ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

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6.5. Human Rights Awareness and Advocacy Level
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This chapter deals with the analysis of data, results and interpretations. The chapter has been divided into five sections. In section I the human rights violations have been examined through the analysis of the reports of National Crime record bureau and case analysis on human rights issues in Kerala. A causative analysis of human rights violation were conducted by using problem tree. The role of human rights protective mechanisms such as profile of Kerala Legal Service Authority, Kerala State Human Rights Commission and Initiative of Jananeethi for protecting human rights have been discussed in Section II. The awareness among youth in Kerala has been examined in the section III. A Comparison of human rights awareness among NSS volunteers and NYK club members has also been examined in this section. The section IV deals with advocacy effort of youth in promoting human rights with its three perspectives as anti- oppressive practice on human rights violations, strengthening and restoring human rights mechanisms and human rights education for empowerment perspective. The Relation between the level of human rights awareness and advocacy has also been analysed with this section

Section I: Human Rights Violations in Kerala

Kerala has evolved a comprehensive model for development, which has been appreciated and recognized worldwide (Sen 2003). Kerala became a model State for policy makers interested in both social development and model of growth based on development and market driven democracy. The State has a people- centered
approach and facilitates redistribution of wealth and expansion of services to the
masses. The high performance on indicators of social development, adult and female
literacy, birth rate and life expectancy, health and general well-being is a testimony.
For human rights protection and promotion also, the state has evolved effective
mechanisms.

The people have their own ideological perspectives due to the educational
and cultural background of the state. The existence of a strong political system is
another factor. People are conscious of their rights and duties as an Indian citizen.
But, unfortunately, the violations of human rights have also figured quite highly in
the state. The present consumerist society faces atrocities, which violate the rights
of a person as human being. Harassment of women, dowry deaths, domestic
violence, cases related to child abuse and torturing of the aged have lead to
precarious situation. Child abuses by father, husband murdering his wife for dowry,
custodial deaths and police torturing have been reported. The suicide by farmers has
increased and the rights of Dalits and Adivasis have not been adhered to Land mafia
in Kerala is a threat facing the state in recent times. The toxic effect of endosulphan
has endangered the life of the people in Kasargod Distirct of Kerala. The
displacement of ethnic communities and forceful occupation of their habitants is
another calamity in the State. Most of the rivers are polluted, forests are ruined, and
hills became brooks. Buildings have replaced the farm and natural forestry. In this
context, sustainability of human rights is under threat. The present study has
analysed human rights violations with support of the data based on reports of
National Crime record bureau (NCRB) and based on case analysis of major human rights issues in Kerala

6.1.1. Report of National Crime Record Bureau

The human rights violations of Kerala have depicted with the support of the data evidenced from the reports of National Crime Record bureau. The mapping has been initiated to analyze the trend and incidents of violations categorized on the crime recorded as IPC (Indian Penal Code) crime, atrocities against women, children, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes. The human rights violations by the police personnel have also been recorded separately.

6.1.1.1. Violent Crimes

Violent crimes induce a sense of insecurity and fear in the community. The frequency and the magnitude of such crimes also affect the public peace. The IPC crimes reported to the Police authorities have been grouped as ‘Violent Crimes’ for the purpose of crime analysis. Violent crimes can be divided into four different heads as affecting body such as Murder, Attempt to commit murder, Culpable Homicide not amounting to murder, dowry deaths and kidnapping and abduction; violent crimes affecting property as dacoity, preparation and assembly to commit dacoity and robbery; violent crimes affecting public safety as Riots and Arson; and the violent crimes affecting women as rape. The figure 6.1 traces the trend of violent crimes from 2009 to 2013 in the study.
The incidence of violent crimes is continuously increasing considerably from 2009 to 2013. However, the share of violent crimes in total IPC crimes has remained almost static at 2.3 percent during 2009 – 2010, thereafter rose to 25.2 percent in 2011 and 1.3 percent in 2012. But, it has declined to -4.7 percent in 2013. The distribution of total violent crime has been shown in Table 6.1. The share of violent crimes affecting body showed a decreasing trend during 2009-2010, increased in 2012 and again declined in 2013. The share of violent crimes affecting women has remaining static in 2009 to in2010 as compared to total violent crime during these years. It showed an increase to 8 percent in 2011 and decreased to 7 percent in 2012.
and thereafter rose to 9 percent in 2013. The pattern of violent crimes affecting public safety and affecting property has shown a mixed trend during this period.

### Table 6.1
Violent Crimes in Kerala during 2009-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Year 2009</th>
<th>Year 2010</th>
<th>Year 2011</th>
<th>Year 2012</th>
<th>Year 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affecting Body</td>
<td>1542 (13)</td>
<td>1291 (11)</td>
<td>1305 (12)</td>
<td>1311 (11)</td>
<td>1352 (10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempt to Commit murder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culpable Homicide not amounting to murder</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dowry Death</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping Abduction</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>256</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affecting Property</td>
<td>1208 (11)</td>
<td>928 (8)</td>
<td>1057 (14)</td>
<td>1086 (7)</td>
<td>1111 (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dacoity</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation &amp; assembly to commit dacoity</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robery</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affecting Public Safety</td>
<td>8174 (71)</td>
<td>8903 (76)</td>
<td>11204 (76)</td>
<td>11486 (77)</td>
<td>10521 (74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riots Arson</td>
<td>7671</td>
<td>8267</td>
<td>10754</td>
<td>10900</td>
<td>10042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>503</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affecting Women (Rape)</td>
<td>568 (5)</td>
<td>634 (5)</td>
<td>1132 (8)</td>
<td>1019 (7)</td>
<td>1221 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Violent Crime</td>
<td>11492</td>
<td>11756</td>
<td>14698</td>
<td>14902</td>
<td>14205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Annual Reports of NCRB during 2009-2013*

Figure in parentheses show the percentage value

### 6.1.1.2. Atrocities against Women

Even though women may become victims to any of the crime such as murder, robbery, cheating, sexual harassment or domestic violence; the atrocities which are directed specifically against women are characterised as ‘atrocities against women’.
Various new legislations have been brought and amendments have been made in existing laws with a view to handle these violations. The incidence of atrocities against women has been shown in figure 6.2.

**Figure 6.2**
Atrocities against Women

Figure 6.2 reveals that, a total of 11216 cases of atrocities against women have been reported in Kerala during the year 2013, as compared to 10930 in the year 2012, thus showing an increase of 2.6 percent. The incidence of these atrocities have continuously increased during 2009 - 2013 with 8049 cases in 2009(17.6 percent), 9463 cases in 2010(1.4 percent) and 9594 cases in 2011(13.9 percent). Table 6.2 indicates the trend of atrocities against women in Kerala
Table 6.2
Atrocities against Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atrocities</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>568 (7)</td>
<td>687 (8)</td>
<td>1132 (11.8)</td>
<td>1019 (9.3)</td>
<td>1221 (10.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping and</td>
<td>173 (2)</td>
<td>284 (3)</td>
<td>221 (2.2)</td>
<td>218 (2)</td>
<td>182 (1.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dowry Death</td>
<td>20 (1)</td>
<td>22 (1)</td>
<td>15 (0.15)</td>
<td>32 (0.3)</td>
<td>21 (0.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molestation</td>
<td>2740 (34)</td>
<td>2936 (30)</td>
<td>2556 (26.65)</td>
<td>3835 (35)</td>
<td>4362 (38.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Harassment</td>
<td>495 (6)</td>
<td>637 (6.7)</td>
<td>573 (6.20)</td>
<td>510 (4.4)</td>
<td>580 (6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>4053 (50)</td>
<td>4897 (51.3)</td>
<td>5097 (53)</td>
<td>5316 (49)</td>
<td>4850 (43.24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8049</td>
<td>9463</td>
<td>9594</td>
<td>10930</td>
<td>11216</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual Reports of NCRB during 2009-2013
Figure in parentheses show the percentage value

Table 6.2 reveals the increase in trend of atrocities against women during 2009-2013. The cases of rape have been increased 11.8 percent during 2011 as compared to 7 percent 2009 and 8 percent in 2010. It has decreased to 9.3 percent in 2012 but there was an increase to 10.8 percent during 2013. The rate of dowry deaths has decreased during the period of 2009-2013. The cases of molestation has shown an increase during the period. 38.9 percent in 2013 as compared to 35 percent in 2012. The rate of cases on sexual harassment remained more or less static during 2009-2011 and has decreased in 2012 to 4.4 percent; but increased to 6 percent in 2013. Domestic violence or harassment by husband and relatives have shown a decreasing trend in the State; however the total criminal cases are on the increase.
6.1.1.3. Atrocities against Children

The offences committed against children are considered as atrocities against children. Indian penal code and the various protective and preventive special and local laws specifically mention the offences wherein children are victims. The age of child varies as per the definition given in the concerned Acts and sections. According to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, the age of child has been defined to be below 18. Therefore an offence committed on a victim under the age of 18 years is construed as atrocities against children.

The increasing incidence of atrocities against children in Kerala has been shown in figure 6.3. A total of 1877 cases were reported during 2013 which has shown as increase of 41.8 percent as compared to the cases in 2012. The incidence
of atrocities against children has continuously increased during the reporting period with 587 cases in 2009, 596 cases in 2010 and 1452 cases in 2011. The figure shows a slight decrease during the 2012 but it increased again in 2013. Table 6.3 depicts the trend of atrocities against children during 2009-2013 in Kerala.

Table 6.3
Atrocities against Children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atrocities</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infanticide</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.18)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.06)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(7.5)</td>
<td>(6.9)</td>
<td>(3.17)</td>
<td>(2.6)</td>
<td>(2.13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping and Abduction</td>
<td></td>
<td>83</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(14.13)</td>
<td>(18.6)</td>
<td>(22.66)</td>
<td>(26.21)</td>
<td>(29.57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feotecide</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.07)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td></td>
<td>235</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(40.07)</td>
<td>(34.9)</td>
<td>(39.67)</td>
<td>(34.33)</td>
<td>(36.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procuration of minor girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(2.3)</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>(0.62)</td>
<td>(0.75)</td>
<td>(0.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immoral Traffic prevention Act</td>
<td></td>
<td>211</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(36)</td>
<td>(38.42)</td>
<td>(33.82)</td>
<td>(36.03)</td>
<td>(30.90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>587</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>1452</td>
<td>1324</td>
<td>1877</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual Reports of NCRB during 2009-2013
Figure in parentheses show the percentage value

Table 6.3 reveals the trend of atrocities against children in Kerala, there is a substantial increase of crime rate during the reporting period 2009-2013. The cases reported on kidnapping and abduction increased as 29.57 percent in 2013 compared to 26.21 percent in 2012. It was 14.13 percent in 2009, 18.6 percent in 2010 and 22.96 percent in 2011. The study further revealed that female feotecide and
infanticide are not prevalent in Kerala. Murder cases showed a decreasing trend during 2009-2013. The rate of rape cases was high in 2009 as 40.07 percent but reduced during 2010 to 34.9 percent. High rate of rape cases 39.67 percent have been recorded in 2011; it progressively decreased in 2012 and 2013. Human trafficking and trading of girls for prostitution was witnessed in major numbers in Kerala. The procuration of minor girls and cases registered on Immoral Traffic Prevention Act were showed a mixed trend during reporting period as per the data from the report of National Crime Record Bureau (2013).

6.1.1.4. Atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

India is committed to the welfare and development of vulnerable sections of society. Equality in opportunities guaranteed by the Constitution of India, which also provides that no individual shall be discriminated against on the grounds of religion, caste or sex, fundamental rights and specific provisions of Articles 38, 39 and 46 in the Constitution of India, stand a testimony to the commitment of the State towards its people. The strategy of the state is to secure distributive justice and allocation of resources to support programmes for social, economic and educational advancement of the weaker persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The atrocities against persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are broadly categorized as `murder', `hurt', `rape', etc. or under Special Acts such as The Protection of Civil Rights Act and The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act are already included in overall crimes reported
under IPC and SLLs respectively and have been discussed in the study. Figure 6.4 and figure 6.5 illustrates the incidence of atrocities against scheduled caste and scheduled tribes in Kerala.

**Figure 6.4**
Atrocities against SCs

Figure 6.4 revealed the increasing trend of incidence of atrocities against persons belonging to Scheduled caste in Kerala. A total of 467 cases were reported in 2009 and it has increased to 810 cases in 2012 ie 73.4 percent of growth rate of atrocities against SC. But there is a slight decrease is facing in 2013 as 756. The study shows that the atrocities against the SC were increasing day by day with a decreasing trend. Table 6.4 states the atrocities against SC with different crime head.
Table 6.4
Atrocities against SCs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Atrocities</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.64)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping and Abduction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(13.28)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurt</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(31.69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC/ST (Prev. of Atrocities) Act 1989</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(9.86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other IPC Offences</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(43.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual Reports of NCRB during 2009-2013
Figure in parentheses show the percentage value

Table 6.4 provides a description on the atrocities under different head against the person belonging to SC in Kerala during 2009-2013. The atrocities should an increase except for arson, murder, kidnapping and abduction. Rape cases increased to 15.21 percent in 2013 from 12.22 percent in 2012. The substantial increase in reporting rape cases were shown as 13.28 percent in 2009, 13.21 percent in 2010 and 13.93 percent in 2011. A total of 36.60 percent of cases of hurt were reported during the year 2013 as compared to 35.56 percent in 2012 in Kerala. The cases
registered on SC and ST (prevention of Atrocities) Act and other IPC offenses have shown mixed trend in Kerala.

**Figure 6.5**
*Atrocities against STs*

It is revealed from figure 6.5 that a mixed trend in the incidents of atrocities against the person belonging to the Scheduled Tribe in Kerala. There were 231 cases reported during the year 2011, comparatively high; i.e 1.65 times growth as compared to preceding and succeeding year as 88 cases in 2010 and 124 cases 2012. The study also indicated an increasing trend of 135 cases in 2013. Atrocities against persons belonging to ST in different crime heads were shown in table 6.5.
Table 6.5 provides a description of atrocities against the person belonging to the Scheduled tribes in Kerala under different crime heads. It shows a mixed trend in the incidence of violence except murder and kidnapping and abduction. The cases related to rape and hurt were high in 2011 as compared to other years. It also shows an increasing trend during the year 2013. The cases registered under SC/ST prevention of Atrocities Act 1989 showed slight decrease in the incidence of violence. Other offences related to the IPC crime also showed a mixed trend.

