Abstract of Ph.D thesis


People have been disappearing from the societies, disappearance can be a wilful act of a person to leave the social milieu or at times one is forced by natural calamities like earth quakes, floods and manmade calamities like war. Violence because of wars is a common feature of every society. Societies world over have been witness to violence. Violence anywhere is associated with human loss. The warring factions often resort to severe human rights violations like murder, Rape, torture and disappearance. The issue of disappearance of persons is relevant in a large number of contexts, with almost every contemporary conflict leaving significant numbers of families with no news of their loved ones. Similarly, the violence in the state of Jammu and Kashmir has also resulted in human sufferings and loss in the shape of disappearance of persons. The past 21 years of armed conflict in Jammu and Kashmir has affected the entire society. The armed groups and the security personnel’s engaged against each other in the valley have resulted in unprecedented massive human rights violations which are continuing unabatedly. The Kashmir conflict not only continues to raise the spectre of war between India and Pakistan, but it also continues to produce serious human rights violations. The conflict in the state of Jammu and Kashmir has resulted in death and disappearance of thousands of people.

The study entitled “Disappearance Phenomenon in Kashmir Valley: Impact on Affected Families and Social Work Intervention” is the first of its kind as the work done on this subject is based on exhaustive research grounded in both qualitative and quantitative analysis. The present study attempts to understand the social, economical and psychological dimensions of the phenomenon of disappearance on the families of persons disappeared during the armed conflict in Jammu and Kashmir since year 1989 to 2007. Moreover, it enables us to understand the various problems faced by the families which crop up due to the disappearance of a family member. A thorough review of literature allows an overall understanding of various academic and non academic works done on the subject globally. The study also provides various social work interventions required to address the problems of the family members of the disappeared person besides, many recommendations, are put forward so as to help families find answer to their problems.