Chapter – V
People’s Watch – Tamil Nadu works with two major objectives emanating from the principles of Human Rights. The first is to make the state accountable for the violation of Human Rights and the second, to spread a Human Rights culture. The programs undertaken by the organization are directly linked to the objectives. The efforts in restoration of human rights are done through effective fact – findings followed with legal interventions. This aspect of monitoring and restoration of rights becomes a key area of intervention. The second objective of spreading a human rights culture is achieved mainly through human rights education and training activities. Efforts are made to reach out to as many segments of the civil society as possible.

These objectives of the organization are being met through the interventions in the realms of human rights restoration, human rights promotion, protection and monitoring. These strategies developed by the organization for the realization of the objectives are centered on developing effective human rights education programs, monitoring mechanisms and utilization of the various mechanisms available in the legal framework and international treaties and charters.

1. Human Rights Monitoring

People’s Watch did a pioneering work in the field of human rights monitoring in Tamil Nadu. Human rights monitoring has been the very
basis of all kinds of human rights work that People’s Watch has been doing today.

The monitoring unit works at the state level to observe the violations of human rights. Monitoring is primarily done through fact findings, gathering information regarding cases of human rights violations through primary sources, most important of all, the victims themselves and reaching out directly to the organization and through secondary sources.¹

Human Rights monitoring associates of People’s Watch, field investigating associates trained by People’s Watch, fact finding missions with teams of experts and fact findings with the persons of visibility are involved in the work of Human Rights monitoring.

The monitoring areas of People’s Watch are divided into zones like Chennai zone, Madurai zone, Kovai zone and Trichy zone under monitoring officers. The monitoring unit consists of State Level Coordinator, four zonal level State Monitoring Officer (SMO) and thirteen Regional Monitoring Associates.²

¹ Interview with Palaniammal, State Monitoring Officer of People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 4 November, 2006.
² File No.3 of 2006, Monitoring Unit, People’s Watch, Madurai.
Chart 2 - Monitoring Unit Structure

The Regional Monitoring Associates (RMA) monitors human rights violations through Newspapers and News bulletins on radio and television. They contact various Non Governmental Organizations and associations and they study the violations committed against the rights of the people.
Chart 3
Fact Finding Process

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
1. Print and Electronic Media
2. Direct information from the Victims
3. Telephone Message
4. Fax, E-mail
5. Movements, Political parties and others.

STATE MONITORING UNIT
[Selection of cases for Fact Finding forwarding to the concerned RMA]

REGIONAL MONITORING ASSOCIATES (RMAs)
1. Fact Finding.
2. Preliminary Intervention.

SMO and RMA
Finalization of the Fact Finding Report

Initiating joint action through Campaign
Referring to RCTV for Relief and
Transfer of case file to Intervention unit for Legal

The Regional Monitoring Associates of People’s Watch are staying in different places in Tamil Nadu and monitor human rights violations. Because of this, fact-findings are carried out immediately and victims are
provided protection without delay. The fact-finding reports form the basis for further action that facilitates the victims to enjoy due remedy and justice.

Table No. 1

b. Fact Findings Undertaken by People’s Watch in Tamil Nadu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People’s Watch – Monitoring Unit</th>
<th>1996 - 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forms of Violations</td>
<td>No. of fact findings Done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence against Women</td>
<td>1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child/Bonded Labour</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal detention and torture and police excess</td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custodial death</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encounter death</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence against dalits</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporal punishment</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caste clashes</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital violence</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kattapanchayat/Social constraints</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bribery</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment /Election</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the background of these fact finding missions, the organization carries out its intervention activities, after that the affected victims are referred for rehabilitation. Fact finding is undertaken for the purpose of mounting campaigns and publicity to create awareness among the public and to mobilize them to put pressure on the authorities not only to stop violations but also to prevent further violations. If it is noted that the government does not interfere in victim rehabilitation it is used to be

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3 ‘Fact Finding Cases Report Register’ – Monitoring Unit, People’s Watch, Madurai.
forward to campaigning and joint action. Campaigns and publicity may focus on specific victim(s) to help them obtain justice as well as immediate relief.

2. Human Rights Intervention

Legal intervention has been the next logical step to monitoring. As monitoring alone cannot render justice or give answer to human rights violations, People’s Watch makes intervention an issue takes it up in the various forms of legal justice. These interventions are in the courts and commissions within the state of Tamil Nadu and at the national level. Interventions are also made at the international level by seeking support and solidarity of different human rights organizations and the human rights instruments and mechanisms of the United Nations are appropriately used to highlight issues.4

Chart 4 - Intervention Unit Structure

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4 File No.10 of 2007, Intervention Unit, People’s Watch, Madurai.
The intervention unit consists of one Program Coordinator, two State Law Officers, two Headquarters Lawyers, Two Legal Assistants and twelve Regional Law Officers. The program coordinator leads the work and maintains contacts at the national and international level, and works as a liaison officer between the national and international human rights unit and People’s watch.\textsuperscript{5} Follow up by human rights intervention activities, People’s watch send complaints to concerned National/State human rights commissions and other international organizations, regarding incidents on which fact-findings were carried out, and it seeks justice for victims through intervention and follow up of complaints in courts, human rights institutions and United Nations mechanisms.