### 6.1.1.5. Human Rights Violations by Police

The human rights violations and torture are cramp for all States. Among the violations of human rights by police, custodial death and torture were the most barbarous and heinous act. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) of the Government of India recorded six deaths in police custody in Kerala during 2009,
two in 2010 and one in 2011. Torture is a common practice; it has different magnitude from simple beating to causing death. Torture also leads to disappearances and deaths in ‘fake encounters'. Besides, it also causes fatal injuries, permanent disabilities, mental derailment, loss of faculties and psychological trauma. The incidence of human rights violations by police in Kerala during the year of 2009-2013 is shown in figure 6.6

**Figure 6.6**

*Human Rights Violations by Police*

Figure 6.6 reveals that a total of 3116 human rights violations by police were witnessed in the year 2013 and it is considered a slight decrease by -2.4 percent and 3193 cases by -2.57 percent decrease in 2012. Human rights violations by police personnel in the year 2010 are high as compared to preceding and succeeding years. It is 4294 cases as 23 percent of the growth of violations. It shows that the incidences of human rights violations by police personnel were showing a decreasing trend, but these violations by the caretakers of law and order need to be addressed and corrected.
6.1.2. Human Rights Violations: Causative Factors

The incidence of human rights violations in Kerala has been analysed through violation Map. A problem tree analysis was conducted to identify the cause and effect of human rights violations. The focus group discussion was held to gather data results are indicated in figure 6.7.

The core problem is human rights violations. The study discussed about the major cause and effect of human rights violations. The major causes of human rights violations were poverty and unemployment. Poverty and unemployment leads to economic inefficiency and it affects people’s life and breath. The people may be compelled to violate the rights of themselves and others by becoming involved in illegal activities. It leads to violent crimes and breaking of rules.

The study revealed that alcoholism and drug abuse is considered as the one major cause for human rights violations. The usages of alcohols and drugs lead to depleted sensory system of the individual. Misuse of power and corruption in the system were reported as the cause of human rights violation. In this democratic society, power is vested with the people or elected representative. Political parties commonly handled power; usually they misuse power according to their selfish needs. Bureaucracy is not at all free from corruption and bribery is common phenomena which needs to be eliminated.
Figure 6.7
Human Rights Violations: Causative Factors
Caste system is one of the other major causes for human rights violations. Discrimination or hurt on the basis of caste lead to violation of rights. Broken family and negative influence of media can cause for delinquent behavior of juveniles. Lack of awareness on human rights also promotes violations. Human rights are to protect the citizen in order to lead a life of dignity. Every individual is entitled to rights. But awareness on human rights is rather low and they cannot differentiate the rights of themselves with others. So human rights awareness is very essential for sustainable development.

6.3. Human Rights Issues in Kerala: Case Analysis

The mapping of human rights violations was accomplished with the analysis of cases on violation against women, children, police torture and custodial death, displacement and communal violence, and environmental pollution. These issues were analysed thoroughly in this section.

Case 1: Case of Rape and Murder

In all societies women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture. This is a violation of basic human rights of women and their exercise of fundamental freedom. Kerala, one of the most developed states of the country in terms of human development indices in India, is unfortunately no exception in the matter of crimes against women. Government and voluntary agencies are doing their best to protect women and wipe out this negative indicator of development yet it continues to increase day by day. One of the prominent cases is discussed here.
**Case Details:** Soumya, a 23-year-old woman commuter of Ernakulam-Shoranur passenger, train (56608) found in an unconscious state in woods near the Vallathol Nagar Railway Station. The incident happened on 2013, February 1 between 9-30 p.m. and 10 p.m. She was admitted in the Thrissur Government Medical College Hospital but succumbed to injuries. On February 3, 2011, the police took into custody Govindachamy of Virudhachalam in Cuddalore. According to the prosecution, he tried to rob Soumya of her valuables in the women’s compartment, smashed her head against the wall when she resisted, pushed her hands into the gap of a closing door and threw her out of the train. He jumped out of the speeding train, walked 200 meters to find her lying in a pool of blood. He carried her to woods near the rail-way track and raped her.

DNA evidence of samples collected from the site of the crime and victim’s body compared with suspect’s samples. A button of his shirt was also found in the woman's compartment. Traces of his semen were found in the victim’s body and clothes. Her fingernails had traces of his skin cells and blood. Fingernail marks were found on his body. Accounts of the local people who saw him in the passenger train and the nearby Kalamandalam bus stop; and statements by railway guards were recorded. Cries of a woman heard by a few passengers of the train and people who lived near the Vallathol Nagar station were also taken into wishes. Potency test was performed on the accused. Reference in post-mortem report mentioned assault as a cause of death. Extra-judicial confession of the accused to Dr. Hitesh Shankar of Thrissur Government Medical College Hospital that he had committed the rape.
Soumya’s cell phone recovered from Baby Varghese of Wayanad who bought it from Manikkan of Wayanad. Govindachamy had sold the phone to Manikkan.

The case should be considered rarest of rare in the light of scientific and circumstantial evidence. Absence of eyewitnesses should not be a lacuna in awarding maximum punishment as the man had no qualm or conscience in committing rape and murder. The Honourable Thrissur Fast Track court on October 31 pronounced the accused guilty under Sections 376 (rape), 302 (murder), 394 read with 397 (causing injury while committing robbery) and 447 (criminal trespass) of the Indian Penal Code. The court asked the accused 427 questions and recorded statements by 82 of the 154 witnesses. In all, 101 documents and 43 pieces of evidence were furnished against the accused.

**Discussion:** the Soumya rape and murder case, which hard to overstate the impact the case has had in Kerala. This case showed that the protection of women has been under threat. There are number of laws and enactment to protect women from violations, the present case showed the failure of the implementation of effective mechanism or its monitoring. All the rights were violated in Soumya’s case and the incidence occurred in a public, so the safety of girls’ came to be a matter of grave concern. In a state where sexual harassment is rampant, Soumya embodied the ultimate fear that a woman could be wantonly killed just for being a woman. The degradation of moral responsibility of the society is also shown in this case, by keeping away a co-traveller from the rescue of the soumya. The incident
shocked society's conscience. It triggered widespread protests across the State and debates on safety of women passengers.

**Case 2: Abuse of a Girl Child**

Violence against children indicated the lack of dignity and integrity of the social system. Violence may be at home, schools and streets; in places of work and at entertainment centres, and in care and detention centres. Perpetrators include parents, family members, teachers, caretakers, law enforcement authorities and peer groups.

**Case Details:** An 11-year-old girl, working as housemaid in an advocate's house at Aluva, died due to alleged torture following which the police tonight registered a case for murder and arrested the advocate and his wife. The girl hails from a village in Theni District from Tamil Nadu. Her father is a daily wage worker. Due to poverty and to ease the financial burden, her parents sent her for domestic work. The employer has a 2 year-old child whom the nine year old had to care for. While carrying the baby by mistake, slipped from her hand and fell down. For this reason the girl was tortured by the couple. There were several wounds on her body, including burns, which were two to three weeks old. They kept a hot iron rod on her chest. She was brutally ill-treated even branded. The extreme punishment was that she was made to stand outside the house whole day. The girl escaped by climbing out from the compound wall. Seeing the scars on the body, the neighbors rescued her. The neighbours immediately alerted the Aluva police admitted her in the hospital for treatment. The wounds got infected and she developed pneumonia and
she died. The postmortem conducted and revealed that there were over 80 wounds on the girl’s body. They registered a non-bailable case against the Advocate and his wife under the Child Labour Act, Juvenile Justice Act and the Indian Penal Code section 302 (Murder).

**Discussion:** Violence against children is never justifiable. Nor is it inevitable. If its underlying causes are identified and addressed, violence against children is entirely preventable. The above case evidenced not only child labour but also child abuse and the violations of educational rights of the child. The analysis further revealed that the crime was perpetuated by an Advocate and his wife. As a law professional he a person responsible to protect the rights of others, violated it severely.

**Case 3: A Case of Custodial Death**

Torture or inhuman treatment is offensive to human dignity and constitute an inroad into the right to live and which is prohibited by Article 21 of Indian constitution. The right to live which is comprehended within the broad connotation of the right to life can concededly be abridge according to the procedure established by law and therefore when a person is lawfully imprisoned, this right to live is bound to suffer attenuation to the extent to which it is incapable of enjoyment by reason of incarceration. The custodial death of Mr. Udhayakumar a 28–years-old man in Kerala is considered as the flagrant infringements of fundamental rights of the victim. The details of the case are stated below.
Case Details: Udaya Kumar, who died in police custody on the night of 27-9-2005, was taken into custody along with his companion Mani from Thiruvananthapuram and brutally manhandled, tortured and killed while in police custody at Fort Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram.

It was learned that Mr. Udayakumar was arrested together with his companion, Mr. Mani, because of their suspicious movements at the park. The police then took them to the Fort police station in Thiruvananthapuram. Mr. Udayakumar was severely beaten after he and his companion could not properly explain to the police where they had got Rs. 4000 (USD 88), which was in their possession. The torture method employed on Udaya Kumar was also uruttal method. He was beating by three policemen and was asked to lie on his back on a bench and repeatedly beaten on the soles of his feet with a cane. Thereafter, a heavy iron pipe was forcefully rolled down and up over his thighs resulting in the crushing and separation of his thigh muscles and flesh from the bone. When he was crying aloud, a piece of cloth was pushed into his mouth. At 10.20 p.m. when he was removed to the Medical College Hospital from the Fort Police Station he was pronounced dead.

Although three of the alleged perpetrators, were identified and suspended from their duty, no sanctions have been taken so far against their senior police officers regarding this matter. The State Human Rights Commission has registered a complaint of custodial death and has called for a report from the City Police Commissioner of Thiruvananthapuram. Commission Chairman, Mr. V. P.
Mohankumar said the commission had taken suo motu action and asked the police commissioner to give a report on the death of Mr. Udayakumar.

**Discussion:** This is a case of custodial death in an attempt to extort confession. The death is caused by police brutality and the victim having bodily injuries during police custody. The case details showed that, flagrant violation of fundamental right of victims, such as the violation of human rights, life and liberty took place. Custodial violence flouts the basic rights of the citizens and is an affront to human dignity. Police excesses and torture in custody of the detainees/under trial prisoners or suspects tarnishes the image of a civilized nation and it is necessary to take stern measures to check the malady to curb custodial violence and crime.

**Case 4: Youth alleges torture by police**

Among the violations of human rights by police, torture is the most barbarous and heinous act. Torture is a very common method adopted by Police, and it has different magnitude from simple beating to causing death by torture. Torture also leads to disappearances and deaths in ‘fake encounters'. Besides, it also causes fatal injuries, permanent disabilities, mental derailment, loss of faculties and psychological trauma.

**Case Details:** Mr. Binish is aged 19, and is from a poor family from Alappuzha district in Kerala state. He is from the Pulaya (Scheduled Caste) community, a Dalit (untouchable) community in India. Binish is deaf since birth. He works in a local workshop as an apprentice. He went to the temple on his bicycle. When the parents found that Binish had not returned home even after
nightfall, they became concerned. They started looking for Binish in the nearby places, but could not find him. On the next day the parents lodged a complaint at the nearby Arthungal Police Station alleging that Binish was missing. At about 3.00 pm Binish returned home in a three-wheeler along with his bicycle.

According to the statement given by Binish, while he was returning home from the temple he lost his direction. While he was searching around for the road to his house, he was stopped by police officers who came in a police vehicle. They asked police officers who stepped out from the vehicle started asking questions. But Binish, as he was deaf, could neither understand what the officers were asking, nor could explain to them his situation. When the officers found that Binish was not answering the questions one officer slapped him on his face. Then the police officers started forcing Binish to enter the police vehicle. Binish resisted and even tried to escape, but could not succeed. The officers tied Binish’s hands and legs with a rope and threw him into the police vehicle. Soon the vehicle reached Pattanakadu Police Station. At the police station, the officers removed the rope with which Binish was tied up. The officers started questioning Binish, but Binish could not understand what was being asked and could not communicate to the officers. He tried to explaining through sign language that he is deaf. The officers did not believe him. Then the officers burned his toes with cigarette flames. Later they caned Binish trying to force him to speak. Not satisfied with this, the officers brought camphor pellets and forced Binish to hold it in his palms. Then the officers set the pellets on fire, burning Binish's palms. While Binish was forced to hold the burning camphor
pellets in his palms, the officers assaulted him. Finally Binish collapsed not being able to bear anymore pain. Binish was taken to a hospital, of which Binish cannot remember the name, where, he was given some medicine. Later the officers realising that Binish cannot speak or hear concluded that he is innocent and decided to set him free. The officers called for a three-wheeler, asked Binish to get in and put his cycle also into the passenger compartment and ordered the three-wheeler driver to drop Binish off at his house.

Later, Binish was taken to Cherthala Thaluk Hospital by his parents where he was admitted for treatment to his injuries. In the meanwhile Binish's story was reported in local media. There was an immediate public outcry against the police officers involved in the incident. The Kerala State Human Rights Commission has also taken the case into notice and issued orders for the state police to investigate the case. Meanwhile the local police have issued a statement that Binish was not tortured, but was suffering from chronic asthma. However this statement has been refuted by everyone involved in this case who is concerned about the police atrocities in the State.

**Discussion:** As the police force is considered as the law enforcement machinery to protect the rights of the common man in the society, they were not supposed to intervene or destroy the rights of citizen. In this case deceased was arrested by the police and kept in police custody. Sever human rights violation is happened by means unlawful arrest, illegal detention, harassment and ill treatment even if the victim is a disabled one. This case was only one among other number of
cases of police brutality. It has been prevented by the bill of Prevention of Torture 2010, being this, the case was evidenced that, the violation by police is still occurred.

