

CHAPTER IV

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CHAPTER IV

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Women labour is an important segment of the total workforce in India. More than 90 percent of the working women in our country are engaged as wage labourers in the unorganised sector. Although, we have completed nearly 4 decades of developmental planning, very little change can be seen in the status of the vast majority of women force in our country. Most of the women bear the brunt of poverty, landlessness, homelessness, underemployment and destitution. They are also very often subjected to different kinds of exploitation such as, economic, cultural, and political.

According to 1981 census, these workers constitute 94 percent of the total female workforce and they belong to mostly poorer sections.

In view of this background, it was felt that the problems of the agricultural labourers. The researcher having specialized in community development to do M. Phil., was tempted to enquire into conditions of the female agricultural labourers in Ankola Taluk of Karwar district (Karnataka State).

Hence, the study was initiated, as this was intended primarily to be a descriptive one, the need to develop or laydown hypotheses was not felt. As this is conceived of only a limited sample size in one taluk, the study could give rise to hypohese not really to test them.

IV.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is undertaken with the following objectives in the mind.

- [1] To assess the background of the female agricultural labour.
- [2] To know the living conditions of female agriculture labour.
- [3] To enquire into the occupational aspects.
- [4] To illustrate the problems of attached labour.
- [5] To analyse the income, expenditure, savings and magnitude of indebtedness.
- [6] To examine the problems of the female agriculture labour as housewife and at work.
- [7] To know their pattern of social interaction, and
- [8] To ascertain their attitudes towards certain aspects viz., dowry system, intercaste marriage, etc.

IV.2 UNIVERSE AND SAMPLE SELECTION

The population of the study comprises of female agriculture labourers in Ankola taluk. For the purpose of data collection, three villages namely, Belambar, Bhavikeri and Harwada of this taluk were selected. The basis of selection of these villages is the predominance of agriculture labour force. The total female agriculture workers in

three villages are 161, 171 and 98 respectively, according to the District Census Handbook. By using simple random method, a sample of 50 households were selected from each of these villages and the sample size thus, constituted to 150 female agriculture labourers.

The major part of the data used were from among the primary sources. Some information was collected from secondary sources as well. Two types of data were mainly collected for study on the basic level. These include the following.

- (1) Interview, with the aid of a structured schedule.
- (2) Documentary evidence namely, the published materials such as Census reports, reports and documentary evidence from Taluk office and district statistical department.

IV.3 TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

Data for empirical study were collected mainly through interview. A standard schedule was prepared to collect information on matters pertaining to the present study.

The researcher chose schedule method for the following reasons.

- (a) Since the study is among the female agriculture labourers, who are mostly illiterates, other methods may be irrelevant.
- (b) It would give the researcher an opportunity to come in personal contact with the respondents. If there is

any mis-understanding about the questions asked, the researcher would get a chance to remove it.

- (c) Interview schedule would create proper atmosphere for exchange of views and for getting necessary information. In case, there is some new problem sighted, deeper probe would be easily possible.

IV.4 COVERAGE OF INFORMATION

To fulfill the objectives of this study, information was collected on the demographic particulars of the respondents, family particulars, employment aspect, economic conditions, particulars about attached labour, dual responsibility of the respondents as home-maker and at work, their pattern of social interaction and attitude towards employment of women towards educating children, divorce system, intercaste marriage, etc.

Before finalising the schedule, it was pre-tested in a similar sample. On the basis of this study and by going through the pertinent literature, the schedule was finally formulated for data collection. As far as possible, the questions were made simple and open ended question were avoided. The schedules were checked again for the efficiency and validity before put to use.

The field work was conducted in the months of October - December of 1990. Since, the researcher belongs to this native, there was no difficulty in conveying ideas and to get the facts more clearly.

Usually, the single interview lasted for one hour in the initial stage and moreover it depended on the establishment of the rapport and the co-operation extended by the interviewee.

The collected data were checked, codified, and fed into computer. The data was later tabulated into simple and cross tabulation. The tables were represented and analysed through percentage distribution.

IV.5 LIMITATIONS

During the course of conducting research, one has to constantly guard against introducing bias, subjectivity and inaccuracy, while selecting the sample, making observations, relative findings and at every other step. The researcher has taken immense care and every possible effort to collect authentic information. However, the findings of the study are based on the information provided by the respondents which may have its own limitations. Hence, the possibility of hiding certain facts by the respondents cannot be ruled out.

The study is limited to a small segment of the female agriculture labour. However, environment and problems are bound to be different from place to place. Hence, it may not be claimed to be the most representative sample and need be accepted as the determinant for generalization. The scope of the research is limited to female agriculture labour and confined to only one taluk and has its own limitation and can be made applicable with caution. The sample could

have been collected at macro level for a wider generalisation, but due to financial and time constraint, it has been confined to a limited area.

Despite the above said probable limitations, the results of the study reveal the general trend and magnitude of the problem of female agriculture labour.

IV.6 CHAPTER SCHEME

The dissertation is divided into six chapters. The chapterisation scheme is given below.

CHAPTER I Chapter I highlights the agricultural labour in India, its classification, characteristics, present condition and problems faced by them in their day to day working. It further depicts the female agriculture labour and its position in India.

CHAPTER II A detailed account of literature review is taken in the second chapter, relevant to the present study to get a perspective of the nature of research done in past.

CHAPTER III An attempt is made in this chapter to sketch the profile of Karwar District and Ankola taluka. The socio-economic conditions of female agriculture labour in Ankola taluka their problems and present condition.

CHAPTER IV This chapter gives a detailed account of research methodology adopted by the researcher in tackling his research problem. It depicts the sampling procedure adopted, objectives of the study, the method of analysis of data, and limitations of the study.

CHAPTER V The primary data collected by the researcher is analysed and interpreted into 8 sections, viz., demographic variables, living conditions, occupational aspects, attached labour, economic aspects, female as home maker and at work, and attitude.

CHAPTER VI The last chapter concludes the findings of the study and offers suggestions.