CHAPTER – VII

CONCLUSIONS
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This chapter lists the salient findings obtained in the present study. It also includes important aspects like background of murderers and victims, nature of homicide and reformation of convicted murderers. The homicidal behavior has been analyzed theoretically with the present context of environment and sub-cultural background.

Most of the inhabitants of South Karnataka are found engaged in agriculture or related occupations. Majority of the population belong to the Hindu religion. Tropical climate prevails in this region. In this region the families basically are patriarchal. The joint family members usually live under one roof. Due to restrictive social sanctions inter caste marriages are rare. The group values are internalized by the individuals through interactions with the social environment. People often quarrel for very silly matters. It is the sub-cultural entity which creates pressure on individuals in respect of violence prone behavior. Amongst Hindus most of the people of backward classes are illiterates and agricultural labourers. It seems that there is a strong association between the caste and the occupation of the subjects. It is also noticed that the income level of the subjects of upper
caste is better than that of the lower castes. Majority of the convicted murderers come from rural areas. Hence, homicide may be more of rural problem rather than the urban one.

32.12 percent of the murderers belong to an age group of 30-40. The highest age group is between 20-30 that has been calculated 20.00 percent of murderers. Around mid thirties, an individual has tendency to settle down and may face many problems. Hence, it can be said that many people between 20-30 may have in disputes over property, disputes with relatives etc., at this age.

53.64 percent of the convicted murderers are illiterates or less educated. It is observed that the educational level of the upper caste is higher than that of the lower caste. It is also found that the subjects belonging to younger age group have higher level of education in comparison with the subjects of the older age group. The murderers coming from the joint families are relatively better educated than those coming from nuclear families. Those who are better educated have been from economically well-off families. Thus, the upper caste and economically well-off families have been more conspicuous of education.
Majority of the convicted murderers have an average level of physical fitness. The reason for this is that they have come from hard living conditions of their daily life. It is found most of the convicted murderers are married. Marriage brings a sense of responsibility and this is also an emotional component involved in the family relationships. It is because of this responsibility the married convicted offenders show a better reformation than the others.

56.04 percent of the murderers are alcohol and smoking addicts. There is an indication that the use of alcohol has increased the number of murderers along with the age. As far as the relationship between the use of intoxication with that of the others concerned variables is that this study has found the age a significantly related in addition, to the higher the age, the use of alcohol is also higher.

It is found that the majority of the murderers come from the lower classes. The main cause for the commission of murder is dispute over the land, because the majority of them are agriculturists. It is also found that murderers have come from all strata of the society. Hence, there is no relationship between the poverty and the homicidal behavior.
It is observed that the family as a compact unit is of primary importance for the personality development of an individual. It is the family setting that a child experience according to the norms of the society and obtains his first training of living in groups. The family controls the behavior of the individual by defining situations. The discussions of the pertinent aspects of the family of the murderers, as discussed so far has been directly or indirectly related to the process of instilling homicidal proneness.

It is found that amongst the educated and literate families, the higher percentage of murderers come from the backward classes. It is also found that the educational level of the murderers hailing from the joint families is better than that of the single families.

It is observed that 84.36 percent of the murderers have come from the family, where no one has indicated or sentenced in any criminal cases. Hence, the criminality in the family is not related to homicidal behavior. It also has been observed that criminality in the family is not related to either caste or education of the murderers. But, it is seen that homicidal behavior in the family is related to the family occupations.

Majority of the murderers are having favorable attitude towards their family members. This type of an attitude may help them to rejoin the family
after his/her release. Majority of the murderers come from the families, where the family quarrels are common. Further, it is noticed that family quarrels belong to joint families. The family conflicts are either concerned with house hold or property problems of the family.

It is found that 70.48 percent of the murderers have a normal status among their folks and usually the friends of the murderers are agriculturists. It is because all of them belong to the rural areas. It is noticed that fighting and frequent quarrelling sub-culture is common among the inhabitants of this region. The sub-culture has been learned through association with their intimate group environment. The activities of the inhabitants are also similar to that of the other people.

The female murderers are very few compared to the males. Half of the murders in this category are related to dowry deaths wherein daughter-in-law were killed by various means. Rest half are due to adultery cases, wherein husbands were killed by women. In this category age group of female murderers varies between 20 and 40 years.

It is found that the backward class people consume more alcohol than that of the upper class people. Majority of the murders have taken place in the villages where the consumption of alcohol is very high. It is usual to
notice that fighting and quarrel among the drunkards is common. Such a type of salutation may have helped these people to develop the violent behavior.

68.79 percent of the murderers have agreed that they are of aggressive nature. Further, it is noticed that this aggressive behavior is more common among the backward class people. It is because of this tendency that more homicides have committed by the backward class people.

34.85 percent of the murderers have agreed that they have various occasions of minor quarrels in their daily interactions with others. It has been found that the majority of the murderers may have interacted with some antisocial elements. And it is also observed that some of the murderers have been victimized relatively in some social situations. This has resulted for the cause of homicide where the environment has created a situation and is responsible for it.

