Chapter - III

Research Methodology
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There has been a phenomenal increase in the number of street vendors leading to an increase in the number of workers in the informal sector in India. They try to live their life with dignity and self-respect by their hard work. But the basic problem of street vendors is the absence of their right to exist because this profession is considered as an informal work. Also the street vendors are not aware of Street Vendors Act 2014. Street vendors are affected by many factors in working places and living places. In terms of the working patterns, climate change and pollution, police harassment, stress, problems with neighbour vendors have been analyzed. In terms of living conditions, street vendors’ residence, usage of electricity, water facilities, bathroom / toilet facilities and floor facilities have been analyzed.

3.2 STUDY AREA

Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) lies at the heart of Tamil Nadu. This city is well attracted by tourist centre. Trichy is also called as an industrial town of Tamil Nadu. Since the major industries like BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited), OFT (Ordnance Factory Tiruchirappalli), HAPP (Heavy Alloy Penetrator Project) and the Golden Rock Railway workshop etc., are situated here. The place is famous for artificial diamonds, cigars, glass bangles and wooden and clay toys.

Tiruchirappalli is administrated by Municipal Corporation established as per the Tiruchirappalli city Municipal Corporation Act, 1994. The city covers the area of 4,403.83 square kilometers and has a population of 2,713,858 as per census 2011. The main landmarks are central bus stand (heart of city), Railway Junction, Thillainagar, Subramaniyapuram, Gandhi Market, Palakarai and Chatram bus stand. The population of Street Vendors is expected to be around 2500 (Maheshwaran.V, Secretary of Tamil Nadu, NASVI, Trichy, said that all of
the 2,500-odd vendors who operate within the 65-ward corporation limits). The researcher has selected the Tiruchirappalli City for the research study. Many Street Vendors are working in this city. The Street Vendors are selling their different types of goods in the platforms. Public are interested to purchase the goods sold by them. Some of the Non Governmental Organizations are giving support to the Street Vendors.

3.3 RESEARCH GAP

- Various researchers have analyzed both positive and negative effect on the earnings of Street vendors and no other research study is carried out by analyzing the living conditions and working patterns in Tiruchirappalli City.
- There was no comprehensive study carried out in Tiruchirappalli City in the recent years.
- In order to fill this research gap, the present study was undertaken to analyze the Street Vendors’ living conditions and working patterns in the Tiruchirappalli City.

3.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- The scope of the study is to explore further knowledge in this area.
- The present study aims to highlight the understanding of the current policies, experiences, and perceptions of their current life situations among their living conditions and working patterns.

3.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To study the socio-economic status of the street vendors.
2. To study about the living conditions of the street vendors.
3. To know about the working conditions of the street vendors.

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84Tiruchirappalli Corporation, retrieved on 10th October, 20013 from https://www.trichycorporation.gov.in
4. To analyze the problems faced by the street vendors in the working area.
5. To analyze the respondents' perception of the street vendors’ policies and Street Vendors Act.

3.6 HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

Research Hypothesis

Hypothesis is a statement capable of being tested and thereby verified. For the study, the researcher has formulated the following research hypotheses:

1. There is a significant association between the gender and the types of vendors.
2. There is a significant association between the gender and selling areas.
3. There is a significant association between the gender and the daily income.
4. There is significant association between the types of seller and their selling areas.
5. There is significant association between the working experiences and their health problems.
6. There is a significant difference between the gender and problems faced by permanent shop owners.
7. There is significant difference between the gender and problems faced through police personnel.
8. There is significant difference between the types of vendors and awareness about the street vendor’s policies.
9. There is a significant difference between the types of vendors and joining the vendors association.
10. There is a relationship between the daily income and working hours.
3.7 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF STREET VENDORS

Street vendors are the “one who bought goods from wholesale dealer and sell it in the street, roadsides, bus stands and at the other places for their daily livelihood. They have the option of selling goods by making a small shop at the convenient place or by carrying the goods to different places without getting any license for the sale of goods”.

3.8 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF LIVING CONDITIONS

Living Conditions refer to the circumstances of a person's household status like Residence, Electricity, Water Facilities, Bathroom and Toilet facilities, Floor and Carpet type, and Furniture facilities.

3.9 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF WORKING PATTERNS


3.10 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The researcher formulated the below Figure-3.1 of Living Conditions and Working Patterns of Street Vendors for the present study. The living conditions of street vendors i.e., Household Status like Residence, Electricity, Water Facility, Bathroom facility, flooring type and furniture have been chosen and analyzed. Working patterns like Business Factor, Social Relationship, Psychological Factor, Health Conditions and Policy Related issues have been analyzed.
3.11 RESEARCH DESIGN

The researcher adopted mixed methodology (Concurrent) for the present study. It is a popular strategy for mixed methodology design. In concurrent study, the quantitative and qualitative data collection is presented in a separate section, but the analysis and interpretation combine the two forms of data to seek convergence among the results (Creswell & Plano Clark 2007: 118). The structure of this type of mixed methods study does not clearly make a distinction between the quantitative and qualitative phases (David L. Driscoll, 2007).

