

Chapter- 4

Research methodology

4.1 Introduction

“The research methodology is the general pattern of organizing the procedure for collecting valid and reliable data for an investigation. It gives a detailed analysis of the research procedure that are followed during the investigation”¹. The research methodology followed for the present investigation is discussed in detail in this chapter.

4.2 Statement of the Problem

Marriage is one of the most important institutions which is linked to the identity of women in Indian society. Expectations and ideals related to women’s marriage have significant consequences. They have been subjected to patriarchal norms and have been dominated by men. Although they were given honorable status during Vedic era but their condition deteriorated during medieval times. Child marriage and practice of sati started during this period. Women were not allowed to remarry in the name of the honor of the family. The roots of problems of widows and divorcees can be traced into these structures of oppression and exploitation. Widowhood and divorce are potentially distressing events in the life of an individual, especially women. They are further complicated due to many rituals and practices associated with these statuses. Several changes have taken place in

this institution in recent decades due to legislations as well as liberalism. Old stereotypes² and prejudices³ have been challenged and remarriage among women has been gaining momentum in recent years. Widow/ Divorcee remarriage is difficult in case of women of all age groups. The problem is complicated if they have children. On the other hand widowers are encouraged to remarry and remarriage is not a problem for them.

4.3 Rationale of the study

Marriage is universal in Hindu society. Religious beliefs play a dominant role as Hindu marriage is considered to be a sacrament. There has always been a gender bias in Hindu society regarding remarriage, wherein remarriage of men has always been acceptable but remarriage of women, whether divorcee or widow, is considered to be against social values. Due to modernization and globalization various social changes have taken place in the institution of marriage in Hindu society. Remarriage of women represent a new dimension of social change, change in social status of women, as well as new forms of kinship relations. This study seeks to examine various aspects of remarriage of women in Hindu society which will help in understanding the nature and direction of social change in the institution of marriage.

4.4 Aims and Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the acceptance level of remarriage.

2. To identify the problems associated with remarriage of women.
3. To find out the reasons/values of remarriage.
4. To find the status of remarried women in the society.
5. To analyze the norms concerning the nature of remarriage ceremonies.
6. To analyze the nature of relationships with the relatives from the previous marriage.

4.5 Research Questions

“Qualitative data is a valuable tool for social science research. By acknowledging however the limitations of this method, particularly when the sample size is small and literature or previous research is limited due to the newness of the subject, the need for further information in order to satisfy the needs of this project become apparent. Hence it was considered that quantitative measures could also be used, which could usefully supplement and extends the qualitative analysis”⁴. Certain research questions have been raised in the study and an attempt has been made to obtain answer to these questions.

- (i) What are the views of youth about marriage?
- (ii) What is the acceptance level of remarriage among the youth and the elderly?
- (iii) What are the reasons for motivations of remarriage?
- (iv) What are the problems of remarriage?

- (v) What are the norms concerning the nature and size of wedding ceremonies in remarriage?
- (vi) What is the nature of relationships with the relatives from the previous marriage?
- (vii) What is the status of remarried women in the society?

4.6 Definitions of the Major Terms

Theoretical Definition: “A theoretical definition is relating to what is possible or imagined rather than to what is known to be true or real.

Operational Definition: An operational definition is the complete description of the processes that will take place when performing an investigation”⁵.

Attitude

Theoretical Definition: “Attitude refer to a learned predisposition evidenced by the behavior of an individual or group of individuals, to evaluate an object or class of objects in a consistent or characteristic way.”⁶.

Operational Definition: Attitude is the way of thinking and behaving that affects a behavior of person.

Youth

Theoretical Definition: “Youth is the time of life when one is young, but often means the time between childhood and adulthood.”⁷

Operational Definition: Youth is who belongs to the age group of 18-26 years of age.

Elderly

Theoretical Definition: “Elderly or old age refers to ages nearing or surpassing the life expectancy of human beings, and is thus end of the human cycle. The united nations has agreed that 60+ years may be usually denoted as old age.”⁸

Operational Definition:Elderly refers in this study refers to the people between 50-80 years of age.

Marriage

Theoretical Definition: Marriage as “the more or less durable connection between male and female lasting beyond the mere act of propagation till after the birth of offspring”⁹.

Operational Definition: Marriage is a socially approved union between men and women.

Remarriage

Theoretical definition: “Remarriage is the legal union of a man and women that follows the dissolution of a previous marriage for one or both spouses”¹⁰.

Operational Definition: Remarriage is the legal union of a women after divorce or widowhood.

