CHAPTER VII

FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Researches are undertaken only to find solution for the existing problem or to develop a new field of knowledge. Most of the social studies are undertaken only to find remedial measures for various problems the society is encountering. From the studies carried out, the researchers draw a number of inferences and findings which are very useful for further actions and taking policy decisions by the concerned authorities. The present study also results in a few findings which are given below.

7.1 Findings and Conclusions

The average family size of women victims is 3.6 members under domestic category and 3.9 under other category and the figures are 3.7 and 3.82 for SC and ST groups respectively. The overall average family size are 3.75 and 3.76 respectively for women and SC/ST (Dalits). It means that the majority of the victims came from small families of 4 or less than 4 members. In total, 75.5 per cent of the victims of human rights violation belonged to the family size of 4 and less than four members. The
correlation co-efficients calculated between victims and family size show that there is negative correlation for both groups, i.e. women (-0.345) and SC/ST (-0.394), both are not significant. However, it indicates that as the family size increases crimes against women and SC/ST decreases. The overall correlation co-efficient calculated between victims and family size also show that there is limited negative correlation (-0.394) for women and dalits. The intergroup data shows that there is limited negative correlation (-0.377) between family size and victims under the domestic category whereas under the other category it shows a negative correlation of -0.304. The correlation co-efficient between SC victims and their family size is negative to the tune of -0.407. But the correlation co-efficient between ST victims and their family size is negative to the extent of -0.370.

Another interesting fact is that human rights violation against women occurred mainly in families, where females were more in number than males. In domestic category out of 180 family members, 99 members were females against only 81 males and in other category the respective figures were 107 and 88. It is because, the violators expected less retaliation from the family members. From these, it is clear that women rights violations occurred more in families which had more women than men. Human rights violation against dalits is less in large families. It is well known that very limited number of victims are from families of 6 or more than 6 members. In the study area out of 100 victims only 8 victims
belong to this size of family. It is also reflected in the family system. In joint family, the right violation is very limited.

Age is an important factor in demography. The sample respondents are unevenly divided among different age groups. In the 10-20 age group, domestic victims among women are 3 and 2 in other category and the victims among SC/ST is 1 person in SC category and one in ST category. In the age group 30-40 the number of woman victims in the domestic group is 14 and in the other group, it is 13. As regards the victims belonging to SC/ST, SC leads with 8 followed by ST with 10. In the age group 40-50 there are only a limited number of women victims. In domestic category it is only 3 while in the other category it is 4. In both categories the number of victims belonging to SC/ST is 30. The age group 70-80 has only one women victim under domestic category. There is no victim in this age group from women belonging to other category and SC/ST.

It is further broadly divided into two groups, productive group i.e, (age between 20 and 60) and unproductive group i.e. (person between 10 and 20 and above age 60). Out of 200 victims, 171 are productive and 29 are unproductive. It means that there is heavy economic loss due to human rights violations as most of them belong to persons in the productive age.
The next important social factor is the educational status of the victims as well as the family members. It is very sad to indicate that 26 victims out of 200 were illiterates. Of the remaining 174 members, 166 (83 per cent) had completed only school education (30 per cent primary, 38 per cent secondary and 15 per cent higher secondary). Only 5 victims (2.5 per cent) were graduates or technically qualified persons as against 3 (1.5 per cent) members who were postgraduates or professional degree holders. The educational qualification of family members indicates that 4.66 per cent with graduation and 0.66 per cent with postgraduation. The values of correlation co-efficient calculated between education and number of victims show that there is negative correlation to the extent of -0.330 for woman respondents and -0.775 for family members. Both are not significant and -0.817 for SC/ST which is significant at 0.05 level. It means that the null hypothesis “Dalit and women are affected by the violation of rights irrespective of their literacy level” is partially rejected since the null hypothesis for women is accepted. However, as there is negative correlation between education and violation both for women and dalits, we can conclude that higher the education lower will be the human rights violation. The intergroup data shows that there is very limited negative correlation (-0.264) between education and victims under the domestic category whereas under the other category it shows a negative
correlation of -0.372. The correlation co-efficient between SC victims and their education is negative to the extent of -0.745, which is significant neither at 5 per cent level nor at one per cent level. But the correlation co-efficient between ST victims and their education is negative to the extent of -0.858, which is significant at 0.05 level. The correlation co-efficient of family members and their education is -0.866, which is significant at 5 per cent level.

Marriage is an important social institution and it is considered as the most essential part of human life and it is recognized by all sections of people. As regards women victims, a total of 63 (domestic 32 and others 31) were married, 19 were unmarried and 18 widows. Among SC/ST victims the majority belonged to the unmarried category (41 in SC and 40 in ST). Married SC/ST victims came next with 9 cases in SC and 10 in ST. There was not even a single widow among the victims in both SC and ST categories.

