CHAPTER II

OBJECTIVES AND METHOD

In view of the discussions in the previous chapter, it would be pertinent to study the following objectives:

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

I. To capture the nature and extent of inter-gender access, participation and atrocities against women and its relationship with empowerment.

II. To ascertain respondents' perception regarding their reasons and justifications for the deprivation, discrimination and atrocities suffered by women.

III. To capture the nature of women's participation and its relationship with empowerment and violence against women.
   • To explore the linkage between unequal inter-gender access, participation and atrocities against women.

IV. To capture the class and urban-rural variations in access and participation of women in spheres of health, education and employment. And also the linkage between income strata and
urban-rural variations and nature and extent of abuse against women.

RESEARCHABLE QUESTIONS

(i) Male child preference will vary with variations in class and rural-urban areas.

(ii) Females in lower income groups will have less access to health facilities than upper income groups but females in each group will have less access to health facilities than their male counterparts.

(iii) The forms of violence faced by women shall change with increase in access and nature of participation.

(iv) Invisibility to violence will increase with increased acceptance to gender differentiation.

(v) The extent and form of violence against women varies with different income groups and rural-urban variations.

The study will analyse both structural and behavioural components that contribute to violence against women. The structural or latent violence against women which finds expression through what have been called the 'anonymous social mechanisms', in the context of this study, would refer to the ideology subscribing and maintaining the male norms. As ideology cannot be empirically measured, its impact will be studied through women's access to developmental benefits, and the nature and quality of their participation in social and economic activity and the extent of women's empowerment.
(i) Latent violence reflects the pervasiveness of those norms, value patterns and beliefs which maintain and perpetuate the gender differential system male norm and are built into the social inter-relationships.

(ii) A derivative analysis of indicators reflecting women's deprivation, discrimination and subjugation will be gathered through the following secondary data: (i) sex ratio (ii) male-female infant mortality rates (iii) male-female life expectancy (iv) male-female literacy rates (v) male-female drop-out rates (vi) male-female specialization in education (vii) male-female work participation rates, the percentage of workers in the unorganised/organised sector, casual workers.

The data on these indicators have been collected at different points of time.

(iii) The extent of latent violence will be studied through primary data sources of women respondents' schedules (a) women non-workers (b) women workers.

As per the discussions in the previous chapter, the focus of the research is to capture the dynamics of women's empowerment through gender differentials.

The scope of male-female differentiation which forms the core of the gender based system has been delimited to and studied through the following:

1. Extent of male/female access
2. Quality and extent of male/female participation
3. Differential roles
4. Decision making
   In specific, these differentials were operationalised in the spheres of health, education, employment and property.
5. Differentiating practices of
   (i) Male child preference
   (ii) Dowry Exchange

☐ Violence against women
   This was studied through the parameters of;
   (i) deprivation and discrimination (in the spheres of health, education, employment and property) and
   (ii) atrocities against women. Atrocities being dowry demand, dowry death, rape, molestation, physical abuse, sex determination and wife-beating.

☐ Deprivation
   Deprivation was operationalised as denial of access to health, education, employment and property.

☐ Discrimination
   Discrimination was operationalised through male-female disparity in access to and participation in health, education, employment and property.

☐ Atrocities
   Atrocities against women were defined in accordance with the legal crimes
against women which are;

(i) Dowry demand
(ii) Dowry harassment
(iii) Dowry death
(iv) Eve-teasing
(v) Molestation
(vi) Rape and
(vii) wife-beating

Though no specific crime of wife-beating exists in the Indian Penal Code section 319 to 323 that refer to hurt and grievous injury were referred to in the context of married women complaining of injury by husbands.

Sex determination tests have been studied in the context of male child preference, but these have not been operationalised as an abuse since it has become a legal crime in 1996 after data collection in the field had been completed.

Empowerment

Empowerment has been understood through Lukes three dimensional view of power.¹ According to him it focus on;

(a) decision-making and control over political agenda (not necessarily through decisions)
(b) Issues and potential issues
(c) observable (overt and covert) and latent conflict
(d) subjective and real interests.

AREA OF OPERATIONALISATION OF STUDY

The state of Haryana provides a rich ground to capture the complexities of the dualistic nature of development. Culturally it represents a dominant patriarchal society steeped in clearly demarcated gender roles. Economically, it has been the recipient of the Green Revolution strategy which has led to:

(i) the introduction of advanced technology;
(ii) spread of education, health and other infrastructural facilities;
(iii) increasing exposure and awareness of rights.

