Methodology and Sources

The selected research problem can be categorized as a formulative or exploratory study, the major emphasis being on discovery of ideas and insights, based on a factual study of the problem insofar as it is practicable. Therefore, the research design is flexible enough to permit the consideration of many difficult aspects of the phenomenon. The problem is being investigated through an analytical method in sociological perspective.

The work necessitated library work, field work for collection of data and relevant information. In course of studying and formulating the problem specially three methods have been chosen viz., (1) The Survey of Literature, a review of the related social science and other pertinent literature with the help of a bibliographical survey, (2) The Experience Survey Method, i.e., a survey of the people who have had practical experience with the problem for study, (3) Non-controlled, Non-participant observation Method and an analysis of insight. Stimulating examples.

For the Experience Survey altogether 9 kinds of questionnaires were prepared under the following heads: 1. Questionnaire on Socio-economic aspects of Urban Poverty, Questionnaire on Urban Poverty in the context of the (2) Beggar problem, (3) Problem of population growth, (4) Problem of Accommodation, (5) Problem of child labour, (6) Problem of Crime, (7) Problem of poor quality of Human-capital.

Respondents for the Survey purpose had been selected only on Purposive Sampling basis. It is assumed that the usefulness of such survey comes from the presentation of insights and effective practices rather than from the presentation of the typical.
Besides the above mentioned questionnaires, one more questionnaire-cum-interview schedule (both in English and Assamese languages) had been prepared for an insight-stimulating study based on an Accidental Sampling basis. Only the willing persons were interviewed for the study purpose.

Besides keen observation of the pavement dwellers and shanty settlements of Greater Guwahati, all the 17 slum-pockets of the city had been visited for close and factual observation.

In addition to the analytical texts, certain photographic illustrations have also been provided.

Sources: The following had been our sources of study: Questionnaire, interview schedule, literature on poverty, census data, N.S.S. data, Plan outlays, Assembly proceedings and Government reports.