

Chapter 4

METHODOLOGY

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METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the method, techniques and conceptual frame work made use of for present study. Different studies have used different approaches to study changing structure of family and caste which range from large scale surveys to sophisticated sociological analysis.

FORMULATION OF THE PROBLEM

Family and caste have always been an interest of the researcher hence, in consultation with guide it is aimed to concentrate on the literature of family and caste so as to form a research problem for the study. The literature was reviewed and discussed with the guide keeping in researchers village in mind, it was then taken into consideration that the pluralistic Indian social structure has diversified sub-systems to its wholeness. In this connection family and caste have drawn attention of the researcher to look at structural changes taking place due to economic observations of the system, which are subject to verification because most of the earlier studies attribute to modernisation, industrialization, scientific and technological development and education as responsible for change in family system. Economic factors have not received enough attention due to the nature of large sample studies and town studies which are directly influenced by the urban system. It was discovered that there is a dearth in the literature to have a consensus among the scholars to agree with whether joint family is in existence. These general observations became potent factors for the researcher to verify in the interior village.

The caste system in the interior village does not project similarity with that of the town or villages near the cities. The factors in the changing caste structure of the cities and towns are different from that of the interior villages. This gap in the literature is taken care by the present study.

In general whether the general observations of the cross sectional studies are in contrast with the case studies or not, is subjected to verification. Which forms the main trust of the present study.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

There are studies which have been conducted on transitional characteristics of family and caste. Many of them adopted large scale sampling method and a few case study method. It was observed that there are deficiencies in the present literature that 1) A large sample studies of different villages cannot present the actual picture of villages and there is very much possibility of mixing-up of the things rather than single-out. 2) Case study on villages can present real features of transition in family and caste institutions. and 3) Most of the earlier studies could focus on family and caste in the urban context rather than in the village context which is taken into account by present study.

Hence, it was thought to go for a case study of the village Revaggi an interior village in Chittapur taluka of Gulbarga district in Karnataka.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE CASE STUDY VILLAGE

The study village is dominated by small farmers and agriculture labourers, their main occupation is agriculture dependent purely on monsoon. Nearly 150 families of different castes contribute to the village social life. Due to the insufficient income, modern awareness among people through radio and TV and introduction of rural reconstruction activities like Panchayat Raj system, the whole village its social, economic and political life has undergone change. Importantly social structures, institutions like family and caste are losing their traditional structure and functions. Joint family is changing its form into nuclearity and new type of relations are emerging among family members. At the same time inter-caste and inter-personnel relations are changing, new socio-economic relations are coming

up. Very specifically the transitional determinants family and castes are more economic also social and political in nature as per the observations of the researcher are concerned.

The studies conducted by Srinivas, M. N (1978), Gomes Olivinho (1987), Hobson, Sarab (1978), Venkatrayyappa (1973), Ainapur L. S (1986), Atal, Yogesh (1979), and Mishra R. B (1989), form the base of the present study.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The principal aim of the study is to explore the changing structural and functional aspects of family and caste system in a village Revaggi based on case study method.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- 1) To study the family structure of the village.
- 2) To study the caste structure of the village.
- 3) To study the transitional features of the family.
- 4) To study the changing inter-caste relations.
- 5) To identify the determinants of changing family and caste.

THEOR^{etical} BASE OF THE STUDY

The study adopted Marxist theory as an approach of the study. The economic determinants have been solely responsible for bringing about structural and functional changes in family and caste system vice-versa.

SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH OF THE STUDY

Social change induced by economic and social determinants of the village structure have been held strongly influencing the nature of family and caste system.

Operational definition of family

'Family is a group of two adults of opposite sex living in a socially approved sex relationship and their own or adopted children' (Leslie, 1982).

Nuclear family

Three sub-types nuclear family; 1) Husband, wife and unmarried children. 2) Husband, wife and unmarried brothers and 3) Husband, wife, children and widowed mother (Gore, 1968).

Joint family

Three sub-types of joint family; 1) Husband, wife, unmarried and married children 2) Husband, wife, unmarried and married children and unmarried brothers 3) Husband, wife, married sons, married brothers and their families (Gore, 1968).

Operational definition of caste

'Caste is a closed class and a group that freezer social classes by means of endogamy and hereditary ascribed status' (Atal, 1979).

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The present study is an attempt to explore the changing family and caste system through a case study method and identify determinants responsible for such change, hence it is an explorative case study.

UNIVERSE

The universe of the study is Revaggi village. There are 150 households having 747 population in the Revaggi village of Chittapur taluka in Gulbarga dsitric of Karnataka state.

Stratified data reveals that

70 households belong to lingayat caste.

35 households belong to muslims and remaining.

45 households are scheduled caste & scheduled tribes and backward caste families.

SAMPLE

Initially it was thought to draw a sample quantum proportionately. But, later it was realized that the sample of SC, ST & backward and muslim families was amounting less than 30 numbers. Which is a small sample to use statistical tools. Hence, it was thought to adopt stratified quota sampling method to draw equal number of households randomly from the universe. Accordingly the universe was stratified into lingayat, SC, ST , backward and muslim groups and 30 households each from these three groups were drawn. Thus, the sample quantum came about 90 households.

TOOLS OF DATA COLLECTION

Interview schedule was prepared to conduct household interviews. It was finalized in consolation with guide.

COLLECTION OF DATA

The present study is based on primary data. The data collection activity was not a difficult task for the researcher, as he was fully aware of the universe. The collection of data took **15** days to interview 90 families. Participant observation method was adopted while interviewing the respondents.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Descriptive statistics (percentage) was applied to treat the data.