It has been hypothesised that the specific type of development in Haryana has led to perpetuation of gender differentiation. The data indicate that it has manifested in increasing acts of violence against women. The penetration of consumer oriented norms in a patriarchal society regulated by caste and religious beliefs probably contributed to the increasing practice of dowry and its widespread effects. Affluence provided an added material base to the practice of dowry and the existing social value system gave it legitimacy. It has been argued that the demonstration effect of this has adversely affected the pauperised and socially unfavourably-placed sections. In view of these observations, it would be worthwhile to examine the impact of the development process on the increasing atrocities against women in the specific socio-cultural setting of income groups and rural-urban areas.

As discussed in the previous chapter, the purpose of the study is to capture the nature and extent of the unequal inter-gender access and participation in relation to atrocity against women.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the District</th>
<th>Name of the town / village</th>
<th>Total area of village in hectares / town</th>
<th>Number of households</th>
<th>Total population</th>
<th>Total male population</th>
<th>Total female population</th>
<th>Sex ratio (per 1000 males)</th>
<th>Total literacy (15+)</th>
<th>Male literacy (15+)</th>
<th>Female literacy (15+)</th>
<th>Total work participation rate</th>
<th>Male work participation rate</th>
<th>Female work participation rate</th>
<th>Male Total</th>
<th>Female Total</th>
<th>Nearest town and distance in km</th>
<th>Amenities Available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambula (M.C.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>15.04</td>
<td>21.8°2</td>
<td>119,338</td>
<td>61,852</td>
<td>27,486</td>
<td>929</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>87.0</td>
<td>66.1</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>Chandigarh (125 km)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Daliwali</td>
<td></td>
<td>325.50</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>&quot;40&quot;</td>
<td>35.3</td>
<td>44.8</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>25.4</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>98.3</td>
<td>Don Baso (13 km)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khet</td>
<td></td>
<td>554.41</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>1219</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>55&quot;</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>69.0</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>27.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>95.3</td>
<td>Daun Mandi (11 km)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhiwani (M.C.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.64</td>
<td>10.04</td>
<td>121,629</td>
<td>64,877</td>
<td>8672</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>61.4</td>
<td>81.4</td>
<td>59.5</td>
<td>27.0</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>94.2</td>
<td>Don Baso (11 km)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhiwani</td>
<td></td>
<td>9°7.63</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>2411</td>
<td>12333</td>
<td>1181</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>59.7</td>
<td>&quot;no&quot;</td>
<td>38.2</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>Chidna Dali (11 km)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chhapar</td>
<td></td>
<td>1115.60</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>4499</td>
<td>2418</td>
<td>2075</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>93.8</td>
<td>Bhiwani (13)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Profile of sampled town / villages (1991 census data)

Source: District Census Handbook (Haryana District), series 8, part A and B, Census of India 1991, series 1, India, Part 1, series 6, Table 64, Town and urban agglomerations (1991)
SAMPLE DESIGN

Within the universe of Haryana, the districts were selected on the basis of a purposive sample based on female work participation rates in the secondary and tertiary sectors. The sample has also been drawn from the secondary and tertiary sector representing the organised work force.

A district was randomly selected from those falling in the first and last quartile of the secondary and tertiary female work participation rates. Bhiwani was randomly identified from among the districts in the first quartile and Ambala from among the districts in the last quartile.

In the rural areas of the selected districts, a multi-staged randomization of clusters was used to reach the household level. Within each district a tehsil was randomly selected, from which a block and then a village cluster was randomly selected, keeping in view the physical contiguity factor.

Following was the random selection: (1993)

District: Ambala Bhiwani
Tehsil: Panchkula Dadri
Block: Naraingarh Dadri I
Village: Dabkauri, Mauja Kot Rasiwas, Chappar
HOUSEHOLD SELECTION

A household was defined as a group of people sharing the same kitchen.

- **Rural areas household selection**

A multi-staged sampling was undertaken to identify the units of analysis. The units of sample were identified through households, in which women heads of the household / wives of the heads of the household were taken as the respondents. An additional sample focusing on women workers in the organised sector was also drawn, keeping in view the research objective of capturing of inter and intra gender differentials in employment. Only the organised sector was sampled because the unorganised sector is itself a systemic distortion while the organised sector gives legal protection to workers including women. Classes were operationalised through income, on the basis of which the household sampling was undertaken.

