IDEAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This research has brought forth some issues of great significance which the NHRC needs to address in order to exhibit itself as a more effective organisation. The research findings would be of interest to all stakeholders. The following ideas are proposed for further research:

1. A study of the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) of selected countries in addressing environmental issues: In some countries such as Thailand and New Zealand, the NHRIs have successfully addressed environmental issues. It would be interesting to study how effective their policies and programmes have been with regard to the enforcement of environment-related human rights.

2. A study of the role of State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs) in India in the area of environment protection: How are they addressing environment-related complaints? (For example, the SHRC, Maharashtra, has addressed some environmental issues).

3. A study of the manner in which the NHRC and SHRCs are addressing complaints and/or issues to protect the environment-related human rights of the vulnerable populations, especially women and children.

4. A comparative study based on the data pertaining to the NHRC’s handling of complaints relating to civil and political rights, as also that relating to economic, social and cultural rights: Does the NHRC accord priority to one category of rights over the other?

Research on the above issues would not only help to more clearly define the role of both the NHRC and the SHRCs in India but would also possibly pave the way for their greater empowerment and efficiency in dealing with cases of environment related human rights violations.