

CHAPTER IIIRESEARCH METHODOLOGY1. Social Surveys

The term is used for technique of investigation by direct observations of a phenomena of collection of information through interviews, questioneries etc.

Definition of social surveys

Some of the important definitions of social surveys as follows :

1) "Social survey is a process by which quantitative facts are collected about the social aspects of a communitie's composition and activities".¹

2) "A social survey is a fact finding study, dealing chistly with working class poverty and with the nature and problems of community."²

3) "The social survey is a comparative undertaking which applies scientific method to the study and treatment of current related social problems and conditions, having definite geographic limit and bearing plus such a spreading of facts conclusions and recommendations as well make them as far as possible the common knowledge of community and a force for intelligent co-ordination with actions."³

-
1. Mark Abrums, Social Survey and Social Action.
 2. Wells, A.E., The Local Survey in Great Britan.
 3. Shelby Hurrison, A Bibliography of social survey.

Taking into consideration the above definitions, we may conclude regarding the characteristics of social survey as under :

Characteristics of social survey

- 1) Social survey is related to the study of immediate problems of society.
- 2) Its geographical scope is sufficiently limited and field of study is geographically localised.
- 3) The purpose of survey is to prepare constructive programme of social research.
- 4) The facts collected in a survey may form the basis of further social research.
- 5) "Co-operative efforts" and use of scientific methods that deals with the methodology and equally applicable to the social research.

2. Objectives of social survey

According to Moser, "A survey may be occasioned simply by a need for administrative facts on some objects of public life or be designed to investigate some cause effect relationship or to throw fresh light on some aspects of sociological theory". On the above point of view social survey has many objectives, chief of them are as below :

i) Supply of information on any problem :

According to Moser, "The purpose of many surveys is simply to provide some one with information. That some one may be a collect detail information about research subject."

ii) Description of phenomena :

Surveys are also used for detailed description of phenomena. Moser quoted that "To a social scientist, a survey may equal have a purely descriptive purpose as a way of studying social conditions, relationship and behaviour. No description of a phenomena would be accurate and complete unless we come face to face with it. Surveys help the researcher to come in direct contact with the phenomena under the study."

iii) Explanation of phenomena :

Before we embark upon surveys, we must have a hypothesis to test or a problem upon which we require some specific information to establish or some causal relationship for illustration. Let us suppose a hypothesis is formed that "Low status of women is the cause of dowry system". Now this can be proved or disproved only by collecting data regarding status of woman in Hindu society. Necessarily the information collected would be highly specific and propoive and not of general nature as in case of description of phenomena.

iv) Subject matter of social survey :

The subject matter of social surveys, depends upon the nature of information gathered. Moser has divided the subject matter into four broad classes :

a) Demographic characteristics

This includes surveys about organisation and working of the family and other institutional information regarding such matter as family or household, composition, marital status, age etc. These are some of the examples of this type of survey.

b) Social environments

This includes surveys about organisation and working of the family and other economic factors, to which people are subjected, including occupations and social amenities, as such the knowledge of environmental factors is necessary to get the full picture and establish the causal relationship.

c) Social activities

This may also be termed as "Behavioural data" and mainly deal with the action as behaviour of the respondent i.e. use of leisure, travelling, habits, expenditure patterns, radio listening, newspaper reading etc.

d) Opinions and attitudes

This group includes data regarding the level of information, opinion and attitudes of the people towards various social factors and the motives and expectation of the people. Knowledge of the level of information may be necessary as the basis of the nature of questions that may surely be asked. It may also help to know the general level of knowledge of a class of people. Opinion and attitude surveys are very common.

Besides the above classes, surveys may be undertaken to collect any other type of socio-psychological information that is not readily available from the office record and which can be had from the direct contact with the respondents.

e) Types of survey

Survey may be classified into various types. According to their subject matter, technique of data collection, regularity etc. classification on the basis of other subject etc. Following are other classifications.

1) General or specific survey

When survey is conducted for collecting information about any population institution or phenomena without any particular object or hypothesis it is known as general survey. Such surveys are mostly undertaken by the government for supplying regular

data on mainly socio-economic problems, census of population every 10 years, is a typical example of a such survey. Specific surveys are conducted for specific problems.