**Case 5: Chengara Land Struggle**

Land alienation as well as forceful displacement from natural habitats has been experienced by the Dalits and Adivasis in Kerala. These land struggles were unknown in Kerala till the historic land agreement was signed between the protesting Dalits and Adivasis of Kerala and the State government. Since then, the land struggles took a new order of practice. First ever, large scale mass reclamation of land happened in Muthanga, which lead to militant struggles for land rights. Chengara connects Kerala to the larger reality of land struggles across the world where landless oppressed people were successfully mobilized to assert land rights.

**Case Details:** The Chengara struggle is a movement by landless Dalits, Adivasis and other marginalised peoples to gain ownership of land. The struggle started on 4th August 2007 in the southern plantation belt of Pathanamthitta. It is a fight to reclaim ownership of land that has been part of a long standing promise of the Government. During the last two years, Chengara in Kerala had become the symbol of a silent war for land. Unlike in Singur or in Nandigram, it was not a fight against eviction. Instead, it was a fight of those who toiled on land, but never possessed any cultivable land, and hence asserted their right to own sustainable land in a society that professes equality and fraternity. To this end, about 5000 families totaling around 24,000 people from different parts of the region have moved on to the Harrison Malayalam Private Ltd estate, building tents with poles and plastic
sheets to establish the struggle front. The impugned land was a part of land leased to Harrison Malayalam Ltd, which lease expired in 1985 and no rents have been paid to the State exchequer since then. The struggle is also a statement against illegal encroachment of land by a corporate entity, that ought to belong to the people, for commercial purposes with the tacit support of the State machinery.

The Chengara Land struggle therefore is about affirming the prior claim of these Dalits and Adivasis to land and hence to transfer legal ownership from the planters to the landless agitators. The struggle is being carried forward under the banner of Sadhujana Vimochana Samyuktha Vedi (SJVSV) and has the support and solidarity of various Civil Society groups, movements and citizens across the country. The State Government is yet to make any serious move to initiate negotiations with the protestors. The past feeble attempts at discussions were more a ploy to threaten the agitators with police action and subvert the agitation. It is in this context that the Chengara struggle attracted solidarity from all over the country putting the State Government on the defensive.

**Discussion:** Land is power in Kerala as elsewhere in the country. But it becomes all the more precious here, when the density of population is 819 per sq km. Vast tracts of agricultural land have been converted into residential areas. Industry, infrastructure and tourism too demand their share of the cake. Tremendous political will and meticulously planned action are required for solving the land-inequities of Kerala. Chengara explains to the world a not-too-much discussed reality in Kerala.
Case 6: Endosulfan Tragedy

The primary cause of environmental degradation is human disturbance. The degree of the environmental impact varies with the cause, the habitat, and the plants and animals that inhabit it. It will even affect the life of human being as well as other creatures in the world. Everyone has a right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being and have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures. Endosulfan became an extremely controversial agrochemical due to its severely toxic nature, likelihood for bioaccumulation, and role as an endocrine disruptor in Kasaragode in Kerala.

Case details: The Endosulfan tragedy happened in Kasaragode district of Kerala. It is not a well-known tragedy. It is considered by many experts in the field of pesticide toxicity as one of the world’s worst pesticide disasters. The Plantation Corporation of Kerala (PCK), a public sector undertaking under the State Government, which owns three cashew plantations covering 4600 hectares in Kasargode, sprayed endosulfan aerially in these plantations for 24 years (1976 to 2000), three times a year. These uninterrupted spraying in spite of several warnings about its disastrous impact on health and environment has resulted in several chronic, critical and life-threatening ailments in the areas surrounding the plantations. This tragedy occurred because a toxic chemical was used continuously in a populated area with several (open) natural drinking water sources.
Eleven Gram Panchayats covering twelve villages (group and sub-villages) have been severely affected. These villages are Enmakaje, Belur, Kumbadaje, Badiadka, Muliyar, Karadukka, Periya, Pullur, Ajanur, Kallar, Panathady, Kayyur, and Cheemeni. In these villages there is a very high concentration of chronic health complications like Mental, Physical and Behavioral disorders, Sensory loss, Neurological ailments, Cardiovascular diseases, Congenital Anomalies, Dermatological and Musculoskeletal disorders etc. People were also affected with various chronic ailments, many irreversible and difficult to treat. People are still dying from the after-effects of the pesticide.

No doubt, that there had been a heavy damage to human beings, animals and the environment in Kasaragode. Endosulfan is a harmful pesticide. The Pollution Control Boards and Environment Protection Agencies have certified this fact and warned against its use. It is currently banned in at least 88 countries and the others have partially banned its use. The Gov. of India has been defending use of Endosulfan for commercial reasons for too long. Hence pesticides and insecticides are harmful to the ecological balance and that they should be replaced as soon as possible by herbicides.

Discussion: The above case shows that it is time to adopt and use environment-friendly methods of agriculture. The government needs to focus on rehabilitation of the victims of Endosulfan use, with health, medical, educational and overall care. It needs to think about ways to replace harmful chemical insecticides and pesticides and move towards an organic, environment-friendly
method of agriculture, which will ensure and preserve the richness and fertility of the soil for the coming generations.

**Case 7: Plachimada Struggle for Water and Life**

The human right to water entitles everyone to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic uses. The human right to water places the main responsibilities upon governments to ensure that people can enjoy sufficient, safe, accessible and affordable water, without discrimination. Plachimada is today synonymous with the struggle for right to life through water. There can be no dispute about the need for drinking water to sustain life. Nor can it be disputed that the right of human beings to this most essential need is inalienable.

**Case Details:** Plachimada is a little hamlet in Palakkad District, which is known as the ‘rice bowl of Kerala.’ The majority of the population consists of Adivasis. Their primary occupation is agriculture. About 80% of the villagers are engaged in agricultural labour, and 20 percent were engaged in other labour activities. In 1998, HCCBPL acquired 34.4 acres of land (mostly paddy fields) in order to set up a bottling plant at Plachimada. On January 25, 2000, the Perumatty Panchayat (a local governing body whose constituency includes Plachimada) granted permission to begin building the plant. The Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) granted the company a permit to produce 561,000 litres of beverage per day, with an average requirement of 3.8 litres of water for a litre of beverage.
The source of water was primarily groundwater from about 6 bore wells and two open ponds, and about 2 million liters of water was extracted per day.

Within six months of the establishment of the Coca Cola plant, the people around the plant began experiencing problems that they never ever encountered before. The level of ground water receded and the quality of water deteriorated drastically. The effect spread to around 1 to 1.5 km radius of the Coca Cola plant. The water shortage affected agricultural operations – the mainstay of the Adivasi families. Salinity and hardness of water increased with high concentrations of calcium and magnesium that rendered water unfit for human consumption, domestic use and for irrigation. Earlier the foul smelling dry sedimented slurry waste was "sold" as fertilizer to the unsuspecting farmers which was later given "free" and now, with protests and objections, surreptitiously dumped on the way side and on lands at night.

Complaints to the authorities fell on deaf ears. The first protest was launched in front of the company office in February 2002. Finding no positive response from the company or the authorities, an indefinite protest was launched on 22 April 2002, led by Adivasi women Mayilamma and C.K. QJanu. As the protest gained momentum, the protestors – now organized as Plachimada Coca Cola Virudha Samara Samithi or The Plachimada Anti-Coca Cola Agitation Committee – and those supporting them, namely the Plachimada Coca Cola Virudha Samara Aikyadhardya Samithi or The Plachimada Anti-Coca Cola Agitation Solidarity Committee, fine-tuned their demands.
Discussion: The struggle at Plachimada continues to this day as villagers seek to recover the loss of livelihood and counter the extreme damage to the water resources in the area. The struggle represents the efforts of villagers and activists to wage a battle against a multi-national company both at the level of the grassroots and the judiciary. It is also a testament to the ability of local self-governance bodies to effectively determine the nature of development in their respective areas, and their right to prevent undue extraction of their resources.

Section II: Human Rights Protective Mechanisms in Kerala

Every individual and every organ of society has a universal obligation to contribute to an atmosphere conducive to the enjoyment of human rights. The governmental and non-governmental organizations have taken efforts in protecting human rights. The central as well as state government perpetuates human rights culture and education with the support bodies like NHRC, NCERT and UGC. The Amnesty International, Red Cross Society, Institute of Human Rights Education (IHRE), South India Cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring (SICHREM), Human Rights Law Network are grossly involved at imparting human rights into culture. The present section of the analysis dealt on the profiling of various state and non-state actors to protect human rights, it includes profile of Kerala Legal Service Authority, Kerala State Human Rights Commission, and Janaeethi, a NGO for peoples initiative on human rights protection in Kerala.
6.2.1 Kerala State Legal Service Authority (KELSA)

Kerala State Legal Service Authority functions according to the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, enacted to constitute Legal Services Authorities for providing free and competent legal services to weaker sections of the society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice were not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities, to promote justice on a basis of equal opportunity. This Act was enforced on 9th of November, 1995 after certain amendments were introduced therein by the Amendment Act of 1994.

6.2.1.1. Structure of Legal Service Authorities

A nationwide network has been envisaged under the Act for providing legal aid and assistance. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is the apex body constituted to lay down policies and principles for making legal services available under the provisions of the Act and to frame most effective and economical schemes for legal services. State Legal Services Authority is constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the central authority and to give legal services to the people and conduct Lok Adalats in the State. State Legal Services Authority is headed by the Chief Justice of the State High Court who is its Patron-in-Chief. A serving or retired Judge of the High Court is nominated as its Executive Chairman. District Legal Services Authority is constituted in every District to implement Legal Aid Programmes and Schemes. The District Judge is its ex-officio Chairman. Taluk Legal Services Committees are also to coordinate the activities of legal services in the Taluk and to organise Lok Adalats. The Taluk Legal Services Committee is
headed by a senior Civil Judge operating within the jurisdiction of the Committee who is its ex-officio Chairman. The hierarchy of Bodies created under the Act is depicted in figure 6.8.

**Figure 6.8**
Structure of Legal Service Authorities

![Diagram of Legal Service Authorities hierarchy]

### 6.2.1.2. Functions of Kerala Legal Service Authority

Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KELSA) is constituted to give effect to the policies and directions of the Central Authority (NALSA) and to provide legal aid to poor, weak and the marginalized sections of the society for establishing their constitutional and legal rights. It has legal aid panels of senior and junior advocates and lawyers specialized in various fields. The panels of lawyers are maintained by State Authority, HCLSC, District Legal Services Authorities, and Taluk Legal Services Committees. The lawyers render legal aid to those who are in
need of legal assistance. They also conduct training programmes and school and college level legal literacy programmes. Primarily, the State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities, Taluk Legal Services Committees, etc. have been asked to discharge the following main functions on a regular basis.

Free and Competent Legal Services to eligible Persons

Legal Service to persons who satisfy the criteria laid down under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Every Person who has to file or defend a case shall be entitled to legal services under this Act if that person is a member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, a victim of trafficking in human beings or beggar, a woman or a child, a person with disability and a victim of a mass disaster in receipt of annual income less than Rupees One Lakh or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a court other than the Supreme court.

Lok Adalats for Amicable settlement of Disputes

Lok Adalat is a forum where the disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably. Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. An award made by the Lok Adalat is deemed to be decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal lies before any court against it. Nature of cases to be referred to Lok Adalats are the cases pending before any court and any dispute which has not been brought before any court and is likely to be filed before any court. Permanent Lok Adalath is held for public utility services at Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode region with jurisdiction over all
respective districts. Established Mediation and Conciliation centers. And Special Lok Adalaths were conducted for dispute settlement with Government Departments.

**Legal Awareness Camps**

Imparting knowledge of various aspects of law and legal procedure were the agenda of the legal service act. KELSA conducted various programmes on generating awareness such as Legal Literacy classes, classes were organized for students of undergraduate classes in all colleges in Kerala; Legal Literacy Programmes for villagers, industrial workmen, tribals and other under privileged groups; Visits to the Mental Health Centres and Psychiatric Hospitals for providing Legal Aid to mentally ill persons; Receiving petitions & grievances from the persons who deserve free legal services; Para-Legal Volunteers selected from College Students and Members of Kudumbashree to act as intermediaries between Common people and KELSA; 24 hour mobile Legal helpline 9846700100 with the technical support of Vodafone telecom service; and Disaster Management Scheme of the National Legal Services Authority introduced u/s 12(e) of the Legal Services Authorities Act implemented at all centres of District Legal Services Authorities.

**6.2.1.3. Activities of Thirssur District Legal Service Authority**

In Kerala, the District Judges of 14 districts are officiated as Chairmen of District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) and 63 Taluk Legal Service Committees are being officiated by the senior most Judicial Officers of the respective centres for fulfilling the objectives of the Legal Services Authorities Act. The present study tried to analyse the Activities of Thrissur District Legal service authority, which is constituted with five Taluk Legal Service committees to
implement legal aid programmes and schemes. Table 6.5 indicates the major activities of district legal service authority during the 2010-2013.

### Table 6.6
**Activities of Thrissur District Legal Service Authority**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lok adalat</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Aid Beneficiaries</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>1173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Awareness Programmes</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6.6 shows the major activities of Thrissur District Legal Authority with its taluk legal service committee. The activities were mainly classified into three categories as legal adalats, legal aid services, and legal awareness programmes. During the year 2010, 382 Lok adalats were conducted and it has been increased by 439 in the year 2011. DSLA Thrissur conducted 376 Lok adalats in 2012 and 397 in 2013. The study further revealed that the number of legal aid beneficiaries was increased tremendously from 2010 to 2013. The number of legal aid beneficiaries was 823 in 2010 and it has been increased by 1173 in 2011. In 2013, legal aid beneficiaries number were hiked to 3442 from 1236 in 2012. The people were used the legal service for protecting the rights. A total of 532 legal awareness programmes were held by the DLSA Thrissur during the year of 2010-2013. It has been organized programmes in schools, colleges, voluntary organization, rural
youth clubs on different aspects of law as awareness programme on consumer rights, motor vehicle act, women and child rights etc. Human rights day and law day celebrations were the part of this awareness programme.

KELSA is keen to develop and promote a culture of conciliation instead of litigation in the country so that the citizens of this country prefer to resolve their disputes and differences across the table in a spirit of goodwill and brotherhood. KELSA wants to ensure that even the weakest amongst the weak in the country does not suffer injustice arising out of any abrasive action on the part of State or private person.

