

Chapter- III

Methodology of Research

3.0.0 Introduction

Research means search for knowledge. It also refers to a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic. The advanced learners' dictionary of Current English defines research as "a careful investigation or inquiry especially through search for new facts in any branch of knowledge."

Research methodology is one of the important parts of a research work. A proper research methodology is needed to carry out a research in a more systematic and well planned manner. It will give us the direction in which way that problem needs to be solved.

Basically research methods are of three type's viz. historical method, descriptive method and experimental method. Selection of a particular method will depend on the basis of nature of the problem.

The present study is based on the descriptive method which describes and interprets what exists at present. It is one of the most popular and widely used research methods in education. It helps to explain educational phenomenon in terms of its conditions or relationships that exists at present. It is the only means through which opinions, attitudes, suggestions, for improvement of educational practices and other data can be obtained in a well planned way. Descriptive method is more than just a collection and compilation of data. It involves classification, analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of data.

With a view to accommodate the various objects of the functioning style of pre-school education in Barpeta and Bongaigaon districts of Assam, three sets of questionnaire were constructed. Questionnaire for Head/principal, Questionnaire

for Teachers and Questionnaire for parents of the pre-scholars. Besides Interview schedule was also made for District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO)Barpeta District and Bongaigaon District, Block Elementary Education Officer (BEEO), Inspector of Schools (IS), School Education Committee (Chairman and Secretary).

The data collected were analyzed into percentages. Besides, government and other documentary sources were included in the study.

This chapter deals with the methods and procedures that have been followed for the collection of data. The present chapter is divided into the following headings:

3.0.1 Population of the study

3.0.2 Selection of the sample of the study

3.0.3 Institutions

3.0.4 Teachers

3.0.5 Parents

3.0.6 Procedures followed in the collection of data

3.0.7 Tools and Techniques used for data collection

3.0.1 Population of the study:

The population of the study (table 2.1) is comprised of all government/government-aided and non-government pre-schools of Barpeta and Bongaigaon Districts of Assam.

Table 2.1 showing the population of the study:

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Schools		No. of teachers	
		govt./govt.-aided pre-schools	non-govt. pre-schools	govt./ govt.-aided pre-schools	non-govt. pre-schools
1	Barpeta	1879	631	4458	1462
2	Bongaigaon	966	288	3130	857
Total		2845	919	7588	2319
Grand Total		3764		9907	

Source: DISE Barpeta and Bongaigaon 2009-2010 and Office of the District Elementary Education, Barpeta and Bongaiaon district.

2.0.2 Selection of the sample of the study:

Institutions: A representative sample of 400 attached pre-schools (both government and non-government) has been randomly selected for the present study (table 2.2). Out of 400 schools 300 are from government sector and 100 from non-government sector. Again out of 300 government pre-schools 200 were from Barpeta district and 100 from Bongaigaon district was selected, and in non-government sector 100 schools were selected randomly out of which 70 pre-schools from Barpeta and 30 from Bongaigaon district.

Teachers:

A total of 400 head/principals and 600 teachers belonging to 400 schools have been selected for the study covering all schools from the sample of the study. Government /government-aided and non-government pre-schools were taken.

Table 2.2 showing the sample of the study:

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Schools		No. of teachers	
		Govt./govt.-aided pre-schools	Non-govt. pre-schools	Govt./govt.-aided pre-schools	non-Government pre-schools
1.	Barpeta	200	70	450	150
2.	Bongaigaon	100	30	300	100
Total		300	100	750	250
Grand Total		400		1000	

Parents of the pre-scholars:

Besides the sample mentioned above table 200 parents were also taken from Barpeta and Bongaigaon districts as given below-

Table 2.3 showing the sample of the study:

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of parents	
		Govt./govt.-aided pre-schools	Non-govt. pre-schools
1.	Barpeta	80	40
2.	Bongaigaon	60	20
Total		140	60
Grand Total		200	

Procedures followed in the collection of data

Various primary and secondary sources have been consulted for the collection of data in the present study.

Method of the study

Survey cum descriptive method was applied for the study.

3.0.3 Tools and Techniques used for data collection

Primary data:

No readymade tools have been found useful for the present study, therefore questionnaires were especially designed. Before framing the questionnaire different books, journals, magazines, dissertations, theses etc. on higher education were extensively reviewed keeping in mind the objectives of the study.

The tools and techniques of the present study were based on the objectives of the study. The data for the present study were collected with the help of the following tools for achieving the different objectives.

(a) Questionnaire:

The investigator developed three sets of questionnaire, one for Head/principal, second for the teachers and third for the parents of the pre-school children. The questionnaire was structured and developed. It was based upon the objectives of the present study. The content of the questionnaire include Historical development, physical infrastructure facilities, daily activities and Programme, Profile of pre-school teacher, Problems of Pre-schools.

The first draft of the questionnaire was subjected to scrutiny by the experts from the Department of Education. The experts gave full suggestions for improvement of the questionnaire. Modification was done and the questionnaire was tried out to prove its validity. The final questionnaire was printed and photocopied which was made ready for use.

(b) Interview:

In the present study, the investigator also used the interview schedule for District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO)Barpeta District and Bongaigaon District, Block Elementary Education Offier (BEEO), Inspector of Schools. (I S), School Education Committee (Chairman and Secretary). The questions used for interview schedule was different as it covered the views of various officials and persons who were in charge of providing administrative services at various levels of pre-school education.

(c) Relevant Records:

Besides the investigators collected information from the office of Inspectors of schools (IS), statistical handbook of Assam, materials from various websites,

materials on pre-school education and other significant data were also consulted for used.

3.04 Administration of the Tools.

The investigator personally distributed the questionnaire to all the head/principal, teachers and parents of the pre-scholars. They were made to understand that their answers to the items in the questionnaire were intended to be used only for research purpose only and their responses would be treated as confidential.

3.05 Sources of Data.

The data was collected from the sample using the above tools developed by the investigator. The time taken for the data collection was six months covering different areas within the BARPETA and BONGAIGAON districts. The data for the study was collected from the schools catering only to pre-schools education in the two districts.

3.06 Analysis of Data.

The approach followed was to arrange the responses of the Head/principal, teachers and parents separately under the major heads used in the questionnaire. Only frequencies and percentage are found out indicating the number of respondents choosing a particular option, wherever possible where response are given, the main ideas in the responses are to extract more information on certain issue to enable the investigator to know the reasons behind .

The analysis thus is both qualitative and quantitative. On the other hand, the data collected was finally tabulated and analyzed in terms of percentage.