\textbf{Table No. 2}

\textbf{Complaints sent to redress Mechanisms}\textsuperscript{6}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People's Watch – Intervention Unit Statistics from 1998 - 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complaints sent to National and State commissions, International and National organizations, State and Courts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Human Rights Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Commission for Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Scheduled Castes Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Minority Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Human Rights Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Commission for Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Minority Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of National Scheduled Castes Commission, Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Criminal Courts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{5} Interview with Angayarkanni, Senior Legal Assistant – Intervention Unit of People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 2 April, 2007.
\textsuperscript{6} Periodical Evaluation Report of Intervention Unit, People’s Watch, Madurai, 2008.
b. Some Highlights of Cases of People’s watch intervention unit are follows:

Case of Mahesh Vincent, Kanyakumari District

Mahesh Vincent of Kanyakumari District went to Maldives to work as an accountant in a leather goods showroom and was languishing in jail for more than 3 years in Maldives having been falsely accused and subjected to torture. Because of People’s Watch timely and effective intervention and special efforts taken by sending complaints to National Human Rights Commission, the secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and urgent appeal to Asian Human Rights Commission and communications to various human rights groups at the international level, the victim has been released from the jail in Maldives and back home in June, 2006.⁷

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Case of Rita Mary, Chennai District

Rita Mary a 19 year old unmarried girl who has alleged to have been forced into prostitution and false case was registered by the Tindivanam Police. Rita Marry was arrested by Tindivanam Police under U/s 8 (b) of PIT Act and remanded to the sub jail, Chenji. There she was alleged to have been raped by jail officials in a gang. Because of People’s Watch effective intervention and special efforts taken in assisting the prosecution by it’s intervention unit’s Regional Law Officer, Mr. Lourdhu Xavier of Cuddalore and Villupuram district in sessions case no: 126/2002 and 127/2002 on the file of Fast Track Court No.2, Tindivanam, the accused / perpetrators were convicted and sentenced to undergo imprisonment for 10 years and levied a fine of Rs.10,000/- each as per the judgment dated 21.06.2006.8

Case of Kandadevi Temple ‘Car Festival’, Sivagangai District

People’s Watch has filed a writ (W.P.No: 5367/2006) in the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court to order constitution of ‘Observer Committee’ to monitor the event of car pulling during the course of car festival of Kandadevi Temple. Though the High Court had declined to order the constitution of the observer committee in their order dated 05.07.06 they have reiterated the earlier orders of the High Court passed by them with regard to the equal participation of all community people in the car pulling event during the festival and directed the District Administration Authority, the District Collector of Sivagangai District to scrupulously adhere to the directions of the High Court in letter and spirit in conducting the festival and submit a report to them to that effect.

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Case of Sadasivam, Dindugal District

In 1998, People’s Watch intervened and investigate the alleged police assault in Gundapatti village in Dindugal district. It was the first intervention case of People’s Watch with Sadasivam of Gundapatti village. Because of People’s Watch effort, Sadasivam’s family receives compensation of two lakhs from the Government.9

Case of Angammal, Madurai District

Guruviah, who lived at Krishnapuram in Usilampatti in the district of Madurai, had a wife by name Angammal. He was arrested in 1998 by the police on the basis of false information. Guruviah and his wife Angammal was taken to the police station and tortured. Guruviah died out of such torture, his wife was also tortured. People’s Watch interviewed Angammal, filed a case and recommended to the Government the payment of rupees three lakhs as compensation. Due to People’s Watch intervention the Government was made to pay rupees three lakhs. After the intervention case of Angammal, People’s Watch realized the need for a Rehabilitation centre.10

Case of Auction of Tsunami Relief Materials, Nagapattinam District

After the Tsunami disaster in 2004, there was a flurry of relief materials flowing from the state as well as numerous Non-governmental organizations. In Nagapattinam, the district administration announced, the undistributed relief materials to be auctioned. But the timely

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9 Interview with Angayarkanni, Senior Legal Assistant – Intervention unit of People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 2 April, 2007.
intervention of People’s Watch the auction was stopped. The relief materials were distributed to the Tsunami affected people properly.\textsuperscript{11}

**Case of Illegal Sand Mining at Vaippar River, Tuticurin District**

In the case of illegal sand mining at Vaippar River, People’s Watch filing a writ before Madurai Bench of Madras High Court appointing on expert committee to inspect the quarrying site and to make a report with regard to the depleting of ground water level (W.P No’s 9042/2006 and 609/2007). The district administration takes action to stop the illegal sand mining.\textsuperscript{12}

**Case of Bomb Balaji, Thanjavur District**

Making use of the visit of Justice Shivaraj Patil, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission on 07.03.2008, People’s Watch had prepared a complaint in the case of Bomb Balaji of Tanjore (Attempt of Encounter and Torture of his parents) and presented it before the Chairperson. As a result of which, the perpetrator/inspector was immediately transferred and departmental action has been initiated.\textsuperscript{13}

**Case of Special Task Force Affected Victims**

The monitoring and legal intervention units of People’s Watch were working together and providing legal assistance to the victims those who were affected by the Special Task Force which was committed in order to nab the sandalwood smuggler Veerappan. People’s Watch involved in the Special Task Force torture victim’s case collaborates with

\textsuperscript{11} Dinathanthi, (Tamil), 28 August, 2005.
\textsuperscript{12} Dinamalar, (Tamil), 28 July, 2006.
\textsuperscript{13} http://nhrc.nic.in/dispArchive.asp?fno=1537
many forums. Due to People’s Watch’s continuous effort based on the National Human Rights Commission recommendation, both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka Governments announced 2.8 Crores compensation to the 89 Special Task Force affected victims in January 2007. Through the intervention work of People’s Watch, the victims were strengthened and were bold enough to address their human rights violations and secured legal support and avoided further loss of life and property.14

3. Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (RCTV)

Rehabilitation is not a charitable work. It is right based. Holding hands and accompanying of the victims until they restore their normalcy has been the single point agenda of People’s Watch in establishing rehabilitation homes for the victims on 26th June 2001, on the United Nations international day in support of Torture victims. As per the strategic plan, two rehabilitation centers to be established in Madurai and Mettur, each able to serve victims from several surrounding districts.

