

INTRODUCTION

Violence is a complex and multi-dimensional phenomenon which has emerged as a topic of study over the last two to three decades. Sporadic occurrences, in various forms, whether riots, terrorism, assassination, coup d'etats or guerrilla wars, have let loose reigns of terror in many parts of the globe.

There are innumerable ways of exhibiting violence, latent or patent. To understand the full ambit of violence, it is imperative to analyze both the underlying conflict which brings forth the violence and the various factors which contribute to it.

Roots of violence are often found, not only in psychological but also in social, cultural, economic and political spheres as well.

Social scientists of different disciplines study different perspectives of violence; psychologists study aggression, sociologists study conflict and political scientists study power and war. Inevitably the topic of political violence gets more importance from the political scientists.

It is impossible to pinpoint a single factor, for violence occurs over a variety of issues and inevitably gets politicized at some stage.

The increasing specialization of roles and functions in modern societies has resulted in increased ambiguities over

the sources of socio-economic disorders. In many developing societies, individuals are not always aware of the origin of many deprivations.

The present study tries to analyze political violence by adopting the Ted Gurr theory on violence, which revolves around relative deprivation as the justification for political violence.

This study's main concern is : How far the determinants of justifications for political violence are true in the case of Kerala society to justify Gurr's postulate.

In Chapter I, attempts have been made to define and interpret all basic concepts involved in the study. Those concepts are violence, political violence, collective political violence and justification, for political violence.

Apart from this, different forms of violence and its emergence as a topic in political science are explained in detail. The determinants of relative deprivation and justification for political violence are cataloged in this chapter.

Chapter II discusses the review of the documentary work undertaken for the study. Data collected from secondary sources such as books, journals, pamphlets, weeklies etc. are outlined, along with the detailed explanations of the background of Kerala such as historic development, demographic and geographic profile, communal diversity, political developments, etc.

Chapter III tackles the purpose of the study and research methodologies utilized, along with the hypotheses adopted from Gurr's thesis.

Chapter IV discusses in detail "Relative Deprivation", which is the prime factor in political violence. This chapter also highlights the data, probing this theory, collected through survey techniques. Graphic representations of the data, in response to various queries made to elicit information regarding degrees of relative deprivation, indicate the number and percentage of students who felt deprivation was due to various factors.

In Chapter V, justifications for political violence have been discussed exhaustively. Each determinant has been covered at length to make the concepts clear. This is followed by graphic displays of data, collected from field surveys. The normative and utilitarian justification for political violence has been proved by replying to queries related to its determinants.

Official statistics of law and order over the last decade have also been considered before drawing conclusions.

In conclusion, (Chapter VI), an attempt has been made to see how far Gurr's thesis is valid in the context of Kerala. Both Chapter IV and V have been compared to see how far the determinants of relative deprivation and normative and utilitarian justification for political violence motivate individuals to violence.