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3.11.1 Quantitative Approach

We have begun our discussion with epistemological and ontological stands for both the methods, quantitative and qualitative. Positivist paradigm underlies quantitative methods. The ontological stand of the quantitative paradigm is that there is only one truth. Epistemological position of the research is that the researcher studied the independent entities and the researcher is capable of studying a phenomenon without influencing it or being influenced by it (Guba and Lincoln 1994). The aim of quantitative research is to measure and analysis the causal relationships between variables. Methods and techniques of both are different. Techniques include randomisation, blinding, highly structured protocols and written administered questionnaires with a limited range of predetermined responses (Carey 1993).86

3.11.2 Qualitative Approach

In contrast, the qualitative paradigm is based on constructivism (Guba and Lincoln 1994). Ontological stands for qualitative methods that there are multiple realities or multiple truths based on one’s construction of reality. Reality is socially constructed (Berger and Luckmann 1966)87 and so it is changing constantly. On epistemological level, there is no access to reality of our minds, no external reference by which to compare claims of truth (Smith, 1983)88. The researcher and the object of study are interactively linked so that findings are mutually created within the context of the situation which shapes the inquiry (Guba and Lincoln 1994 and Denzin and Lincoln 1994)89.

3.11.3 Mixed Method Approach

The third dimension of the methodological debate of the research deliberated here is mixed method paradigm. The debate over the relative virtue of quantitative and qualitative methodology gained considerable impulsion. Over the past decade, there has been an increasing level of interest, debate, and sophistication surrounding the use of mixed methods in research. The underlying assumptions of the quantitative and qualitative paradigms result in differences which extend beyond the philosophical and methodological debates. Different assumptions are about the quantitative and qualitative paradigms originated in the positivism-idealism debate of the late 19th century (Smith 1983). The intrinsic differences are rarely acknowledged by those using mixed-method designs. The reasons may be that the positivist paradigm has become the predominant frame of reference in the physical and social sciences. In addition, research methods are presented as not belonging to or reflecting paradigms. Caracelli and Greene (1993)\textsuperscript{90} refer to mixed-method designs as those where neither method is inherently linked to a particular inquiry paradigm or philosophy. Guba and Lincoln (1989) claim that questions of method are secondary to questions of paradigms. Authors argued that methods are shaped by paradigms that reflect a particular belief about reality. They also maintain that the assumptions of the qualitative paradigm are based on a worldview not represented by the quantitative paradigm.

There are various reasons for why qualitative and quantitative methods can be combined. Firstly, the two approaches can be combined because they share the goal of understanding the world in which we live (Haase and Myers 1988)\textsuperscript{91}. King et al. (1994) claim both the qualitative and quantitative research methods share a unified logic that the same rules of inference apply to each of


them. Secondly, the two paradigms are thought to be compatible because they are also united by a shared commitment for understanding and improving the human condition, a common goal of disseminating knowledge to practical use, and a shared commitment for rigour, conscientiousness, and critique in the research process (Reichardt and Rallis 1994). In fact, Casebeer and Verhoef (1997) argue that qualitative and quantitative methods must be viewed as a part of a continuum of research with specific selected techniques based on research objective. Thirdly, as noted by Clarke and Yaros (1988), combining research methods is useful in some areas of research, such as nursing, because the complexity of phenomena requires data from a large number of perspectives. Similarly, some researchers have argued that the complexities of most public health problems (Baum 1995) or social interventions, such as health education and health promotion programs (Steckler et al. 1992), require the use of a broad spectrum of qualitative and quantitative methods. Fourthly, others claim that researchers should not be preoccupied with the quantitative-qualitative debate because it will not be resolved in the future, and that epistemological purity does not get research done (Miles and Huberman 1984). After having discussed some of the basic philosophical assumptions of the two paradigms, one is able to address the arguments given for combining quantitative and qualitative methods in a single study.

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3.12 DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Pilot Study

Before finalizing the topic the researcher had discussion with street vendors’ organization Secretary, experts and few street vendors to find out the feasibility of conducting the study. After ascertaining the feasibility of the study researcher processed further steps to conduct the study.

Pre- Testing

The pre-test was conducted among 30 respondents in the study area. Information was collected from those respondents with the help of semi-structured interview schedule. Based on the response of the interviewees, the interview schedule was suitably altered to eliminate some respondents’ convenience.

Data Collection

In this study the researcher used face-to-face interview method to collect data. To collect the primary data, face to face interviews were conducted with the respondents in their work places.

Data were collected during the period from June to November 2014. The interview schedules were administered to the respondents by the researcher after getting themselves acquainted well with the respondents. Mostly the respondents were interviewed during their leisure time. The researcher, on an average, spent a day for 10 respondents and the conducted interview for nearly 15 to 20 minutes.

3.13 UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

- Approximately above 2,500 street vendors are working throughout the city in Tiruchirappalli district (Maheswaran V., THE HINDU, 12.08.2013).
3.14 SAMPLING

The primary data was collected through the semi-structured interview schedule from the respondents. The researcher used convenient sampling methods for the present study and selected various popular areas in Tiruchirappalli Corporation. The information related to the present study was collected through semi-structured interview schedule and select 308 respondents through convenient sampling method and Five Case Studies and Two Focus Group Discussion (FGD) were conducted.

