3.1. Introduction:

The methodology is the way that one adopts to interpret his findings, experiences and facts all around him. The method is the way of observing, classifying and interpreting facts. The knowledge derived through the application of scientific methods constitutes natural sciences like physics, chemistry, biology, etc., the knowledge gained through the application of logical and to some extent scientific methods constitute social sciences like sociology, economics, political science, etc.

Methods are specific to the subject. The nature of methods is decided by the fields in which they are applied. Therefore, at large, the methods of natural sciences are different from those of the social sciences. It does not mean that the methods of both natural and social sciences could not be exchanged for academic purposes. We are passing through the age of science and technology. Each subject claims to be a science. The current trend is that social sciences are also borrowing and utilizing the concepts, tools and methods of natural sciences to gain greater objectivity and empiricism.

Sociology is mother of all social science subjects. It is a science of social relations found among the individual and group of society. It is a science of reference of one to other, be it individual or group. Whether sociology applied pure scientific method or not, is a matter of controversy even among the sociologists of today. Some stands for scientific methods and while other argue
for logical or philosophical methods. However, when we concede the claim that sociology to be a science, all controversies in this connection are of no significance.

The present research study is related to role of NGOs in women empowerment with special reference to Self-Help Groups. Here the natures of the variables such as different occupations are varied, complex, intangible and dynamic. Keeping in view the diverse objectives framed for analyzing the role of NGOs in women empowerment, a variety of tools and techniques that suit best the requirement of the present study are adopted.

3.2. Research Methodology:

The discussion of concepts, variables in the study, the step by step procedure in the research work are studied under following headings.

1. Meaning of the Concepts:

Following terms are used in defining the research problem and the meaning of these terms and concepts are discussed as under.

**Empower:**

1. To give power or authority to; authorize
2. to enable or permit

**Sociological:**

1. Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of sociology and its Methodology;
2. Dealing with social questions or problems especially focusing on cultural and environmental factors rather than on Psychological or personal characteristics
3. Organized and structured into a society; social.
Self-Help: 1. Relying on one’s own efforts rather than other people’s help

Group: 1. Number of persons or objects gathered together

2. Number of things naturally related or associated.

2. Variables Studied:

Keeping the objectives in mind, it was decided to have vast information on various background characteristics such as socio-economic, demographic, cultural, attitudinal, behavioural, occupational, etc., of the respondents was collected. However, the variables which have been taken into account in this study are based on relevant theoretical and logical grounds. Moreover, for a clear understanding of the nature of these variables further, classification or different groups of variables on the basis of rural and urban areas in the district and occupations was done. In the justification for the selection of the determinants variables and their hypothesized relationship is well presented.

In order to test the hypotheses mentioned in the first chapter, a few social variables were listed for the cross verification analysis. These variables are as follows.

Demographic Variables:

The major demographic characteristics of the respondents which are included in the present study are the occupation, age of the respondents, marital status, caste, religion, number of children, etc. These characteristics were considered to be important to evaluate the qualitative aspects of the study.
**Economic Characteristics:**

The significant economic characteristics of the respondents were undertaken for the study different occupations engaged by women members of Self-Help Groups, economic conditions of the family, worth of properties owned, etc.

**Social Characteristics:**

The major social characteristics of the respondents studied here are: place of residence, religion, caste, type of family, number of members in family, education, etc. was also gathered.

**Behavioural Variables:**

The important behavioural characteristics of the respondents considered to be like making discussions with the other subject specialists or experts or women engaged in other similar occupations, etc.

**3. Secondary Data:**

The present study was begun with the literature search. The researcher referred leading regional, national and international journals and books published in the fields such as women studies, women empowerment, women development, women employment, rural women, Self-employment, Self-Help Groups and income generating activities, Non-Government Organizations, Voluntary Organizations, etc. Secondary information was gathered from these sources.
4. Sample Units:

The present study aims to study the role of NGOs in women empowerment with special reference to Self-Help Groups. The Self-Help Groups are playing an important role in socio-economic empowerment of women. Hence, to assess the socio-economic empowerment of women due to the role played by NGOs in formation and management of Self-Help Groups, the women members of the Self-Help Groups are considered as sample units for the present study.

