

CHAPTER III

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METHODOLOGY

This chapter provides in detail the methodology adopted by the researcher to conduct the proposed study. It encompasses all the vital aspects of the methodology such as rationale of the study, objectives, research design, types of data, sources of data, tools of data collection, sampling, process of data collection, analysis of data, operational definition and limitations of the study. It is noted that so far there is neither national nor state level study available in the social science discipline on the topic of contributions of NGOs in the Dalit Empowerment. The proposed study is the researcher's idea and understanding to explore this unexplored phenomenon. The methodology has been adopted keeping in view the nature of research problem, purpose of investigation, source and availability of data, observation, experience as well as capability of researcher to present data in research language.

Rational of the Study

The proliferation of NGOs is a continuous process in India. In the last three decades, there has been a rapid growth in the number of NGOs in various parts of India. These NGOs work for the various issues and contribute to the welfare and development of Indian society. The available literature on NGOs highlights its contribution in the areas of education, health, women empowerment, youth development, child rights/development, rural development, disaster management, promotion of ecology, tribal development, slum improvement, implementation of government social welfare

programmes for weaker sections, etc (Bava, 1997). However, the information about the various other aspects of NGOs and contributions of NGOs in different region of India is meager in the social science discipline.

The proportion of NGOs is comparatively high in Gujarat (Hirway, 1995; Iyengar, 2000). Mahatma Gandhi's influence in social reconstruction and philanthropic tradition has helped Gujarat to build strong voluntary movement in the state since 1920's. However, after almost 85 years of voluntary movement the state suffers and lags behind in various dimensions of human development. As per the estimate 18.4 per cent of the people live below poverty line in the state. The incidence of poverty is unevenly distributed among various social groups in the state. It is much higher among the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) than in the general population (Hirway, 1995; Thorat & Mahamallik, 2006). The problems related to land reform, redistribution of common community resources, practice of untouchability, caste-based discriminations and atrocities committed on dalits still exists in various parts of the state. The Gujarat state ranks 6th after Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, where high levels of atrocities are committed against dalit (Crime in India, 2001; Liou, 2002; Shah, 2000; Thorat & Mahamallik, 2006). Although, the total population of SCs i.e. 7.09 % comparatively very small population of the state. But their deprivation and exploitation are high in the state. Ironically, there is very miniscule numbers of NGOs address the issues of dalits. Thus, the proposed study has been designed to explore and systematically understand the contributions of NGOs in dalit empowerment in the state of Gujarat. The review

of literature shows, so far no study has been conducted on the contributions of NGOs in dalit empowerment. The proposed study will be confined to the state of Gujarat.

Objectives

The specific objectives of proposed study are as follows:

- 1.To examine the origin, mission, vision, objectives, size, structure, and sources of funding of selected NGOs under the study in order to find out their suitability in empowering dalits in Gujarat.
- 2.To review the various strategies adopted by the NGOs under the study in mitigating caste based discrimination, practices of untouchability, atrocities in the operational areas of NGOs and explore the realistic strategy in the dalit empowerment process.
- 3.To analyse the major programmes of the NGOs under study and identify how much NGOs can contribute for social, economic, educational, and political empowerment of dalits.

Research Design

The Exploratory Research Design has been adopted for the completion of the proposed study. The Exploratory Research Design is generally used for gaining familiarities with new phenomenon or to achieve new insights into unexplored areas of research. Similarly, the exploratory research design helps to formulate more precise research problems and structured investigation of new areas of research. The main purpose of proposed study is to explore contributions of NGOs in Dalit empowerment in the state of Gujarat. So far this aspect of NGOs has not been

explored in social science discipline. It is a new unexplored area of research investigation. Thus, the exploratory research design has been adopted to carry out the proposed study. To justify the importance and needs of the study, the researcher has done wide literature review work to collect facts about the socio-political context of Gujarat and emergence/growth of NGOs in Gujarat. The Case Study Method has been especially adopted to study in detail the selected NGOs profile, Strategies, Programmes and Perception of people about the contributions of NGOs in the dalit empowerment. Thus, the proposed study falls under exploratory research design using the Case Study Method of qualitative research.

