

3 CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION:

As indicated in the title, this chapter deals with the research methodology of the study. In more details, this part outlines the research method, population, sample, tools and techniques used, and procedure of data collection.

3.2 RESEARCH METHOD:

The purpose of the present study was to inquire critically about the functioning of SMDCs in the field of Universalisation of Secondary education. Hence to achieve the objective of the study survey method was used. Both Qualitative and quantitative approaches were used to conduct the research.

3.3 POPULATION:

In research terminology the population can be explained as a comprehensive group of individuals, institutions, objects and so forth which have common characteristics that are the interest of the researcher. The common characteristics of the groups distinguish them from other individual, institutions, objects and so forth.

All the members of the School Management and Development Committees of Secondary Schools in Deogaon block of Balangir District, Odisha were the population for the present study. In Deogaon block different categories of schools like Govt. school, Aided school, permitted or unrecognized school and recognized schools are working for providing education to children. But the Govt. schools only get the support of RMSA for the all-round development. Only the Govt. High schools managed and funded by Department of Education have School Management and Development Committees. Total of 28 High schools in Deogaon Block of Balangir district were the population of the study.

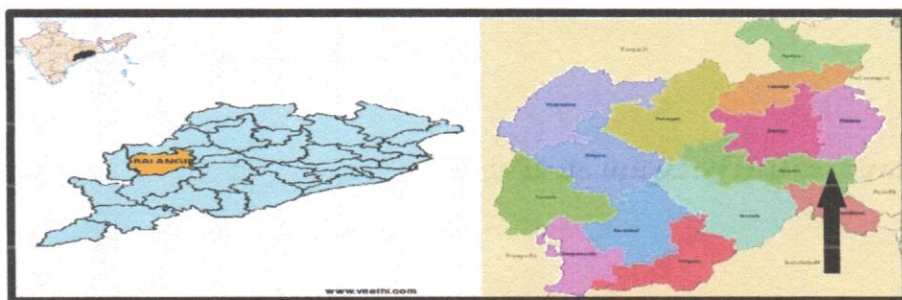


Figure 3.1(Map showing location of Deogaon Block, Balangir Dist., Odisha)

3.4 SAMPLE:

A sample is a group of people, objects, or items that are taken from a larger population for measurement. The sample should be representative of the population to ensure that we can generalize the findings from the research sample to the population as a whole.

The method of random sampling was used to develop the sample of the research under discussion. There are total 14 Govt. High Schools in Deogaon Block of Balangir district, Odisha. Out of which 12 High Schools were selected by random sampling. The 12 SMDCs of 12 Govt. high schools were the sample of the study. Within this context, the participants of the study were the Headmaster and 2 teacher members of SMDCs of each school.

Table 3.1 : Government High Schools managed by DOE in Deogaon Block, Balangir District, Odisha:-

SL NO.	NAME OF THE HIGH SCHOOLS	CATEGORY
1.	Arjunpur High School	Govt. HS
2.	Karuanjhar High School	Govt. HS
3.	Bandhapara High School	Govt. HS
4.	Singhamunda High School	Govt. HS
5.	Brahmanijor High School	Govt. HS
6.	Panchayat Samiti High School, Deogaon	Govt. HS
7.	Jarasingha N.B. High School	Govt. HS
8.	Salepali High School	Govt. HS
9.	Kuturla Sura Dhanu High School	Govt. HS
10.	Bandhpali UGHS	Govt. HS
11.	Ramchandrapur SSD Govt. Girls High School	Govt. HS
12.	Gaibahal Govt. UGHS	Govt. HS
13.	Uparjhar Anchalik Govt. High School	Govt. HS
14.	Phatamunda UGHS	Govt. HS

*The highlighted schools in table 3.1 were the sample of the study.

3.5 TOOLS:

For each and every type of research we need certain instruments to gather new facts or to explore new fields. The instruments thus employed as means for collecting data

are called tools. There are various research tools that can be used in a study, for example, observation, interview schedule, questionnaire, rating scale, achievement tests, FGD, etc.

