C H A P T E R III

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Emphasis on tradition is often reflected in the dress of the members of each society. India comprises of a number of communities, cultures and traditions.

Gujarat is a deeply traditional part of India. It consists of a number of tribal groups and communities, wherein tribal areas display a variety of ethno-linguistic groups which are culturally distinct from non-tribal groups. Clothing is one of the major media through which the traditional tribal culture and art are reflected. Each tribe has a characteristic style of dressing and adorning their body which also have some symbolic significance since times immemorial. Their style of grooming has been rooted in the tradition carried over, from centuries of living in inaccessible forests and hills. Until recently they have been able to maintain an identity of their own, because of this isolation.

Due to development of transport facilities and industrialisation, the distant and remote tribal villages have become accessible. The economic life of the tribal people is closely connected with farming and the produce of the forests in which they live. Since this does not fetch sufficient income for their daily bread, tribals migrate to the cities and towns in search of labour jobs during the lean season. There is a large influx of tribals into towns and cities. As a result they are shedding their traditional costumes and customs fast. Tribal people in cities and towns have gradually started adopting city clothing styles.

Such a situation is likely to bring in a complete change in the traditional costumes of the tribals. Therefore there is a need to retain the traditional costume of the tribes residing in Gujarat (by preserving

their traditional costumes). These costumes need to be brought in the lime light so that they could be made known to urban people as well.

Hence the indepth documentation of costumes was a felt need, wherein the analysis of the construction technique and details for tailored garments and stepwise explanation of the draping of draped garments with illustrations will give clarity. This documentation can be of help to museum personnel for reproducing and preserving the tribal costumes and to the dress designers who can adapt these to contemporary wear.

It was also thought desirable to study whether various demographic and socio-cultural factors had any relation to the changing trend of tribal costumes.

A critical review of the available literature led the investigator to believe that though several studies have been done on sociological and anthropological aspects of the tribal life, greater attention also needs to be paid to the details of the tribal costumes. The present investigation was undertaken in order to help retain the tribal costumes before they are abandoned.

3.1 Objective of the Study:

General:

1. To study the traditional and existing costumes of men and women among Bhil, Halpati, Rathwa, Kotwaria and Choudhary tribes.

2. To study the clothing behaviour of selected tribal people in relation to demographic variables.

3 To study the socio-cultural factors that influence the clothing behaviour of Bhil, Halpati, Rathwa,Kotwaria and Choudhary tribes.

Specific Objectives

1 To study the fabrics, designs and colours of traditional and existing garments used by Bhil, Halpati, Rathwa, Kotwaria and Choudhary men and women.

2 To analyse the constructional details of the traditional and existing tailored garments worn by men and women of selected tribes.

3 To document schematically the details of the traditional and existing draped garments of men and women.

4 To study the heat dresses, accessories, ornaments and footwear used by men and women of selected tribes.

5 To study the clothing behaviour of Bhil, Halpati, Rathwa, Kotwaria and Choudhary men and women as related to demographic variables.

6 To study the socio-cultural factors that influence the clothing behaviour of Bhil, Halpati, Rathwa, Kotwaria and Choudhary men and women.

3.2 Delimitation of the study:

1 Five tribes in the state of Gujarat namely Bhil, Halpati, Rathwa, Kotwaria and Choudhary.

2 Only twelve villages were selected.

3 Men and women above twenty years of age were selected for the present investigation.