6.2.2. Kerala State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC)

Apart from the formal Judicial delivery system, there also exists a number of statutory as well as constitutional institutions, which are referred to as Human Rights Institutions (HRIs). It entrusted with a complaint –mechanism system in case of human rights violations, overseeing the status of human rights and work for its improvement in the country. Human rights commission, commission for women, commission for minorities and commission for scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribe were considered foremost human rights institutions in the country. The study has profiled the functions and activities of Kerala state Human Right Commission (KSHRC).

The Kerala State Human Rights Commission was set up by the Government of Kerala in December 1998 under Section 21 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. Notwithstanding the fact that Kerala is often described as the most
enlightened State of the Union, this State has been a tragic victim of a multitude of human rights violations. At a time when the oppressed and the downtrodden commoners had no institutional framework to fall back upon in the matter of the violation of their constitutionally protected rights, the launch of the KSHRC has been appreciated by all. The Commission comprises a chairman and three members including one lady member. The composition of members and organogram of the KSHRC is given in figure 6.9.

The Commission from the State capital Thirivanthapuram guaranteed protection of human rights by means, the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual, guaranteed by the constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.
6.2.2.1. Activities of the Commission

The commission’s action to perform function mandated by section 12r/w sub section 21 of the protection of human rights Act 1993. Addressing issues concerning human rights and attempt to sensitizing people to the safe guards available for the protection of human rights remarked vital role of the commission’s activities.

Action taken on Petitions

The commission enquires complaints recorded in accordance with the prescribed procedure and decision is taken there on. Whenever it is focused that the intervention by the commission warranted, the commission calls for report from the concerned authority and whenever the commission feels enquiry is ordered. The commission forwards its recommendations to the government/ authority concerned on the human rights violation.

Table 6.7
Petitions Received and Disposed (2004-2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Petitions</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Received</td>
<td>Disposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2392</td>
<td>1146</td>
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<td>3468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>5868</td>
<td>3086</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual report 2013-14, Kerala State Human Rights Commission
Table 6.7 shows the statement of petitions received and disposed. Through the table we can analyze the role of SHRC in the protection and promotion of human rights in Kerala. In the year 2004 they received 2392 cases and disposed 1146 case (47.8 percent). In 2005, 4050 cases were received and disposed 2099 cases (51.8 percent). 58.4 percent of the cases were disposed in 2006. 52.0 percent in 2007 and 53.1 percent in 2008. In the year 2009 they received 5131 and disposed 2722 (53 percent). In 2010 they disposed 3180 cases out of 5062 received cases (62.8 percent). Only 51.5 percent cases were disposed in the year 2011 and in the year 2012, 57.5 percent of the cases were disposed. Total of 5868 cases were received in the year 2013 and they disposed 52.5 percent of the cases. The study revealed that the performance of KSHRC is only average as they failed to dispose more than 60 percent of the cases as analyzed in the last ten year performance.

**Action taken on Suo moto-basis**

The commission has authority to take action. It is one of the statutory powers of the Human rights commission. The commission can make inquiry and take action on it. The commission makes recommendations to the government and related authorities regarding the particular human rights violation and make comments on it. Table 6.8 indicates the cases taken Suo-moto during 2004-2013.
Table 6.8
Cases taken on the basis of Suomoto (2004-2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Petitions</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Received</td>
<td>Disposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual report 2013-14, Kerala State Human Rights Commission

Seminars organised by the Commission

The members of the commission visit jails, hospital medical colleges, Juvenile homes, poor home. Medical colleges and other Institutions enjoyed under the section 12 (c) of Protection of Human Rights Act and give recommendations to the government regarding the condition prevailing in the institution on which specific attention of the government is needed. It made sincerely attempts to sensitize people about human rights by addressing meetings organized by N.G.Os and other organisations. It has addressed well over hundred such meetings, besides giving a good number of radio talks and several television interviews.
6.2.3 NGO Initiative to Protect Human Rights: Jananeethi Thrissur

In the state of Kerala there is a number of non-governmental organizations working in the field of human rights. Under the section 12(i) of the Act, it is compulsorily required that the commission encourage the effort of NGO and institutions working in the field of human rights with the view to spread human rights literacy amongst various sections of the people and also to promote awareness for protection of human rights. KSHRC has given recognition to NGOs and permits them to conduct campaigns and there by encourages their work. At the beginning there were eleven NGO’s registered under the commission. But the commission cancelled that recognition due to the ideological conflict among the organizations. The voluntary organizations have great role in spreading human rights awareness and propagation of human rights education. They published documents for educating masses in the matter of human rights, women rights and child rights. People’s council for action, TOP (Torture prevention center) People’s watch Kerala, South Indian cell for Human rights education and monitoring (SICHREM), CHRO (Confederation of Human Rights Organization), Amnesty international – Kerala chapter, Jana Neethi- Thrissur, were major human rights organizations in Kerala. They did an enthusiastic effort for spreading human rights awareness to the various sections of the society by means of organizing campaigns, workshops and seminars. The present studies profile the activities of Jana neethi, the famous NGOs for people’s initiative in protecting human rights.

*Jananeethi* (meaning ‘Justice to All’) was started in 1991 as service center for legal aid and defending the poor and marginalized helping them get access to
justice and equity. It was registered under the Travancore Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act XII of 1955 in the year 1992, as a voluntary, non-sectarian, non-political, non-profit making and secular programme adhering to the sublime ideals and the democratic values enshrined in the Constitution of India, is intended and designed for the defence of life, dignity, liberty and other fundamental rights of the defenceless. It’s a creative collective of human rights defenders, eminent jurists, retired judges, lawyers, academics, writers, thinkers, artists, social workers, and activists in the spheres of culture, environment, community health and education.

The structure of Jananeethi has been depicted in figure 6.10.

![Organogram of Jananeethi](image-url)
The ultimate aim and purpose of Jananeethi is to create a conflict free society and to enable people to resolve their disputes and conflicts peacefully upholding the dignity and freedom of all concerned. The major activities of Jananeethi are Public Interest Litigations (PIL), legal aid and legal assistance, human rights education and legal literacy, negotiation and settlement of disputes, legal counseling and consumer education, training of para-legal activists, research and documentation, publication of news magazines, journals and leaf-let, ensuring public participation in legislative processes and legal reforms by getting the people involved in debates, discussions and workshops, organising and mobilising People's power against all forms of corruption and networking with other NGOs, consistent with the aims and objectives of Jananeethi.

The unique contribution of Jananeethi is that it has recorded the first litigation-free village in India in the year 2000. This has given impetus to several groups and organizations in subsequent years to strive to make further zones litigation-free. In 2002 Jananeethi launched another experiment in creating a crime-free zone. Among several services of Jananeethi, its psycho-legal therapeutic services for holistic healing stand singular and innovative.

Jananeethi uses law and legal system as therapeutic agents. Justice means healing. It is a right based, victim-centered, approach for total healing through legal, social, psychological and emotional reparation. Through free legal aid service, Jananeethi strives to ensure that constitutional pledge is fulfilled in its letter and spirit and equal justice is made available to the poor, down trodden and weaker sections of the society.
Section III: Human Rights Awareness among Youth in Kerala

Analysis of this part, intends to find out human rights awareness among the youth in Kerala. Every an individual has certain rights to lead a decent and dignified life in the society. The Universal declaration of human rights and various international covenants ensured these rights, which cannot be taken away from them. The living arrangements and law provisions were accorded on the basis of these rights guaranteed by the State. But every individual have some sort of responsibility to protect and promote rights; especially the youth considered to be valuable force for peace building in the Nation. The present investigation analyzed the awareness of youth on human rights values and principles and the rights related to humanitarian concern. Awareness on the rights related to democratic governance, the rights of marginalized and also the awareness on human rights protective mechanisms has also been investigated in the present study.

6.4.1. Human Rights Values and Principles

Human rights are firmly rooted with certain values and principles which are highly influential with identity of every individual. Awareness on human rights values and principles were examined with nine statements constructed on various aspects such as dignity, equality, life, non-discrimination, universality of rights, liberty etc. Figure 6.11 represents the awareness on human rights values and principles among youth.
6.3.1.1. Dignity

Dignity is a quality or state of being worthy of esteemed respect with grace and well-being. Human dignity has innate rights to be valued and has deep rooted manifestations in every human being. The study examined the individual’s right to lead a decent and dignified life in the society. Human beings are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. As per the findings, 86.5 percent of the respondents were positive and answered ‘strongly agree’ and 10.5 percent agreed with statement. The study states that most of them considered dignity as the core value of human rights and the awareness on this values is comparatively high.

Figure 6.11

Human Rights Values and Principles

![Bar chart showing human rights values and principles]

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
6.3.1.2. Mutual Respect

The state introduced numerous laws and regulations giving rights to its citizens in order to avoid contradiction and to have mutual respect. The mutual respect for human rights is a positive feeling of esteem for every human being to integrate with the culture. This aspect is analysed and the details are given in the figure (6.10). 49.5 percent ‘strongly agreed’ and 47.5 percent of youth ‘agreed’ with the statement.

6.3.1.3. Indivisibility

Human rights are indivisible. Whether they relate to civil, cultural, economic, political or social issues, human rights are inherent to the dignity of every human person. Consequently, all human rights have equal status, and cannot be positioned in a hierarchical order. Denial of one right invariably impedes enjoyment of other rights. The awareness on the principle of indivisibility has been analysed with a negative statement as “human rights of an individual can be denied”. It witnessed in figure (6.10), 57.4 percent of the youth were correctly responded on the statement among this 29.1 percent strongly disagreed and 28.3 percent disagreed. This indicates the indivisibility of human rights and the belief that nobody can take away the rights. Nevertheless, 17.9 percent ‘strongly agreed’ and 20.1 percent ‘agree’. The analysis of the given statement reveal that the awareness on the indivisibility nature of human rights has to improve.
6.3.1.4. Absolute Freedom

The reality that human rights does not mean complete or absolute freedom but are subjected to reasonable restrictions. The freedoms is restricted in the public interest on grounds of national security, to preserve public order, to protect public health, to maintain moral standards, to secure due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others or to meet the just requirements of the general welfare of a democratic society. “Human rights means absolute freedom”, is negative statements, 25.5 percent of the respondents ‘strongly disagreed’ and 18.1 percent ‘disagreed’. This is because they believed that human rights needs some restriction to regulate and maintain social and national security.

6.3.1.5. Inseparable

Rights and duties are inseparable as like the two sides of the same coin. Every right has its corresponding duty and ones rights is another human being. Rights are certain privileges granted by the state and the state enjoins upon each citizen to perform their obligations or duties. The above discussion came to be strong from the inferences of the data on the figure 6.10, as positive statements 47.5 percent strongly agreed and 21.8 percent agreed with the statement on the conception of inseparable nature of rights and duties.

6.3.1.6. Right to Life

The right to life is a fundamental right, on which all other rights are just corollaries. The right to life states that a person owns his own body. It is the property of each person to do with as he pleases. No one may force to do anything, no one
may injure in any way, and above all, no one may take their life. The awareness on the right to life is exhaustive. This is revealed from the figure 6.10, as 55.8 percent strongly agreed and 23.8 percent agreed with statement on right to life.

6.3.1.7. Right to Liberty

The right to liberty is a part of the right to life, specifically referring to freedom of action. Liberty is freedom in the public sphere, freedom from captivity, oppression or despotic rule. This is a necessity and means for survival. Survival by reason required that every individual is able to act upon a reason otherwise the reason is of no avail. They can only act on reason if they are free from the coercion of others. The study discloses that every individual has the right to live with liberty. Exploring the views of the respondent, it is noticed that 87.2 percent of them positively responded to the statement, “Every individual have right to live with freedom and individuality”. This reveals that the awareness level on the right to liberty of youth as comparatively high.

6.3.1.8. Non-discrimination

Human rights must be guaranteed without discrimination of any kind. This includes not only purposeful discrimination, but also protection from policies and practices which may have a discriminatory effect. Equality presupposes that all individuals have the same rights and deserve the same level of respect. All people have the right to be treated equally irrespective of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property or birth. “Physically differences of an individual decide their rights” is the statement on
equality or non-discrimination, which tried to assess the awareness of youth on the principle of non-discrimination. As negative statement only 32 percent were disagreed and 20.5 percent remained neutral. It can be inferred that the creating awareness on concept of equality or non-discrimination is vital to inculcating human right values and principles to the culture.

6.3.1.9. Universality

The principle of universality endorsed that human rights must be afforded to everyone, without exception. The entire premise of the framework is that people are entitled to their rights simply by virtue of being human. This principle of universality can be assessed through the negative statement as “The people from town and cities possess more rights than villagers”. 59.2 percent of the people did not agree because they know about the universal nature human rights and it cannot be changed according to the place, race and caste. 23 percent negatively responded with statement due to some wrong idea about the this principles. So the awareness on the principle of universality of human rights has to improve.

6.3.2. Humanitarian Concerns

Humanitarianism means the welfare of all human beings and alleviates human sufferings. Its purpose is to protect and to ensure respect for every human being. This can promote mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples. The economic, social, and cultural rights are based on humanitarian principles as such obliging the state to provide welfare to all its citizens. Source of these laws can be found in numerous declarations and
conventions. While the UDHR is the initial foundation and CSECR constitutes elaborative framework on these rights. It constitutes three interrelated components as social rights is the right to adequate standard of living, economic rights considered as the right to property, work and social security, and cultural rights contain the right to take part in the cultural life, right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress, rights to benefit from the protection of the moral and material interest and freedom indispensable for scientific research and creative activity. From the above discussion, the economic, social, and cultural rights are related to humanitarian concerns and welfare of humanity. Figure 6.12 reveals the awareness of youth on these rights and its implications.

**Figure 6.12**

**Humanitarian Concerns**
6.3.2.1. Social Security

Social security is a concept enshrined in Article 22 of the UDHR which enunciates, “Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security”. It refers to the action programmes of government, intended to promote the welfare of the population through assistance measures guaranteeing access to sufficient resources for food and shelter and to promote health and well-being for the population at large and potentially vulnerable segments such as children, the elderly, the sick and the unemployed. Figure 6.12 indicates that unemployment and old age pensions should be part of social security measures and it should be ensured by the government itself for the welfare of its citizen. 53.8 percent of the respondents strongly agree and 28.3 agree with the statement. So awareness on the social security measure of the government among youth is comparatively high.