Another factor analysed in this study is the caste of the woman victims. The caste-wise distribution of women rights violation shows that 89 per cent out of 100 victims (SC/ST not included) was from the backward class, 4 victims were from SC/ST (2+2) category, 4 per cent belonged to the forward caste, 3 victims belonged to the most backward.
The study also shows that human rights violations were more among the Hindus than Christians and Muslims. Only 3 violations had been reported from the Muslim community. However, 81 per cent of the victims came from the Hindu Community. The Hindus are more orthodox than Christians and Muslims in this respect. The relationship between violence and victims from Hindu religion is 0.993 for women and +1.00 for SC/ST. The correlation co-efficient calculated between victims and religion-wise distribution show that there is negative correlation (-0.979). All these mean that human rights violations are more among the Hindus than other religious people. But in proportion to the total population (79.76% Hindus), the proportion of crimes among Hindus (81% SC/ST Hindus) is less.

Another interesting factor is the area from which the victims hailed. It is very vivid from the analysis that 94 per cent of the victims were from rural areas. There is perfect positive correlation between violence and rural areas.

The types of house in which the respondents live indicate the economic condition of the respondents. Generally in the modern days thatched and tiled houses are the mark of economic backwardness. From the analysis, it is very clear that 67.5 per cent families (108 tiled and 27 thatched) have been living in these types of houses. Among women group out of 100 victims, 11 victims lived in thatched houses and 49 victims lived
in tiled houses. Among SC/ST group 75 victims (16 thatched and 59 tiled) have been living in these types of houses.

It is observed from the study that 86 per cent of houses of victims had sanitation facility and only 14 per cent families had no sanitation facility in their houses. For drinking water, 49 per cent of households depended on common open wells (unsafe source) and 16.8 per cent on public taps. Another 3 per cent families depended on their own open wells for drinking purpose. On the other hand 87.5 per cent of the houses of victims had been electrified.

Occupation of the victim is another social as well as economic factor used to indicate the level of economic backwardness. Occupation has also some influence on human rights violation. Persons in prestigious jobs can not be easily ill treated by others because that occupation itself gives some social status bestowing economic independence at the same time. Of the 200 victims, only 9 members were salaried and all others were dependents or coolies or agricultural labourers. In SC/ST group, only 6 persons from the salaried group were affected by human rights violations. The correlation co-efficient calculated among women is -1 and it is statistically significant at 0.01 level. The correlation co-efficient between employment and dalit right violation is also -1 and it is significant at 0.01 level.
The next factor is the household income which is used as an indicator of economic backwardness. The overall income of all the 200 households indicates that the average per capita per day income was only Rs.35/-. However, comparatively women group in terms of income was better than other group. The per capita monthly income of women and dalit groups were Rs.1170/- and Rs.930/-.

The correlation co-efficient calculated between human rights violation and income level of women victims is -0.224 and it is not significant at either 0.5 per cent level or 0.1 per cent level. The correlation co-efficient calculated for the dalit group is -0.874 and it is significant at 0.01 level. It means that there is negative correlation between income and human rights violation. The calculated Gini co-efficient values show that there was small difference in inequality of income distribution, between two groups. The calculated Gini co-efficient is only 0.287 for women and 0.422 for SC/ST.

In general, it can be inferred that economic backwardness is one of the reasons for violations though women rights violation has not been significantly affected by income, it is affected significantly by employment. It shows that the hypothesis is “economically poor are the frequently affected victims of women’s rights violation” is partially proved. The analysis of the data regarding dalit rights violation shows that both income and occupation are significantly negatively related to violation. So it can be strongly concluded that due to crimes against dalits
the worst affected are the have nots and the results are statistically reliable and it shows that the hypothesis “Among the victims of rights violation against dalits the worst affected are the have nots” is hence proved.

One of the reasons for human rights violation is the people’s lack of knowledge about their rights and duties. Certain sections of the people are well aware of their rights. But most of them, especially poor, rural and low caste people are unaware of all these things. It is observed that 80 per cent of the victims did not know anything about their rights and 20 per cent knew something about their rights.

It is obviously clear from the analysed data that of the violations against women, dowry harassment topped the lists with 13 cases. Among the women rights violations, 48 violations were committed by husbands. The rape cases constituted 11 in total. Eve-teasing constituted with 10. It is further noticed that 66 per cent of violations was of domestic type.