- **unit of sample**: household, the units of study being:
  - a) Women heads of household / wives of the heads of household,
  - b) Women workers in the organised sector (heads of household / wives of heads of household)

The first level of variation capturing the sample pertain to different income groups. The second level of analysis was drawn on the basis of rural and urban settlement patterns. In both districts, the four income groups and rural and urban samples constituted part of the purposive sample.
In each village, households were classified into four income groups - upper, upper middle, lower middle and lower, on the basis of land holdings. The following criteria were used:

Upper income group : Above 10 acres or over Rs. 1 lac. annual income
Upper middle income group : 5 to 10 acres or Rs. 60,000-1 lac. annual income
Lower middle income group : Less than 5 acres or Rs. 25,000-60,000 annual income
Lower income group : Landless, daily wage earners or less than Rs. 25,000/- annual income

Besides the criteria of landholdings to identify the households' annual income was also used to identify households that were landless but their occupations were in professions other than agriculture such as shopkeepers and artisans.

The random stratified technique was applied to select 35 households from each village. Households were randomly selected (method) but within the proportion to their income population in the village.

Urban Area Household Selection

For the urban areas, district towns from respective districts were selected as part of the purposive sample. District towns were selected on the criterion that these had the best amenities, infrastructure (such as hospitals, schools) and employment opportunities in the organized sector in the district and would,
therefore, allow the research propositions to be tested under the most optimal conditions.

In each district town, a multi-staged random sample using random tables was used to identify the households. A cluster of three mohallas was identified on the basis of stratified random sample. A cluster each from the center periphery and mid-interiors of the cities was randomly selected. Random households were alternatively selected from the three clusters until a sample of 20 in each of the four income groups was completed.

- **Upper income group**

  This income group constituted households whose annual income level was more than Rs. 1 lac.

- **Upper middle income group**

  Income of these households constituted Rs. 60,000-Rs. 1 lac. annually.

- **Lower middle income group**

  Households identified in this group were based on the criteria of income ranging between Rs. 25,000 - Rs. 60,000 annually.

- **Lower income group**

  Households in this income group were identified on the basis of an annual income less than Rs. 25,000/- annually.
In all 40 households from each town, equally divided in the four strata were sampled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Sample size</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambala</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhiwani</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WOMEN WORKERS: ADDITIONAL SAMPLE TO TEST PROPOSITIONS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT

Working women were sampled only from the organised sector. Women workers were sampled in equal proportion from the four categories: three from the skill categories (skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers) and the forth constituted professional workers from both the districts. Working women in the three skill categories and professional workers were identified through the household sample in the district towns. In the three identified mohallas randomly selected, households were randomly visited until a sample of 20 each from the four categories was filled. In the total a sample of 160 women workers were taken, 80 from each district, and 40 from each skill.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill category</th>
<th>Bhiwani</th>
<th>Ambala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Unskilled</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Semi-skilled</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Skilled</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Professional</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

(i) The interview schedule was used to capture opinions from the respondents. The schedule included both open ended and close ended questions. The open ended questions were supported by extensive probes. The schedule was pre-tested during the pilot study. Both open ended and close ended questions were coded. In the open ended questions, the range of responses was collected before clubbing them into appropriate responses for coding.

(ii) Before proceeding with the interview, respondents were explained that the study pertained to research being conducted under the aegis of Panjab University and was not connected with the government or any other agency. The respondents were also assured complete anonymity. On an average, the schedules took an interview of one and a half hours while the interview for the additional sample took about half an hour.

(iii) A research study of women's empowerment and violence against women would not be as accurate as a rigorous scientific method would demand. The present study is no exception. Determining the criteria for the measurement of errors was problematic owing to the characteristics of the problem under study. Measurement presupposes the availability of the units of measure. Without effective units of measure, the research would only represent numbers which signify nothing. Measurement of variables would be inaccurate since these constitute only the perception
of a conglomeration of individuals. It would be emphasised that concepts used in social discourse do not refer to physical entities for these involve cultural definitions and represent different meanings to different individuals. The use of statistical details for such concepts, however meticulous and refined they may seem, cannot overcome the acknowledged unreliability of such a measure. The determination of ideological orientation and attitudes lies more in the realm of meanings which are to be analysed rather than measured. The study thus uses percentages which have been analysed through the gender framework rather than relying on statistical computation on their own. Analysis of variance using the significance of percentages and the chi-square have been applied to verify the proposition that income and rural urban settings affect the extent and form of abuse. However, these have not been used on their own but are substantiated by the prevalent cultural patterns, values and beliefs. For this reason, individual variables have been analysed at length rather than depending on scale and measurement techniques.

(iv) In respect of the extent of abuse, the responses pertain to the perception of individuals as cited. These were incidents as suffered by the respondents. In the instance of dowry death, the abuse pertains to the death of a respondent's daughter.