6.3.2.2. Economic Rights

The concept of ‘haves and have nots’ is rooted in the society as the idea of personal ownership emerged. Today, allocations of world’s wealth, is more uneven than ever before. Some individuals and groups have become extremely wealthy, while others have even become ultimate poor. The disparity between these two groups is a global phenomenon. In this context the statement, “economic efficiency is the basis to determine the rights or privileges” was adjudged by most of the respondent at (56 percent).
6.3.2.3. Family Rights

Family is considered as the basic social unit. It serves to rear and groom children and plays a major role in enculturation and socialization. The family rights includes right for special concession; parental love, affection and procreation; freedom of choice; matrimonial rights; property rights and rights against suicide and exploitation. The rights to decision making and right to well-being of family were analysed through study with the statement “women have certain role for well-being of family”. 45.1 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and 38.7 percent agreed with the statement. It reveals that women and men have equal rights in decision making and well-being of the family as a base unit in the society.

6.3.2.4. Religious Diversity

Throughout India’s history, religion has played a prominent role in the country's cultural development. Religious diversity and religious tolerance are both established in the country by law and custom. The responses on the statement “religious diversity leads to the curtailment of unity in the country” indicates that 60.8 percent of the respondent were positive in their responses to this negative statement. As considered the majority of the opinion the awareness on the unity in diversity concept is relatively high.

6.3.2.5. Right to Health

The right to health has been enumerated in international agreements on human rights and it is a universal right to have minimum standard of health to which all individuals are entitled. The State is responsible for ensuring a right to health
and part of substantive rights to adequate standard of living. 83.7 percent of the respondents positively agree with the statement and only 16.3 percent responded negatively. So the study revealed that free medical and health facilities should be ensured to all its citizens by the state.

6.3.2.6. Right to Work

Right to work can provide an income, ensuring adequate standard of living. Work is freely chosen by the person concerned, that sufficient income is obtained to provide workers to protect their interests through trade union. It is observed from figure 6.12 that 55.7 percent of the respondents positively responded to the statement, “Employees should obey the employer without any resistance in the factories” and ensure the rights of employees through grievance redressal and participation in the trade union activities. So the inference made conclusion that awareness on the concept of right to work has to be cleared.

6.3.2.7. Equal Pay for Equal Work

Equal pay for equal work is the concept of labour rights that individuals doing the same work should receive the same remuneration. It is most commonly used in the context of gender discrimination, in relation to the gender pay gap and permissible to have two pay scales to both men and women in same cadre for persons having same duties and responsibilities. In India this discriminatory exercise is prohibited by the Equal Remuneration Act 1976. This concept of equal pay for equal work has to be assessed through a negative statement as “the women are not entitled for the principle of equal pay for equal work”. It is evidenced in
figure 6.12 that, 63.5 percent of the respondents have positive response with the statement because they know about relevance of gender pay gap in modern globalized society.

6.3.2.8. Right to Clean Environment

Every human has a right to live in a clean and healthy environment. The constitutions of countries all over the world guarantees a healthy environment and also take appropriate measures to prevent environmental pollution so as to maintain safe and healthy environment. 72.2 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and 15.7 percent agreed with the statement “every individual have right to clean and safe environment”.

6.3.2.9. Right to Education

Education is a fundamental right, recognized in the International Covenant on and it insists on free and compulsory primary education for all, an obligation to develop secondary education accessible to all as well as an obligation to develop equitable access to higher education. It also includes a responsibility to provide basic education for individuals who have not completed primary education. In addition to these access to education provisions, the right to education encompasses the obligation to rule out discrimination at all levels of the educational system, to set minimum standards and to improve quality of education. The above discussion proved through the statement “Higher education should be on the basis of merit”. Most of the respondents (81.8 percent) responded positively to the statement.
6.3.2.10. Cultural Rights

Rights related to themes such as language, cultural and artistic production, participation in cultural life, cultural heritage, intellectual property rights, author’s rights, and rights of minorities and access to culture are considered as cultural rights. “Every individual has the right to participate in their own cultural life”, this statement was verified with responses of youth through the analysis. 36.1 percent strongly agreed and 44.4 percent agreed with statement on cultural rights. So the study revealed that awareness on the cultural right of the people were high.

6.3.2.11. Voluntary Marriage

Women and men have the same rights to choose their partner. A marriage is only valid if both parties enter into it of their own free will and consent to it. As per the Indian Constitution, the marriage age is 18 for girls and 21 for men. Forcing someone to enter into a marriage is prohibited by law, and it is a violation of fundamental human rights. The above disclosure can be proved with the support of figure 6.12 is that, most of the respondent (80.2 percent) positively responded with the concept of voluntary marriage and awareness of this right is very high.

6.4.2.12. Right to Property

The right to protection of property gives an entitlement for owning the land and property. The right to property is not absolute and States have a wide degree of discretion to limit the rights and it is enshrined in Article 17 of the UDHR. The awareness on the right to property was tested with the statement that, “nobody can acquire private property in India”. 60.1 percent of the respondent negatively
responded and 20.9 percent had no opinion. This shows that awareness right to private property has to improve.

6.3.3. Democratic Governance

The values of freedom and the principle of holding periodic and genuine elections by universal suffrage are essential elements of democracy. In turn, democracy provides the natural environment for the protection and effective realization of human rights. It seeks to maintain social order on the basis of equality of status and of opportunities and abolition of all discrimination of birth status. Civil and political rights establish democratic concerns in the society and main part of international human rights comprised with the first portion of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Civil rights include the ensuring of peoples’ physical and mental integrity, life and safety; protection from discrimination on grounds such as race, gender, national origin, colour, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, or disability and individual rights such as privacy, the freedoms of thought and conscience, speech and expression, religion, the press, assembly and movement. Political rights include natural justice in law, such as the rights of the accused, including the right to a fair trial; due legal process; the right to seek redress or a legal remedy; and rights of participation in civil society and politics such as freedom of association, the right to assemble, the right to petition, the right of self-defense, and the right to vote. All these aspects are discussed in figure 6.13 on the awareness on rights related to democratic governance.
6.3.3.1. Public Participation

Public participation is a political principle or practice, and may also be recognised as a right. The principle of public participation holds that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process. It seeks and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision. Public participation is regarded as a way of empowerment and as vital part of democratic governance. This is verified in the study with the analysis views on the statement “Everybody can participate in the public affairs regardless of gender, caste and race”. Majority 82.2 percent of the respondents positively answered with the statement on public participation. So study disclosed that the awareness level on the right to public participation is relatively high.
6.3.3.2. Freedom of Speech and Expression

Freedom of speech and expression is the political right to express one’s own convictions and opinion by using one’s body and property to anyone who is willing to receive them. In practice right to freedom of speech and expression regarded as the first condition for liberty provided by civil society and guaranteed not only by the constitution or statutes but also by various international conventions. The awareness on the right to freedom of speech and expression is comparatively high because 82.5 percent of the respondents were positive in their answer towards the statement as “nobody can express their view on ungraceful activities in the society”.

6.3.3.3. Freedom of Thought and Belief

All persons have the right to think freely, and to entertain ideas and hold positions based on conscientious or religious beliefs. Legislation, policies and programmes must respect these rights especially in a pluralistic country like India. Indian constitution guarantees this as fundamental right to freedom by the article 19-22. In the present study, 41.5 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and 39.2 percent agreed with the statement.

6.3.3.4. Freedom to Assemble and of Association

The right to form groups, to organise and to assemble together with the aim of addressing issues of common concern is a fundamental right. The freedom of assembly and association is protected in international and regional human rights treaties. These rights are applicable to any one on any issue. Mass protest is a potent symbol of the exercise of this right. The above discussion on the rights to assemble and association can be proved through the responses of the statement in the survey.
as, “Every Individual has freedom of peaceful assembly and of association for a certain cause”. 81.1 percent of the respondents positively answered towards this statement. So the awareness on this particular right is relatively high.

6.3.3.5. Freedom of Movement

The right to travel is a human right concept. It asserts that a citizen has the liberty to travel, reside in, and/or work in any part of the state where one pleases within the limits of respect for the liberty and rights of others and to leave that state and return at any time. Indian constitution safeguards these rights through the provision of fundamental rights. The awareness on rights to freedom of movement and to reside within a country is fairly high as found from the result that, 79.9 percent of the respondent have positive responses on the statement “every individual have right to move and reside in any part of the country”.

6.3.3.6. Cruel and Unusual Punishment

Certain gruesome methods of punishment such as torture, burning, or crucifixion are cruel and unusual punishment. Prohibition of this cruel and unusual punishment has been guaranteed by article 5 of UDHR as “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”. This study tried to reveal this provision of international law with statement as, “Occurrence of crime can be defend only through Sever punishment”. But the awareness on the concept of prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment is very low because 68.6 percent of the respondent answered negatively.
6.3.3.7. Police Torture

Police force is a constituted body of persons empowered by the state to enforce the law, protect property, and limit civil disorder. Their powers include the legitimised use of force. As law enforcement agency, they constitute only part of policing activity and are entitled to protect private rights in some jurisdictions. These days, human rights violations by forces are increasing. Police torture is routinely practised as a law enforcement strategy throughout India. It is even more widespread and violent in conflict areas. “Police can harass the arrested person to prove the truth” is the statement given in the survey to analyse the awareness on the rights against torture. 35.8 percent were negatively responded and remaining 21.1 percent had no opinion on it. So the study reveals that the awareness of the right to prevention from torture and inhumane treatment by law enforcement authority is comparatively low and it has to improve.

6.4.3.8. Unlawful Arrest

A person arrested and taken into custody, is substantially deprived of his freedom of action so that he may be held to answer for a crime or an offence. The police in India do not have any power to detain anybody for questioning unless he is arrested with or without warrant. The “Constitution of India” and “Criminal Procedure Code” gives some basic rights to the person being arrested which are right to be informed of the reasons for the arrest, right to counsel and instruct? a lawyer without delay, determining the validity of the arrest or detention, right to be charged promptly or released, right to be brought before a court, right to refrain from making any statement, right to be treated with humanity and respect etc. “Unlawful
arrest is being a human rights violations”, this statement is verified with support of the responses given by the respondents as most of the respondents (79.8 percent) had awareness on the rights of a arrested person and they responded positively on the statement.

6.4.3.9. Right to Fair Trail

The right to fair trial is essential for respecting the rule of law. There are various aspects of the right to a fair trial. These include an adversarial trial system, presumption of innocence, independent judges, and knowledge of the accusation, trial and evidence in the presence of the accused, adequate legal representation to respond to the charges. The right to fair trial has been interpreted to be one of the implicit rights contained within the Right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The awareness on this right to fair trial is shown in figure 6.13 with the statement given in the survey as, “Every person has a chance to prove their innocence in front of the judiciary”. 69.6 percent of the respondent strongly agreed and 11 percent agreed with the statement.

6.4.3.10. Arbitrary Detention

Arbitrary detention is no likelihood or evidence of a crime against legal statute, or in which there has been no proper due process of law. Sometimes arbitrary detention used by governments as a way of suppressing dissent and it followed by the wrongful treatment or torture of a detainee. This study reveals that the awareness on freedom from arbitrary detention has to furnished with responses of the statement as “Anybody can detained for long time without trial and justice”.

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Being a negative statement 50.7 percent strongly disagreed and 11 percent disagreed.

6.3.4. Rights of Marginalized

Inclusion of marginalised group to mainstream is considered as major task of all development policies. Collective human rights of specific groups are enforced by machinery with the aim to ensure protection and well-being of these groups and protection. Protection from domestic violence, right to education, protection from child labour and child abuse, rights of prisoners, rights of aged, rights of person with disability etc. are the major concerns in the present study. The awareness of the youth on these specific group rights were analysed with ten statements related to the rights of marginalised, the details are depicted in the figure 6.14.

**Figure 6.14**

Right of Marginalized
6.4.4.1. Domestic Violence

Domestic violence in India is endemic and around 70% of women in India are victims. National Crime Records Bureau (2013) revealed that a crime against a woman is committed every three minutes, a woman is raped every 29 minutes, a dowry death occurs every 77 minutes, and one case of cruelty committed by either the husband or relative of the victim occurs every nine minutes. Despite the fact that women in India are legally protected from domestic abuse under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The study tried to analyse awareness of youth about rights of women against domestic violence on the statement, “Women should be protected from domestic violence”. 55.1 percent of the respondents strongly agreed and 29.9 percent agreed with statement on protection of women.

6.4.4.2. Girls Education

Education enables the girl child to realize her full potential, to think, question and judge independently; to be a wise decision-maker, develop civic sense and learn to respect, love his fellow human beings and to be a good citizen. The present discussion tried to observe the youths’ approach on girls’ education by examining the responses on the statement, “girls are fit only for house made work not for education”. 69.7 percent of the respondents positively responded with the statement and 21.8 percent were negatively responded. The study reveals that youth are aware of the girls’ right to education and they have positive approach to the concept education for girls.
6.3.4.3. Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment involves the deliberate infliction of pain as retribution for an offence, or for the purpose of disciplining or reforming a wrongdoer, or to deter the behaviour deemed unacceptable. Corporal punishment of minors within domestic as well as school settings has been prohibited by law and is considered as child abuse. There is a fallacy on the concept of corporal punishment, Children can be lead through a right path only through severe and corporal punishment in domestic as well as school settings. The study reveals that 58.7 percent did not agree with the statement for corporal punishment and they thought that severe or corporal punishment towards children was not a way to make them active or cultured.

