

CHAPTER TWO

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Methodology

In this present chapter the research methods and techniques that have been used are discussed.

The methodological plan of the chapter is as follows:

A) General Objectives:

To understand the socio-economic conditions and factors involved in mental retardation.

B) Specific Objectives:

- 1) To understand the extent to which consanguinal marriage system is related to mental retardation.
- 2) To understand the interrelationships between early marriage, late marriage and mental retardation.
- 3) To understand factors like literacy, training and communication and other causes involved in reducing mental retardation.
- 4) To understand the attitudes of parents about mental retardation.
- 5) To examine the role of the Chetana Vikas Mandir of Kolhapur in improvement of the conditions of the mentally retarded children.

Selection of the problem

At first I had several topics like community studies on Scheduled Caste, Mahisal Co-operative farming by the Scheduled Caste. I presented a brief synopsis on these topics in the Departmental Seminar which consisted of the M.Phil. students and the Research Committee consisting of the faculty members. It was pointed out by the faculty members that some research has been already carried out in this field. Hence I started looking for a new area.

In the meantime Dr.J.B.Ambekar (Yadav) had come into contact with a Medical Doctor Deelip Deshmukh who also runs a Deaf and Dumb Rotary School at Ichalkaranji. Dr.Deelip Deshmukh in consultation with J.B.Ambekar had prepared a Research paper on the sociological aspects of handicapped children in the International Conference on the Deaf and Dumb held at New Delhi the president of the International Association, of Deaf and Dumb had appreciated Dr.Deelip Deshmukh's paper as one of the good contribution. In this background J.B.Ambekar asked me whether I was interested in taking this topic for my M.Phil.Dissertation, I agreed and finalised my topic of research namely Mentally Retarded Children: A case study of Chetana School at Kolhapur.

Selection of the sample

Chetana Vikas Mandir located in Shendapark, Kolhapur a School for Rehabilitation of Mentally Retarded Children was selected for the present study. There are in all 75 student

children admitted in the school. But out of this only about 55 to 60 were regular, hence I fixed a quota of 50 as my sample. The residential addresses of the students were taken by the researcher from the Principal and their parents were interviewed as respondents. Since it was very difficult to interview and get the response of the handicapped children. It was almost the whole sample of the school wherein I could study the interrelationships between factors like Age of Marriage of Parents, Marriage type of the parents and its relationship to mental retardation problem etc.

In addition the researcher also visited the school talked to the teachers, principal and observed the children in their natural setting.

Establishing rapport

I got the information about the Chetna Vikas Mandir through one of my friend staying in Rajarampuri who is also working as a peon in the same school. He provided me a pamphlet and described the nature of the children and their school. I met the principal of the school and told that I was interested in conducting a research study as part of my M.Phil. course in Sociology. The principal readily agreed to give all possible help and co-operation to interview the handicapped children parents.

When I saw these children for the first time their typical features of face, jaw and head, legs and their slow stammering speech made me feel to pity these children.

I wondered how these children manage themselves and how the teachers were looking after them and developing them gradually I started establishing contacts and getting information on the working of the school and details regarding the students.

Pilot Study

After framing the interview schedule but before its finalization, interviews of some respondents were conducted with the purpose of understanding whether the questions are properly worded and whether meanings are clear. After this some questions were reformulated. Some others were replaced in order to seek expected responses. Then the interview schedule was shown to the research guide for his comments, suggestions and approval. After reconstructing the schedule, he approved it and allowed to get it typed finally and agreed to let me contact the respondents.

Techniques of data collection

I contacted the various families with the help of my painter friend Krishnath and after explaining to them the purpose of my study I interviewed them with the help of an Interview Schedule. It took about one and half hours to complete one interview schedule. Besides I reviewed no. of studies and collected secondary data on the research problem.

Analysis and Report Writing

Data collected from 50 families was coded and prepared in to statistical univariable and bivariabile Tables. Significant trends among variables like marriage within blood relation, age at marriage, age at delivery of the mentally retarded child, economic background of the family etc. And mental retardation were recorded in Chapters III, IV, V.

The dissertation has been divided into six chapters. And finally the conclusion chapter records the major findings and suggestions.