It is observed that the blood feud culture is present among some families or it is the long lasting state of enemity between the group of families often have involved in violence has been deeply internalized in the individual and therefore over physical violence becomes a common sub culturally expected response to certain stimuli. It becomes obvious that
apart from the other factors and forces the individual deviant life style has generated an inevitable homicidal risk.

It is observed that majority of the victims of homicides are males. Some females have been the victims of dowry deaths. It is found that more women have become victims in younger age group than men. The reason may be that young girls become a prey to the assaults, maltreatment and torture.

It is reported that the majority of the victims belong to the backward class. It is noticed that the dowry victims generally come from traditional and rigid families who have strictly observed the patterns of marriage within their caste. Some female victims may have involved for having illicit relationship with others.

The majority of the victims of homicide are less educated. It is found that most of the murderers have some relationship with their victims. It is also noticed that the stringers are rarely involved in the homicide act. Therefore, homicide occurs more frequently among the intimate groups. The relationship between a husband and a wife is an important factor of murderous attacks. The murderer and the victim act with each other directly by sharing a common place or indirectly by symbolic relationship.
68.16 percent of the murderers and victims are of the same caste. Hence, the homicide is of homo- genetic in nature. It is observed that few murders have been committed by the upper caste people upon the lower class, the upper caste have dominating nature upon that of the backward classes.

The victim precipitated homicides are one out of four ceases. It is observed that there is an inter-relationship between the environment of the murder and that of the victims. Thus, the victim precipitation depends upon the environment.

In the backward classes the women play an important role in the family matters because they are also one of the earning members of the family. Therefore, the family conflicts between a husband and a wife has been greatly increased. This situation may have created an environment for homicide. Hence, it is the sub-cultural norms and the environment that influences that choice of specific relatives as homicide victims.

It is found that 29.58 percent of the victims belong to the provocative types. This study shows that 11.27 percent are self victimizing, 26.06 percent are precipitate, 10.21 percent who are socially weak, 13.02 percent
are biologically weak, 5.28 percent are political and 4.58 percent of the victims are unrelated types of victims.

The victims entry into the social situations is conducive to a high homicidal rate is almost like entering into a dangerous situation. The victim's cooperation or instigation is likely to mean that no actual injury to him has been possible. Society has an implicit responsibility towards the protection of the victims and their relatives. The compensation to the victims belonging to backward classes of the society perhaps need greater attention.

In general, it is found that he work programmes in jails are not primarily based on rehabilitation of the offenders after release. Majority of the murderers are of the opinion that institutions are not providing them meaningful work programmes. Some prisoners have liked the work given to them because it was uninteresting. They are also of the opinion that the activities and the work given to them has no future utility.

The majority of the offenders feel that the released prisoners have to be provided with loan facilities. 70.68 percent of the prisoners expected sympathy from the society. It is found that the murderers show that they are having inclination towards the improvement of their conduct. The majority
of the prisoners stated that the officials are interested in the welfare of the inmates.

Most of the murderers stated that justice has been done to them with this type of punishment. It is observed that murderers are not afraid of death penalty or life imprisonment. Many homicides have been committed in a moment of heat of passion. It is found that 68.25 percent of the respondents know that they are going to get life imprisonment. It is believed that the death penalty or life imprisonment is an ineffective method of punishment to the murderers.

It is observed that the released murderers are returning to their rural areas after release. It is commonly believed that the released prisoners have a low status amongst their folk. But, this view has not been found true in case of murderers. It is found that the released murderers take part in all the activities of the rural life and there is no distinction made against them. This situation has to help them to re-assimilate in the society.

It is seen that a good socio-economic condition is conducive to settle down for the released murderers has been supported by them. It is found that vocational training in the correctional institution has no rehabilitative value.
37.68 percent of homicides have taken place usually during evening and night hours. 63.32 percent of homicides occurred on market day and holidays. The reason for this is that on these days people are free to interact with each others. It is likely that the quarrels and fighting may have taken place on these days. Hence, the resultant actions have been the physical violence. This type of situation has created the enmity among the people.

It is found that 55.99 percent of homicides have taken place outside the house. But, the data shows that the majority of women have been murdered in the house. Males usually interact with each other outside their home. Quarrels and fighting take place mainly for the dispute of land and property sake. Disputes of such kind usually happen in this region. Hence, most of the homicides have been occurred outside their home.

It is observed that 39.39 percent of homicides have been committed in the warmer month of the year. The homicide may be to the tempo of social life, which, in turn may vary with the seasonal activities of the people. 73.94 percent of homicides have been committed individually, but the official records show that though many people have joined in the homicidal act, but only one person has been sentenced for homicidal act. Hence, it can be said that most of the murders have been committed in group. Since,
murders have been committed in group it may be presumed that the homicides must have been planned earlier. But few murders have been committed in heat of passion.