6.3.4.4. Female Foeticide

The act of aborting a foetus while it’s still in the womb, as it is a female, child is known as female foeticide. For centuries, families across many parts of India have regarded a male child as the preferred of the two sexes. There have been many reasons for this preferred. Many of these reasons and beliefs continue to remain and is a horrific and still continued in India. Female foeticide and sex determination is against the rights of children. Right to protection and survival of child is to be ensured by law and provision has been covered in the Convention of child rights. The statement on female foeticide to examine the awareness of youth on the rights of child as human being for protection and survival. 72.8 percent of the respondents positively responded and they were against female foeticide.
6.3.4.5. Rights of Migrant Workers

Human beings move from one place to another place in pursuit of certain cherished objectives like avenues of better employment, better wages, better working and living conditions, better quality of life and better livelihood practices. All persons, regardless of their nationality, race, legal or other status, are entitled to fundamental human rights and basic labour protections, including migrant workers and their families. Migrants are also entitled to certain human rights protections specifically linked to their vulnerable status. Every migrant worker have rights to access benefits from home country, this has been discussed in the present investigation. 59.1 percent of the respondents positively responded on the statement related to the rights of migrant workers. So the study reveals that the awareness on the rights migrant workers among youth has to improve.

6.3.4.6. Prisoners’ Rights

Jail manuals that govern the running of prisons do not contain any special provisions for children of women prisoners who constitute a particularly vulnerable category. Unlike other inmates, the children are in jail not for any delinquent behaviour but because their mothers are in jail. Either they are born in jail, or they are too young to stay away from their mothers, or there is no one to look after them in the absence of their mother. Article 15 of the Constitution prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. However, it allows special provisions for children of women prisoners. The awareness of the rights of prisoners can be assessed with the statement, “State has to provide special
attention and care to children of women prisoners”. 37.4 percent of the respondent strongly agreed and 37.7 percent agreed with the statement.

**6.3.4.7. Rights of Aged**

Elderly individuals are often subject to discrimination and abuse. There is also a prevalent belief that elderly persons are worthless in today’s fast-paced, globalized and increasingly industrialized world. Obviously, there is an increased urgency to address the rights and roles of elderly persons in our world. The above discussion proved the importance of rights of aged. The responses of the youth on the statement “Ourselves have responsibility to protect aged” showed that 84.7 percent of the respondents positive to respect the rights of aged.

**6.3.4.8. Mainstreaming Marginalised**

The Indian Constitution aims to empower the society and ensure the dignity of the individual and equality of status among all the citizens. These ideas are often reflected in the Articles of the Constitution. The Constitution recognizes the schedule castes; schedule tribes, other backward classes, minorities, persons with disability and women as marginalised sections and government has introduced various provisions for empowering these sections of the society. “We have to include marginalised section into the mainstream of society” is the statement with a view to analysing the awareness of youth on the concept of mainstreaming marginalised sections. 67.3 percent of the respondent answered positively.

**6.3.4.9. Caste Discrimination**

More than 165 million people in India continue to be subject to discrimination, exploitation and violence simply because of their caste. Caste-based
divisions continue to dominate in housing, marriage, employment and general social interaction or divisions that are reinforced through economic boycotts and physical violence. The awareness of youth on the concept of caste discriminations revealed with the analysis of statement as “work can be distributed according to the caste”. Being a negative statement 33.8 percent strongly disagreed and 36.6 percent disagreed with the statement.

6.3.4.10. Reservation for Person with Disability

Persons with disabilities are segregated or simply ignored and denied their rights to be included in the general stream to be employed and to live independently in the community. Providing reservation in educational institutions and job services is the way to mainstreaming person with disability. This has been proved with the support of the responses on the youth on the statement related to the reservation for the person with disability is that, 75.8 percent responded positively. This result indicates that most of the respondents were aware and responded to honor the privileges for the disabled.

6.3.5. Human Rights Protective Mechanisms

The mechanism for enforcement of human rights is to create respect for human rights. There have been conflicts and dissensions in society. Every day, the incidents of custodial deaths, illegal detentions, deaths in fake encounters, terrorist violence, rapes, infanticide, bonded labour, child labour and problems of refugees are reported through media. Periphery of enforcement mechanism developed for the protection of human rights both at Governmental and Non-Governmental level is expanding to cover all walks of life under the umbrella of human rights. This had
led to the development of a mechanism at international and national level. Figure 6.15 indicates awareness of youth on human rights protective mechanisms. Awareness on human rights protective mechanisms were analysed through the statements as awareness on UDHR, international obligation of human rights, personal security, influence of human rights commissions and court, awareness on free legal aid service, role of human rights NGOs etc.

Figure 6.15
Human Rights Protective Mechanisms

6.3.5.1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration arose directly from the experience of the Second World War. It represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled and consists of 30 articles setting forth the civil
and political, economic, social and cultural rights to which all persons are subjected. The opinion of youth on statement, “Universal Declaration of Human Rights are the base of human rights protection”, 61.9 percent of the respondent positively accepted the statement and only 12.2 percent of the respondent answered negatively. So the study reveals that the awareness about the declaration on human rights is comparatively high.

6.3.5.2. International Obligation

The international community is obliged to protect and promote the basic values and common interests of all. States assume obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect and to fulfil human rights. The obligation to respect means that States must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights at an international level. The obligation to protect requires the states to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. The international obligation of the state is to fulfil positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights. 74 percent of the respondents responded positively on the statement.

6.3.5.3. Fundamental Rights

Fundamental Rights is a charter of rights contained in Part III of the Constitution of India. It guarantees civil liberties such that all Indians can lead their lives in peace and harmony as citizens of India. These include individual rights common to most liberal democracies, such as equality before law, freedom of speech and expression, and peaceful assembly, freedom to practice religion, and the
right to constitutional remedies for the protection of civil rights by means of writs such as habeas corpus. Violation of these rights is punishable as prescribed in the Indian Penal Code or other special laws, subject to discretion of the judiciary. Awareness on these fundamental rights has been examined in the study. 80.8 percent of the respondent responded positively and they had basic awareness of the fundamental rights.

6.3.5.4. Resist Violations

Curtailment of human rights is a common phenomenon. Protection of the rights of individuals is the obligation of the State and to protect human rights is to ensure that people receive some degree of decent, humane treatment. Every individual has some sort of responsibility to resist human rights violations. It has been analysed with the statement “every individual has right to resist human rights violations”, 49.1 percent of the respondent strongly agreed and 30.3 percent agreed.

6.3.5.5. Human Rights Commission

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established in India through the adoption of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, by Parliament. The fact that international human rights laws have moved toward national constitution strongly shaped the development of HRCs in numerous jurisdictions. The legitimacy and credibility of the human rights commission to succeed in their effort to address problems relating to human rights in the society. The study scrutinized this effort of the commission by analysing the responses of the youth
towards the statement on role of human rights commission. 72.6 percent of the respondents responded positively.

6.3.5.6. Human Rights Court

The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 provides for establishment of Human Rights Courts for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences arising out of violation of human rights. The creation of Human Rights Courts at the district level has a great potential to protect and realize human rights at the grassroots. The statement related to the need for special court for human rights protection and promotion, 78.3 percent responded positively. So the awareness on the concept of human rights courts is relatively high.

6.3.5.7. Personal Security

The right to security of the person is guaranteed by the article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But the recent political as well as social events throughout the world are the obstacle to personal safety and liberty. The state should provide political as well as legal security to life and property of all its citizens. 47.9 percent of the youth agreed to the role of state to provide personal security of it citizen but 44.5 percent opined that the statement as personal security of the individual is the responsibility of the person itself. So the study reveals that awareness of the role of State to protect the rights of individual is comparatively low.
6.3.5.8. Free Legal Aid

Legal aid is the provision of assistance to people otherwise unable to afford legal representation and access to the court system. Legal aid is regarded as central in providing access to justice by ensuring equality before the law, the right to counsel and the right to a fair trial. The awareness on legal aid service has been discussed with the statement “every citizen has the right to free legal aid”, 82.3 percent of the respondents were positive and shows the awareness level of youth on the free legal aid service is high.

6.3.5.9. Human Rights NGOs

Human rights NGOs have also grown in influence, both nationally and internationally to document violations of human rights standards and play a decisive role in transforming human rights phrase into reality. NGOs also work to create and support enforcement mechanisms in international human rights standard. The result of the study revealed the influence of NGOs in protecting human rights by examining the views of youth on the statement related to the human rights NGOs as most of the respondents (75.6 percent) agreed positively. So the awareness level of youth about the role of NGOs is comparatively high.

6.3.6. Level of Human Rights Awareness among Youth

For assessing the awareness among the youth, there are 50 statements of the human rights awareness scale and each statement have scores 1 to 5. So the total score ranges between 50 to 250. These expected range is divided into three equal parts with low level having score range in between 50 to 116, medium awareness
with score range between 117 to 182 and high awareness whose score range in between 183 to 250. Based on the groups, the awareness levels of youth in human rights were classified and the score distribution has been illustrated in figure 6.16.

Figure 6.16
Human Right Awareness Level among Youth

Figure 6.15 indicates that majority of the youth (72.8 percent) have medium level of awareness on human rights. Their awareness level on human rights were average in nature, actually they know the concept of human rights but they are not aware on the exact form of human rights of particular right or Act. The study further shows that 15 percent of the respondent have high level of human rights awareness.
6.3.7. Awareness score among NSS volunteers and NYK club members

NSS and NYKS were the youth welfare programmes with the agenda to internalize the youth with values of humanitarianism and democratic concerns. The comparison of human rights awareness among NSS and NYK members was done by using independent t test. The comparison is given in the table 6.9.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>t-value</th>
<th>P-value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Human rights Values and Principles</td>
<td>NYK</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>4.865</td>
<td>8.355**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>35.44</td>
<td>3.927</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>NYK</td>
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<td>41.36</td>
<td>6.782</td>
<td>6.257**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>5.305</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Governance</td>
<td>NYK</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>35.01</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>3.188**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>36.31</td>
<td>4.458</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Rights of Marginalized</td>
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<td>34.66</td>
<td>5.51</td>
<td>3.694**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>36.18</td>
<td>4.052</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Protective Mechanism</td>
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<td>29.94</td>
<td>4.979</td>
<td>1.728ns</td>
<td>0.085</td>
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<td>HR score</td>
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<td>19.259</td>
<td>7.077**</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>183.31</td>
<td>13.506</td>
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</table>

** significant at 0.01 level; ns non significant at 0.05 level

The results given in table 6.9 shows the mean values being higher for NSS volunteers compared to NYK club members. It reveals that emphasis on human rights is significantly better for the volunteers of National Service Scheme. The study further reveals that all the t-values are significant at 0.01 level of significance.
except the awareness on human rights protective mechanisms and its shows that, there is no much significant difference between the awareness level of NSS volunteers and NYK club members on human rights protective mechanisms.

Section V: Advocacy Effort of Youth in Human Rights

Human rights advocacy is a strategy for the inclusion of human rights values and principles, to encourage its members to draw a plan of action against the violations and its impact. This part of the analysis tried to examine the advocacy effort of youth in human rights by applying the views and perspectives on anti-oppressive practice on human rights violations, strengthening and restoring human rights mechanism and empowerment through human rights education.

6.5.1. Anti-oppressive Practice on Human Rights Violations

Advocacy effort of youth has been analysed through the perspectives of anti-oppressive practice on human rights violations, which seeks to reduce, undermine or eliminate discrimination and oppression. Present analysis focused on the anti-oppressive practice for protecting human rights and mitigates its violations with twelve statements on various aspects of human rights. Violation of human rights is a common phenomenon which encompasses human trafficking, sexual harassment, child abuse, child labour, displacement and encroachment, domestic violence etc. The youth perception on anti-oppressive practice on human rights violations have been examined and examined; the results are given in figure 6.17
6.4.1.1. Child Labour

Child labour is the practice deprives children of their childhood, and is harmful to their physical and mental development. Poverty and growth of informal economy are considered as the important causes of child labour. Article 24 of India’s constitution prohibits child labour. Additionally, various laws and the Indian Penal Code, such as the Juvenile Justice (care and protection) of Children Act-2000, and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Abolition) Act-1986 provide a basis in law to identify, prosecute and stop child labour in India. Advocacy effort of youth were analysed in the study with the statement on, “a child working under the age of 14 is a human rights violation”. The responses to the statement revealed that child labour is a human rights violation and punishable by law. 83.2 percent of the youth were against child labour.
6.4.1.2. Accusing as Traitor

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference, and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers". The right to freedom of expression and thought considered one of the most beneficial rights among others to a human being. Everybody can express their views against the activities of authority, the state cannot blame or accuse individual as a traitor. This was proved with the responses of the youth on the statement regarding freedom of expression. As being negative statement, 74.5 percent of the respondents reacted that, the state cannot accuse an individual as traitor for raising voice against the ungraceful activities of the authority. So the advocacy effort of the youth on this particular action is meticulous.

6.4.1.3. Misuse of Religion

Indian constitution guarantees freedom of religion as a pluralistic country like India. In this new era of modernisation the consciousness on religion has increased and religious beliefs are deep rooted in the minds of the people. The youth advocacy effort against misuse of religion was examined in this study, 71.3 percent of the respondents were ready for action on this aspect.

6.4.1.4. Caste Discrimination

Caste discrimination is a serious and pervasive human rights problem, which involves massive violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It entails social and economic exclusion, segregation in housing, denial and restrictions of access to public and private services, and lack of equal access to
education and employment. It is a threat to the principle of equality to discriminate the persons according to their caste. The above discussion showed that the responses of the youth on the statement on caste discrimination was, 59.6 percent were always concerned and 25.6 percent were concerned. The result proved their assertiveness against caste discrimination.

6.4.1.5. Child Abuse and Beggary

Children generally have fewer rights than adults and are classed as unable to make serious decisions, and legally must always be under the care of a responsible adult. Protection of child form physical, sexual and psychological abuse is the agenda of government or law providing agency. Child beggary is a serious threat to the human rights of children and is very clearly part of organised crime and mafia which benefits from this lucrative business of exploitation and mutilation. However, there have been some good practices, where government’s strict enforcement of the law have supported victim. “Child should be protected from the abuse and beggary” is the statement to analyse the advocacy effort of youth for child protection. According to the responses of the youth, child protection is one of major agenda of the state and the youth approach on the same is positive in nature because 87.2 percent of the respondents positively responded to the statement.

6.4.1.6. Gender Discrimination

In India, discriminatory attitude towards men and women have existed for generations and affect the lives of both genders. Although the constitution of India has granted men and women equal rights, gender disparity still remains. The present study revealed that gender discrimination affects the development strategies of a
nation. The advocacy effort of youth on the perspective of anti-oppressive practice on gender discrimination was analysed, 73.6 percent of the respondents responded positively. The result shows that the youth approach on gender discrimination is very positive.

6.4.1.7. Evict Slum Dwellers

Evictions of slum dwellers are a common phenomenon in the context of development. The authority has responsible for making proper rehabilitation facilities for the slum dwellers. In any case eviction without rehabilitative measures is a threat to human rights. Youth can raise their voice against this activity by the effect of their advocacy role. “Eviction of slum dwellers being justifiable when it is for constructing new roads” is the statement for analysing the advocacy effort of youth. Being a negative statement 48.6 percent of the respondent positively but 34.3 percent were negatively responded. The study revealed that youth advocacy on this particular perspective was not desirable.

6.4.1.8. Violence against Women

At least one woman in every three has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in her lifetime around the world. According to the official statistics available with the Kerala Police, if the total number of crimes against women reported in 2010 was 10,781, and during the year 2013 witnessed 4,318 cases in the first four months itself (The Hindu, 24 June 2013). The present investigation paved the way to analyse the advocacy effort of youth against the violations of women rights. 66.2 percent of the respondent were always concerned about the concept that women should be
protected from abuse and violence and it’s the part of social responsibility of the individual.

6.4.1.9. Destroy Nature

The preservation of the natural environment is essential for maintaining community sustainability and is very well also a part of the right to environment of an individual. People take advantage of what nature offers them but they don’t care to protect it. People produce a lot of pollution and wastes that destroy natural environment in the guise of development as constructing roads, dams and other developmental activities. The youth have a potential role to protect nature and its resources, so the advocacy effort of youth against destruction of nature were examined with the statement as “We can destroy natural resources for development”. Being the negative statement 62.9 percent of the youth answered positively with the statement.

6.4.1.10. Refugees

Millions of people around the world have no choice but to flee their homeland to escape war, genocide, torture and persecution. Every state has responsibility to protect its citizen from unfavorable situations due to manmade or natural disaster. The refugees have certain rights, they should be considered as normal citizens of the country. This was proved with the evidence of the responses made by the youth on the statement on refugee protection. Only 47.5 percent responded positively with the statement. But most of the respondents were negative, i.e., 52.5 percent. So the advocacy effort of youth on the rights of refugees was comparatively low.
6.4.2. Strengthening and restoration of Human Rights Mechanisms

The protection of human rights is to ensure that the people get some degree of decent humanitarian treatment. Many conflicts are sparked by a failure to protect human rights, and the trauma that results from severe human rights violations; as conflict intensifies, hatred accumulates and makes restoration of peace more difficult. In order to stop this cycle of violence, states must institute certain mechanism to strengthening and restoring human rights protective mechanisms. The study examined effort of youth on human rights with the perspectives of good governance, prison rehabilitation, reservation, people’s participation, human rights training, social responsibility, strategic planning, and fight against injustice, transparency and accountability for strengthening and restoring human rights protective mechanisms. It showed in the figure 6.18.

Figure 6.18
Strengthening and Restoration on Human Rights Mechanisms
6.4.2.1. People’s Participation

Citizens’ ability in legislative process is the fundamental to the democracy. Public participation results in better laws and fewer amendments based on the transparency and accessibility of the legislative process. Democratic government provide for public engagement in the law making process through consultation in the stages of drafting the bill, introducing it into the parliament and in the stages of enacting the bill. “Peoples’ participation is not mandatory in legislative process” was the statement advanced for analyzing advocacy of youth for the right of peoples’ participation in law making process. Being a negative statement 55.1 percent of the respondent were never concerned and 29.1 percent were rarely concerned. It is evidenced that public participation is essential in democratic governance and the youth have an effective role in the enhancing peoples’ participation.

6.4.2.2. Reservation

Reservations are a part of inclusive policy of the government to bring people on par with each other. It gives additional opportunities for employment and encourages education of underprivileged to promote equality. 65.5 percent of the youth were positively responded with this negative statement as “reservation rights are against the principle of equality”. The result shows that the youth effort on preserving the reservation rights of needy people were desirable.

6.4.2.3. Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation services in the correctional settings is part of strengthening and restoring human rights protective mechanisms. This helps the individual to cope
up with the situations in the physical, social and psychological environment. Nobody is born as a criminal, but they are the victims of circumstances. So, effective rehabilitation is vital to change the inmates’ attitudes toward the institutions of society and towards individuals. The youth perspective on rehabilitation services in correctional settings were analysed in the study with statement as “there is no need for rehabilitation services in correctional settings”. Majority of the respondent (65.8 percent) were positively responded to the concept of rehabilitation services. So the effort of youth on the rehabilitation service on correctional settings was notable.

6.4.2.4. People Centered

The “people-centered” approach is arising from the grassroots can restore human rights and ensure better monitoring and enforcement. Majority of the respondent (72.7 percent) were positively responded with the essentiality of people-centered approach to prevent and redress human rights violations. The study evidenced that it is an effort to strengthening and restoring human rights by means of monitoring and safeguarding the rights through popular or collective action.

6.4.2.5. Strategic Planning

Strategic and systematic planning envisions a desired future, and translates this vision into broadly defined goals to achieve them. Human rights need to be better promoted and protected, especially in the face of numerous threats and challenges as poverty, pandemics, extremism and terrorism. So strategic planning is essential to monitor human rights situation in the society and it should be based on the need and welfare of the people. This is verified with the support of the data of present study, majority of the respondent (81.2 percent) were positively
responded and they are concerned with the need for strategic planning for strengthening and restoring human rights protective mechanisms.

6.4.2.6. Social Responsibility

Protection of human rights is a part of individual social responsibility as it is a duty every individual has to perform. The study recognised the effort of youth for strengthening and restoring human rights mechanisms by analysing the concept of individual social responsibility. Majority of the respondent (80.3 percent) answered positively to this negative statement “There is no need to consider the protection of human rights as part of individual social responsibility”.

6.4.2.7. Fight against Injustice

It is the duty of every individual to respect and protect rights of others. In order to prevent the individual from severe violations the state has to safeguard human rights. “Individual can exercise any method to fight against injustice” 56 percent always concerned and 26.9 were concerned. Individual has right to express their views, thoughts and beliefs but they don’t have right to violate the others rights and use armament in any circumstances. So the study reveals that advocacy effort of youth on fight against injustice was relatively less concerned.

6.4.2.8. Right based Approach

The human rights based approach insists for empowering people to know and claim their rights. There is a need maintain effective rights based practice in the developmental policies and programmes, the duty bearers should accountable and keep transparency to the right holders. Advocacy of youth for this right based approach was analysed in the study with the responses on the statement, 82.5 percent
responded positively and agreed on the effect and need for human rights based approach.

6.4.2.9. Human Rights Training

Human rights can only be achieved through an informed and continued demand by people for their protection. Human rights learning can develop an understanding for responsibility to make human rights a reality and can help to redress violations. The responses of the youth on the statement on vitality of human rights training showed that 84.5 percent have always concern with the training on human rights aspects is essential to protect rights of the individual.

6.4.2.10. Media Campaign

In a democratic country like India, the media plays a vital role in creating, moulding and reflecting public opinion. The power of media can transform the society and the main use of media is to educate the people about the basic human rights. The influence and role of media for spreading human right awareness were examined with the statement “human rights consciousness should spread via mass media to the people at grass root level”. Majority of the youth (78.6 percent) of the respondent were positively concerned with use of media.

6.4.3. Empowerment through Human Rights Education

Human rights education is a process of acquiring relevant knowledge, skills and values for empowerment of people. It is an emerging area of practice that aspires to promote and protect human dignity and encourages trainers to involve learners. Therefore human rights education by its very nature should be a positive intervention for people as it is a tool for empowerment. The study scrutinized the
youth effort on human rights education on the perspective of empowerment; it encompasses the relevance of imparting human rights into the curriculum. It also assists to redress human right violations and maintain peace in the society, and it is an approach to attain sustainable development. The view of HRE is shown in the figure 6.19

6.4.3.1. HRE in Curriculum

Imparting human rights education into curriculum can help to establish intellectual basis for teaching the historical development of human rights and their contemporary significance. Human right should be presented in the context of a society’s moral and social traditions. This knowledge should ultimately extend beyond student’s immediate environment and culture. Majority of the respondent
(77.4 percent) have positive concern with the aspect of including human rights education into school or college curriculum.

6.4.3.2. Enhancing Social Relationship

Social relations are extremely useful for understanding particular social and cultural issues in local and broader contexts. Effective human rights education can produce changes in the behaviour of individuals by enhancing social relationship. The majority of the respondent (79.1 percent) were positive and held that there is need for enhancing social relationship with human rights education.

6.4.3.3. Existence

Human rights are highly inspirational and practical, embodying the hopes and ideals of human beings. All people should be able to live with dignity. The youth perspectives on human rights are essential for the existence of man. This was analysed with the statement “there is no need to consider that human rights are essential for the existence of man in the society”. Being the negative statement 43.7 percent of the respondent were never concerned and 30.9 were rarely concerned. It revealed that essentiality of human rights education for the wellbeing of individuals.

6.4.3.4. Maintain peace

Building a culture of human rights is a pre-condition to achieving a state of peace. Peace is not just the absence of conflict and violence. It is a way of living together so that all members of society can accomplish their human rights. Human rights education develops an attitude of solidarity across issues, communities and nations. “Human right education is a way to redress abuses and maintain peace in the society by all means”, this statement was examined by youth Majority of the
respondent (78.3 percent) responded positively that human rights education is essential for maintaining peace and harmony.

6.4.3.5. Social Transformation

Social transformation can bring in a shift in collective consciousness. Human rights education is a means for achieving transformation of social status of individual to lead a dignified life in the society. Youth have positive approach to the concept of human rights education for social transformation; most of the respondents (70.2 percent) were positive in their responses.

6.4.3.6. Advocate for Rights

Human rights education involves learning about one’s own rights and those of others, but it goes beyond this to include learning that human rights are shared responsibilities with practical consequences for how people live together. Thus, human rights education is about acquiring not only knowledge but also skills and the ability to apply them. The study revealed that the youth had positive concern on human rights education enables people to advocates for their rights and facilitate them to protect the rights of other. 73.3 percent responded positively to the statement.

6.4.3.7. Social Justice

Social justice is the ability of people to realize their potential in the society. Effective human rights education can build a more humane world, whereby the role of violence in social conflicts can be reduced and produce empowerment for social justice. The majority of the youth (68.7 percent) have positive concern on the
statement “human rights education create negative impact on promoting social justice”.

6.4.3.8. Protection from Violations

The evils of injustice and exploitation spur action for social and economic transformation, which human rights education helps to define and put into practice. “Human rights education cannot be able to create any impact on the incidence of violation” was the statement to examine the youth approach on the relevance of human rights education to redress violations. Being the negative statement, most of the respondent (76.4 percent) had positive approach on the statement.

6.4.3.9. Human Rights Culture

The mission of human rights education is to create a culture of rights. The role of human rights education to spread a culture of respect for human rights with statement as “human rights education is a path finder to ascertain human right culture into the society”. 74 percent of the youth were positive in their response.

6.4.3.9. Sustainable Development

Sustainability maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations. The need for human rights education for the welfare of the human being was ascertained with the statement ‘the right way of education on human rights leads to better form of sustainability.’ Majority of the respondent (77.1 percent) have high concern with the concept of human rights education for sustainable developments.
6.4.4. Advocacy level of Youth in Human Rights

For assessing the advocacy level, the total score of 30 statements was taken and ranges between 30 to 150. This expected range is divided into three equal parts. Low level having score range in between 30 to 70, medium level with score range between 71 to 110 and high level whose score range in between 111 to 150. Figure 6.20 shows the advocacy level of youth for promoting human rights.

The result in figure 6.20 reveals that 59.4 percent of the respondents have only an average advocacy level and 28.6 percent have high level of advocacy effort for promoting human rights. The advocacy efforts of youth were appreciable with action orientation of the youth’s ability and it can achieve the human rights protection by its very nature.
6.4.5. Advocacy effort of NSS Volunteers and NYK Club Members

NSS and NYKS were the welfare programmes for promoting the inner ability of the youth with imparting social values for development. The advocacy effort of NSS volunteers and NYK Club members were compared with the score in the statements. The comparison is shown in table 6.10.

Table 6.10
Advocacy level of NSS and NYK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>t-value</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anti-oppressive practice</td>
<td>NYK</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>41.13</td>
<td>6.94</td>
<td>7.693**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>45.40</td>
<td>6.10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening and restoration</td>
<td>NYK</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>41.39</td>
<td>5.33</td>
<td>1.256**</td>
<td>0.210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>40.88</td>
<td>4.15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRE for Empowerment</td>
<td>NYK</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>41.63</td>
<td>5.82</td>
<td>0.980**</td>
<td>0.328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>42.10</td>
<td>5.40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy</td>
<td>NYK</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>124.31</td>
<td>14.07</td>
<td>3.676**</td>
<td>&lt; 0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NSS</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>128.38</td>
<td>11.80</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** significant at 0.01 level; ns non significant at 0.05 level

The comparison of mean values in the table 6.10 reveals that mean score is higher for NSS volunteers. It shows that NSS volunteers take high level of advocacy effort when compared to NYK club members. It is due to the organized structure and social oriented activities of NSS programmes. The study further reveals that, the t-values of concept of strengthening and restoring perspective and empowerment through HRE perspectives were non-significant at 0.05 levels. It reveals that the advocacy effort on these concepts had no much significant difference between NSS volunteer and NYK club members.
6.6. Relation between Human Rights Awareness and Advocacy Effort

Advocacy is an act, in order to plead in favour of human rights. It is to consider as strategy to combat human rights violations in the society. The awareness on human right is a form of human rights advocacy strategy. The study examined the relationship between human rights awareness and advocacy effort of youth in protecting and promoting human rights.