Quantitative Data

Table-3.1
Sample Area of the Study (Quantitative Method)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>No. of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Subramaniapuram</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Central Bus Stand</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Palakkarai</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Chathiram Bus Stand</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>NSB Road</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Singarathope</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Srirangam</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Thillai Nagar</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary Data

Qualitative Data

Researcher used concurrent research design. So, quantitative and qualitative data were used on single phase. Qualitative data like Case Study and Focus Group Discussion (FGD) were chosen as convenient sampling from the willing respondents from the following areas.
Table-3.2
Sample Area of the Study (Qualitative Method)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>No. of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case study</td>
<td>Central Bus Stand</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case study</td>
<td>Singarathope</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD (Focus Group Discussion)</td>
<td>Chathiram Bus Stand</td>
<td>2Groups (group 1 = 11, group 2 = 12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Primary Data

3.15 TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION

- Living condition (self-prepared interview schedule) (Quantitative method)
- Working conditions (self-prepared interview schedule) (Quantitative method)
- Focus Group Discussion (Qualitative method)
- Case Study (Qualitative method)

The interview schedule consists of different parts namely, socio demographic profile, the personal information which includes age, gender, marital status, caste, educational qualification, occupation, year of experience, income, savings, type of house and ownership of house. The living conditions and working patterns questions were formulated by the semi-structured interview schedule.
3.16 MIXED METHODOLOGY

Figure-3.2

Mixed Method


Rationale of Mixed Methodology

Researcher used mixed methodology for this present study (quantitative and qualitative method). Hence, the previous study entitled "Small Scale Businesses: A Case Study of Stagnation Amongst Street Food Vendors in Agra" by Bobodu, D.E (2012) analyzed the internal and external challenges faced by the food street vendors in terms of expansion and operation. The researcher used mixed method for analysing the data. To identify the real situation and to study the behavioural and human science, this study focussed both on quantitative and qualitative methods. So, the researcher selected mixed method.

3.17 ANALYSIS OF DATA

After the completion of the data collection, all the interview schedules were checked for the completeness of responses and were edited carefully. Later all the qualitative and quantitative data were transferred into the code sheet with the help of code design and the same data were entered in the personal computer with the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) 20 version. The data were tabulated in Table-3.3, keeping in to view the objectives of the study.
**Table-3.3**  
**Data Analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptive analysis</th>
<th>Inferential Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Chi Square Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>z Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship</td>
<td>Multiple Regression Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source**: Primary data

### 3.18 INCLUSIVE CRITERIA

The researchers followed the inclusive criteria for the present study:

- The respondents were selected between 17 years and 60 years of age group.
- The respondents were working in Tiruchirappalli Corporation Limits.

### 3.19 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The street vendors are working in more popular areas in Tiruchirappalli City. But the researcher selected a very few areas from these popular areas for data collection. Few of the respondents were not interested in sharing their personal information. Later the researcher met the street vendor’s Organization Secretary Mr.V.Maheswaran to explain the situation and got permission to collect the data. The street vendors are working for about 12 to 13 hours per day to their livelihood. So, they do not want to spend their time for the researcher during the working hours. The researcher collected the data during their leisure hours after attaining appointment from the respondents.

### 3.20 TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

The socio demographic details of the respondents, the semi-structure interview schedule were used for the present study. The living conditions and working patterns scale were prepared by the researcher with the related reviews.
The living conditions scale having semi-structure interview and 17 (with multiple choose questions) questions are related to the household status.

The working patterns scale is created by the researcher for pilot study and the scale with having 35 multiple choice questions was based on semi-structured interview schedule. And the researcher create the conceptual framework of the working patterns questions divided into four dimensions and the researcher mentioned some of the problems faced by vendors and their health conditions, social relationship with society and policies related issues.

3.21 TYPES OF DATA COLLECTION

- The researcher used two forms of data namely quantitative and qualitative which are separated but connected.
- At the first phase, the collection and analysis of quantitative data were performed (Using Self Prepared Questions)
- At the second phase, the collection and analysis of qualitative data (Using FGD & Case Studies) were employed.

3.22 ORGANISATION OF THE THESIS

The thesis is structured in five chapters. Chapter I deals with the general introduction to the aspects of Living Conditions and Working Patterns of Street Vendors. Chapter II provides the review of literature which focuses on related concept, theories and review of various studies carried out in India and other countries of Street Vendors in a brief manner and then presented the research gap. Chapter III describes the methodological aspects that were followed for carrying out the present research work. Chapter IV depicts the Results and Discussions and highlights the findings of this research work in three sections. Section 1 deals with demographic and socio-economic profiles of the Street Vendors. The data were analyzed by using percentage analysis. Sections two and three focus on the aspects related to Living Conditions and Working Patterns of the respondents. The data related to Living Conditions and Working Patterns
have been analyzed with the help of Chi Square, Cross Tabulation, z Test and Multiple Regression Analysis. The final chapter reveals the summary, conclusion and policy implications of the thesis. It provides the major conclusions brought from this study and implications of the results including further research needs in this area of specialization.