5. Selection of Sample Units:

As mentioned in the scope and limitations of the study, a sample survey was made to collect the primary data. Total 20 women members from each of the towns namely, Aland, Afzalpur, Chincholi, Jewargi, Sedam and Chittapur and 30 women members of Self-Help Groups from Gulbarga city were selected. In this way, total 150 women respondents were interviewed to collect primary data from urban respondents. Further, total 300 women respondents were interviewed from rural areas. That is, 3 villages were chosen from each taluka, namely, Aland, Afzalpur, Chincholi, Jewargi, Sedam and Chittapur and totally 40 respondents were selected from 3 villages under each taluka and Gulbarga taluka is big taluka and as such, total 60 women respondents were selected from total 5 villages under Gulbarga taluka. In this way, the study also surveyed 300 women from rural areas. Hence, the present study is based on interviews with 300 rural respondents and 150 urban respondents.
6. Collection of Primary Data:

Collection of primary data is proved to be an important task in research work. The Survey Method is one of the most popular data collection methods in Social Sciences. The present study was adopted survey method for the collection of primary data.

7. Tools and Techniques:

The researcher visited totally 45 NGO offices located at different towns in Gulbarga district to collect information on Self-Help Groups formed in different villages and towns. To make the survey and to collect the primary data interview schedule was used. Interview schedule is by far the most important instrument used for the data collection. As majority of the rural women are illiterates or low-educated, interview schedule is suitable research tool to collect the primary data. The interview schedule was addressed to the women members of the different Self Help Groups formed with the support of NGOs, in the rural and urban areas of Gulbarga district. The Interview Schedule was composed using different scales like dichotomous, multiple choice, descriptive and rating. In addition to this, the researcher was adopted personal observation technique to ascertain the information on the nature of the activities of the Self Help Groups, economic and social status of the rural women, role and support of NGOs, etc.

8. Analysis and Interpretation of the Data:

The primary data collected through the Interview Schedule is represented in the form of Tables. The tables are analyzed with the percentages,
so as to ascertain a comparative study. Further, on the basis of collected data certain generalizations were made so as to get findings, suggestions, and conclusion.

The objectivity of the study is further strengthened by the adequate secondary data. In this regard relevant and required information for the present study are gathered through documentary sources such as books, research journals, news papers, magazines, annual reports, gazetteer, web pages in internet, etc have helped much to know about the facts. Some of the Government web sites also helped to collect the statistical information on the number of Self-Help Groups, etc.

A large volume of data collected, manual handling of such voluminous data was quite cumbersome and unmanageable, besides sophisticated statistical analysis of data was also very difficult to handle manually. Therefore, it was guided to handle the entire data through computer. The data was primarily analyzed in terms of variables and multivariable analysis. Thus, the data are statistically analyzed and statistical co-relations between different variables are established. Thus, the work is done in framework of these methodological dimensions.

9. Challenges Encountered:

All the researches conducted in social sciences give due importance to objectivity and correctness of the information gathered through techniques available, every man doing his research has to face a lot of difficulties in course
of field work. However, it is expected that the researcher would face them all and would create a favourable atmosphere to secure relevant information.

A researcher is always treated as a stranger. Being female educated, it was become a difficult problem for the researcher to collect the primary data from women who are illiterates or low-educated. Hence, the researcher faced much difficulty to convince and oblige the women members of Self-Help Groups to provide the information correctly. Further, the husbands of these women artisans were also suspicious on the researcher and it was assured to the family of the respondents to accept the facts and their names should be kept confidential.

Park and Burgess (1924) aptly described the coordination aspect of rapport. “Rapport implies the existence of a natural responsiveness, such that every member of the group reacts immediately, spontaneously and sympathetically to the sentiments and attitudes of every other member”.

The researcher started establishing rapport with women members of Self-Help Groups. In about four to six month’s time with a special effort to focus the problems of women, the researcher wins the sentiments of these women respondents. With the discussion about their problems, the women members of Self-Help Groups responded positively to the researcher. As such, with the help of few of these respondents, the researcher gained the contacts of other women members, who are working in different occupations, but member of Self-Help Groups. The group discussion to analyze the problems of the all the women members of Self-Help Groups were also undertaken during the field
work. The participatory observation was also become one of the tools of data collection.

3.3 Conclusion:

The researcher started the field work and problems multiplied as field work progressed; once initial rapport was established and association with women associated with Self-Help Groups, they become suspicious of my activities and the purpose of the work. To overcome this difficulty, few of them checked my identity card and letter from the Department of the University. Their doubt is dispelled by verifying these proofs and they fostered confidence and responded positively to the study.

Most of the respondents were interviewed either in the morning or in evening or whenever they find leisure time. Even few of the respondents were shared their personal and family aspects with the researcher. Hence, these interviews were normally completed in two to three sittings and each interview on an average took three to four hours and at times more depending upon the willingness of the respondents to convey the information. That is how the desired sample of 450 respondent’s interviews completed and the data presented in the tabular form in the present study.
3.4. References:

