CHAPTER – 4
METHODOLOGY AND PLAN OF THE STUDY

METHODOLOGY:

The status of women in the Indian context cannot be understood without studying the gender basis of inequality. The existing inequalities and imbalances have resulted in creating differences among different groups of women. In order to understand the nature of the constraints and disabilities that affect women in the performance of their multiple roles in society, the economic and political dimensions play a vital role. Thus, women have to be seen, not as a homogeneous group, but as members of different sections of the population according to the differences in their levels of social existence. Keeping this in mind, the present study seeks to examine comparative features of women belonging to dalit and non-dalit categories. In the present study, we propose to analyze women’s status in a comparative manner.

In this context of comparative analysis of dalit and non-dalit women, the present study seeks to examine various aspects related to women status. Three main aspects related to women’s status i.e. social, economic and political have been the central concern of our study. For analyzing these three aspects we have identified various variables. To examine social aspects we have selected sex ratio, education, health, violence against women and marital status of women. For analyzing economic aspect we have selected work participation rate of women in organized or unorganized sector. To assess the political aspect we have identified the political participation of women in local bodies with a view to examine the impact of 73rd Amendment.

Women belonging to the scheduled caste communities were earlier regarded as untouchables and were addressed with respect by Gandhi as ‘Harijan’. Three important communities belonging to scheduled caste groups in Haryana are Balmikis, Chamars and Dhanaks. Other communities like Brahmin, Jat, Bania, Khatri/Aroras are considered upper caste category while Jogi, Kumhar, Nai, Luhar, Jhimar belong to other backward class category. In the present study, scheduled castes and backward
castes have been considered under dalit category and Brahmin, Jat, Bania Khatri and Arora are treated as non-dalit category.

The present study has been carried out in Sonepat district of rural Haryana. The idea behind selecting rural sector for the empirical study, was that we wanted to collect the information and make observations from a large segment of the society representing dalit and non-dalit category. The census records of 2001 show that the maximum population of the Haryana State dwells in rural areas (i.e. 71.00 per cent of the total population), its urban population accounts for 29 per cent only. In other words, almost 7 out of every 10 persons in Haryana are staying in rural areas. Taking into account this composition of population, the present study was carried out in the rural sector of the State.

**RESEARCH DESIGN**

The exploratory type of research design has been employed for the present study. It would help us to analyze the basic factors and features which play an important role in determining the women’s status in rural society. Needless to add here that the general nature of the present study is empirical. It is apparent from the beginning that all the empirical research in the field must necessarily be exploratory not only because of the problems of definition but also because of the lack of adequate statistics and literature (Uraman, 1984).

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

The main objective of this study has been to analyze the social, economic and political status of dalit and non-dalit women in a comparative manner. It is expected that socio-economic and educational development may bring about changes in the attitudes and beliefs of women in terms of equality, individuality and independence. The analysis pertaining to demographic and socio-economic variables in Haryana’s social structure described the women in a highly disadvantageous situation. The factors that prevent women from assuming active role in social, economic and political field are due to certain institutional bottlenecks such as patriarchy, and traditional mindset which are still prevalent in rural society of Haryana. Taking into account these factors, we have tried to observe whether there is congruence between
the structural factors and value pattern. Keeping in view the above analysis we have considered the following objectives for the present study.

1) To study the socio-cultural and demographic features of dalit and non-dalit women in Haryana
2) To evaluate the nature of work participation rate of dalit and non-dalit Women in Haryana
3) To examine the nature and extent of dalit and non-dalit Women’s political participation in local bodies.

These broad objectives have been empirically tested by conducting a field study in four villages from two blocks of Sonepat district i.e. Sonepat and Rai respectively. The four villages were – Lehrara, Barwasni, Rasoi and Bhalgarh.

HYPOTHESES

In view of the objectives mentioned above we have tried to examine the following hypotheses:

1) Upward mobility of women in economic and political field has no correspondence with their improvement in social position.
2) Economic prosperity has promoted consumerism which has not removed gender inequality and disparity.
3) Educational improvement has not changed the child sex ratio in Haryana.
4) Reservation of seats for women in local self-government has not made inroads into strong patriarchal values.
5) Dalit women’s status remains relatively unchanged inspite of political reservation.
6) Formation of SHGs have distinguished women’s role as an active agent of awareness and social changes. It has also provided a platform for debating gender issues.
CHAPTER SCHEME OF THE PRESENT STUDY

1. Introduction : Conceptual and Theoretical Issues
2. Literature Review
3. Profile of Women in Haryana
   (I) Social Profile of Women
   (II) Economic Profile of Women
   (III) Political Profile of Women
   (IV) Profile of Dalit women
4. Methodology and Plan of the Study
5. Profile of Sonepat District
6. Data Analysis:
   (I) Social and Economic Background of the Respondents
   (II) Social Status of Dalit and Non Dalit Women
   (III) Economic Status of Dalit and Non Dalit Women
   (IV) Political Status of Dalit and Non Dalit Women
7. Summary and Conclusion

METHODS AND TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

Data for the present study was collected through both the methods of data collection i.e. qualitative and quantitative methods. In quantitative method the Interview Schedule was used for collection of data from the field. In qualitative method we have used observation method for collection of data for the present study. Some of the informal interviews were also conducted besides conducting focused group discussion (FGD) in the sample villages.

A structured schedule was prepared for collecting information on variables identified for the study. Besides socio-economic background of the respondents, the schedule contained questions relating to status indicators. Before finalizing the schedule, it was pre-tested in a pilot study conducted among dalit and non-dalit women in rural community. On the basis of pilot and the pre-testing of the questions pertaining to the subject, the schedule was finalized.

The data has been collected both through primary and secondary sources. The secondary data have been collected with the help of published documents of government and research reports. The documentary evidence mainly from the
published materials, such as, Census Reports, reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes, Government of India, Haryana state and other official records relevant to the area of the study. The newspaper clippings were also used as per requirement. The records from various centers of villages like, Health Center, Aanganwari Center, Welfare Department, schools and Panchayats were also taken into account.

The data collected was classified and given tabular representation. The data were codified and tabulated into simple and cross tables for enabling detailed analysis and for deriving the pattern of relationship between the dependent and independent variables.

FIELD OF STUDY

The demographic, socio-economic and political variables in Haryana’s social structure portray women in a highly disadvantageous position (see table 3.1). The broad trends show that the economic changes in last four decades and the formation of state has not yet brought the desired changes in socio economic and political dimensions.

Sonepat district represents the similar trend. The face of Sonepat district has changed drastically. The changes were also noticed in the proliferation of educational institution and availability of medical facilities, pucca roads and public and private transport system etc. There has been significant change in the material culture. But when it comes to social development the district is still lagging behind in socio-cultural indices of development.

District Sonepat has the lowest child sex ratio in Haryana that is next to Kurukshetra and Ambala (which is 738 out of 1000 male). The female literacy rate is 61.65 per cent which is much above the state level female literacy of 56.31 per cent.

It is pertinent to discuss the numerical strength of dalit population in the district. The percentage of schedule caste population representing the district is 18.02 per cent, which is just below 1.00 per cent of the state average that is 19.34 per cent.

The above analysis shows that the economic process for the last four decades has not yet brought the desired changes in socio, economic and political milieu in the district. Keeping these factors in mind we have selected Sonepat district for intensive field work (see the profile of the district in Chapter-V).
SAMPLING

To study the “Status of Women in Haryana” we have selected four villages from Sonepat District. The selection of the villages was not a simple task. Therefore, multi stages sampling method was employed for the present study. The population of the Sonepat district has been divided into seven blocks. From these seven blocks, we have selected two blocks on random basis for intensive field work study, i.e., Sonepat and Rai blocks (See Figure 4.1). From these two blocks, we have selected four villages on the basis of aims and objectives of the present study. The main purpose was to select village where the panchayats were headed by scheduled caste and general caste women community. Thus a cluster of four villages, two villages from each block were selected on random basis for intensive study. These four villages are *Barwasni* and *Lehrara* from *Sonepat* block, *Bhalgarh* and *Rasoi* from *Rai* block respectively.

Table 4.1: Demographic Profile of Four Villages of Sonepat District which has been Selected for Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Name of Villages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sonepat Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Barwasni</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No. of Household</td>
<td>865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>4939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Female Population</td>
<td>2243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Male population</td>
<td>2696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sex Ratio</td>
<td>832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sex Ratio 0-6</td>
<td>665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Proportion of 0-6 population to total population</td>
<td>16.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SC Population</td>
<td>791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SC Female population</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SC male population</td>
<td>441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Percentage of SC population</td>
<td>16.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Percentage of literates</td>
<td>73.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Female percentage of literates</td>
<td>58.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Male percentage of literates</td>
<td>87.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SONEPAT DISTRICT

STUDY AREA

UTTAR PRADESH

PANIPAT

Gannaur

Dhasoni

Memarpur

UTTAR

PRADESH

ROHTAK

Mahra

Pur Khas

Juan

Murthal

SONIPAT

Rai

Rasoi

SONIPAT

Kharkhaua

Rathdhana

Janti

Study Area

Fig. 4.1
The representation of dalits and non-dalits population and participation of women in local bodies has been taken into special consideration in selection of village for the present study. The panchayat was headed by women in all these four villages. Two panchayats were headed by schedule caste women sarpanch and another two panchayat were headed by upper caste women. We have selected dalit and non-dalit women headed panchayat village from each block. From Sonepat block, the village named Lehrara is having a non-dalit woman sarpanch and, the Barwasini was having a dalit woman sarpanch. Similarly, from Rai block the village named Rasoi was having non-dalit sarpanch and the Bhalgarh village was having a dalit woman sarpanch. The detail of sample is given below (see table 4.2).

**Table 4.2: Total Number of Respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Name of the Village</th>
<th>Scheduled Caste</th>
<th>Backward Caste</th>
<th>Upper Caste</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Lehrara</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Barwasni</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Rasoi</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Bhalgarh</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From these four villages, we have selected total number of 286 women (i.e. 2.5 per cent of the universe) for the present study through stratified random sampling method. We also tried to include the key informants from the village. Therefore, we also considered those women who were the member of panchayats, employees in anganwaris, member of self-help group (SHGs) member of Mahila Mandal and Sakshar Mahila Samooh (SMS) etc. It is important to note that only married women have been included in our sample for the present study.

The detailed analysis about Sonepat district has been made in the next chapter i.e. “Profile of Sonepat District”.