Reconstituted Family

Theoretical Definition: “A reconstituted family is also known as blended family. It is the sociological term for the joining of two adults via marriage, cohabitation or civil partnership, who have had previous relationships and children from them”¹¹.

Operational Definition: Reconstituted family is a family unit where one or both parents have children from a previous relationship, but they have combined to form a new family.

4.7 Qualitative Approach

In the present study qualitative approach have been used. “Qualitative research is multi method in focus, involving an interpretive naturalistic approach to its subject matter. This means that qualitative to its subject matter. This means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them”¹².

4.8 Research Design

Borg and Gall (1989:351) define research design as the procedures used by researchers to explore relationships between variables¹³ to form subject into groups, administer measures, apply treatment conditions and analyze the data.

Exploratory research design has been used in the study. “It is defined as the initial research into a hypothetical or theoretical idea. This is where a researcher has an idea or has observed something and seeks to understand more about

it”¹⁴. Exploratory research deals with the process of finding out the general nature of the problem and the related variables. On the basis of this theoretical background exploratory research design was employed. The researcher has made an attempt to present the problems associated with divorce/widowhood, attitude of towards youth and elderly towards, divorce, widowhood and remarriage of women.

4.9 Pilot Study

Pilot study is a mini-version of a full scale study or a trial run done in preparation of the complete study. The latter is also called a “feasibility study”. It can also be a specific pre-testing of research instruments, including questionnaire or interview schedules. The pilot study will thus follow after the researcher has a clear vision of the research topic and questions, the techniques and methods, which will be applied, and what the research schedule will look like. It is “reassessment without tears”¹⁵.

Pilot study was conducted to test the feasibility of the study. A series of discussions were conducted with experts in the field of sociology of family, marriage counsellors and social workers. The discussion with experts and review of literature helped to shape the basis of the study.

4.10 Universe of the Study

Youth in the age group of 18 to 26 years and elderly in the age group of 50-80 years residing in Jaipur in the state of Rajasthan constituted the universe of the study.

Geographical area

The geographical area of the study is Jaipur city. It is selected keeping in mind the fact that being a state capital of Rajasthan and is a major business, educational and technological hub. The charm of the city starts with its inviting hues of pink for which it is very popularly known as the pink city. It is an appropriate place for studying the patterns of remarriage among Hindu women in Jaipur city.

“According to 2011 census the population of Jaipur is 3,046,163 out of which males and females are 1,603,125 and 1,443,038 respectively. The city has a Sex ratio of 909 females per 1,000 males. The average literacy rate of India is 74.04%. The male literacy rate is 82.14% and female literacy rate is 65.46% according to census of 2011. Hindus constitute the majority of the population with 77.91% followed by Muslim and Christian communities”¹⁶.

4.11 Unit of the study

The unit of the study was youth in the age group of 18-26 years and elderly in the age group of 50-80 years.

4.12 Inclusion Criteria

Unmarried Hindu males and females in the age group of 18-26 years who were pursuing higher education were included in the study. Married elderly in the age group of 50-80 years having children.

4.13 Exclusion Criteria

Married Hindu young males and females and elderly not having children were not included in the study. Youth and elderly who were not ready to cooperate were excluded from the sample.

4.14 Sampling

“Sampling is the process of selecting (a sample) from a bigger group (the sampling population) to become the basis for estimating or predicting the prevalence of an unknown piece of information, situation or outcome regarding the bigger group.”¹⁷

For the purpose of the study Non-Probability Purposive Sampling method has been used.

“Non-Probability sampling designs do not follow the theory of probability in the choice of elements from the sampling population. These designs are used when either the number of elements in the population is unknown or the elements cannot be individually identified. In such situations the selection of elements is dependent upon other considerations.”¹⁸

650 questionnaires were distributed to between youth and elderly, 626 were recovered (recovery rate of 96.30%). After screening of samples, 20 were eliminated (unengaged respondents) so only 612 samples were left after screening. Therefore efficient of total sample is 94.15%. The sample of youth consist 154 boys and 152 girls in the age group of 18-26 years and the sample of elderly consists 146 males and 160 females in the age group of 50 – 80 years. Ten case studies were also conducted on remarried women. The sample was collected form the different areas of Jaipur like Vaishali nagar, Nirman nagar, Jhotwara, and Mansarovar.

4.15 (i). Tools of Data Collection

The following tools were used for the purpose of the study:

Questionnaire:It is a systematic list of questions which is sent to the respondents¹⁹ who answer these questions. For the purpose of collecting first-hand information and facilitating comparison of data, a Questionnaire was prepared. This Questionnaire has been used for securing the information from the respondents.

Case Studies: In-depth analysis of 10 remarried women has been undertaken.