In South Karnataka region, the types of homicides are mistake killing (25.76%), group slaying (12.72%) belong homicide (2.83%), pattern planned homicide (35.76%) and psycho homicide (3.94%). Majority of the murders must have lost their temper at the time of committing murder and have behaved irrationally. Homicidal act is rather the culmination of a long series of lesser acts equally of an irrational nature.

It is also found that the motives of the murder where 26.06 percent is family conflicts, 22.12 percent personal conflicts, 6.06 percent revenge and jealousy, 5.76 percent political, 20.91 percent sex or women, 3.94 percent accidental, 5.15 percent economical gain, 3.94 percent self defense/accidental and 5.44 percent miscellaneous. It is observed that most of family conflicts are due to land/property disputes and personal conflicts due to enmity and self prestige. Hence, it may be concluded that the majority of the homicides are committed due to land or women.

The majority of the murderers are of the opinion that the atmosphere prevailing in the police station is creating the fear in the minds of the people.
The police use vulgar language and third rate method of implications for innocent people. The murderers said that higher rank police officers are good and soft spoken. Majority of the murderers said that most of the police people are corrupt.

It is observed that homicide is prevalent among relatively homogeneous sub-cultural group. It is found that homicides are more common among the backward class of the Hindus and Lingayats. Quick resort to physical violence as a measure of courage of defense or status appears to be sub cultural expression among these people. Such types of social expectations may interplay with others who harbour the same response and that may result in physical violence or murder. It is also noticed that the women folk of these castes are also supporting the existing sub-cultural entity, by encouraging the sons/husbands/male family members. That matters, they are also encouraging to resort aggressive behavior, when it comes to the question of family prestige or for self defense.

The boys and girls of this type of subculture are likely to acquire the aggressive nature of behavior. It is seen by the type of punishments meted out by the elders for their mis-behaviour. The expression of aggressive behavior may become a part of sub-cultural normative system of the society.
Individuals living in such sub culture may not always engage in violence behavior. But the social situations may create an environment to commit violent act. The development of favourable attitudes towards aggressive behavior usually involves learned behavior. Aggressiveness is a relevant aspect in the study of homicidal behavior. Sometimes violence may become a part of life style of particular group of people. When such violent sub-culture become a part of life, then that type of aggressive behavior may be considered as immoral. It is because of this fact that when an individual commits homicide, one will be proud of his act and when returned to the community after release from prison, one may easily assimilates again in the society as a normal person.

It is observed that the sub-cultural behavior is different only in tolerated deviation. The conduct norms of the people may conform the shared values of that culture. Usually these norms may define the particular type of behavioural patterns. And that pattern of life is accepted by the general public.

The hypotheses that South Karnataka region sustains certain distinctive socio-cultural factors that are conductive for generating homicidal proneness among inhabitants have been proved. People who are
unable to restrain their selfish impulses or to sustain an affectionate relation
have helped to engage in homicidal behavior. It is an effort to deal with
others with the conventional means of such a type of accepted behavior of
that people. The family may socialize the child into a tradition of deviant
behavior that has been accepted by the larger society. Individual’s
frustration and the ecological conditions may promote an aggressive type of
behavior. Thus, the homicidal act provides a solution to the problems faced
by certain individuals. Therefore socio-cultural factors of that society
conduce the particular type of behavior among the people.

The aggressive behavior is not a serious problem among the
inhabitants of this region. Killing or assaulting one’s wife is not simply
more serious than that of slapping or beating. This type of aggressive
behavior is learned within the family and the community. Hence, this type
of acquired behavior is a normal human behavior of the people. The
murderers have been associated with emotional stresses and strains. Under
the situation they might have behaved in a perfect and normal manner.
Hence, majority of the murderers are having just like a normal human being
even after the commission of homicide. After committing the murder they
are relieved of tension and are repenting upon their act. Because of this
reason most of the murderers are reformed without much difficulty in the
prison. After their release from the prison, the murderers come back to their own place and settle down and lead a normal life.

Another hypothesis shows that the institutional treatment has no reformative value to the murderers has been proved. As it is discussed earlier, the institutional work programmes are based on the policy and are aimed to reform all the prisoners. The vocational education given in the prison is not useful for the majority of the prisoners, because they are not making use of it after their release. Most of the murderers are agriculturists and manual labourers, hence they tend to follow their family occupations. Therefore, the institutional programmes have no reformative value to the murderers. Another reason for this is that soon after committing the murder, most of them have repented upon their sin and they themselves have reformed. Hence, there is no need of reforming them again. That means, the institutional programmes have no effect on the murderers, so far as their reformation is concerned.

The homicidal behavior like a normal behavior which consists of an act that offends certain acquired beliefs and sentiments. Homicide may be precipitated by the victim, who also may possess the similar tendencies. The
impulsive behavior of the individuals may not force all to involve in the homicidal act. But, it is the circumstantial situation that creates and environment of homicide. Thus one may conclude that though the homicidal behavior or aggressive behavior is a normal behavior of the inhabitants of this region, the types and patterns of homicides may be specified only for particular type of community at a particular period.