The victims need multi-dimensional support in sustaining their physical and as well as mental strength both as an individual and as a family in their pursuit of attaining justice. Services ranging from shelter, food, counseling, medical and mental health assistance are some of the services offered by Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (RCTV). The RCTV has one Director, one senior program coordinator and one junior counselor. It helps the victims to realize their rights.15

15 Interview with Najeema Beevi, Senior Program Coordinator of Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims, People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 20 May, 2007.
a. Objectives

The objectives of the Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (RCTV) of People’s Watch are as follows:

- To provide medical, psychosocial assistance / treatment to victims.
- To provide security and temporary shelter to victims of torture who are at risk of further abuses.
- To promote socio-economic rehabilitation for victims and their family members.
- To provide educational assistance for victims’ children.
- To encourage networking with various like-minded organizations/movements.

b. Activities

Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims was moved to an independent building in Madurai 2001 with more space for victims needing shelter, with physiotherapy equipments managed by a Nurse – cum – Matron, a physiotherapist, a counselor and a part – time social worker.

RCTV has started functioning in Mettur 2001 to cater to the persons affected by the torture meted out by the Special Task Force constituted to nab Veerappan. The RCTV Mettur provides legal assistance, medical care and socio-economic assistance to the victims. Medical treatment is provided through mobile clinics in the tribal areas once a week.
I. Temporary Shelter and Protection for Victims / Witnesses

Temporary shelter is provided for the victims or witnesses in cases of human rights violations. Victims of all forms of torture are provided shelter. So far, temporary shelter was provided to 610 persons at RCTV.\(^{16}\)

Victims and witnesses are provided only temporary shelter / protection until the time that they can reintegrate themselves into mainstream society or the case related danger is no longer present, as the case may be.

People’s Watch has contacts with Social Welfare Department, homes for women in distress, and child line who too refer persons to this shelter. During their stay period, all necessary assistance is provided.

They are also provided an environment where they are also able to ventilate their feelings and are able to take an appropriate decision in regarding their problem.

\(^{16}\) Register No.7 of 2008, Temporary Shelter Register of Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims, People’s Watch, Madurai.
II. Medical Assistance

Medical Assistance is provided for the victims. The victims are taken to concerned specialists for conducting necessary tests. The medicines prescribed by the doctors are also provided for the victims free of cost.
So far, medical assistance was given to 420 persons at the Madurai RCTV and to 1,212 persons at the Mettur branch.\footnote{Register No.4 of 2008, Medical Assistance Register of Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims, People’s Watch, Madurai.} The Centre in Madurai employs the services of a Physiotherapist who treats victims of torture who have sustained injuries.

The Centre in Mettur arranges weekly mobile clinics to the villages in the regions where people affected by the Special Task force – perpetrated atrocities reside. A team constituting of a Doctor, Nurse and Community Organizers visit the villages every Thursday in a vehicle and provide medical services to victims. General Public of the areas also benefit from these mobile clinics.

### III. Educational Assistance

People’s Watch provides educational assistance to children who are the victims of human rights violations and those who have lost either or one of their parents. They are chosen and referred to schools. Children who have experienced various forms of torture become emotional and mentally distressed and their troubles are compounded by the loss of the main breadwinner of the family. Due to the above said reasons many children are neither able to pursue their studies nor go to school.

Such children not only lose their right to education but also their childhood. At 5 years of age many such children of torture survivors have been educated and their talents have been honed, which has earned the praise of many in the society. On 2008, 248 students are getting
educational support. 146 of them are male and 102 are female. 225 of them are school children and 23 are college students. The beneficiaries of educational assistance program come from Madurai, Tirunelveli, Ramnad, Trichy, Tanjore, Tutiorin, Chennai, Salem, Mettur and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu.\(^\text{18}\)

### IV. Economic Development Program

An Economic Development Program was initiated by the Centre for the victims of the Special Task Force in the Mettur region. Victims are enabled to start a sustainable livelihood by provision of fishing nets, doormat weaving looms, cows, goats, economic assistance for petty shop etc. The RCTV arranged meetings for victims in their respective villages every Saturday and they are given counseling and free legal advice.

### V. Summer Camp

The RCTV has been conducting Summer Camps for children of victims of human rights violations every year since 2002 in the month of May. Through these camps the children are given exposure to the pleasant part of life to regain their lost childhood, and provide them an opportunity and a place where they can move freely and get relieved from their traumatic experiences. In these camps, the children have sessions on computers, Yoga, games, trekking, art, craft, painting, environment science, folk dances and songs, rural sport, naturopathy etc. Thus the RCTV is ultimately expected to serve the needs of the victims.

\(^{18}\) Register No.1 of 2008, Education Admission Register of Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims, People’s Watch, Madurai.
4. Institute of Human Rights Education (IHRE) – People’s Watch

The World Conference on Human Rights considers human rights education essential for the promotion and achievement of stable and harmonious relations among communities and for fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and peace. The objective of creating the next generation of human rights practitioners has been progressively moving towards fulfillment mainly through human rights education activities and awareness programs.

People’s Watch is engaged in a series of human rights training activities. It held one training activity in 1996, where some of the participants were teachers and headmistresses who expressed their desire to contribute to the growth and development of human rights education. Immediately after the program, four teachers and a few representatives of People’s Watch got together for a preliminary discussion, which led to planning to identify schools willing to participate.

The introduction of Human Rights Education in Tamil Nadu schools is the result of a deep reflection that the value of rights can be firmly established only when we instill into the tender minds of children this value as a social virtue, as a value to be safeguarded and protected as something stable and indestructible.

The United Nations Decade of Human Rights Education 1995 – 2004 was an opportunity for concerted and collective action to promote the concept of human rights through education interventions. People’s
Watch grabbed this opportunity to push the agenda of human rights education in educational institutions especially in schools.\(^{19}\)


As the first step only nine private schools in Chennai were selected on an experimental basis. Human rights general education was imparted for three days and text book training program was conducted for two days. The Text book available in south Asian Human Rights Documentation center, Delhi which was written by Miss. Ava Lee of Hong Kong, in English, was translated into Tamil and introduced in schools. In this first attempt which included only ninth standard girls, 1756 girls and 90 teachers are participated.


In this phase, this program covers 122 schools in 10 districts of Tamil Nadu. In Chennai only girl students are participated. Now it is given to both sexes and it includes not only aided schools but also government and municipal schools also. In Chennai it was introduced as an experiment only for one year. Now it is extended for two years that is for 8th and 9th standards.


The third phase was made as a three year plan introduced in schools falling under management of Tamil Nadu Catholic Religious India (TNCRI) and other types of aided and un-aided schools. It was introduced

\(^{19}\) Interview with Bernat, State Coordinator (Tamil Nadu) of Institute of Human Rights Education, People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 22 May, 2007.
for the students of 7th, 8th and 9th standards in 29 districts and all its expenses were met by the Catholic institutions.


In 2002, the Government of Tamil Nadu granted permission to People’s Watch to introduce Human Rights Education in Adi Dravida welfare schools.20 The fourth phase was the initiation of a human rights education program in 29 districts in the 258 Adi Dravida Welfare & Government Tribal Residential schools runs by the Department of Adi Dravida Welfare of the Government of Tamil Nadu. It envisaged it as a program for 3 years commencing from 6th standard proceeding up to the 8th standard.

This phase also initiated human rights education program in the RC Diocesan schools run by the Roman Catholic Dioceses of Trichy, Madurai, and Palayamkottai. This phase is for 3 years, commencing from 6th, 7th, and 8th standard. About 134 schools, 14,330 students and 251 teachers are participated.

Again this phase initiated human rights education program in the CSI Diocesan schools run by the Dioceses of Thanjavur, Ramnad and Tirunelveli. About 155 schools, 12,650 students and 333 teachers are participated in this program in 15 districts. This phase is also meant for 3 years from 2002 – 2005.

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In this phase (2005 – 2008) Human Right education was imparted in 1719 schools covering 1,12,057 students. The pilot program on Human Right education in schools held in Chennai in the year 1997 paved the way for the expansion of this program in a variety of schools in Tamil Nadu with different backgrounds. In the past ten years, about 2,21,717 children from 2635 schools have been reached and about 4077 teachers have been trained for this purpose.

The Institute of Human Right education of People’s Watch not only introduced Human Right education but also publishes Human Right books and frames syllabus and modules. These modules were initially written in Tamil, and are now translated into English and other Indian languages to enable the expansion of this program to the other states. The writing of each language module is entrusted to a group of educational, human rights and language experts of the state.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>No. of Schools</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Student Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1997-1998</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chennai based Private schools</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1998-2000</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Municipal, corporate schools</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>8, 9</td>
<td>21,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1999-2002</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>TNCRI Schools</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>7, 8, 9</td>
<td>33,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Tamilnadu Adi Dravida Welfare &amp; Government Tribal schools</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>6, 7, 8</td>
<td>25,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>RC Diocesan Schools</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>6, 7, 8</td>
<td>14,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>CSI Diocesan Schools</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>6, 7, 8</td>
<td>12,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Tamilnadu Adi Dravida Welfare &amp; Government Tribal schools, Municipal and Private schools</td>
<td>1719</td>
<td>6, 7, 8</td>
<td>1,1205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2635</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,21,717</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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21 *Urimai Malar* (Tamil) Published by Institute of Human Rights Education of People’s Watch, (Madurai, 2008), p.45.
f. National Programme

The Institute of Human Rights Education of People’s Watch has introduced “National program for Human Rights Education in Schools” in the following 10 states namely, Gujarat, West Bengal, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Kerala, Bihar, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura apart from Tamil Nadu starting in the latter half of 2005. People’s Watch run the national program along with the state partner, as a collaborative venture.

A state coordinator is appointed as a full time employee and the key functionary. A state advisory committee, with eminent persons in the state is also constituted to advise and guide the state program. The Institute of Human Rights Education has a Program Director, an Associate Director, State coordinators and six program Assistants.

The state partners, in collaboration with whom the program is implemented are the following organizations: Loreto school in West Bengal, PECUC (Peoples Cultural Center) in Orissa, Justice and peace commission in Andhra Pradesh, SICHREM (South India Cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring) in Karnataka and Kerala, Centre for social justice in Gujarat, Hidayatullah National Law University in Chattishgarh, Government Law College in Tripura, Sophia College in Rajasthan and Asian Development Research Institute in Bihar. In addition to the state partner, People’s Watch seek the support, solidarity, cooperation and partnership of various organizations / institutions, who become the implementing partners.
In every state, various stages were followed prior to teaching Human Rights. After the identification of the collaborating partners and state coordinators, various actions such as State Level Consultation, Constitution of
State Advisory Committee, State implementing Committee and State Resource Team, identification of schools, training of the State Resource Team, Meeting of Heads of Schools, Training of Teachers, State Launch of Human Rights Education, adaptation / rewriting / translation and printing of modules, and so on were undertaken. Simultaneously, efforts were pursued to get the approval of the government for introducing Human Rights Education in schools. While Human Rights Education is being taught, regular school visits, Teachers review meetings, summer training for teachers, celebration of important days, interactions with Head Masters, Teachers and Pupils are carried out to facilitate and strengthen the process. The task of Human Rights Education has to be multi disciplinary proactive and effective in empowering human rights.

5. National Project on Preventing Torture in India

People’s Watch, in league with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, began the National Project on Preventing Torture in India (NPPTI) in January 2006 with a grant from the European Union.

