CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis carried out in this study certain conclusions are arrived and presented below.

Any investment on young people strengthens the socio, economic, cultural identity and secularism of country. Hence mere investments alone may not bring the expected results. In order to have the desired results systematic analysis on young people and their support systems are to be studied, analysed and brought to the policy level. Among the various support systems (services, opportunities, supports), supports is the one that make tremendous impact on young people. Even the services and opportunities of young people depend and are built on supports. Naturally without these supports; recognition, cope, acceptance, socialization, companionship, confidence, guidance and academic success etc., the young people may not be in a position to utilize the provided services and opportunities. Hence these supports are classified as four 1) parental and family members 2) friend and peer members 3) neighbourhood and 4) educational institutions. Any assessment on these supports determines the level of young people’s empowerment in society.

It is possible when the models of youth development; preventive, resilience and positive development are adopted based on the theory of coping. This theory is the suitable theory among all the theories in modern times. Thus coping connects the emotions and cognitions of young people, make them self reliant and self responsible. Such a theory imbibes and produces the new youth development model and this model prevents the young people from risk behaviours. It resilience them amidst susceptibility and positively develops their capabilities. Finally it brings down the crimes, suicides, violence in the society and makes the youth the builders of the nation. Simultaneously it strengthens and connects the young people with parents and family members, friend and peer members, neighbourhood and educational institutions in the society. The findings based on this model are given below.

Parental and family members support are the primary and master of all supports. Yet some serious inadequacies are found in the family structure itself. These structural
inadequacies were due to the emergence of nuclear families, separation of spouses, families with several children, poor parental education, occupation and income. Similarly the other areas of inadequacies were parental incompetency in child rearing, lack of parental role models and especially the paternal alcoholism. All these and more affected the support systems. An account though the children perceived better parental conversation, listening, respect, recognition and monitoring, yet their perception on parental coping and acceptance were low. Further the support level varied among the students’ of different castes, schools and their risk behaviours. In general the children with difficulties were better supported than coped and accepted by the parents and family members.

The second primary support systems were the friend and peer members and it found to be negatively stronger among the students in government higher secondary schools. Though the perceived supports (fun, listening, spending time together) were high among the students, the perceived cope and trust were very low. Due to peer pressures the students who studied well, didn’t waste their time and either involved in any group fights or drank alcohol were more alienated and susceptible. Copying in the examinations and involvement in teasing the opposite sex were also found among half of the students. However positively, nearly half of the students who had friendships with opposite sex were able to understand the gender issues and balance themselves emotionally better. In general the peer relationships were found to be for the sake of fun among the students rather than for the emotional growth and empowerment. There is a need to strengthen the peer members’ friendships.

The third primary support systems were the neighbourhood. The neighbourhood support systems played the most important role in shaping and policing the students. However the study found the poor existence of neighbourhood supports in rural areas of Dindigul district. Hence half of the respondents confessed that nearly three fourth of the adults in their neighbourhood took alcohol and none stood as a role model to them. Further the students with risk behaviours; taking hot drinks, involvement in violent acts and troubles at home were well entertained by the neighbourhood. There is an urgent need to strengthen the neighbourhood support systems for the empowerment of youth.
The fourth primary support systems were the educational institutions. They imparted knowledge and wisdom by which they created a healthy generation. Thus nearly three fourth of the students were quite happy and satisfied with their learning. At the same time the same numbers of students were unhappy to study in government higher secondary schools. The most preferred subjects were the Biology, Mathematics and computer science rather than the arts and agriculture. The students of arts and agriculture were more sociable and able to understand the social issues than the others. However arts and agriculture students were found to be more anxious about their future. In general more vulnerability was found in government higher secondary schools since the students come from most backward environment. In this context a good number of students were most vulnerable in which the girls were all the more vulnerable.

The overall young people’s empowerment was measured by feeling safe, possession of leadership qualities and development through academic performance. In all these only half of the respondents perceived to have high level of empowerment. It means that there is still a long way to go. Further this research found that when one support system was weak the other one was found to be stronger. Thus when the parental and family members’ support systems were weak the neighbourhood support systems or the friend and peer members’ support systems became stronger. It showed the disparity and imbalances among the support systems. Nevertheless it is necessary that all the support systems are equally balanced, interconnected and one positively influences the other. Hence every support system is significant, important and plays its respective role in this context.