Types of Data Required

The following types of data were required to carry out proposed study:

1. In order to fulfill first objective of the study, the researcher required following types of data : a) Historical background, b) Ideology, c) Vision, d) Mission, e) Objectives, f) Operational Areas, g) Target Groups, h) Type of Organization, i) Organizational Structure, j) Size of Organization, k) Staff, l) Funding Sources, m) Other Information of selected NGOs to gain complete familiarity with the organizational profile and understand it's suitability for the dalit empowerment.
2. For the second objective, the two types of data required: 1) Information about the situation and extent of caste-based discrimination, practice of untouchability and atrocities committed against dalit in the state of Gujarat, and 2) the detail information related to the strategies adopted by the NGOs to mitigate caste-based discrimination, practice of untouchability and atrocities on dalits in the operational areas.

3. In order to fulfill third objective, the two types of data were required: 1) detail information about the various aspects of selected dalits empowerment programmes of NGOs such as a) basic information of programme, b) process of planning for programme, c) process of resource arrangement and utilization, d) programme execution process, e) nature of local participation in programme, f) empowerment aspects in programme, g) decision making process, h) monitoring i) evaluation, j) sustainability of programme, etc. 2) The information related to the perception of Dalit beneficiaries, Sarpanches, Police, Block Development Officers (BDOs), and Funding Organization about the contribution of NGOs in the dalit empowerment.

Sources of Data

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, the researcher collected data by using both primary as well as secondary sources. The first part of the data mainly consists of basic information regarding selected NGOs and socio-economic profile of dalits in Gujarat. In order to fulfill this part of data requirement, the information about selected NGOs collected from primary source such as secretary as well as programme co-ordinator and from the secondary source such as NGOs' Directories, NGOs' Annual Report, Audited statement of accounts and Constitution of NGOs, Printed materials and available literature on NGOs in English as well as Gujarati. Similarly, the Census Report, SC/ST Commission Report, Gujarat Human Development Report, Gujarat State Government Reports like Socio-Economic Review Report, Scheduled Castes Development Department Report have also been used to collect information about the socio-political context of Gujarat and situation of dalits in the same state.

The second part of the data requirement has been collected through the primary as well as secondary sources. The information regarding the various strategies of selected NGOs for Dalit empowerment has been collected through the primary source such as Head of the NGOs of selected NGOs. Similarly, some of the relevant literature of selected NGOs were scanned and used for getting detail understanding about the strategies of selected NGOs.

The third part of data requirement has been collected through the primary source. The information regarding NGOs programmes and its relevance to the empowerment of dalit have been collected from the Programme Coordinators of the selected NGOs. Similarly, the perception about NGOs' programmes and contributions in dalits empowerment have been collected from directly and indirectly linked people to NGOs such as Dalit beneficiaries, Village Sarpanches, Police, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Funding Organizations of the selected NGOs.

Tools of Data Collection

The proposed study is heavily relied on certain data collection tools and techniques as mentioned below:

- 1.The *Information Proforma* was used to get basic information about the organizational profile.
- 2.The *Semi-structure Interview Guide* was used to find out the strategies of NGOs in mitigating caste based discrimination, practices of untouchability, atrocities in the

operational areas and explore the realistic strategy in the dalit empowerment process.

3. The *Semi-structure Interview Schedule* was adopted to examine the relevance and contributions of NGOs' programmes on social, economic, educational, and political empowerment of dalits.
4. The *Focus Group Discussion (FGD)* was carried out with dalit beneficiaries of selected NGOs to understand their perception about NGOs' strategies and programmes in dalit empowerment.
5. The *Informal Discussion* technique was adopted to understand the perception of Sarpanches, Police, Block Development Officers (BDOs) about the programmes and contribution of selected NGOs in dalit empowerment in the operational area.
6. The *Semi-structure Interview Guide* was used to understand the perception of funding organization about NGOs' programmes and contributions in dalit empowerment.

Table: 3.1 Research Design

Research Design	Types of Data	Sources of Data	Tools of Data Collection
Exploratory Research Design	Information about NGOs Profile	Primary as well as Secondary Sources	Information Proforma
	1) Information about extent of caste-based discrimination, practice of untouchability and atrocities committed against dalit	Primary as well as Secondary Sources.	Semi-structure Interview Guide
	2) NGOs' strategies		
	1) NGOs' programmes	Primary Source.	Semi-structure Interview Schedule
	2) Perception of Dalit beneficiaries, Sarpanches, Police, BDOs, and Funding Organization		Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Informal Discussion, Semi-structure Interview Guide

Process of Data Collection

The data collection of the proposed study has been completed in four phases. In the first phase, the secondary data related to historic emergence of NGOs and contributions of NGOs in dalits empowerment were gathered through literature review.

