CHAPTER VII : CONCLUSIONS
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Land Reforms are often viewed as an effective measure to alter the agrarian structure and to attain economic development.

The land in the country was concentrated in the hands of few landlords who belonged to the uppermost layer of the caste hierarchy. The whole socio-economic system was controlled by this affluent elite of the society. The scheduled caste, the true aboriginals suffered oppression in the hands of upper caste both socially and economically. They lacked political, social and economic power to fight against the evils and they possessed neither wealth nor status.

Land Reform measures in a rigorous way was started in Kerala from 1963 onwards. The tenancy abolition laws sounded the death-knell of landlordism in Kerala, and this emancipated the scheduled castes from their position of serfs to that of 'free labourers'.

When the Land Reforms were undertaken, this poor tillers of the soil believed that they will become the owners of land. But when the reform measures were implemented the real tillers
of the soil were thrown out from the scene. They still remain as labourers and not owners.

Conferment of ownership right to tenants helped to change the agrarian structure as a whole; a large number of tenants received ownership rights on their holdings. The largest number of land transfers took place on this account from landlord to tenants. But the scheduled castes benefitted little because they were never tenants.

The provision which largely benefited the scheduled castes is conferment of ownership right to the "Kudikidappukars". Even though the area of land they got under this provision is very small (10 cents) the ownership of their age-old holdings kindled a sense of pride and optimism in their minds. Majority of them are agricultural labourers, and as such occupy the lowest position in the economic ladder. But the conferment of ownership rights gave them incentive to bring about changes in the huts in which they were living.

With reference to ceiling and distribution of surplus lands to the landless people the implementing machinery has not done much. Consequently this provision of the Act has not benefited the scheduled castes much.

The reform measures have not succeeded in eradicating inequality in the distribution of land holdings. But it has resulted in breaking the base of ownership pyramid.
It seems that the implementation of these reform measures has widened the economic gap within the scheduled castes. Before the implementation of these reforms there was wide gap in the economic status of different communities. So the present situation is creating some social tensions within the scheduled caste people 'the haves' and 'have nots' in the same community.

Even after implementation of these reforms majority of the scheduled caste people remain as agricultural labourers.

On the income distribution front, the effects of Land Reforms is only marginal. Majority of the scheduled castes still live below the poverty line. The agricultural sector is not capable of providing enough employment opportunity to them. The low income leads to low consumption and low standard of living. This has several other evil effects. We have not gone deeper on these aspects and a detailed study will throw much light on this aspect. A detailed study on these aspects may be undertaken by the Bureau of Economics and Statistics.

But through a perspicacious view one can find that
A short form of polarization is emerging within the scheduled castes. The disparity in income, employment and land distribution show the symptoms of this peculiarity among the scheduled castes.