

METHOD

Case studies have a multiperspectival analysis that promotes Reliability and Validity by using protocols such as the unit/s of analysis, logical linking of the data or the theory and criteria for interpreting the findings, Tellis (1997).

Further, one needs to be selective by focusing on one or two issues that are fundamental to understanding the systems (of action) being associated.

The present study employed the descriptive case study approach to understand the impact of children's international migration on older parents. Using a triangulated approach increased the validity.

The objectives, the nature and the very purpose of the study, make a case for qualitative analysis supported by quantification wherever possible and necessary.

Outline of Chapter

- Sample and Secondary Data Source
- Tools
- Data Collection Procedure
- Plan of Analysis

Sample and Secondary Data Source

Population

The five villages in Kheda – Anand district of Gujarat, India identified by a research project (Dave, Mallya, & Bhojak, 2003), were retained, namely, Alindra,

Dharmaj, Karamsad, Mehlaav and Sojitra. These villages were selected on the following criteria:

- Heavy international migration, and,
- Availability of adequate communicating system with the outside world.

Sample

Case study propounded by Yin (1998), is a naturally occurring phenomenon and prefers small numbers. The focus is on one or few instances of a particular phenomenon to provide an in-depth account of events, relationships, experiences or processes occurring in that area.

The present study consisted of primary sample for in-depth study. Secondary sources supplied by key informants were used for augmenting the village profile.

Key Informants. 31 key informants were interviewed across the five villages to help develop a profile of the villages of study, under objective no. 1. These persons also helped at various stages of data collection e.g. to identify sample (see Table 3).

Table 3

Selection of Key Informants (N= 34)

Key informants	n	Criteria for Selection
Bankers	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">* Selection of informants through purposive sampling, from all the five villages.* Experienced key informants about village life, who held a position of power.* Persons who could give information on key village organizations and institutions.* Persons who could interpret study objectives to people and help identify sample.* Persons who could share brochures, documents etc. related to objective 1.
Village leaders	5	
Non-resident Indians	4	
School teachers	3	
Heads of local co-operatives, institutions	10	
‘Vahivatdars ‘of the Panchayat offices of five villages	5	
Temple priests	4	
Total	34	

Primary Sample. The sample was for in-depth study under objectives 2 and 3. The original plan was to select a unit of 10 women and 10 men from the five selected villages of Gujarat by the snowballing technique. One extra woman and man, each, were to be included in order to counteract any attrition after data collection was over. There were attritions along the way and the **final tally** was 11 women and 9 men, which enabled the investigator to retain a round figure of 20. One married man was interviewed but his oral history is not available (see ‘Attrition’).

Criteria for selection

- Aged between 55⁺ years to 85 years.
- Having at least 1 daughter or a son migrated internationally.
- Equal number of women and men (i.e. 10 + 10) of equal ages (younger group, 55 - 70 yrs and older group 70+ - 85 years)¹.
- There should be representation from all five villages.

Attrition

- 2 men of 80+ years expired after their data was collected.
- 1 married man had to be dropped for the oral history due to the prevailing conditions created by the Gujarat riots. This step is advocated by case study protagonists, as otherwise, difficulties of 'temporary outside factors' are posed, in an otherwise bounded and self-contained case study (Descombe, 1999, p. 38). Since the analysis uses a unitary framework a mid way dropout will not make a difference to the total study.

The descriptive analysis of the village profile and the sample are given in the next chapter under the Background section

Tools

The three tools used for this study (Please see Appendixes I, II and III) were validated and found reliable by the present investigator, vis-à-vis a joint study by Dave, Mallya, & Bhojak (2003). Experts from the field of Geriatrics and Human Development

¹Foot Note : It was not possible to have an equal number of older and younger group as this composition was not available at all.

provided inputs in the construct and context validity, keeping in mind the Indian setting.

For the present study, a few items were rearranged and all the items related to the present objectives were retained. Some cue questions in Gujarati were developed to aid the investigator in the conduct of the interviews.

Objective 1

Tool No. 1 (Appendix I).

Guideline to Prepare a Village Profile.

Domains

History

Geography and ambience

General facilities

Organizations overall and especially for older people

Population

Daily life of elders

Objectives 2 & 3

Tool No. 2 (Appendix II)

Semi-structured Interview Guide

Includes, checklists, open-ended questions, verbatim, situational vignettes and investigator's report.