In the second phase, addresses of NGOs working with dalits were collected from umbrella organization such as Jan Path; List of NGOs working with dalits was prepared, NGOs in Dalit Empowerment in Gujarat were selected and contact has been established with 20 NGOs for the purposed of study. Finally, the four NGOs out of 20 were selected to carry out the study.

In the third phase, the pilot study has been made for a week to test the tools of data collection. The Pilot study helped to establish rapport with staff of four NGOs, selection of two villages for Focus Group Discussion and Sarpanches for response. The Police Station and Block Development Office were also identified to get the response. Similarly, in this phase, the funding organizations from abroad has been contacted through emails and persuaded to send their written response.

At the last phase, the researcher was in the field for more than two months to collect necessary data. He stayed with each selected NGO for 15 days and performed following tasks i.e. Focus Group Discussion had been conducted with the dalit beneficiaries comprising 10 group members represented by males and females of dalit sub-groups, the informal discussion was carried out with the village sarpanches with the purpose to understand their perception about the NGO's contributions in dalit empowerment, the observational visits were also made in the early morning to village wells and co-operative milk shops to take objective view about dalit status at the public places, the village bus stands, hotels and shops were visited frequently to observe dalits' condition at common places and after village level data collection work, the informal discussion was carried out with Police Sub Inspector and Block

Development Officers (BDOs) to understand their perception about the NGO's contribution in dalit empowerment process. At the end, the Head of each NGO and Programme Co-ordinators were interviewed to collect the information about the strategies and programmes. Thus, the above data collection procedure has been followed to collect data from all the four selected NGOs.

Sampling

Universe

According to unpublished sources of NGOs, there are total 42 NGOs addressing the issues of dalits and total twenty (20) NGOs among them work for dalit empowerment in the Ahmedabad(10), Anand(3), Banaskantha(1), Gandhinagar(1), Junagarh(1), Rajkot(1), Sabarkantha(1), Surat(1) and Surendranagar(1) districts of Gujarat (Jan Path, 2003). These 20 NGOs are the universe of the proposed study and the four NGOs from the universe have been selected purposely (purposive sampling) for the proposed study. These four NGOs such as Ashadeep Human Development Centre (AHDC), Banaskantha District Dalit Sanghatan(BDDS), Behavioural Science Centre(BSC), Navsarjan Trust(NT) have been chosen keeping in view it's involvement in mitigating caste-based discriminations and atrocities committed against dalits, and programmes directed to the social, economic, educational and political empowerment of dalits in Gujarat. These four NGOs are located at Ahmedabad(2), Anand(1), and Banaskantha(1) districts that represent more than 1/4 dalit (Scheduled Castes) population i.e. 990734 out of total 3592715 dalit population

of Gujarat. Hence, the researcher has selected above four NGOs of Ahmedabad, Anand and Banaskantha districts of Gujarat for the proposed study.

Sample Size

In order to carry out study, the researcher selected respondents from varied categories such as NGO staff (Director/Secretary, Programme Co-ordinator), Indirectly linked people (Sarpanches, Police and Block Development Officer), Stakeholders (Funding Organization) and Dalit Beneficiaries from villages. The sampling is done only to select NGOs and respondents of the study. The purposive sampling technique has been adopted to select NGOs from the universe (20 NGOs). The Sample size is 4 i.e. four NGOs have been chosen for the study. The sample size has been purposely restricted to specific number in order to carry out in depth case study and qualitative assessment of the contributions of NGOs in dalit empowerment.

The respondents of the proposed study have also been selected purposely. From each NGO, one Director/ Secretary, four programme co-coordinators, one Police Sub Inspector, one Block Development Officer, two Sarpanches (one from each village), twenty dalit beneficiaries (ten from each village) and two personnel of funding organizations were considered. It was supposed to be total 124 (31x 4) respondents, but three NGOs did not provide addresses of funding agencies. Thus, in four NGOs, there were total 118 respondents came under the study.

Sampling Technique

The purposive sampling has been used as sampling technique for proposed research study. Certain criteria have been adopted for selecting NGO as a purposive sample. The criteria include: NGO should form a body or an institution registered under Government of India Act, NGO working fully or partially for dalit interest since last five years, NGO has definite strategy and programme for dalits, recruited paid staff for programme implementation, etc. The Sarpanches, Police, Block Development Officers and Dalit beneficiaries of the operational area, who are linked directly or indirectly with NGOs, were selected purposively under the study.

Analysis of Data

The present study is heavily relied on qualitative analysis; however the quantitative analysis were also made for explaining some of the facts. For the first objective, the data were analyzed qualitatively to get the detail information of selected NGOs to find their suitability for the dalit empowerment work. For the second objective, the data were analyzed qualitatively keeping in view the strategies of selected NGOs in mitigating caste based discrimination, practice of untouchability and atrocities in the operational areas and to explore the realistic strategy of NGOs in the dalit empowerment. For the third objective, the quantitative as well as qualitative data collected through interview schedule, interview guide, focus group discussion and informal discussion were analyzed descriptively to understand how much NGOs can contribute for social, economic, educational and political empowerment of dalits.

The typical data analysis procedure of case study method has been used by adopting thematic approach under the present study. In the first phase, the data has been organized by preparing the list of types of data, list of respondents, field notes, and observation sheets of each NGO. The Interviews, Focus Group Discussion(FGD) were conducted by using Semi structure interview guide and Semi structure interview schedule, and digital voice recorder were used and transcribed for getting detail information. All these data of four NGOs put separately into four master files as per different NGOs. In the Second phase, the themes (small topics created out of objectives of the study) and categories (classifications of topics under different small heading or types) have been generated after careful reading and re-reading of available data. There are total 4 major themes and 53 categories have been generated from the existing data keeping in mind the objectives of the study. The first objective has been covered under the theme of *NGOs' Profile* using 13 categories such as historical background, ideology, vision, mission, objectives, operational areas, target groups, type of organization, organizational structure, size of organization, staffs, funding sources, and other information. The second objective has been covered under the theme of *NGOs' Strategies* by using 3 categories such as strategies against caste-based discrimination, strategies against practice of untouchability, strategies against atrocities on dalits. The third objective covered under the two themes namely NGOs' Programmes and Perception about NGO Contributions. Under the theme of *NGOs' Programmes* 10 categories were used such as basic information of programme, process of planning for programme, process of resource arrangement and utilization, programme execution process, nature of local participation in programme, dalit

empowerment aspects in programme, decision making process, monitoring, evaluation, sustainability of programme, The theme of *Perception about NGO Contributions* is further divided into three sub-themes such as Perception of dalits beneficiaries; Perception of Sarpanches, Police and Block Development Officers; and the Perception of Funding Organization. Under the theme of *Perception of Dalit Beneficiaries* about NGO Contributions the 9 categories were used such as Status of dalits in the village, Issues of dalits handled by NGOs, Social Empowerment Programme, Economic Empowerment Programme, Educational Empowerment Programme, Political Empowerment Programme, Impact of NGO Intervention on dalits, Staff availability and Co-operation, and Scope for dalit beneficiaries' participation in programmes. Under the theme of *Perception of Sarpanches, Police and Block Development Officers* about NGOs, the 8 categories were used respectively such as Issues of dalits handled by NGOs, Social Empowerment Programme, Economic Empowerment Programme, Educational Empowerment Programme, Political Empowerment Programme, Impact of NGO Intervention on dalits, Staff availability and Co-operation, and Scope for dalit beneficiaries participation in programmes. Under the theme of *Perception of Funding Organization* about NGOs the 10 categories were used such as purpose of funding, nature of funding, issues of dalits taken by NGOs, strategies of NGOs, social empowerment programme, economic empowerment programme, educational empowerment programme, political empowerment programme, impact of NGOs' intervention on dalits, and monitoring and evaluation of NGOs.

In the third phase of data analysis, the generated themes and categories from the data were tabulated into the systematic code book. The numerical code designated to themes and alphabetical letter code designated to the different categories. The code book also comprises source of data collection, tools used, observation pertains to themes and categories. In the fourth phase of data analysis, the interpretation of generated themes and categories has been offered keeping in view the objectives of the study. After studying in detail the selected NGO Profile, Strategies and Programmes for dalit empowerment, the comparison has been drawn between four NGOs contribution to understand why some NGOs are more successful than others in dalit empowerment process in Gujarat. What are the indicators of success and failure of NGOs in dalit empowerment process?

Finally, the analyzed data have presented through the descriptive writing to support the objective of the proposed study. The both emic (respects and reflects the respondents point of view or perspective) and etic (reflections on the meaning and interpretation of the study's findings from the researcher's perspective) standpoint has been adopted while writing to give balance picture to the analysis and interpretation of collected data. The writing style also encompasses the values of social work profession and locating the contributions of NGOs in dalit empowerment within the theoretical framework of New Social Movements and Structural Social Work.

