CHAPTER TWO

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY
The present study aims at analysing the power dynamics in the contemporary Indian rural society. This power dynamics has been studied in the context of new bases of power in villages such as village panchayat cooperative society, factional leadership, state developmental activities, new sources of income and education and link with political parties.

Methodology signifies the philosophy of the research process. It implies the basic assumptions and values that guide the research and the standards the investigator uses for interpreting data and reaching conclusions. Here research simply means search for knowledge and understanding. Social research as a scientific undertaking is conducted by means of logical and systematised methods, directed towards a goal which is usually analysing and exploring the relationships, causal relations and the natural laws governing the social phenomena.

Research design is the process of making decisions before the situation arises in which the decision is to be carried out, (Ackoff, R.I., 1951). Research design provides the blueprint for studying the problem, and defines boundaries of investigation activity. One significant aim of research design is setting up the research so as to allow logical conclusions to be drawn.
EXPLORATORY RESEARCH DESIGN

The research designs are deployed as per requirement and nature of the problem to be studied. The research design used in this study was exploratory attempting to gain insight into patterns of power structure of Indian rural society. Exploratory research design is conducted to gain the experience which is conducive in formulating fruitful and relevant hypothesis for more acute and definite investigation. Present study also tested Lenski's hypothesis as stated earlier, ultimately a tentative generalisation has been made about social stratification and power structure in Indian rural society abstracted from the empirical study of the emerging patterns of power structure in the three villages.

Exploratory research design is used for exploring the underlying causes of social phenomena. This design assumes that the investigator has no acquaintance with the problem under investigation, research design makes acquaintance with the problem and possible occurrences in carrying out the research. The method used in exploratory design are literature review, consultation with experts and case exploration. Three main essentials are to be followed in this design, viz, review of the pertinent literature, experience survey and analysis of insight stimulating cases. In the present study researcher reviewed both academic and administrative literature in this regard. Researcher made a pilot survey of the villages and held informal chatting with few villagers before conducting the research activity.
TOOLS

The tools employed in the present study for the collection of data were: nonparticipant observation, interview guide and interview schedule, further the secondary sources of data were used for understanding and analysis. Simple statistical tools, e.g. central tendencies, were employed to treat the data collected.

SAMPLE

After collecting preliminary informations, as mentioned below, a sample of two hundred and forty five households, fifty percent of the total households from each villages respectively was drawn from these villages. These power institutions were village panchayats, Nyay panchayats, caste panchayats, voluntary caste council, cooperative society, ramleela committee and nav yuvak mangal dal. In selecting samples of households random sampling bases was employed. In it every household had an equal chance of being chosen. Regular marking method was used as the village are inhabited systematically from caste composition viewpoint. Equal representation from each locality and caste was ensured. All households were allotted numbers regularly and with alternate one household was chosen. Thus in choosing sample main objective and criterion was household not caste. This method was representative, objective simple and amendable. Main variables of the sample drawn taken into analysis are: age, sex, caste, landownership, literacy, occupation including service, and political affiliation. On the basis of
these variables analysis has been made in the subsequent chapters of this study.

**COLLECTION OF PRELIMINARY INFORMATIONS**

Preliminary information was collected through census method. These informations include number of households, caste composition, occupation, education, educational standard, income, employment, age, sex and caste of respondents, landholdings and house pattern. Non-participant observation method was also used.

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

Household was taken as a unit of analysis in this study accordingly the heads of the households drawn by the sample were interviewed with a schedule of questions. The interview schedule consisted of six parts as follows:

(i) First part of the schedule contained questions regarding the personal information of respondent such as age, sex, religion, caste, literacy, occupation, landownership and political affiliations.

(ii) Second part of the schedule contained questions regarding the identification of power holder and leaders of the villages. Leaders have been classified as formal leaders, informal leaders, faction leaders, caste leaders, and authoritarian leaders.

(iii) Third part of the schedule contained questions regarding developmental and nondevelopmental role of state agencies such as blocks, cooperative societies, schools, medical institutions,
Jawahar Rojgar Yojna and police constituting the rural power structure.

(iv) Fourth part of the schedule contained questions regarding caste and village organisations. Respondents were asked about the authority and desirable activities of pradhan and panchas.

(v) Fifth part of the schedule contained questions regarding role of faction in village dynamics and its emergence in village life.

(vi) Sixth part of the schedule contained questions regarding interrelationship among power, privilege and prestige and circular processes of power generation.

**INTERVIEW GUIDE**

Besides interview schedule interview guide was also used to collect informations regarding historical background of the villages, caste and factions, caste and village panchayat, land administration, police department, goondaism etc. Informal chatting proved very fruitful in understanding villagers perception towards the village problems, and rivalries and frustration among villagers.

**CASE STUDIES**

Village power institutions, few influentials and events were studied through case study method. It acquainted us with the character of the villages.
SECONDARY SOURCES OF DATA

Secondary sources of data were also used in this study. These sources included village panchayat records, patwari (lekhanpal), police station, village development officer (V.I.W.), census reports and Tehsil level records.

UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

'Population' or 'universe' means the whole group from which the sample has been drawn. It implies the area under investigation. Strictly speaking it refers to those units which are to be studied, whether directly through census method or through sampling method i.e. through representation. Universe may be household, social processes or individuals, in the present study it consisted of three villages namely Khushamadpur, Khanpur Filai and Rupaipur, and the social economic, political and developmental profiles of these villages.

These villages had been selected for analysing the emerging patterns of power structure, testifying Lenski's thesis and role of modern secular state forces in changing accelerating or retarding the developmental and power dynamics of these villages. These villages are situated in Kadipur Tehsil of Sultanpur district in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, at a distance of 60 Km. from the district headquarter in the east. Population of these villages are 424, 846 and 1318 respectively according to 1981 census report. They all have independent village panchayats. Before samindari abolition they all were ruled under the same
samindari system. Khushamadpur has two purwa (tola), one main village and other one Banpurwa. Khanpur consisted of 3 totals namely Khanpur, Pilai and Bhartipur. Rupaipur consisted of Rupaipur (Thakurayya), Rupaipur (Babha Nayya), and Khanpurkalan. Khanpurkalan is a separate revenue village.

**SAMPLE OF THE STUDY**

Sample of 245 households has been drawn consisting of 51, 73 and 121 households from Khushamadpur, Khanpur Pilai and Rupaipur respectively on random basis. Main variables taken into account are age group, sex, caste, religion, landholding, occupation, literacy and political affiliation of the respondents. Respondents were head of the household irrespective of age and sex.

**VILLAGEWISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS**

All the three village had unequal population, ensure proper proportional representation, proportionately equal number of households were choosen from the villages. The following table presents the actual number of respondents selected from the respective villages.

**Table - 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Village</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Households</th>
<th>Sample drawn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Khushamadpur</td>
<td>0424</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Khanpur Pilai</td>
<td>0846</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rupaipur</td>
<td>1818</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3088</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is clear all the three villages have got proportionally equal representation in the sample drawn.

**ANALYSES**

The data collected through all these techniques were tabulated and analysed according to the variables: age, sex, caste, literacy level, landholding, occupation and political affiliation. Analyses and statistical operations have been made according to the hypothetical questions raised in the first chapter of this study.