Table 6.11
Relation between awareness and advocacy level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions of awareness</th>
<th>Advocacy level</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Anti-oppressive practice</td>
<td>Strengthening and restoring</td>
<td>HRE for Empowerment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR Values</td>
<td>0.365**</td>
<td>0.147**</td>
<td>0.184**</td>
<td>0.328**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian</td>
<td>0.454**</td>
<td>0.226**</td>
<td>0.301**</td>
<td>0.451**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>0.336**</td>
<td>0.108*</td>
<td>0.219**</td>
<td>0.312**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginalised</td>
<td>0.346**</td>
<td>0.208**</td>
<td>0.205**</td>
<td>0.347**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR protection</td>
<td>0.331**</td>
<td>0.253**</td>
<td>0.233**</td>
<td>0.369**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR score</td>
<td>0.537**</td>
<td>0.269**</td>
<td>0.341**</td>
<td>0.529**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** significant at 0.01 level; * significant at 0.05 level

Table 6.11 illustrates the relation between human rights awareness and advocacy by using Karl Pearson's correlation. All the correlation was found to be statistically significant and positive indicating that the awareness and advocacy levels are directly correlated. So the study revealed that the action orientation for human rights among youth was inserted through internalizing them with the human rights culture. It was noticed that human rights awareness of youth and their effort on human rights protection stand side by side as the awareness act for their advocacy.
6.7. Human Rights Advocacy Model (HRAM)

A social work intervention model for protecting and promoting human rights has been evolved in this study. Social action is the method adopted for enhancing consciousness of human rights among the youth as it is an organized group. This group is used to solve problems through action. It is an organized effort to change or improve social and economic institutions, as distinguished from social work or social services. So advocacy is considered as the social action strategy to make youth as the agent to promote human rights and ensure youth representation to redress human rights violations in the community. The present study introduced an advocacy model for youth on human rights based on the activities of National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuva Kendra.

The Human Rights Advocacy Model (HRAM) has two phases. The first phase meant for enlightening (initiating) the youth about human rights. An action orientation for promoting human rights has been suggested in the second phase of this advocacy model. The activities of NSS and NYK were mainly concentrated to the development of inner self of youth with community services. Both these programmes were part of community based programmes and have direct contact with community and people. These two youth welfare programmes are envisaged as the way to intervene into the community for creating a violation free society and make youth as the agent for protecting and promoting human rights.
6.7.1. Preliminary Phase: Internalizing youth with human rights

Disseminating human rights knowledge and values to youth by introducing human rights content in the training programmes of NSS and NYK is based on the action plan is the part of internalizing youth.

**Vision:** Establish a human rights friendly society by internalizing youth with human rights

**Mission:** To enhance human right awareness and make the youth to realize what are their rights, how they can ensure the protection of these rights, preparing the youth to identify human rights violations, and empower them to take actions against these, in order to create a culture in society that respects and supports the rights of each other

**Target Group:** Youth - NSS volunteers and NYK club members

**Channel:** National Service Scheme and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangatham

**Human Rights Content:** The human rights content comprises of historical evolution of human rights, values and principles, types of human rights violations and its effect on individual and the community, various collective and substantive rights of the individual, group, or community and human rights protective mechanisms.

**Activities:**

Awareness classes for youth club members & NSS volunteers is a major activity for internalizing the youth with human rights. Seminars, lecture sessions, and workshops for program coordinators, NSS volunteers and NYK club members
have to be conducted. Discussions and debates are other sources for creating awareness on human rights. Creating human rights volunteer brigade and Training for human rights volunteers is the most relevant activity of HRAM

**Strategies:** There are different strategies to internalize youth with human rights. Brainstorming encourages creativity and generates many ideas quickly. Dramatic techniques can enhance human rights learning such as street plays and puppet plays etc. Sometimes participants need a safe place to learn, removed from the outside world. So the field trips are essential for that. Cases studies can encourage analysis, critical thinking, problem solving and planning skills, as well as cooperation and team building. Amalgamation of human rights training with participatory appraisal on human rights issues in the community. Introducing audio aid and video modeling on human rights content has to be made as a strategy internalizing youth with human rights.

6.7.2. Second Phase: Human Rights Advocacy Model

The advocacy model encompasses with an action orientation for promoting human rights. Since the youth are a valuable and productive population of the country, making them the defenders of human rights is the major intention of this activity model. Mapping of human rights violations, organizing Adalats, networking and coalition, campaign through mass media, filing writ petitions and memorandums, lobbying for rights with authority. mobilizing resource for protecting human rights, are core action directed for the youth advocacy model. All these action orientation can incidentally became the intervention of NSS and NYK
in the society. Individual and group centered action approach is designed for enhancing capacity of youth for their advocating human rights. The self-explanatory advocacy model has been presented in the figure 6.21

**Vision:** To enhance the youth initiative to promote human rights and create a human rights friendly society

**Mission**

- To inculcate human rights culture in to the society
- To evolve a violation free society
- To strengthen and restore human rights protective mechanism
- To involve in the process of empowerment through Human Rights Education

**Right Based Approach:** Youth have an active role in involvement of the process of implementing the activities for promoting human rights. The programmes are based on the need and welfare of the community and adopt community intervention strategies to resolve the violations. Identifying the root causes of deprivation and focus on those who have a stake in keeping people poor or power to change the situation. It also aims to incorporate knowledge and opinion of community people in the planning and management of the programmes and activities of human rights defenders.
Figure 6.21
Human Rights Advocacy Model (HRAM)

- To inculcate human rights culture in to the society
- To evolve a violation free society
- To strengthen and restore human rights protective mechanism
- To involve in the process of empowerment through Human Rights Education

Identify the Violations

- Human rights Survey
- Mapping

Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

- Legal Clinics
- Legal Adalats
- Litigation
- Mediation
- Reconciliation
- Mass mobilization

Expected Outcome

- Human rights Friendly society
- Internalize with the values of human rights
- Sustainability with human rights

Activities

- Strengthening & Restoring
- Empowerment Perspective
- Against Human Rights Violation
- Human Rights Protective
- Human Rights Education

Anti-Oppressive Practice

Advocacy on Human Rights

Based on

Target Group

- Community
- Youth
- NSS Volunteers
- NYK Club Members

Approach

- Right Based Approach

Monitoring & Evaluation

- HRLAP Analysis
  - SWOC Analysis
  - SMART Analysis
  - Use of HRAAS

Members

- Representatives of PRIs,
  social activists,
  reformers
Activities:

**Anti-oppressive Practice**: This is needed to reduce oppressive power structure, which requires skills at the macro and micro levels. Identify the human rights violations will be a major challenge of the youth in the community. Introducing dispute resolution mechanism is also part of the anti-oppressive practice.

- **Identifying the violations**: Human rights surveys to identify the forms of human rights violations in the community: Mapping of human rights violations to find the trend and incidents of human rights violations. And problem tree analysis is used to analyse the cause effect relationship of human rights violations.

- **Dispute Resolution Mechanisms**: The advocacy model introduces some dispute resolution mechanisms for the community as legal clinics for providing legal aid service to the needy people in the community, legal Adalat for resolving the disputes prevailing in the community and litigation, to enhance the community people to take part in the legislative process in order to attain justice.

**Strengthening and Restoration Perspective**: The advocacy model has number of the activities for strengthening and restoring human rights mechanisms:

- **Networking with human rights NGOs**: Non-governmental organisations provide service to protect and promote human rights by using the man power of NSS volunteers and NYK club members in order to identifying the problems and implementing resolution strategies into the community. NGOs
provide expertise to NSS volunteers and NYK club member by means of training and introducing monitoring practices.

- **Lobbying with Local self-bodies:** Including human rights in the welfare activities of Local bodies, enhancing public participation and social auditing

- **Formation of local human rights forums:** The advocacy model enhances the need for forming human rights forums in villages. It is essential for monitoring human rights violations and also act as parallel service provider for protecting human rights. It has to include representatives of PRIs, social activists, reformers, and leaders.

**Empowerment Perspective:** the emancipation of community through human rights education is the process of empowerment. Human rights education is the necessary pre-condition for sustainable development.

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Methods of inculcating human rights consciousness in the society is Developing posters, Collate, newsletters, pamphlets and audio visual aids to create human rights awareness among the community

- **Legal clinic:** Introducing legal clinics in the villages for providing legal awareness and legal aid services to mass.

- **Celebration of Important days:** To spread the message and enhance the importance of particular days especially human rights day, child rights day. Women days. Old age day etc. Street Plays, Human rights Songs, theme presentation, and dramatization are main strategies for the commemorations.
- **Media Campaign**: Use of media for creating human right awareness among the community. Introducing the programmes and messages on human rights through community radio, television channels and social networking sites.

**Expected Out-Come:**

- Human rights friendly society
- Internalize with the values of human rights
- Sustainability with human rights enrichment

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

Human rights advocacy model proposes the same techniques for monitoring and evaluation of the programmes proposed in the community. Developing an evaluation frame work for Human Rights Learning and Practice (HRLAP) analysis.

**SWOC Analysis:** It is an evaluation tool to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges of the HRAM in the community with programmes of NSS and NYK

**SMART Analysis:** Monitoring of human rights advocacy model is the challenge of the organization. Activities in the HRAM are specific with concrete, detailed, well defined vision and mission. It has to be measurable with numbers, quantity and comparison; achievable by means of feasible and actionable effort of youth. The activities of the HRAM are also to be realistic and time bound.

**Use of HRAAS:** Human rights awareness and advocacy scale can be used for evaluating the human rights awareness and advocacy effort of community people to promote human rights.
The effective implementation of advocacy model for human rights protection and promotion helps the youth to think critically about the human rights issues in the society. The model mainly concentrates to make youth the defenders of human rights and assist them to maintain peace and harmony in the society.

**6.8. Results and Discussion**

Kerala despite its advancement in education and health care, is far ahead in the case of crimes, in custodial torture and deaths, in road accidents, and consequential culpable homicides, in the case of escalating number of suicides, in the ever increasing instances of sexual atrocities, and domestic violence, so on and so forth. The present study has examined the trend of human rights violations of Kerala through depicted map of human rights violations. The analysis of violent crimes, atrocities against women and children recorded that the rate has increased tremendously during 2009-2013. The statistics of atrocities against SC and ST, however, has shown mixed trend in the incidence of violence. The study depicted major human rights issues such rape and murder, child labour and abuse, custodial death, police torture, Land struggle in Kerala and case of right to environment and right to water. All these cases became the threat of life and dignity of victim and also part of human rights violations.

Protection of human rights is the responsibility of the state as well as NGOs. The study profiles the activities of KELSA, KSHRC and Jananeethi Thrissur. KESLA offers free legal services to the poor and needy who cannot afford the services of a lawyer for the conduct of a case or a legal proceeding in any court,
tribunal or before an authority. Lok Adalat is the alternate dispute resolution mechanisms and is considered a conflict management and judicial reform. Apart being and it has become a global necessity. It is very effective in settlement of money claims. Disputes like partition suits, damages and matrimonial cases can also be easily settled before Lok Adalat as the scope for compromise through an approach of give and take is high in these cases. Legal Literacy classes were organized by KELSA for Students of undergraduate classes in all colleges in Kerala. They focused on the target group of women, children, Dalit and Adivasis, rural youth, industrial workmen, tribals and other under privileged groups.

KSHRC has a significant role in promoting and protecting human rights. The Commission took action on each of the petition filed against the violations of human rights. The members of the commission visited jails, hospitals and asylums. They also organized seminars and campaigns to create awareness on human rights. It has a statutory power to execute the complaints under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993. Jananeethi is considered a pioneer NGO for protecting human rights. It is a peoples own initiative enabling the individuals and societies to become aware of their inherent human rights and civil liberties. The activities of Jananeethi include legal aid and assistance, psycho-legal counseling, clinical legal education, human rights interventions, public interest litigation, environmental advocacy, women’s empowerment, care and protection to women and children in distress, and programmes for democracy and good governance.
The youth had a potential role to protect and promote human rights. Human rights awareness among youth and their advocacy effort were analyzed in the study. Majority of the youth (72.8 percent) have only medium level of awareness. The concept of human rights is clear but cannot be able to find out the exact form of human rights. The awareness level of female National Service Scheme volunteers and the male NYK members was found to be high as compared to others. Dignity (86.5 percent), Mutual respect (98 percent), liberty (87.2 percent) and right to life (79.6 percent) were the most acceptable values and principle of human rights and the awareness level of these were very high among youth. The youths’ awareness on the rights related to economic efficiency, religious diversity, rights of family and voluntary marriage were comparatively low as per the result of the study. The right against severe punishment, arbitrary detention and trail, unlawful arrest are necessary to avoid ungraceful activities on the part of state or authority. Awareness among youth on domestic violence, education of girls, rights of aged, prisoners’ rights, mainstreaming of marginalized sections of society, and reservation for persons with disability were moderately high. Youth awareness on human rights protective mechanism is also considerable good. The commencement of human rights commission tried to slow down the human rights violations in the society and ensure the relevance of human rights court. Human rights NGOs is essential to protect human rights and free legal aid were the part of human rights for maintain peace has been highlighted in the study.
Advocacy effort of youth promoting human rights was analyzed with scale on the perspectives of anti-oppressive practice on human rights violations, strengthening and restoring of human rights mechanisms and empowerment through human rights education. The result revealed that 59.4 percent of youth were taking moderate effort and 28.6 percent were taking high effort for promoting human rights. The study revealed that NSS volunteers took higher effort than NYK club members. The study observed that the youth effort through anti-oppressive practice on human rights violations were highly appreciable because they accepted their ability to take action in adverse situations on child labour (83.3 percent), misuse of religion (71.3 percent), caste and gender discrimination, child abuse and beggary (87.2 percent) and violence against women. It is noticeable that, good governance and strategic planning; need based approach in development and accountability and transparency were the prerequisites for right based approach in development. The provision of reservation, prison rehabilitation services, people’s participation in law making process, enriching with human right training programmes and promoting media effort for human rights were major source for strengthening and restoring human rights. The study ascertained that the empowerment of youth can be achieved through inculcating human rights into school and college curriculum and it helped to adhere to the growth of human development. The study revealed that human rights awareness of youth and their effort for rights protection are positively interrelated as awareness can lead to advocacy effort and this can be achieved through NSS and NYK programmes.