Chapter – III
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE CHAPTER

For empirical study of the present kind of research, methodology itself forms a part of the research problem. This is so because the kind of research in the area of sociology of sports is novel and still a virgin field in India.

Hence, the methodology in this arena consists of methods, borrowed from various disciplines. Such a borrowing is especially heavy in terms of methods used in sociology, cultural anthropology and psychology in particular. This chapter provides essential details about the methods used for both quantitative and qualitative database of the present research work. Various methods of data collection used in combination to acquire the desired nature of research information are explained in this chapter.

Statement of the Problem:

The present research work has aimed to conduct a sociological analytical study based on primary field based data about sports and related activities during the leisure hours of the youth in the Malnad region of Karnataka.

General objectives of the study:

1. Detailed collection of data concerning sports activities of the youth in Malnad.

2. Collection and analysis of primary data of the youth in Malnad area and the nature of leisure time.

3. Analysis of the nature and problems of youth in Malnad concerning their leisure time and sports.
4. A careful consideration of the relative advantages gained by the youth on account of active participation in sports during their leisure hours.

5. Analysis of the possible impact of sports on communal harmony and societal peace in the study area.

6. Pragmatic and practical recommendations in solving problems, if any, concerning improvements in sports in the study area.

Study Hypotheses:

In order to conduct a field-based empirical study to achieve the research objective stated above, following hypotheses were formulated for qualitatively testing in the field. These hypotheses have been formulated on the basis of review of existing literature in the area, general observation by the researcher during the course of his professional sports teaching, and interactions with some scholars in the field of research. While finalizing the study hypotheses Johnson’s statement “Keen observation, creative thinking, hunch, wit, imagination vision, insight and sound judgment are of greater importance in setting up reasonable hypothesis.”\(^1\) was kept in mind. Lundberge’s definition that a hypothesis as, ‘a tentative generalization, the validity of which remains to be tested’\(^2\) was taken seriously. The hypotheses of the research work are stated below:

1. Young people in the Malnad region face more social disadvantages than advantages in participate in sports activities.

2. The youth in Malnad consider other recreational activities more amicable and accessible than sports due to fluctuating social circumstances such as the availability of mass media entertainment programmes, folk practices, public gambling and the like.

3. Cultural values such as unity, friendship, co-operation, self-confidence, awareness about health and hygiene, competitive sprit and achievement
motive are enhanced due to the participation of the Malnad youth in sports activities.

4. Involvement in sports helps the youth in Malnad area to develop leadership qualities.

5. Participation in sports and better health condition are positively correlated among the youth in Malnad area.

Qualitative analysis of field based primary data method has been adopted in the study to test the hypotheses stated above and for qualitative and in depth analysis in support of the quantitative data. The responses being open, qualitative and relative to the perception of the respondents, no statistical technique to test the hypotheses has been adopted. Instead, the hypotheses were tested through analytical-theoretical logic in the light of available literature.

Study Universe:

This empirical study, based on primary field data, was conducted in three districts in the state of Karnataka. These three districts were Kodagu, Shimoga and Uttara Kannada. In each district two taluks were selected.

The study areas have relevance to the central argument of the present thesis. Each area is a typical Malnad region having representative features. Each district head quarters is an urban center broadly representing the southern the northern and the central part of the state of Karnataka.

Study Sample:

This is a general sociological study of youth and sports activities in Malnad. With this broad object, all youth belonging to the Malnad area in Karnataka ideally constitute the study universe. However, as it is impractical and nearly impossible to engage the entire youth population in a census survey to
cover the target group youth in the Malnad, a representative sample of them from the study, as noted above, has been selected.

The method employed in the selection of the study sample for the present study is stratified random sampling technique. While selecting samples the following points are kept in mind; that sample should be sufficient in size to enable the researcher to arrive at significant conclusions and generalizations beyond the study sample. At the same time, the manageability of data was also considered. Enough attention was paid while finalizing the sample size. With this principle, it has been decided to select a total number of 630 youth in the age group of 18 to 30. Sports, health social and cultural factors were generally considered to give the study sample a representative character. As stated above, the study sample consists of students, laborers, literate and illiterate from the six taluks in three districts in the state of Karnataka.

Major portion of the study data for this sociological analytical work was collected through first hand details of information through formal interviews. 630 youth in the age group of 18 to 30 were selected as the total sample for the purpose of research study. Information about 600 young men and women was collected through personal and formal interviews. Out of 200 youth from every district, 100 were men and the rest 100 were women. Two taluks from each of the districts were chosen for the study with 100 respondents. Among them 50 were men and 50 were women in each taluk. The following diagram makes clear the sampling pattern.
30 men and women out of 630 were selected for in-depth analysis through case study. Emphasis has been laid on these groups for qualitative and in-depth analysis in support of the quantitative data gathered through the individual interviews.

**Data collection Techniques**

The data for the study was collected with the help of two techniques, Interview and observation as mentioned before. Individual interview with the help of a carefully constructed and pre-tested interview schedule was the method of data collection for this purpose in the study. Interview schedule and observation record sheet are given in appendix B and E.

The interview schedule consisted of questions covering all major aspects on the subject to be investigated. In the preparation of the schedule, attempts were made to construct partially structured questions as much as possible, so as to enable the respondents to answer them naturally and without much difficulty. Tough and personal questions were totally avoided to keep the responses open and
candid. The schedule was carefully constructed and pre-tested in Sagar and Thirthahalli taluks before it was used for data collection in the field. During the course of the interviews, the researcher managed to establish close rapport with the respondents enabling him to have inner insights and intimate impressions. This enables the researcher to do in depth analysis of thirty case studies later.

The observation helped in finding out feelings, motives, values, beliefs and behavior of the respondents on various matters concerning the fields in which they were required to respond. It gave the researcher additional information of their state of mind, which could not be ascertained through interview schedule alone.

The interview schedule consists of six sections with 53 main questions. Most of the interviews were conducted at the place of the respondents during the leisure hours with prior appointments. Some interviews were held at the college premises with the permission of the head of the institutions and with the co-operation of the physical education teachers. A few interviews were also conducted at the residence of some respondents. Some of them are married women within the mentioned age limit. On an average each interview took about 50-60 minutes. Totally it took ten months to collect the data.

**Data coding, analysis and interpretation**

The study aims at drawing inferences from the verifiable primary data and the purpose of analysis is to obtain more than one variable description as the background characteristic for individual differences. Information, collected through interviews and supported with field observations, has been systematically presented for critical analysis in the following chapters. Various operations involved in the processing of data were classification, application of categories, through coding and tabulation before, arriving at general conclusions. The quantitative data are presented in the form of tables and they have been compared for data analysis, and interpretation. Data is presented in the next three chapters.
Reference:
