

**CHAPTER - II**  
**RESEARCH**  
**METHODOLOGY**

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the problem under consideration as well as the methodology adopted. A brief narration of the policy implication of this study, besides a comprehensive survey of the related literature, has also been given.

### 2.1 THE PROBLEM:

The present project work concerns itself with the ex-post fact study of trade union activities in Vijayawada Thermal Power Station, Vijayawada. At present, the worker community faces several problems due to lack of integrity among themselves, because there is no such type of integrity among the trade unions as well as their leaders.

### 2.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

To be precise, the present study has been undertaken with the following objectives.

1. To study the role of trade unions in the upliftment of workers' socio-economic conditions.

2. To observe the outside leadership effect in the factory trade union activities.
3. To examine the political interference in the union activities.
4. To make appropriate suggestions regarding the trade union activities.

### 2.3 SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The researcher proposes to study as extensively as possible, the "Trade Union Activities in Vijayawada Thermal Power Station, Vijayawada" to find out the overall response of the workers to the existing activities of their unions. The researcher has taken into his study only the recognised Trade Unions of Vijayawada Thermal Power Station. The researcher totally omitted the activities of contract labour trade unions for extensive study of recognised trade union activities.

### 2.4 METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLING:

The present study is based on the data collected from primary and secondary sources.

The primary data is collected by:

- a) Well planned personal interviews with the work supervisors, union leaders, managers and assistant engineers and holding discussions with all the parties concerned.
- b) Well structured questionnaire.

The secondary data is collected from:

- c) Published and unpublished company manuals, records, files, brochures, etc.
- d) Books, journals, reports, encyclopedia on social sciences.

The views of workers were elicited by way of well structured questionnaire. Managers, supervisors of the organisation have also been interviewed to elicit information on the basis of non-structured schedules.

The secondary information was collected from the company manuals and office records pertaining to the performance analysis, other technical and non-technical data relating to the project and statistics of the workers etc.

## SAMPLING:

A sample is a small specimen or separated part of the whole population representing its general qualities as far as possible. It is a smaller set selected from the population reflecting its characteristics. The sampling technique is a procedure for the selection of a sample from the given population. The term sampling refers to the investigation of a part of the whole population or universe.

There are about 975 permanent workers, 1320 contract workers organised by the department and 1,032 contract workers organised by private contractors. In the present study, only permanent workers who are covered by the Factories Act, 1948 are considered. As it is not possible to cover all the workers, a sample of approximate 50 workers are selected for the study on a stratified random sampling. The sample comprises workers from different grades and designations.

The stratification of the workers was done on the basis of their nature of work, as it is not possible to cover all the workers. So the researcher selected stratified random sampling.

#### **TABULATION:**

The next task of the researcher on being armed with the data was to process the information. This has been done by analysing the available data in a scientific manner and by interpreting the analysis so as to render the thesis work rather broad based.

The tabulation is employed for the data processing. After processing and tabulating the data, the researcher went to the final analysis and interpretation of the data. This helped in to draw important conclusions.

The analysis and interpretation was carried on absolutely independently without being influenced in any way. It is through such integrity the researcher could get at the actual facts and present the true picture.

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY:**

1. The study has been divided into five chapters. The First chapter deals with the clear picture about the trade unions in India.

2. The second chapter deals with the objectives, methodology, scope and limitations of the present study.
3. The Third chapter deals with brief introduction or profile of the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station, Vijayawada.
4. The Fourth chapter deals with the interpretation of the data relating to the activities of Trade Unions in VTPS.
5. The Fifth chapter presents, observations and suggestions on trade union activities in the organisation.

#### 2.5 LIMITATIONS:

1. The study is subject to the limitation of published sources of information regarding the trade union activities in VTPS. Most of the information has been collected through the personal interviews of the trade union leaders and workers in the organisation.
2. As the Telugu Nadu Vidyut Karmik Sangam and Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board Employees Unions are having outside leaders, they are not freely available

to the researcher to discuss the union activities, even then the researcher could manage to get appointments with the leaders for getting adequate information from them.

3. Apart from the above, the study is mainly concentrated on three recognised trade unions activities excluding the activities of contract labour unions.

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