PREFACE

Social welfare services are noticed in numerous fields like health and family, youth and children, aged, handicapped, scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and backward classes. The administration of the services and programmes in these areas form a major segment of social work practice. Various dimensions of welfare services include legislative measures, family based services, community based services and institutional care services. Institutional service is a very popular form of welfare service for all target groups in our nation. Of all institutional care, child welfare organizations acquire much significance as children represent the future generation. Children have an inherent right to live within the security of families. The absence of a proper family atmosphere has pushed several children into institutionalisation. This study focuses on the analysis of the current status of institutional services for children in need of care and protection in Kerala from a social work perspective.