Chapter 4
Methodology of the Study

4.1 Selection of Sample Village

The selection of Silani Village as study area for the present work has been dictated by certain factors which make it convenient for the researcher to conduct her research more effectively. This village has been selected on the basis of convenience of the investigator. It is the native village of investigator who keeps on visiting the village from time to time. Since the researcher remains in touch with the residents of the village, it is expected that the villagers will extend their full cooperation in the completion of the survey by the investigator (researcher herself in this case). Another reason behind the selection of Silani Village is that this Village has large population of households belonging to different caste and who are engaged in all types of occupations such as farming, fishing, artisans, washing and employment etc. Keeping this entire thing in mind, it was decided to select this village for studying the standards of living in rural areas. This village has two panchyats and around 7000 population on the basis of 2001 census. The households who belong to this village share the same culture, traditions, climate and facilities provided by the government. It should be interesting to look into the differences of living standards among the households facing the same and common environment. So that is the reason to take this village as a sample village for find out the standard of living in rural area of Jhajjar district.

4.2 Selection of the Sample Households

After selecting the sample village on the basis of purpose and convenience, the investigator selected the sample households for their study. On the basis of proportionate random sampling, the investigator selected 100 households randomly selecting 69 households from general, 17 from BC and 14 households from SC category in proportion to the share of these categories in the total household population in the village. Thus the selection of final respondents' households involved a process of three stage stratified proportionate random sampling. In the first stage, Jhajjar District was selected purposely from the list of 21 Districts in Haryana. In the second stage, Silani Village was selected purposely from the list of 254 Villages in Jhajjar District. The third stage involved

the selection of 100 households using a stratified proportionate random sampling procedure. Before drawing the sample of 100 households the researcher acquired the population frame from Panchayat office according to which there were 1247 total number households, comprised of 870 General, 213 BC and 164 SC households.

4.3 Data collection

Used both the sources documentary and field survey has been made in this study. The documentary information has been collected from the office of village panchyat which was confined to the number of households and facilities available in the village. The primary data based on a structured scheduled consisting 20 questions. The schedule contained open ended as well as close ended question related to households' income, expenditure, education, source of income, loan, saving, family size, amenities in house, assets of the household and many other things which are related to find out their standard of living. For the purpose of healthy relation with the respondents it was made clear that this survey was for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of on academic qualification and that the information will be kept strictly confidential and will not be misused in any away. The interviews were held at respondent's residence. The scheduled was filled in English by the researcher through the questions dully explained to the respondents in Hindi as well as in the regional dialect. It took 20 days to fill all the schedules. Availability of lower class respondents at their home was a major problem. In fact they leave their home early in the morning and for their work and returned in the evening late at night.

4.4Techniques of Analysis

Simple techniques are adopted for analyzing the data collected through the schedules. For analyzing the data simple measures of averages as measures of central value and percentage were used. Another technique that has been used for data analysis is percentage and cumulative percentages. For grouping the raw data, the techniques of tabulation i.e. one way table (univariate frequency distribution) and two way table (bivariate frequency distribution) have been used. For studying the relationship between two attributes of households, the null hypotheses of no relationship between several pairs of attributes were tested by using chi-square test. Chi-square test is a non parametric test which depicts the association between two attributes of households. This test does not tell about the causality of relationship, This is a limitation of the test as the

association between two attributes may be attributable to a third factor influencing the two attributes. Grouping of data by three attributes requires a three- way table which becomes difficult and complex diagrammatically. Therefore, for studying the relationship between more than two attributes of households, statistical technique is used. The technique of regression analysis has been used to analyse the effect of socio-economic factors on standard of living of households. The use of Linear Probability Model (LPM) in the present work has been explained briefly in Chapter 5, section 5.3.

4.3 Setting of the Living Standard

Though it is very difficult to define and measure the standard of living, the basic material goods such as income, expenditure, education, food, housing condition, family size, clothing, and other comforts play a vital role in determining the standard of living of the people. For the purpose of categorizing the standard of living, we prepared a list of 29 households items   namely; 1.fan, 2.radio, 3.black white TV, 4.color TV, 5.cooler, 6.kitchen, 7.bathroom 8.electricity in house, 9.water connection 10.toilet, 11.mobile, 12.washingmachine 13.livestock, 14.computer, 15.LCD 16.freeze,17.bed,18.Chula,19.gas connection, 20.cycle,21.bike, 22.car, 23.table chair, 24.sofa set, 25.sewing machine, 26.CD player, 27.tractor, 28. Air conditioner (AC), 29.pucca house, which include the items of basic necessities or items of comforts. For identifying the items of basic necessities, we asked the respondent households heads to tick mark the items which they consider to be the basic needs for the households. it was done at the time of time of filling up the schedules. When their responses were compiled, it was found that 83% of the respondents included at least 9 items, namely; water connection, electricity, fan, cot, watch, Chula, cycle, sewing machine, radio as basic households goods. On the basis of this finding and assuming that a households purchase the basic necessities at the earliest opportunity. According to this research the standard of living of rural households in this area have been divided into the following three categories.

1.   Households with below- normal standard of living
          The households possessing up to 9 items are defined as having standard of living
          below normal.
2.   Households with normal standard of living
          The households possessing up to 19 households items but above 9 items are
          defined as having normal standard of living.

3   households with above- normal standard of living

The households possessing above 19 households items in their house are defined

as having above normal standard of living.

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