whatsapp

4.3.2 Sampling selection

Six popular struggles in Tamil Nadu have selected for this study. Purposive sampling technique of non-probability has applied for data collection from the struggle fields. Contributions, mobilizations and activities of the 10 political parties and 10 non-political movements in the struggles have observed and recorded. Snowball and accidental sampling techniques of non-probability have applied for data collection from the cyberspace.
4.4 Basic Questions of the Research

Before the pilot study of this study, the development projects of the government and its corporate business bodies and the ethnic discriminations were considered as ‘Thesis’ and the struggles were considered as ‘Antithesis’ (unity of oppositions). After the pilot study, the Dravidianism and the non-Tamils domination in the socio-political platforms of Tamil Nadu are also considered as ‘Thesis’ and the consequences of the study are also considered as ‘Antithesis’. In other term, the propositions of the ruling class are considered as ‘Thesis’. Accordingly the following questions are formulated by the researcher to find the absolute synthesis of the conflicts.

- Causes of the antithesis?
- Backgrounds of the antithesis?
- Influencing factors of the antithesis?
- Role of political movements?
- Role of non-political movements?
- Counteractions between ruling and ruled?
- How the antagonist relationship is developing between ruling and ruled?

4.4.1 Extended Questions after pilot study

- Roots of the present conflicts?
- Anti-thesis are spontaneous or incentive?
- Are antithesis paid or voluntary?
- Background, intention and destination of the political movements? (Who are active in the resistance)
➢ Background, intention and destination of the non-political movements? (Who are active in the resistance)

➢ Why the resistances weaken over time?

➢ What are the internal politics playing in the resistance?

➢ What are the external politics playing in the resistance?

➢ Covert conspiracies and collations?

➢ Role of neo-capitalism and neo-imperialism?

➢ Role of media?

➢ Unethical repression of state?

➢ Historical roots of Dravidianism?

4.5 Hypothesis

Initially, through the preliminary reviews of the relevant literature, a tentative hypothesis has formulated by the researcher as the unity of oppositions will become the determining factor of the political victories in Tamil Nadu. Meanwhile, this study has tried to find the final outcome of the entire struggles. After the completion of pilot study, the researcher found that the hypothesis is positive. Since the pilot study, the researcher has found that the entire consequences of the struggles have created an ethnic conflict between the Tamils and non-Tamils. The subsequent study has focused the ethnic contraries between theTamils and non-Tamils based on the ethnographical approach. In addition, the study attempted to develop the class theory of Marx in the context of socio-political conflicts by analyzing the operations of the voluntary organizations which actively taken part in the struggles. The development of the Marx’s class theory is based on the researcher’s point of view.
4.6 Pilot Study

During the literature review of this study, the pilot study started with deductive reasoning model and it completed in December 2013. According to the results of the pilot study, the inductive model also added to find the absolute results (synthesis) of the study. In addition, some approaches added to collect and analyze the multidimensional data.

4.7 Data analysis

Some qualitative analysis methods like content analysis, framework analysis and Grounded theory analysis have used to analyze the data. Problem-solving and analytic approaches have used for the interpretation and discussion.