

**CHAPTER- II**

**METHODOLOGY**

CHAPTER IIMETHODOLOGY -

'Unity in Diversity' is the main characteristic of Indian society. This characteristic feature creates many impediments in the development of nation and practising the notion of national integration. On this background, there are many problems especially in the integrated communities like nomads. Although we have completed 46 years of independence and developmental planning, very little change has been found in the status of the nomadic population. Most of them bear the brunt of poverty, landlessness, homelessness and underemployment. They are also subjected to different levels of exploitation - economic, cultural and political.

Nomadic Gosavis are a group of people in Maharashtra facing crisis in their economy and consequently in their society. Social welfare activities, considering them as backward sections of the society, have reduced their self-esteem and created a distortion in their world view. Their communal setting, based on nomadic economy and knit in a framework of communal identity is threatened by such forces.

In view of this background, the present study is an attempt to throw some light on the Gosavi community in Umbraj of Satara district. The researcher, while selecting the topic for M.Phil. Dissertation in sociology was tempted to enquire into the present conditions of the Gosavi community, which is a

neglected one. Hence the study was initiated with the following objectives :-

- 1) To understand the origin of Gosavi community.
- 2) To assess the background of the Gosavi community settled in Umbraj.
- 3) To know their present living conditions.
- 4) To analyse their income, savings and the magnitude of indebtedness.
- 5) To know their pattern of social life.
- 6) To ascertain their attitudes toward certain aspects like family planning, doury system, inter-caste marriage, education, service in Government etc.

The present study has an exploratory nature. To quote Sellitiz and others ( 1959 ) " In studies which have the purpose to gain familiarity or to achieve new insights into a phenomenon, the major emphasis is on discovery of ideas and insights. Therefore the research design should be flexible enough to permit the consideration of many different aspects of a phenomenon".

Few well-trodden paths exist for the investigator of social relations to follow :- Theory is often too general or too specific to provide clear guidance. In these circumstances exploratory research is necessary to obtain the experience that will be helpful in formulating relevant hypotheses for more definitive investigation.

#### UNIVERSE AND SAMPLE -

The population of the present study comprises of the Gosavi community settled in Umbraj, Satara district. According to census, there are 200 families settled in Umbraj, It was decided to include all the 200 households for the study. But due to unavailability of people in all the households due to their wandering nature, the researcher could include only 150 households at the time of data collection. Thus 150 households were covered for the study.

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

- 1) Interview, with the aid of structural interview schedule.
- 2) Documentary evidence namely the published material such as census reports, reports and documents from Taluka office and district statistical department.

#### TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION -

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

The researcher chose interview schedule method for the following reasons :-

- (1) Since the study is among the Gosavi nomadic tribe, who are mostly illiterates, other methods may be irrelevant.

- (2) It would give the researcher an opportunity to come into contact with the respondents, and if there is any misunderstanding about the questions asked the researcher, would get a chance to remove it.
- (3) 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.

Before finalizing the schedule it was pretested among 10 households of Gosavis in Umbraj and based on that some questions were added and some omitted. The schedules were rechecked for their efficacy and validity before actually putting to use.

The field work for the study extended upto 3 months. Rapport was established with the respondents by means of proper introduction. The interviews lasted for one hour in the initial stages and depended upon the establishment of rapport and co-operation extended by different respondents.

The collected data were checked properly and were coded and transferred to a master chart. Later tables were formulated from the master chart for detailed analysis and interpretation. The tables were explained through percentage distribution.

#### COVERAGE OF INFORMATION -

To fulfil the objectives of this study, information regarding the background of the respondents, living conditions,

economic aspect, cultural aspects, political involvement and attitudes regarding certain issues were covered.

#### LIMITATIONS -

During the course of conducting research one has to constantly guard against introducing bias, subjectivity and inaccuracy, while selecting the sample making observation, 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 biasing certain facts by the respondents cannot be ruled out.

The scope of the research is limited to Gosavi community settled in Umbraj and confined only to one taluka and has its own limitations and can be made applicable with caution. The sample could have been collected at macro level for a wider generalization, but due to financial and time constraints, it has been confined to a limited area.

Despite the above said limitations, the results of the study reveal the general trend and magnitude of the problems of Gosavi community people.

#### CHAPTER SCHEME -

##### CHAPTER-I -

This chapter deals with introduction of the subject. There is the discussion about the background of the nomadic castes and tribes. The etymology of 'Nomad' is discussed. It also presents the account of their development. It includes the classification

of the nomads according to their occupations. The list of nomads has been enclosed.

#### CHAPTER-II -

The chapter presents the Geographical conditions - location, climate etc. of Umbraj. This chapter also reveals the cultural, social and historical background of Umbraj.

#### CHAPTER-III -

The chapter highlights origin of Gosavi community, their religious orders, past history. It also presents an account of rites, symbols used, dialects, family system, deities, festivals, occupation, life style, apparel, diet, social and cultural customs, marriage system, funeral, status of women, lineage and Jat panchayat and the distinguishing feature of a tribe.

#### CHAPTER-IV -

This chapter reveals the methodology adopted for the study of Gosavi community. As the majority of the people are illiterate, the ' interview ' technique was inevitable. This information is collected through interviews, with the help of some reports, documents and records available in Govt. offices.

#### CHAPTER-V -

This chapter has been divided into six sections. This discloses the analysis and interpretation of the data collected. The sections cover up the analysis with the help of various tables depicting demographic profile, living conditions, economic aspects, cultural aspects, political involvement and opinions of respondents about some social customs and traditions present in their community.

CHAPTER-VI -

The last chapter deals with the summary and conclusion of the study.



REFERENCE

- 1 Sellitiz, Marie J., Morton, Stewart w.e. Research Methods in Social Relations Holt, Renschart and Winstor Inc., New York, 1959.