

Chapter-2 Methodology

The study is based on primary as well as secondary data. Primary data was collected using both qualitative as well as quantitative techniques. The following methods were used to get the data:

Primary Data

- (i) **Interviews** : formal, informal and in-depth;
- (ii) **Case studies** : simple and intensive;
- (iii) **Group meetings** : facilitated and non facilitated;
- (iv) **Observations** : simple and intensive; and
- (v) **First hand information** related to various developmental schemes from Panchayat and other government officials.

Primary Data

Formal Interviews

Structured format (appendix 1) was used for quantitative data collection. The field investigators had informal talks with the beneficiaries before collecting the data to develop rapport and trust with the beneficiaries. It was also observed that the investigating team did not ask any questions relating to development schemes before the rapport was established. They spent quite a significant time talking about their culture, hobby, work, agriculture and politics. When it was realized that beneficiaries were comfortable to talk frankly, the investigating team started asking responses related to development schemes. These responses were recorded on a format.

The format has questions related to :

Family, Family income, assets, sources of expenditure, details of family loan, knowledge about the development schemes, benefit from these schemes, perception about success and non-success of these schemes, relevance and use of these schemes in their development and suggestions related to the schemes.

Informal and in-depth Interviews

Informal and in-depth interviews were conducted in which the investigators encouraged the respondents to tell and share their experiences, perceptions and attitude towards development schemes in relation to the objectives of the present study. It gave the investigator an opportunity to probe deeply, to uncover new dimensions to get clues about various facts and to open up new perspective of the development schemes that were based on respondents' personal realities and experiences.

Group meetings :

Group meetings and interviews were also to get information from the respondents. Several respondents expressed their views related to development schemes in these meetings. These meetings were also used to facilitate respondents' feelings, perceptions, pre-conceived notions, myths, stereotypes in which all the respondents spoke on their own freely, openly and frankly and responded to each other's ideas. During these meetings, the field investigators tried to know the understanding,

information and attitude of beneficiaries, panchayat officials and government officials about development schemes. They sometimes, without giving their own introduction to anybody observed from a distance the arguments/discussions related to development schemes and local politics and its reaction to Sarpanch and officials. Investigators personally visited various hamlets and collected first hand information on development schemes as perceived by them on issues such as pension, house, medical benefits, drinking water facilities, loan etc.

Field investigators made several visits to Panchayat offices and the district headquarters after normal working hours. It was to observe if any work being done during those hours of the day and also to see the behaviour of panchayat and district officials at the end of the day's work at their respective work places. In this process the field teams educated themselves. They learnt many things, which even surprised the investigators. 10 such

Case Studies:

To understand the reality, perception and myths about the developmental schemes, case study is one of the strongest methods to know the various dimensions of reality. It gave spontaneous responses of the beneficiaries, panchayat and district officials. Case studies brought in-depth understanding about the various aspects of the study on developmental schemes. The objective of the case studies were: a) obtain insights into the various obnoxious forms of exploitations and obstacles in removing them; b) develop the experience based realities for those who wish to take them; and c) seek guidelines for further development programmes. These case studies were conducted in a cordial, informal and family atmosphere. Respondents' rapport was established very quickly by field investigators by making themselves part of their life. This made field investigators and respondents both comfortable. Then, they started asking questions related to the present study. This method brought out various inter-dimensions of respondents related to their family and the fact about how they used or unused facilities provided to them. The inter-dimensions were brought out between respondents and respondent, beneficiaries and beneficiaries, beneficiaries and panchayat officials, beneficiaries and village people, beneficiaries and district officials, panchayat and district officials, etc. This study has strong support of **40 case studies** from **12 villages of 4 blocks** of Hoshangabad district.

Observations : simple and intensive

The field investigators were trained in observation skills before going to the field. These observation skills were not to evaluate and judge but to make observations without asking any information from any respondents. This technique has non-verbal insight about the context, situation, individuals, officials and the department as a whole. This observation helped to **assess the qualitative and quantitative** data of the study. For example, the respondents got to know about the house without asking any questions since the field investigator made observation about its quality, size and shape on his own.

It helped in **confidently understanding, true and false statements** made by the respondents. All the **observations** were recorded and incorporated in the report.

First-hand documents from Panchayat, block and district officials

To strengthen the observations, case studies and data, first hand information were collected from Panchayat officials, block officials and district officials with their signature and stamps to give validity and authenticity to the data.

Criteria for Data Collection

Investigators visited the villages, offices and various other departments in a random way without informing beneficiaries, panchayat officials, developmental officials and others. Field investigators used different approaches like social and village mapping, **group discussions**, involvement of beneficiaries in the discussions. These discussions were arranged at their residence without interference of officials as well as Sarpanch, so as not to influence their views. Data were collected when only beneficiaries were present by interviewing beneficiaries. Officers and zamindar were not allowed to sit around at the time of data collection. All beneficiaries were interviewed separately without interference. Interview was organized after taking convenient time from the beneficiaries as well as the officials. The atmosphere at the time of data collection, at the residence of the beneficiaries, was open, informal, conducive, non-threatening and non-promising. Officers and Sarpanch were interviewed separately for collecting various data.

