**Research Methodology**

**Region of Research**
The population would mainly be retail giants, but the study will try to include a few examples for gainful study from the small retail formats that presently dominate the Indian Retail industry. Although the main focus will remain on the Indian industry, International Retail Industries would be studied for knowledge and strategy adoption by Indian companies. Besides, the FDI in retail structure would force a thorough study of their international modus operandi.

**Research Design**
The selected research topic is in the newly developing area of Third-Party Logistics as specialized Supply Chain Service and developing hypothesis is of paramount importance. Due to this descriptive research method will be adopted to carry out this research to study frequencies, averages, and other statistical calculations. The Null Hypothesis shall also be subjected to statistical method of testing.

**Population and Sampling**
It is targeted that collectively the sample size of the primary data will be 100, which will be used to collate common risk events through questionnaire. The developed framework will be then validated through verifying with three key people from different organizations, seeking their feedback on the Framework. Three different companies, like Future Group, Shopper’s Stop shall be targeted for this framework verification, so that the framework is more generic but focused for Indian Retail companies. Also, in due course of the study, any upcoming retail
brand shall be approached for valuable input. Also, data shall be collected from the Logistics companies which currently provide Retail logistics services / 3PL services like DHL, Gati, Agility Logistics. A convenient sampling method shall be applied.

**Data Collection**

During the research study both primary and secondary data would be collected.

**Primary data:** It is necessary to collect first hand and reliable information. For this purpose the researcher will collected the required information by way of phone conversations and also with the help of personal interviews and questionnaire.

- **Interviews:** Staff, key employees and employer level of members of the Retail organization shall be interviewed for collection of data. Data collection from ground level staff will help in understanding the issues faced in operations at base level. Key employees like head of Department of Logistics / Operations at the Retail Company would help in obtaining data on issues faced at the Decision making / Policy formation stage. Top level employees or Employers shall help in gaining information on future prospects and visionary information. Besides, imminent consultants connected to the field of Logistics, Supply Chain and Retail shall be interviewed and their views shall be covered as a part of the research.

- **Questionnaire:** An exhaustive questionnaire will be prepared and data collected in person from the respondents.

**Secondary Data:** Literature survey forms an important step to establish sound basis for this research. The existing retail logistics will be studied from various books, journals and research articles.
Processing of Data

The research is to study the emergence of the Third-party Logistics Services as a specialized Supply chain service provider for smooth functioning of the Retail Industry. Hence this study would also provide an inside view of various techniques implemented by the international players to improvise the overall retail sector and how the same could be implemented in the Indian market conditions.

Both quantitative and qualitative techniques would be used for proposed research. This will give the insight to a huge organization. Primarily a mixed sampling technique involving stratified sampling shall be used. Area sampling with mainly multi stage sampling shall be applied and based on the requirement, sequential sampling technique shall be applied.

Statistical Methods

The classified data shall be subject to statistical methods of analyzing and reporting. Mainly mean and standard deviation shall be used for the collected and processed data. Chi Square test shall be used for the Null Hypothesis testing. These would provide technical analysis of the data. Also SPSS and MEGA software shall be used for computerized data analysis, tabulation and Interpretation of data.

Method of Reporting

Reporting shall be in the form of text and would also include, graphs, bar graph, pie charts which would be easy for understanding, analyzing and interpretation of data.