As far as the violence against SC/ST persons, assault was used as the main weapon. There were 33 such cases. It is followed by both cheating and caste ill-treatment, and the number in each category was 23. There were 13 false cases. These were followed by 5 sexual harassment and 3 robbery.

The time series data regarding crimes against study groups, women and SC/ST persons for the nation as a whole, the state of
Tamil Nadu, and the study area Tirunelveli district show a different trend and tendency. The total number of IPC crimes in India increased from 1,709,576 in 1996 to 1,989,673 in 2007. It means that its average annual growth rate is 1.36 per cent. In Tamil Nadu it shows that number of IPC crimes increased at a higher rate than the IPC crimes at the national level. The total IPC crimes in Tamil Nadu increased from 13,1497 in 1996 to 185312 in 2007, with an average annual growth of 3.41 per cent, thus showing a marked increase compared to that of India. But the average annual growth in the study area is 0.64.

A look at the exponential growth rate regarding the total IPC crimes shows that it is 0.07 ($R^2 = 0.6417$) in India, while it is 0.17 ($R^2 = 0.6434$) in Tamil Nadu. As far as the study area is concerned, there is negative growth with -0.08 ($R^2 = 0.0870$).

The table also shows the growth rate of various human rights violations against women. But, it is very sad to observe that the crimes against women in India increased from 115,723 in 1996 to 174,921 in 2007 with an average annual growth of 4.26 per cent. But in Tamil Nadu there is negative growth as it is -1.28. But in the study area the growth rate is very high, 14.21. As regards exponential growth rate, while it is 0.25 ($R^2 = 0.8989$) at the national level, it is -3.32 ($R^2 = 3504$) in Tamil Nadu. But in the study area there is a positive trend as the rate is 1.48 ($R^2 = 0.5423$).
The table also provides data about the growth rates of various rights violations against SC/ST at three levels namely, national, state and the study area. The average annual growth shows a negative tendency both at the national and state level with -0.19 and -0.60 respectively. But in the study area it is 14.58. As regards exponential growth rate, the growth rate at the national level is insignificant with 0.03 ($R^2 = 0.0138$). At the state level it is negative with -1.18 ($R^2 = 0.0269$). Once again the study area shows a positive trend with 1.34 ($R^2 = 0.1240$). Thus, the growth rate of various rights violations in the study area shows a significant increase both against women and SC/ST.

All types of violence certainly result in some loss. The loss may be economic, psychological, educational and social. The economic loss is exactly estimated and it includes the damage caused to property, the income loss in not attending work, the medical expenses and expenditure involved in litigation. The total economic loss is estimated at Rs.24,16,700/-.

The overall average income loss per victim is Rs.12,083.50. It is a huge amount to the families whose average monthly income is around Rs.3918/-. The average loss calculated for the women and dalit groups in both categories are Rs.21,206/- and Rs.15,304/- among women and Rs.7042/- and Rs.4782/- for SC and ST. The economic loss suffered by women is more than the dalits. The null hypothesis that “Human rights violation against dalit causes more economic loss than
human rights violation against women” is disproved convincingly. The calculated ‘t’ value is 2.99. The table value is 1.96 at 95 per cent confidence level. Since the calculated ‘t’ value is more than the table value, the difference between two sample means is said to be significant at 5 per cent level.

Psychologically a number of persons were affected by mental depression i.e., 90 per cent (180 members), incapability to work i.e., 82.5 per cent (165 members) and deprivation of a positive approach i.e., 79.5 per cent (159 members). More than half of the members were affected by the premature loss of cognitive skills.

As far as the educational impact is concerned, 35 persons discontinued their studies after the incident. The maximum is in domestic category with 18 among the women. But, in SC/ST the educational impact is nil.

Socially, the victims are subject to a number of evils. Exactly 71 members felt that they were marginalized after the violations took place. Thirty eight told that they were socially discriminated. The incapability to access to resources was experienced by 27.5 per cent of the victims. Another 33 members were affected by cavalier treatment.

The government, generally, helps those who were victimized. But in this respect no victims were compensated by government. But, nearly 40.5 per cent victims received monetary help from their relatives,
36 per cent from other institutions. One per cent NGO and 3.5 per cent SHGs played a dominant role in overcoming the social evils the victims had encountered. Several members were helped by SHGs to overcome the sufferings of women or their husbands’ sufferings. The main social evil that was overcome was alcoholism to the extent 31 per cent.

7.2 Suggestions

For any problem in any field, there is and there should be a solution. The problem of human rights violation does not defy any solution. It can be solved if all the people in power, officials and other people are aware of their rights and duties. Wherever and whenever there is a violation, proper measures should be taken. Then it is easy to have a state which is free from human rights violation.