Informal Discussion: Interviews were conducted to supplement the information.

Secondary sources: Secondary sources such as books, journals, articles and newspaper. These sources help in supplementing the information acquired through primary sources as well as provides a guideline to the investigator.

(ii) Operationalization

Phase	Questions
	Personal Information
Marriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference for type of marriage • Views about marriage • Choice of mates
Status of Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of Widowed/Divorcee • Perception of widows during festive occasions
Remarriage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarriage of men • Remarriage of women • Reasons for approval and disapproval of remarriage of women • Age group preferred for remarriage • Practice for remarriage • Choice of mates • Nature of wedding • Consent of family members/ children • Awareness about social legislations
Other forms of Cohabitation	Approval of live-in relationship

4.16 Sources of Data Collection

(i). Primary Data have been obtained through questionnaire, and case studies.

(ii). Secondary Data have been obtained from books, journals and articles.

4.17 Pre-Test

A Pre-test of the questionnaire was administered to 20 youth and 20 elderly. The questionnaire for elderly was translated in Hindi and some questions were modified for the elderly.

4.18 Data Analysis and Interpretation

After collecting the data a descriptive analysis of the data has been done because it is both qualitative as well as quantitative. It was followed by an appropriate

statistical analysis. Statistical analysis includes tabulation of data and representation of data using pie charts and tables. Percentage analysis of information has also been done.

4.19 Limitations of the Study

To carry out the research study the following limitations were expected and faced during the research study.

- The issue of remarriage is emotional and sensitive. Hesitation to reveal personal information is one of the major limitation.
- The study has been conducted only in Jaipur city.
- The limitation of time, space and manpower are of the most restrictive aspects in an empirical study and this study may also be limited due to these aspects.
- The answers of respondents as such will have to be taken as true.
- The respondents may be quiet on certain issues and as such certain inferences will have to be drawn on the basis of observation of the overt behavior of the respondents which may be included gestures, facial impressions.
- The conclusions drawn may not be universal.

4.20 Ethical Considerations

- The respondents were informed in detail about the purpose of the study.
- Confidentiality of responses was maintained.

References

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2. Note: Stereotype: The term may refer to a tendency for a belief to be widespread in any social group or society. Thus there may be a tendency for people to believe that Jews are clever or that Americans are wealthy. Such stereotypes can be determined by means of attitude research. (Mitchell G.D. (1989) “A New Dictionary of Sociology” Routledge publications, London, pg.220).
3. Note: Prejudice refers simply to hostility between ethnic and racial groups within a society, without specifying whether the hostile relationship is one solely of unfavorable attitudes, or both unfavorable attitudes and actions, e.g. ‘The whites of the southern United States are prejudiced against the Negroes. (Ibid. 2 Pg. 146).
4. Miles, Matthew B.; Huberman, A. Michael and Saldana, Johnny (2013), *Qualitative data analysis: A source book of new methods*, Sage publications, New Delhi, Pg.69.
5. Www. Merriam-webster.com/dictionary.
6. Mitchell G.D. (1989) , *A New Dictionary of Sociology*, Routledge publications, London, Pg. 9.
7. Macmillan dictionary, Macmillan publishers limited, retrieved 2013-8-15.
8. “WHO| Definition of an older or elderly person”, Who.int.Retrieved 2016-04-04.
9. Ahuja, R. (1993), *Indian Social System*, Rawat Publications, Jaipur.

10. Hammond, Ron. J (2011), *Sociology of the Family: Chapter-13 Remarriage and Stepfamilies*, Read cycle publications, UK. Retrieved from <http://www.free.sociologybooks.com>.
11. Haralambos, M.; Holborn, M. and Heald, R. (2000), *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives 5th edition*, Collins Educational, London, United Kingdom.
12. Carswell, John W. (2009), *Research design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Method Approach 3rd edition*, Sage Publications, Inc., New Delhi.
13. Note: Variables: may be defined as a measurable characteristic which can assume different values in successive individual cases. In short variable is any quantity that varies. (Ibid 6, Pg. 237)
14. Ibid, 10.
15. Carswell, J.W. (2012), *Educational Research: Planning, conducting and Evaluating Qualitative and Quantitative Research 4th edition*, Pearson Publications, New York, Pg. 390.
16. www.census.org
17. Ahuja, R. (2001), *Research Methods*, Rawat Publications, New Delhi and Jaipur.
18. Ibid 15.
19. Note: Respondents: The term is used to denote a person who replies to a questionnaire or whop gives answers to questions by an interviewer using an interview schedule, it is a term commonly used in social survey work and is interchangeable with the term informant. (Ibid.6. Pg. 158)