2) Regular and advoc survey

Some surveys are regular in nature and must be repeated after regular intervals. For such surveys permanent machinery for collecting information has to be set up. Most of such surveys are mainly economic surveys.

3) Preliminary and final survey

A preliminary survey is generally known as pilot study, and it's the forerunner of the final survey. The purpose of it is to get the first hand knowledge of the universe to be surveyed. It helps a person to get acquainted with the problem and the nature of respondents from whom the information is to be collected. It is therefore, very useful in preparing the schedule or questionnaire and organising the survey. Final report is determined after the pilot study has been completed.

4) Census and sample survey

In a census survey every unit in the universe is to be contacted, and information collected from him. In case of sample survey only a small part of it is taken as representative of the whole and data collected from it, are made applicable to

the whole universe. For example a study of smoking habit among the students at Kolhapur. We may contact each one the several students to get requisite information or a sample of a few hundred may be taken and data collected may be made applicable to the whole group. Sample surveys are becoming more popular these days because of their convenience, time saving and low cost.

3) Reasons for adopting Social Survey Method

1) The dowry is an immediate problem of society. The social survey method is very much useful for the study of such problem.

2) I took the Kolhapur city as a area of study of dowry problem. This is sufficiently limited area so that the study of social problem is geographically localised.

3) The researcher prepared interview schedule and took personal interviews. With the help of this programme she could do a social research systematically.

4) In social survey we can collect facts scientifically. These have become very much useful for the researcher for the study of social problems.

5) Social survey method is a scientific method. With the help of this method and co-operative efforts of both the researcher and respondents the researcher can do the study of social problem



deeply. So in the study of dowry problem the researcher ~~take~~^{took} the help of social survey method.

4) Aims and Objectives of the study

Now-a-days the dowry problem in Hindu society is becoming a burning problem. We always read the news of dowry deaths in the newspapers. We can't neglect such severe social evil. The researcher has a deep-feeling for this dowry problem after reading the news of dowry deaths. She wants to understand more correctly the reason behind this problem. She was eager to know why people should believe in this custom for which they have to suffer heavily. The researcher read and heard much about this custom.

Then the researcher tried to collect the attitudes of educated girls about this dowry problem. Because it is deeply related with them. She chose Kolhapur city for this research work.

The topic was selected with the help of guide, with a view to study views of college girls about dowry system, Hindu marriage forms, status of woman etc.

The aims and objectives of the study are as follows :

- 1) To study the custom of dowry in Hindu society.
- 2) To study the attitudes of educated girls towards dowry system.

- 3) To study the origin of dowry.
- 4) To study the ^{low} status of Hindu woman which is the reason for dowry system.
- 5) To study the shortcomings of dowry Prohibition Act.
- 6) To study the forms of Hindu marriages and to study whether there was a origin of dowry system in them.
- 7) To observe the impact of dowry system on Hindu society.

5) Design and Research Methodology

The research design is as follows :

- 1) Selection of the topic.
- 2) Hypotheses.
- 3) Scope of the study.
- 4) Preparation of interview schedule.
- 5) Sample survey and sampling method adopted.
- 6) Collection of data.
- 7) Processing data.
- 8) Report writing.

1) Selection of topic

As a student of M.Phil. of Shivaji University, Kolhapur, the researcher has selected the subject for study, "Dowry System in Hindu society - A sociological study of attitudes of college girls".

2) Hypotheses

- 1) Low status of women is the cause of dowry system.
- 2) Economic dependence of women is the cause of low status of women in Hindu society.
- 3) Higher education of women is the remedy for dowry system.
- 4) Registered or love marriages or intercaste marriages are the remedies for dowry system in Hindu society.

3) Scope of the study

The researcher selected the area for research work, as Kolhapur city. Kolhapur is a developed city from educational and industrial point of view. Shivaji University adds to the glories of Kolhapur. Many colleges are affiliated to this University. Because of this convenience, so many boys and girls are taking various type of education. So many students come from outside this city and also from rural areas to get education. For my study I have therefore, selected this city and college girls from this city. I could collect different views of college girls in this limited area and in the time of six months.