Domains

Personal data

Support system (help, care and support)

Migration

Perceptions on aging in life situations

Loneliness

Communications with children

Tool No. 3 (Appendix III)

Guideline for Oral History and Perceptions on Migration and Life Situations.

Domains

Life course events

Perceptions on migration

Perceptions on life situations of elders

Data Collection Procedure

Objective 1

- Key informants were interviewed at their convenient times. Focussed questioning of individuals and small groups was done.
- This was supplemented with walks through the villages.
- Documents were obtained from the Panchayat offices, Non Resident Indians (NRIs) and organizations.
- Photographs were clicked.

Objectives 2 & 3

- A triangulated approach was adopted by combining the quantitative validity of a survey with the insight of an interpretative approach. Tools 2 and 3 were given in succession.

- The total time of data collection spread over 6 months especially as the time between 12 noon to 4 pm was not suitable to the elders. Each session per person spanned from 2-4 hours and most of the times spread over 2 sessions.
- The 'Vahivatdar' of the village Panchayat was the key to getting an entry in the village and making the sample feel relaxed for the interviews.
- The interview schedule was filled up in front of the respondents. The oral history was recorded. Field notes were written from memory. For both, inter-rater reliability and construct validity were established by using a multiple investigator strategy.

Plan of Analysis

The data that emerged were consistent with the objectives and the research question of the present study. Thus, further protocol of a case study was followed in the chain of evidence. Rigorous thinking, presentation of the evidence and visuals, and, the need for triangulation were carefully considered and implemented. Effort was made to present the data within the theoretical framework (see Figure 1), for validating it and for avoiding redundancy. Gross categorizing, summarizing and recording of data were tried until a final frame of systematic sequencing was developed. Coder triangulation was done to validate the findings. The various steps used for analysis are presented as per the study objectives.

Objective 1

Information collected from all the five villages was collated into a single profile using a quantitative table and a descriptive analysis. Photographs were selected to augment the presentation.

Objectives 2 and 3

1. The survey data (from tool 2) was put down to prepare data accounting sheets for each sample (unit) under each domain. Their names were changed to protect their identity. The qualitative information such as 'reasons' or supporting statements was noted in a column alongside the coded data.
2. Frequency tables were made (sometimes converted to percentages) within each domain, using categories such as gender, marital status and age groups (YG = Younger Group and OG = Older Group). Graphic presentations like pies were included. Qualitative information is presented for each table/figure.
3. Recorded tapes of oral histories were transcribed simultaneously. Themes, interesting sections, patterns, issues and verbatim, were colour coded accordingly on paper. Each line was numbered to locate information by domain.
4. Annotations from field notes and memory were written on the right hand column of the transcribed notes.
5. Case summaries were made to get a coherent account of each case and domains were marked and separated.
6. Some of the data was merged within the domains of the survey data.
7. Data was then arranged as per the objectives. Simultaneously, codes and categories were either dropped, rearranged or new ones were developed as per the need.
8. Content analysis was done to identify inter-case types, patterns and differences; and, frequencies, by marital status and gender as far as possible.

9. Frequency/percentages and word tables and figures were developed for quantitative and visual display of some of the qualitative data.
10. Meaningful extracts or verbatims in Gujarati (or translated to English) were transferred into the qualitative data to retain a cultural flavour and an idiosyncratic view of the sample.
11. One or more cases were used as illustrative examples. It aided in highlighting what was also 'different' among the responses.
12. The style of presenting data varied for different objectives e.g. a narrative style is used to present 'change in status after children's migration' in objective 2. This is done to preserve the unique cultural responses, yet holding together the central theme.
13. Cross case analysis was done once more using the objectives and research question to identify missing information if any, and/ or, to rearrange it according to the theoretical framework in a meaningful, smooth and flowing manner.
14. Reviews of women and men, along with their feelings, were written up keeping in mind the frameworks of the Eric Erikson and the Hindu Dharma theories of human development so that they would lend themselves to fruitful discussions and emerging conclusions.

The feelings were computed by searching for evidences from the oral histories and the Field notes. Two investigators marked the pertinent paragraphs representing the said areas about which the feelings were expressed; and, coded them as per the given types e.g. Happy, Unhappy and Neutral (not given a distinct opinion). There was 90 % agreement between the two investigators. The final tables were then computed.