Conclusion

The 'environment movement' often taken as a unified category towards better environment differs not only in their ideologies and strategies but also in the definition of a better environment. The case of KIOCL illustrates that it is not just pollution but many other problems such as encroachment; rights of the workers and rights of the tribals seen from local, national and global ecological crisis. The study shows the different perspectives, ideological streams and discourses within the kudremukh environment movement has its origins in conflicts between peasants and industry over productive resources.

The increasing incidence of judicial activism reflects the growing insensitivity of government to the problems of those who do not have a strong political voice. It also reflects the inability of institutional processes to resolve conflicts in society. The perception that political decision-making process works on partisan interests and the judicial process is neutral and transparent has grown over the years. The self-image of law and adjudication as apolitical provides an ideological cover for the pursuit of private, partisan ends, in the name of “public interest”. The powerful NGOs like wildlife first have resorted to Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court to close down the company. The trade unions in the era of globalization has relied more with the welfare state, labour legislation, wage agreements which are deeply rooted in the nation-state, were as capitalist forces operate freely in a deregulated world market.

This study has attempted to provide insights of power-elites championing the interests of their classes through caste mobility and caste identities inherited from the past continue to exert their influence even today.

The plantation scenario of Chikmagalur was entirely dominated by the ‘British Planters Raj’ with the native dominant group like Vokkaligas gaining ground only with the dawn of the nineteenth century have undergone a tremendous change since the British coffee pioneers left India. After Independence, most of the coffee growers belong to the small and marginal farmers in Chikmagalur, mainly determined by state
concessions in land revenue from the colonial period to various concessions in the land Reforms Act of Karnataka.

The Indian coffee farms are excellent examples of how multiple crops can co-exist. The farms developed with multi-cropping plantation like coffee, pepper, vines, vanilla, coca, areca nut and cardamom plants growing in the fields. The pooled coffee system came to the rescue of the small grower’s which helped to procure, market, safe warehousing and disposed internally and externally. The coffee crisis resulting from the global recession or the global competition in the recent areas was able to withstand the crisis despite the loans, was due to the networking of the coffee organizations like Karnataka Planters Association in coordination with the UPASI, acts as a pressure group between the state and coffee economy right from the colonial period. Since the state is protecting them, the number of coffee planters committing suicide is very less. The coffee cultivation integrated with the global market, which decides the fate of the growers. These crops are concentrated in particular belts in the southern states and the power to shape the incomes and working conditions of the marginalized workers and producers distributed widely among private decision makers across transnational supply chains. This has resulted in coffee parlors like Barista and Coffee day are flourishing in urban India not just for their aromatic beans and casual ambience, but also for global life style and culture.

The study reveals that government properties are prone to encroachments (illegal occupation) like tank, forests, grazing lands, (pastures), wastelands, drainages, rivers, graveyards and farmlands belonging to fisheries, horticulture and animal husbandry departments. Encroachments on these properties were limited in the past as the community had some control on them and community guided by some ethical values and was interested in preserving them for the future generation. These types of encroachments have further accelerated over a period due to commercialization of agriculture as well as improved irrigation system in rural areas and increasing value of land particularly in urban areas.

The lack of co-ordination between various departments like irrigation, forest, agriculture and revenue departments in preventing encroachments has led to the crisis. There are no protest against encroachment by the local communities and the
successive regularization under the granting of Government land as per the Karnataka land grant rules 1969. The prevailing forests encroachments are directly depriving many privileges to communities, which depended hitherto on forests for grazing their cattle, free removal of dry firewood etc. The process of land distribution has not settled the issue of landlessness; instead, it has resulted in litigation and court cases confirming that land is crucial issue and is the cause of disagreement in rural politics. The delayed court cases obviously work as a disadvantaged against the disposed. It also involves the administration from its responsibility of distributing land amongst the landless because of pending court cases. The menace of encroachment has put the issue of tribals and their livelihood in question. Therefore the concerned departments under whose control the particularly property comes have to collaborate with the department of surveys, Settlement and land records and conduct surveys of boundaries of the properties.

The mainstream communist parties with the deployment of class have failed miserably in relating themselves to identity formations like caste, ethnic identities and communities, which have emerged as major players in civil society. The unification of peoples war groups and Maoist communist centre under the banner of CPI (Maoist) in India has reinvented its cadre with uncompromising armed struggle has taken up the cause of the rural poor with a single-minded zeal. The Maoist organizations have been waging a short and protracted battle over the issue of land distribution. The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the meeting addressing the six ‘naxal affected’ states, argued that the factors such as exploitation, artificially depressed wages (particularly in the country side), the right of tribals over forest land, unjust socio-political circumstances, inadequate employment opportunities, lack of land reforms are contributing to the growth of the Naxalite movement. The response of the Government of Karnataka with Anti-Naxal squad has led to large number of activists killed in encounters, the struggling poor terrorized by the combined force of Anti-naxal squad and police. The struggle continues were efforts to ensure that the landless get land. In this context, the recommend laws like panchayat (Extension to Schedule Areas) Act, 1996; the National Rural employment Guarantee act, 2005; and The Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights)
Act 2006 be implemented in full earnest in order to ensure people their lands and rights.

The management and resolution of local or global ecological conflicts requires cooperation between NGOs, International organizations, local groups and governments. The cooperation is not an easy task because of the existent of different values and different interests. The conservation lobby led by NGOs wants to preserve the wildlife and biodiversity because they appreciate ecological and aesthetic values. The tribals want to preserve their place and appeal to the sense of culture in relation to the forests. The social inequalities are not considered by the science of conservation which has been supported by authoritarian and bureaucratic efforts for the management of national parks has led to a crisis in the Kudremukh National park as local people still fighting for their rights of survival in the forests.

Conservation and development issues are not only technical or economic in nature but also political because they are no separate entities. Politics is not only a part of the solution but itself a problem that needs to be addressed. Conservation is always under threat of submergence with large issues like industrialization, urbanization and consumerism. The conservation of Biodiversity with lip service to lofty ideals while deviating widely in practice due to the failure of the forest department baring certain officers do not have the expertise to resolve these conflicts which has given space for NGOs has its own agenda without having much accountability to the larger section of the society.

Finally, the significance of land reforms continues even today considering the pre-dominantly agrarian economy of Karnataka. The majority of the populations live in rural areas were land constitutes not only the main source of livelihoods but also the basis of social stratification, power structure, and family organization and belief systems. Land reform which is intended to promote changes in land relations is bound to exercise a far reaching influence not only on the pattern of agricultural transformation but of rural transformation as a whole, but has its limitations because this requires the curtailment of political power exercised by dominant proprietary classes.