For the present study the tools were prepared by the researcher and corrected by the expert after that the tools were piloted in order to get a better insight into the functioning of School Management and Development Committees.

For fulfilling the purposes of this research following research tools were used for data collection:

3.5.1 SCHOOL INFORMATION SCHEDULE

The School Information Schedule was developed by the investigator to gather factual information from the secondary schools about the school and SMDC i.e. school name, type of school, establishment of the school, number of students enrolled, number of teaching and non-teaching staffs, details about the SMDC members of the school, agendas of the SMDC meetings, Infrastructure facilities, etc.

3.5.2 INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR THE HEADTEACHER

Interview schedule is used for the Head Master/Head Mistress only. The purpose of the interview was to find out the perception of the Head teacher about the SMDC of the school, its functioning, and its role towards universalization of secondary education and as the Secretary of the committee what are the contribution of the head towards the functioning of SMDC. Some certain questions were prepared, so as for the researcher to guide the interview towards the satisfaction of research objectives. The interview schedule consists of open ended questions.

3.5.3 QUESTIONNAIRES

A questionnaire is a form prepared and distributed to secure responses to certain questions. It is a systematic compilation of questions that are submitted to a sampling of population from which information is desired. The information from questionnaires tends to fall into two broad categories- 'facts' and 'opinions'. It is worth stressing that, in practice, questionnaires are very likely to include questions about both facts and opinions. Questionnaires are an effective tool for collection of data. A questionnaire for the teacher SMDC member was prepared and used by the researcher for the study.

The researcher used the information obtained from the study of various documents as a basis for preparing the questionnaires. The researcher also used the conceptual understanding of the different components of SMDC e.g. context of its formation, role and powers, other similar bodies functioning in different schools etc. Purpose of using questionnaire was to gather factual information as well as the opinions of the participants regarding different dimensions of functioning of the SMDCs such as their role in functioning of SMDC, anticipated level of knowledge about the SMDC, their opinions about the current SMDC, etc. The questionnaire consisted of close-ended (multiple choice type) questions. In the close-ended questions three options of Yes, No, and can't say were there, from which the respondents could choose one option according to his/her understanding of the questions.

3.6 RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF THE TOOLS USED:

Validity of the tools was ensured after thorough discussion with the Supervisor, incorporating his suggestions and adhering basic characteristics of a good questionnaire and interview schedule. The investigator thereafter, edited the tools taking the following points in to consideration:

- ✓ Items should be short and simple.
- ✓ The items should be unambiguous.
- ✓ The item should convey the same meaning to all the subjects.
- ✓ The language should be clear and simple.
- ✓ Close-ended questions to be used in questionnaire.

The reliability of the tools however, could not be measured due to scarcity and nature of items.

3.7 PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION:

For data collection the researcher personally visited the schools and met with the head of the school and took permission for collection of data and asked for his/her support for the same. After that the researcher met with the teachers who were SMDC members and explained the nature and scope of the study asked them to participate in the research. Then the researcher administered the tools to the respective respondents and collected the required information.

3.8 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:

Analysis of the data in the present study was done in both qualitatively and quantitatively. The voluminous data obtained through documents was organized by classifying them under various heads. The data analysis was done item-wise. The data

collected by administration of tools was organized independently or by grouping (if required) the answers together across the respondents on the basis of objectives they served. Overall, the data had been analysed and interpreted according to the nature of the data. Analysis and Interpretation of Data has been explained and presented in detail in next chapter (Chapter-4 Data Analysis and Interpretation).

3.9 CONCLUSION:

The present chapter gives details about the methodology used in this study. Both Qualitative & quantitative approaches were used with survey methodology. Secondary schools of Deogaon block of Balangir District were the population of the study from which the sample had been selected randomly. The school information schedule, interview schedule, and questionnaires were used in this study as tools in order to collect necessary data regarding the SMDC.