Sampling

Criteria for Selection of Hoshangabad District

After going through development programmes of the government of Madhya Pradesh, it was discovered that Hoshangabad is one of the districts where substantial developmental schemes were approved by the state government, received by government of India. Since the district has a mixed population having 6 to 39 per cent of the total population from scheduled tribe categories. It was chosen because of poor infrastructure development. The other selection criteria was familiarity of the researcher with that area who had conducted a baseline survey of Kesala Block on Community Based Primary Education.

Selection of Blocks

Area based approach was kept in mind while selecting four blocks of Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. All the four blocks were selected keeping in mind the four directions i.e. southern, northern, eastern and western. These blocks were identified on the basis of tribal, non-tribal and semi-tribal population to understand success of various development schemes in different socio-economic circumstances. On bases of above criteria the four blocks selected were as follows:

- (i) **Kesala** : tribal
- (ii) **Seoni Malwa** : Semi-tribal
- (iii) **Babai** : semi-tribal
- (iv) **Hoshangabad** : non-tribal

Panchayat and Villages

From these four blocks **12 Panchayat** were selected on the bases of following criteria:

- (i) Distance of Panchayat from block headquarters
- (ii) Availability of respondents in those Panchayat
- (iii) Composition of households of the Panchayat i.e. developed and undeveloped in the eyes of local people.

The names of the Panchayat are:

Kesala

Panchayat

1. Suktava/Chowkipuri
2. Kesala
3. Taku

- 4. Saheli
- Hoshangabad**
 - 1. Kherela
 - 2. Dolaria
 - 3. Raipur
- Seoni, Malwa**
 - 1. Bharlaya
 - 2. Barakhar
- Babai**
 - 1. Samoun
 - 2. Gondalwara
 - 3. Jhawali

Selection of Respondents

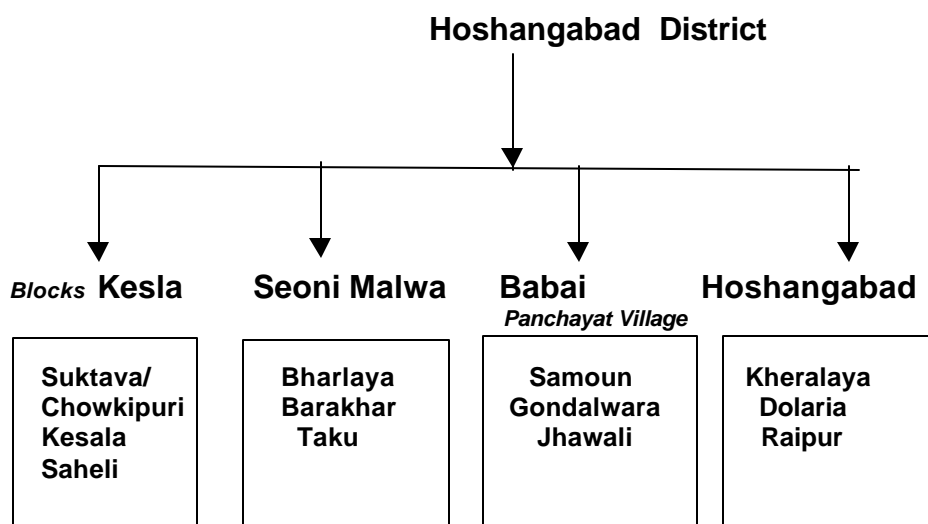
Janapad (Block) officials provided the lists of beneficiaries. Keeping the list as basis, respondents were interviewed at random as per their availability while visiting the villages. Readiness of respondents was ensured before taking details.

On **pre structured questionnaire** (annexure-1) the information was collected for **sixty-eight samples (5-6 in each village)** through **formal interviews**. For better **qualitative appraisal** of situation **forty case studies (3-4 in each village)**, **22 informal interviews (1-2 in each village)** and **12 group discussions (of 5-6 people each)** were conducted. Hence, in total a sample of **192 respondents** was collected.

Statistical Analysis

1. The impact of various factors like education, income, caste, sex, attitude and aptitude towards utilization of various development schemes was studied with the help of statistical analysis. Various other facts have been projected in tabulated and pie/bar diagrams. The most important aspect of this study was focussed on **content analysis of qualitative data** collected and observation from the field. They were put in various aspects of the study by the researchers. The Data are interpreted and reported in Chapters 4 and 5.

Figure 2.1 : Sampling At A Glance



Secondary Data

- (i) **Documents** related to developmental schemes; and
- (ii) **Other literatures:** reports, articles and books related to developmental schemes.

The field investigators consulted and approached several libraries to collect reports, articles, notes related to developmental schemes with special reference to developmental schemes in Madhya Pradesh. These documents proved useful in understanding the position of different developmental schemes regarding implementation, alternatives, solution, etc. Data on the district of Hoshangabad and four blocks (Kesala, Babai, Kherala and Seoni Malwa) were collected to gather relevant information on the various developmental schemes being implemented in the district, its block and the Gram Panchayat.

Orientation to field investigators

The present study gave significant importance to orientation and training to field investigators. The field investigators were selected on the basis of their aptitude, attitude, orientation, commitment and perception towards villagers and in developmental schemes. They were sensitized on developmental schemes, interview techniques, case study methods and presentation and writing skills.