Of all the causes for human right violations the most important is the lack of awareness on the part of the victims as well as the family members. Hence, steps should be taken to create awareness among the people especially the rural people to guard themselves against such violations. Among the two groups of victims, mostly SC/ST persons are subject to human rights violation because they had a very little knowledge about their rights. Hence, every step must be taken to create awareness as to their rights and duties. This can be easily achieved if the services of NGOs, SHGs and other voluntary student bodies like NSS and NCC are effectively utilized.
Education brings enlightenment. Hence, steps should be taken to impart formal education to all, especially to SC/ST people. As discussed earlier, there is negative relationship between education and human rights violations. By creating awareness, education can act as a defence against human rights violation. The universalisation of primary education itself is not yet achieved even after 60 years of independence. Hence, necessary speedy measures should be taken to impart good education, training and skill development programmes to every one.

Occupation of the victims is another deciding factor. Occupation gives status and power. Among the salaried people, there is less number of violence. Hence, education and training can help people get good jobs. Such occupations give power, confidence and strength. These can help the vulnerable groups of people to protect themselves against possible human rights violation.

Economic dependence is another factor, which leads to human rights violation. One without money is as good as dead. Economic backwardness and violations are strongly associated. Economic independence makes a person strong. On the other hand, economic dependency favours more violence especially against women and SC/ST persons. Hence, a situation of economic independence should be created. If all the people can stand on their own legs and are in a position to satisfy
their requirements without depending on others, then these types of violence may be reduced significantly.

The size of the family is another important factor. Large families have more persons to defend themselves. It is observed through the survey that violence was perpetrated mainly on the members of small families. The smaller the family the less is the reaction or retaliation. The perpetrators know that there will be no filing of cases and assault from the victims’ family side. Hence, it is the duty of service organizations like SHG to play an active role in helping the victims or join together to fight these social evils.

Patriarchy system is another factor responsible for rights violations. Mostly, rights violations are committed more by the leaders of the family, husband or members of husband’s family. Male domination is the another main cause for violation. Hence, measures should be taken to put an end to this male-dominating system of society.

The fourth estate is expected to help people. But it is sad to note that the media help in women rights violation. Mostly mass media like TV and films treat women as sub-human on the basis of the social belief. This attitude of the media should be changed. They should defend women. Programmes in which women rights violations are treated as the most serious crime should be introduced. This step is sure to help women victims.
The victims of human rights violation hesitate to approach the police. This is due to the unpleasant situations that exist in the police stations. The police often fail to protect the victims and at times they help the criminal elements who indulge in human rights violation. Hence, steps should be taken to create a pleasant situation in every law-enforcing office. The police should treat every victim as a human being.

SC/ST persons are subject to all types of violations. This is due to their economic dependency on the landlords of high caste. If they have their own lands to cultivate and feed their family members and a house to live in they can be independent. Once they have economic independence, there will be fewer violations. Hence, a free land and a free house site schemes can be introduced throughout India to all the marginalized sections of society. The segregated living of low caste people, SC/ST must also be put an end to.

Generally, there will be no problem, if all people in a country are law-abiding and know all their rights and duties well. In India, the political party leaders can train their party members and leaders in human rights. The officials in various departments especially those in the police department must be sensitized in human rights issues. Even the elites do not know their own rights and the rights that should be enjoyed by others. Hence, they must be given training in human rights.
Victims do not approach the courts because the litigation process is time consuming and expensive. Hence, the legal procedure should be simplified and the cost of litigation has to be reduced. Such expensive litigation process increases the economic burden of the victims, who had already lost a huge amount of money in the form of income and property loss.

Human rights education must be introduced at all levels of education. The student community must be given training and education in human rights. The NSS and NCC students can first be given training in human rights. Then, these volunteers can be utilized for disseminating the knowledge to others. Certificate and diploma courses can be started in all institutions of higher education. One or two papers on human rights can also be introduced in all educational institutions. The members of NGOs, SHGs, panchayats and other local bodies must be well informed of the human rights so that they can create awareness among the marginalized groups.

Financial assistance at the time of emergency is very useful. The victims of human rights violation suffer both materially and mentally. They lose their property and income. Hence, every step should be taken to disburse some financial assistance through the local authorities by the district administration.

A lot of persons are put into the pool of human rights violation. The economic loss and other impact due to human rights
violation are very substantial. Illiteracy, menial labour and low income are the main contributing factors for human rights violations. Crimes such as human rights violation are continuously increasing. Hence, every step must be taken to curb all forms of violence and violation. The dream of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam “Violence Free India” will be realized only when all forms of human rights violation are curbed considerably.