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22 Reference Material on Human Rights Education for Cordaid Assessment, People’s Watch, Madurai, 2005, p.46.
23 Friedrich Naumann Foundation is a German non – profit institution primarily engaged in the strengthening of democratic and pluralist development both in the industrialized and the developing world. The Naumann Foundation has its activities spread over in more than 60 countries across the world. It promotes the principle of freedom in human dignity, both in Germany as well as abroad together with its partners – through political education, political advice and political dialogue. It works towards worldwide victory of human and civil rights.
24 European Union (EU) had currently 25 member states. It is based on the European communities and the member states cooperation in the fields of common foreign and security policy and justice and Home affairs. The EU is a major player in International co-operation and development aid. It is also the world’s largest humanitarian aid donor.
The primary aim of the action is to initiate and to model a national campaign for the prevention of torture in India, with a deliberate focus on torture practices routinely employed by police. This project covers the following 10 States in India: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Bihar.

The project focuses especially upon safeguarding groups on the margins of Indian society, such as Dalits, Tribal groups, Minorities, Women and Children.

The project consists of two major stages:

1. Formation of Ten State-Wide networks to monitor instances of torture and to intervene on behalf of victims.
2. A national campaign against torture that uses monitoring data to develop public awareness, to train professionals, to improve institutional responses to abuse, and to lobby for India’s ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Torture (CAT) and stricter domestic laws in India’s parliament and the individual state legislative assemblies.

The primary goals of the Project are as follows:

(a) Protecting potential victims of torture, particularly those belonging to vulnerable and marginalized communities. (b) Highlighting individual cases of torture as they occur (c) Improving institutional responses to instances of torture by demanding state accountability (d)
Advancing an ethic of responsibility and restraint among law-enforcement officers (e) Educating and enlisting professional groups such as lawyers, social activists, doctors, psychiatrists, journalists, and teachers in the campaign to prevent and to eliminate torture (f) Raising public awareness of torture as an unlawful and widespread abuse of police powers (g) Promoting favourable policy outcomes in the form of new domestic anti-torture Legislation and commitments to existing international treaties.25

The overall goal of the Project is the prevention and reduction of torture in India, where police abuses remain an entrenched and often routine law enforcement strategy despite India’s status as the world’s largest democracy. The Project confronts frequent police practices that include assault and physical abuse, custodial death, custodial rape, threats and psychological humiliation, and deprivation of food, water, sleep, and medical attention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Torture</th>
<th>Encounter</th>
<th>Custodial Police Torture</th>
<th>Lathi Charge</th>
<th>Police Firing</th>
<th>Police Intimidation</th>
<th>Police Violence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>881</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table No.4 - Fact findings analysis of People’s Watch26

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26 File No.15 of 2008, Preventing Torture Project Unit- Periodical Evolution Report, People’s Watch, Madurai.
In the years 2006 to 2008, the Project has undertaken the following in the State of Tamil Nadu:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fact Findings</th>
<th>Legal Interventions</th>
<th>Training Programmes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) and People’s Watch-Tamil Nadu will conduct the National Programme with the following staff: One National Director supervising the full action at the national level, The person will be of such stature who can lead the advocacy and lobbying work to bring about required policy level changes; One National Program Officer assist the National Director in coordinating, implementing and monitoring the entire program in ten states who will have proven coordination capacities at this level; Ten State Directors supervising the progress of the program at the state level; Ten State Law Officers in charge of the state for all legal interventions that emanate from torture monitoring work carried out in this program; Ten Legal Associates in charge of the state who will help the state law officer in each state in drafting the communications/complaints; Ten Project Coordinators to be responsible for the actual implementation of the program at the state level; Ten program Associates assisting the state coordinators in the actual implementation of the program at the state level; and One Regional Director of FNF will be in charge of advising and supervising the implementation of the project. He along with the Executive Director of People’s Watch will also ensure that experiences from the project are communicated to the bigger audience in Europe; and
One Program Executive of FNF will be working with People’s Watch to ensure proper coordination between both the organization and the European Union.27

The district-by-district torture monitoring will be conducted by a corps of 100 torture monitors across the ten states, drawn from local affiliates coordinated by FNF’s partner People’s Watch Tamil Nadu. Torture monitors will investigate abuses as they occur in real time – interviewing victims, witnesses, and police, collecting documents, and mobilizing local media coverage. These fact-finding missions will subsequently provide the basis for targeted legal interventions, primarily in support of individuals from marginalized groups, performed by staff lawyers in each state.28

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27 Available at http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/en.htm
28 Interview with Pradeep Solmon Raj, State Program Associate of National Project on Preventing Torture Unit of People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 17 March 2008.
EU-FNSt National Project on Preventing Torture in India: From Public Awareness to State Accountability

Organogram of the EU Project

Director Prog. - PWTN ← National Director → Director (F & A) - PWTN,

- Accounts Officer
- Administrative Officer
- Administrative Assist
- Driver

KERALA KARNATKA TAMIL NADU ANDHRA PRADESH ORISSA WEST BENGAL RAJASTHAN BIHAR UTTAR PRADESH MADHYA PRADESH
The national awareness campaign coordinated by project staff employs the raw data generated by these monitoring activities to drive media coverage, public education and lobbying activities devoted to bringing greater visibility to the prevalence of torture in India. Reporting on individual instances of abuse will be matched by activities that aim to broadly educate public audience as to their rights and the legal resources available to them. On a policy level, the campaign pushed to increase these protections. It also include at its core a series of state-level awareness conferences targeting the various professions implicated in the elimination of torture: lawyers, social activists, doctors, psychiatrists, journalists and teachers. Police themselves, as well as members of the judiciary, are also to be treated as intermediaries, receiving awareness training that addresses them as constructive partners rather than adversaries in this project.

6. Human Rights Campaign and Networking

Since 1995, People’s Watch has been involved in various human rights campaigns and is a member of various groups in their joint effort campaigns. In the year 2002 campaign emerged in People’s Watch and started functioning as a separate department. The primary objective is to build people’s movements based on Human rights principles, policies and guidelines. Its aim is to strengthen the Human Rights Movement that engages women and men from a broad spectrum of society’s political parties, movements, castes, religions, trade unions, civil society groups, Human Rights defenders and others.

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29 Interview with Shanmuga Velu, Regional Coordinator of Campaign and Networking Unit of People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 9 May 2008.
The campaign department plays a major role in mobilizing people, strengthening joint efforts, providing human rights information, court judgments, and international agreements and bringing about human rights culture in the society.

It organizes democratic protests and demonstrations to spread awareness, influence public opinion, inspire others, highlight violations of human rights and to hold authorities accountable. Debates, discussions and further public demonstrations build additional support and increase both the level of commitment and the number of people involved in creating a culture of human rights. People’s Watch collaborate with various other organizations, groups, individuals and movements in Human Rights campaigning and networking.

The Networking unit interacts with general public, victims, students, media, trade unions, Non-Governmental organizations, professionals, women groups, and Human Rights based groups. People’s Watch conducts Nationwide training, equipping Human Rights Development and anti-torture activists with knowledge and skills to combat and eliminate torture.

People’s Watch participating in Campaign Against Sex Selective Abortion (CASSA), Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL), Campaign Against Child Trafficking (CACT), Campaign for Right to Education for all children, Campaign Against Corporal Punishment, Campaign Against Death Penalty, Campaign on Relief and Rehabilitation for the Victims of
Joint Special Task Force, Campaign for Coastal Action Network (CAN), Campaign Against Shrimp Industries (CASI) and Campaign Against Torture (CAT).

Campaign Against Torture was the important campaign organized by People’s Watch. People’s Watch arranged for meetings on torture and a state level seminar on torture in August 2001.\(^{30}\) In 2002, People’s Watch arranged campaigns and networks in districts, aimed at gathering 30000 people to involve them in such activities. People’s Watch declared, “An – Anti torture week” during 8 – 26 June, 2003. Cultural yatras were arranged, it was the first significant yatra in the history of Human Rights Movement in Tamil Nadu. The yatra was planned to end at in Salem all the way from Chennai, Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari, covering 300 to 600 Kilometers straight and diagonally.\(^{31}\) The yatra was arranged to involve people to participate in Human Rights promotion.

People’s Watch utilized the yatra to understand people’s knowledge of Human Rights violations. It published an article in Tamil entitled, “A complete view of Torture.” It gave a detailed picture about the performances by the cultural team and the need for further campaigning and networking. People’s Watch is participating in state level meetings of all campaigns and all national campaigns on Human Rights issues.\(^{32}\)

\(^{30}\) Manitha Urimai Kangani (Tamil), Aug. 2001.
\(^{32}\) Campaign and Networking Unit Activities Report: 2008, People’s Watch, Madurai.
Public Hearing

People's Watch organizes public hearing. The main purpose of public hearing is to disseminate information regarding violations in the absence of remedial action, by establishing institutions and dispensing justice and strategy for taking cognizance by officials.

On 15th November 2005, the Campaign Against Torture (CAT), a campaign promoted by People's Watch in Tamil Nadu in association with a cross-section of movements, political parties and human rights defenders, organized a Public Hearing in Chennai on the continuing and indiscriminate practice of torture by the law enforcement authorities, in the name of caste by the dominant communities, in the name of gender by male chauvinists in domestic and public affairs as well as corporal punishment in the name of chastising children within the class room. The jury members were the following: Justice H. Suresh, Retired Judge, Bombay High Court, Justice M. S. Janarthanam, Retired Judge, Madras High Court, Mr. V.R. Lakshmi Narayanan, Retired DGP, TN, Ms. Aruna Roy IAS, Member of the National Advisory Council, Ms. Annie Raja, General Secretary, National Federation of Indian Women, New Delhi, Dr. V. Vasanthis Devi, Former Chairperson of the State Commission of Women, Tamil Nadu, Mr. Karuppan, IAS (Retired), State Convener for the National Campaign for Dalit Human Rights. Each one of the jury members press their observations and the required follow-up action to be taken up at the national and state level.

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7. People’s Watch - Helpline

The round the clock helpline service is the specialty of People’s Watch, since 2003, at its headquarters. Headed by a woman lawyer, it offers a variety of services including guiding and directing, counseling, legal advice and assistance to rehabilitation and so on. The instant access to legal or general advisory support to any sort of human rights issue is the strength of the initiative.

Victims of following human rights violations approach the Helpline for immediate legal counsel and assistance:

- Dowry Harassment
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Harassment
- Untouchablity
- Caste Clashes
- Illegal Arrest / Custody
- Violence Against Women and
- Corporal Punishment

The victim can submit petition or complaint – in person / by post / Phone / E-mail. The complaints will be forwarded to concerned officials for due actions. Fact findings are undertaken on the complaints and if need be cases are registered by the organization.34

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34 Interview with Kala Newton, Law Officer, Help line Unit of people’s Watch, Madurai, dated 3 June, 2008.
People’s Watch’s Helpline has so far attended 793 cases, out of 793 cases 347 in 2003 and 446 in 2004. The Helpline unit received 1194 petitions from 2005 to 2007, and it attended 1119 petitions.\(^{35}\) The Helpline provides 24 hours free service to victims of human rights violations. The aim of the Helpline is to give immediate assistance to affected persons, regardless of what they have suffered.

8. Tsunami responses of People’s Watch

Tsunami Legal Action Committee

Realizing the need for a right based approach to disasters, a system of legal intervention has to be established in Tsunami affected areas, the Tsunami Legal Action Committee (TLAC) was established in March 2005.

The Tsunami Legal Action Committee of People’s Watch conducted Workshops for the benefit of the tsunami affected people in many areas of Tamil Nadu.\(^ {36}\)

TLAC is a collaborative initiative of 3 organizations (i) SOCO Trust, Madurai, (ii) Human Rights Law Network, Chennai and (iii) People’s Watch

a. Principles

- Emphasis on alternate dispute resolution and avoidance of courtroom litigation

\(^{35}\) Help line Register – 2008, People’s Watch, Madurai.

\(^{36}\) Dinathanthi,(Tamil daily) 21 October, 2006.
• Emphasis on legal intervention and not aid
• Inclusive approach - with a facilitating space for all possible actors to participate in the development of the model.

b. Objectives
• The overall objective of the project is to ensure that the principle of "Disaster relief and rehabilitation as a matter of right" is put into practice and gains greater recognition in law and policy.
• Grievance redress mechanism is put in place in times of disasters

c. Specific Objective
• Building the capacities of the tsunami communities on human rights and for community members to take up collective action on Human Right issues.

d. Work Areas
The TLAC working in Tsunami affected areas in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry with a coordinating office in Madurai and 4 zonal offices in Chennai, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, and Kanniyakumari.

e. Activities of TLAC
• Creating awareness about legal aid in the tsunami affected communities through its legal camps.
• TLAC in coordination with many NGOs working in the field organized several legal aid camps for the purpose of collecting complaints from the affected people.37
• Conducted need based research studies on accountability, quality of relief and rehabilitation efforts, which, along with the experiences of legal intervention, would form substantial base for developing a comprehensive right based relief and rehabilitation policy during disasters in future.
• Able to get relief in many complicated issues by sustained interactions with concerned government departments.

The Number of Legal aid camps and number of complaints received by TLAC of People’s Watch are given below

Legal Aid Camps – Complaints Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Number of Camps</th>
<th>Number of Complaints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>41,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuddalore</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>15,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagapattinam</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>25,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>29,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>1,11,849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

37 Dinamalar, (Tamil), 19 June, 2005; See also Dinathanthi, (Tamil), 19 June, 2005.
f. Classification of Complaints

Collection of a large volume of complaints are appropriately classified and forwarded to Legal services authorities. The complaints are classified like,

f. 1. Relief and compensations
   - Death
   - Injuries
   - Missing persons
   - Education

f. 2. Fisheries
   - Damages to boats, Kattumarams, Vallams etc.
   - Loss of nets, fishing implements etc.

f. 3. Land and agriculture
   - Crops
   - Land
   - Uppalams

f. 4. Missing documents
   - Educational certificates
   - Passports, ration card,
   - Land documents etc

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38 Interview with Archana Sarma, Law Researcher of Tsunami Legal Action Committee, People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 10 October, 2006.
f. 5. Bank and insurance
   - Bank claims
   - LIC and insurance claims

f. 6. Livelihood
   - Cattle, livestock
   - Small businesses
   - Unorganized labour

f. 7. Discrimination
   - Religion
   - Caste
   - Gender
   - Widows / aged
   - Disabilities

f. 8. Shelter
   - Damage to house
   - Household articles
Table No. 5
Activities undertaken
Legal intervention
Redress of complaints by TLAC up to November 2006$^{39}$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Chennai</th>
<th>Cuddalore</th>
<th>Nagai</th>
<th>KanyaKumari</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relief has been received from Govt. or NGOs</td>
<td>32,895</td>
<td>6,252</td>
<td>17,909</td>
<td>8,960</td>
<td>66,015</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not genuine enough to follow up</td>
<td>7,796</td>
<td>6,222</td>
<td>6,348</td>
<td>20,243</td>
<td>40,610</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Pending Complaints</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td>1,568</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>5,224</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>41,434</td>
<td>15,044</td>
<td>25,825</td>
<td>29,546</td>
<td>1,11,849</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Status of Redress of TLAC Currently Pending Complaints as on May 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>No. of pending complaints</th>
<th>No. of complaints redress and relief received</th>
<th>Remaining complaints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chennai</td>
<td>743</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuddalore</td>
<td>2,570</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>2,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagapattinam</td>
<td>1,568</td>
<td>1,099</td>
<td>469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanyakumari</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,224</td>
<td>1,617</td>
<td>3,607</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

g. Human Rights Training

Human rights trainings were conducted by TLAC in the 256 Tsunami affected villages. This training dealt with the following crucial topics:

- Understanding of human rights in the context of disaster relief and rehabilitation as a basic human right
- Developing a human rights perspective by understanding the rights of marginalized communities.
- Understanding rights of coastal communities in the context of coastal regulatory mechanisms.
- Understanding human rights mechanisms
- Knowledge of the legal enforcement systems that exist locally
- Rights of human rights defenders
- Need for collective Action and Skills of monitoring and legal intervention.

The Right to Information Act (RTI) which is a recent legislation in India is of prime significance as it gives the people the access to information. People today have a mechanism which enables them to ask for information and also monitor the functioning of the State. The accountability of the State to the people has been established by this legislation.

In the Tsunami context, most of the communities have no idea of what the Government has done for them. The status of their complaints

\[40\] Tsunami Legal Action Committee Activities Report – 2006, People’s Watch, Madurai.
is not known to them. TLAC carried out a campaign as an effort to make people aware of this legislation and also to equip common people to use this legislation to get access to information on the functioning of the State and also for them to be able to find out the status of their pending petitions with the Government.

9. People’s Watch Media

Through a variety of efforts aimed at enhancing public interest, awareness and outrage around human rights issues, People’s Watch has launched an intensive, targeted media campaign to accelerate an active publication and documentation component of its work. Its goal is to ignite public awareness of human rights violations through strategic communications, publications and documentations.41

Human Rights Reports helps People’s Watch to expose the various forms of human rights violations, the present human rights realities along with the unresponsiveness of the Government to the public. Such efforts occur through various Human Rights Forums, designed to draw the attention of the public, various Human Rights Mechanisms such as the various Human Rights Commissions, Political Parties, People’s Movements, Dalit Movements, the Women’s Movement, the Minorities Movement, and the mainstream media.

Even though these efforts have had an impact so far through documentation and publications processes, it will be much more effective

when it goes out through the electronic and mass media so that the inactiveness of the Government and its instruments can be easily exposed to the public. Bringing out alternative and electronic media will help us create solidarity networks in support of the affected people. This media effort helps in bringing about a social change through Human Rights Campaign to ensure state accountability and also to spread the human rights culture. The alternative media serves as records of historical importance, as evidence and also as documentary support for Human Rights Campaign.42

**a. Objective:**

- To influence public opinion for advocacy and policy discourse by using the media

**b. Activities**43

- Sparking media’s interest in generating public outrage by holding press meetings and generate press releases about widespread violations of Human Rights.
- Making Documentary Films and preparing Short Films
- Bringing out Monthly Newsletters
- Preparing Articles for the magazine – ‘Manitha Urimai Kangani’
- Preparing advertisement for important events of the organization to be telecast in slots on local televisions

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• Creating audio / video documentation of abuse, witness testimony and police interviews and disseminate them to TV, radio and newspapers.

10. People’s Watch - Documentation Centre

The documentation is the nerve center of activities of the programs of People’s Watch. Documentation centre as an online research oriented centre. People’s Watch is engaging in an important programme of digital documentation of news events and developments as they are appearing in the print media. The objective at present is to store the news clippings of importance to the present as well as for the future.

The significance of this ongoing programme lies in the fact that this facility makes easy the access of information in a ready to use format. News clippings are documented in 200 different types of categories. The staff of documentation centre includes Head of the Documentation Centre, Librarian, Assistant Librarian, Documentation Assistant and part time Documentation Associates.44

a. Objectives

• To document and maintain a record of all violations of Human Rights in Tamil Nadu and to develop a library to form the basis of the human rights work of People's Watch.

44 Interview with Mehari Nigar, Librarian, Documentation Centre of People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 11 June 2008.
- Use as many avenues as possible to influence public opinion and spread the human rights awareness message and to promote a Human Rights culture in society.

b. Activities\textsuperscript{45}

- Documentation of Human Rights related news from dailies, weeklies, monthlies and other news sources.
- Monitoring Human Rights violations through sources and news bulletins on radio and TV.
- Providing access to a large range of law books and journals for legal professionals and scholars.
- Helping in the preparation of Human Rights Education Modules & training materials by providing information through other resources.
- Catalogue and archive a library of human rights documentation, publications, journals, fact finding reports, clips of news articles, court judgments, annual reports, commission reports, etc., to be available to scholars, researchers, NGOs, etc.
- To find out the human right violation news through newspaper and photocopies of the relevant information of human right violation are passed to the monitoring unit which helps for their fact finding work immediately.
- To work towards the establishment of a publishing house exclusively committed to human rights literature, documents and other publications.

\textsuperscript{45} Periodical Evolution Report– 2008 of Documentation Centre, People’s Watch, Madurai.
Documentation centre had a very gradual growth from 1995. It now provides a very organized and orderly atmosphere for reading and has already won the admiration of several academicians and activists for the fast growth and the relevant materials that is available. More than 7000 books are available in the Documentation Centre and it categorized in to 42 subjects including the list of CDs, video and audio cassettes on human rights, files on women, children, dalits, tribals, bonded labour, minorities, refugees, environment, consumer rights, election, globalization, police, racial discrimination, torture, international law, economics, reports of Amnesty international, NHRC and others.

The orderliness in the documentation and cataloging at the documentation centre has found appreciation by several of the visitors to the documentation centre. Per day 15 visitors visited documentation centre which include researchers, college students, professors, advocates, media persons and NGOs etc, used and were benefited by the documentation centre.46

11. People’s Watch Publications

Publication has been yet another central function of People’s Watch aiming at widening the scope of awareness and knowledge building on human rights among students, research scholars and various civil society groups. The more people have access to books, journals and other publications in their own language, the more they will engage themselves

46 Library Visitors Register – 2008, Documentation Centre, People’s Watch, Madurai.

*Manitha Urimai Kangani* (human rights journal in Tamil) is registered and published monthly, and national and international human rights laws, declarations, fact finding reports and other articles and editorials on human rights will be included in its content. Training materials, school books, annual reports and minutes of important human rights conventions are made available in Tamil, Hindi, English and other regional languages, as needed.47

The publication section published Human Rights Education materials and Resource materials for lawyers and Resource materials for doctors and Psychiatrists. The publication unit prepares pamphlets and posters on torture and cruelty, custodial death, child labour, death penalty, environmental protection and human rights etc, which are used for campaigning to create awareness among the people. Books on major issues at the state and the national level and four human rights intervention series, and fifteen human rights education materials, three modules and several literary books based on Human rights are published.48

47 A Short description of People’s Watch-Tamil Nadu, a Proposal Submitted to Vigil India Movement, (Madurai: People’s Watch Publication, 2004), p.23.
48 Pamphlet, Activities of Publication Unit, People’s Watch, Madurai.
*Manitha Urimai Kangani* a monthly human rights magazine in Tamil published by People’s Watch is subscribed to by various categories of individuals, schools and colleges, universities, government department officials, nongovernmental organizations, district collectors, journalists, doctors, lawyers, and human rights activists. The total numbers of printed copies of *Manitha Urimai Kangani* are 2500 (Two thousand five hundred). Readers have said that they have become aware of human rights violations through *Kangani* Magazine, and they have expressed interest in intervening in human rights violations taking place in their locality and work in alliance with People’s Watch.

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49 Interview with Paneer Selvam, Senior Program Secretary, Publication Section of People’s Watch, Madurai, dated 13 June, 2008.