4) Preparation of interview schedule

I discussed with my research guide on my subject. Then I prepared a draft of interview schedule on the subject. After little modifications it was finalised. Schedule was then cyclostyled.

5) Sample Survey

During recent years sampling has been increasingly used in education to ascertain information necessary in answering certain questions about a specific population. Normally surveys are usually sample surveys.

There are four major methods of sampling from which we are obtained samples from a larger population.

- i) random sampling method.
- ii) stratified sampling method.
- iii) incidental sampling method.
- iv) cluster sampling method.

i) Random sampling :

a) The individuals or observations are chosen in a random sample in such a way that each individual has an equal chance of being selected and that each choice is independent of any other choice. If we wish to draw a sample of 50 individuals from a population of 600 students enrolled in a school, we could place the 600 names in a container and blindfolded, draw one name at a time until the sample of 50 was selected.

b) The more convenient way of choosing a random sample is by the use of a table of random numbers. The population is numbered from 1 to N and a series of random numbers are drawn by means of a table of random numbers.

Significance of sampling : The principal advantages of sampling are as follows :

- i) sample reduces cost.
- ii) sampling brings speed.
- iii) sampling increases scope.
- iv) sample gives greater accuracy.

Characteristics of good sample : It should be free from errors due to bias.

Steps in sample survey : The steps that are usually involved in the execution of a survey of any type are :

- i) statement of the objectives of the survey.
- ii) definition of the population to be sampled.
- iii) determination of data.
- iv) selection of method for collecting data.
- v) choice of sampling unit.
- vi) selection of the sample.
- vii) organisation of field work.
- viii) analysis and summary of data.
- ix) preparation of sampling survey report.

Sample Method adopted

Due to largeness of the universe each and every person could not be contacted, so the researcher resorted to the sampling method as it represents the universe and yields

accurate reliable picture of the universe. The researcher adopted stratified random sampling method because of the heterogeneity and complexity of the universe.

Random sampling is the form applied because the method of selection assures each individual or element in the universe gets equal chance of being chosen. The universe is firstly be divided into number of strata or groups. Then from each group or strata units are taken on random basis, as the girls of this universe are studying in various colleges. The researcher has got to adopt the stratified random sampling method as in such situation it has more advantages over the other methods of sampling for the following reasons.

1) It is free from bias i.e. it is not affected by the choice of the researcher.

2) It is more representative as each unit has got equal chance of being selected.

3) It is very simple method.

4) The error in sampling can be assessed by statistical means.

6) Collection of data

After selection the number of samples researcher collected the primary data by interviewing the college girls within two

months. Researcher has taken the interviews of college girls at their residence, colleges or hostels. The sources of interview were :

- 1) Personal interviews
- 2) Discussion with college girls
- 3). Filling the schedule.

7) Processing of the data

Preparation of Code Book and Master Sheet :

After having collected the data, the researcher reported to the research guide. Then in order to analyse and classify the data and to have information at a glance under the guidance of the guide, code and master sheet were prepared and got approved.

Tabulation, Analysis and Interpretation :

With the help of master sheet and code book, tables were made to interpret and compare data precisely. The findings and conclusions are drawn on the basis of the analysis of the data.

8) Report writing

The report writing is the important and last stage of this work. The arrangement of chapters is made according to the following order.

Contents :

CHAPTER I

(1) History of dowry system.

A)(1) Introduction to the subject.

(2) Definition of dowry.

B)(1) Origin of dowry system in the past.

(2) Dowry system in modern times.

(3) Impact of dowry system.

(4) Equal legal status of women and modern legislation.

CHAPTER II

Sociology of marriage and dowry.

A)(1) Marriage concept.

(2) Forms of marriage in Hindu society.

(3) The age of settlement of marriage.

(4) General attitude towards women.

B)(1) Meaning and concept of dowry.

(2) Forms of dowry.

(3) Causes of dowry.

(4) Impact of dowry.

CHAPTER III

Research Methodology.

A)(1) Social survey.

(2) Objectives of social survey.

(3) Reasons for adopting social survey method.

(4) Aims and objectives of the study.

(5) Design and research methodology.

CHAPTER IV

Analysis and interpretation of tables.

CHAPTER V

Conclusions and Suggestions.