Operational Definitions

Non-Governmental Organizations

It is registered voluntary institution or organization manages own affairs with the help of independent executive council and paid staff and implements developmental programmes for the benefits of the people at the local, district and state level. The study has considered those NGOs who are involved in the empowerment of dalits and other marginalized communities.

Dalit

Dalit means the people belong to traditionally Untouchable community or Scheduled Castes (In Constitutional terminology) category of India. We do not include tribals (Scheduled Tribes) in the definition.

Empowerment

The concept of empowerment in a broader sense talks about the legitimate sharing, distribution and redistribution of power. However, the in-depth understanding of term empowerment reveals inherent potentials of radical social change in the society.

The contemporary writing in the field of social sciences in real sense has developed an understanding about the process of empowerment. The concept of empowerment has been considered as a 'social process', which primarily deals with the dynamics of power. It is a process of gaining control over self, ideology, and resources and it challenges in certain context to power structure of subordination. According to Sen

and Grown, “Empowerment is concerned with the transformation of the structure of subordination. It implies a process of redistribution of power within and between families/societies and a process aiming at social equality, which can be achieved only by disempowering some structure, systems and institutions (Sen & Grown, 1988: 81). Kronenberg has analyzed the concept of empowerment, as a process of demolition of the pre-existing structure of subordination and the redistribution of power, however, is not automatic. It involves a participatory approach that enables people to emancipate themselves (Kronenberg, 1986: 229). Thus, the concept of empowerment is a process of liberation from all domination and bondage. It enables individuals of deprived communities to have control over the structure of subordination, power, and resources and form a new identity of egalitarian society. Hence, the concept of empowerment is highly relevant for dalit communities because dalits have been suffering and marginalized in the social, economic, educational, and political sphere of Indian society. Moreover, the concept of empowerment is significant for dalits because it comprehends broader social change in the traditional practices, social-economic institutions, political ideologies and even in the mindset of deprived and marginalized people through conscientization process. Thus, the holistic process of empowerment can be appropriate measure to eliminate social, economic, educational, political and psychological deprivation of dalit communities.

The term empowerment for this proposed study means the multi-dimensional process, which enables individuals, groups and communities to realize their full identity, power and access in the social, economical, educational and political sphere of life.

The following *four broad categories of empowerment*, the proposed study will intend to examine among the dalit communities:

Social Empowerment

The social empowerment refers to the understanding of the condition and causes of subordination, sense of security, participation in private and public sphere, self-esteem, self-confidence and ability to assert against the injustice, etc.

Economic Empowerment

The economic empowerment refers to the access and control over productive resources, ability to participate in productive activities and gain economic independence.

Educational Empowerment

The educational empowerment refers to the access and control over education, ability to reason, question and look at things critically and awareness about welfare and development programme.

Political Empowerment

The political empowerment refers to the ability to participate in the socio-political activities, take socio-political action for economic and social development of the communities and form an organization for action and upliftment.

Limitations of the study

No research study is without its limitations and this one is no exception. The limitations of the present study are as follows:

1. In the process of study, there was reluctance in inviting the researcher to observe staff meetings. The Government machineries were also highly reluctant to give information to researcher. Those who were finally agreed couldn't give enough time for interviews.
2. The study lacks the view of all the funding organizations of all the four NGOs under the study. The researcher could not collect information from funding organizations due to hesitation of some NGOs to provide the addresses of their funding organizations. After convincing and assuring NGOs about the secrecy will be maintained, only two out of four NGOs were agreed to provide the addresses of funding organization. Out of two NGOs, one NGO's two funding organizations responded positively. Rest other funding organizations, despite of repeated communication did not respond.
3. This study is limited only in three districts of Gujarat namely Ahmedabad, Anand, and Banaskantha. The findings of the study may not be applicable for the other districts of Gujarat, where selected NGOs are operational.
4. The study is not comprehensive due to selection of only two villages out of numerous villages of operational areas of each NGO to get the beneficiaries responses about the contribution of NGOs in dalit empowerment. The study has also not encompassed all the beneficiaries in every studied village.

5. The non-participation of non-dalits in the Focus Group Discussion gave only one sided version of dalit beneficiaries to the contribution of NGOs in dalit empowerment in Gujarat. Moreover, it was not possible to bring non-dalits in the Focus Group Discussion due to caste problems.

The above details have described the methodology of the present work very clearly.

The next chapter will provide the information about the socio-economic profile of Gujarat state and state of NGOs in the same province.

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