CHAPTER VI

RECOMMENDATIONS, SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION
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In the previous chapters, many suggestions have been given on the subject. As a matter of fact, the entire Chapter V on Preventive Measures contains suggestions and recommendations to prevent the occurrence of atrocities. However, in this concluding chapter, suggestions for effective implementation of the Laws, suggestions regarding the special courts and certain general observations, general suggestions and conclusions are made.

Here are some of the suggestions for effective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955:\(^1\)

(1) SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAWS:

In accordance with Article 17 of Constitution of India, which categorically abolishes the practice of untouchability in any form and that the violation of this provision is a crime, punishable under law. The two landmark legislations namely, the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 are promulgated. These two legislations are, of course, very powerful instruments of social change. These Acts are meant to protect the civil rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to prevent atrocities on them, when the Acts are effectively and powerfully implemented. But the implementation of these Acts,

\(^1\) These elaborate suggestions regarding the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, are given by Dr.R.K.Kshirsagar in his book Untouchability in India. (Deep and Deep Publications, New Delhi, 1989, pp.309-315).
since their inception shows that the desired result of bringing about the social change and establishment of just social order could not be achieved. The statement showing the total number of cases under these two Acts, the number of cases convicted and acquitted etc., clearly indicate the number of cases in which conviction has been ordered by the Court is very very few. We can say it is almost nil. This state of affairs embolden the culprits to commit more and more crimes and offences against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There are certain flaws in the Acts and certain lacunae in the implementation of these laws, which could be set right to achieve the desired result.

One of the major obstacles in the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, is the lack of statutory definition of the offence of untouchability. Therefore, it should be defined connotatively as well as denotatively, which may cover the overt as well as covert manifestations of the offence, so as to avoid possible confusion as to the commission of an offence.

There are certain other ambiguities or flaws in the said Protection of Civil Rights Act (PCR Act). They are:

(i) Although the word ‘denomination’ has been deleted from the Act in 1976, still there appears “section” in Section 3 of the PCR Act, which gives rise to some confusion. It is better that the section in question be suitably amended so as to avoid the loophole on the ground of sectional rights.

(ii) Untouchability is rooted in the attitude of hatred for a section of humanity as such it should be eradicated completely and not partially.
The PCR Act attempts to root out untouchability and restore the civil rights of the victims of untouchability in the public life, leaving private ones untouched. The public places like well, temple, school, hospital, shops, streets, etc., are covered by the Act but the private places like house and private premises including well or tap, temple or place of worship are not covered by the PCR Act.

When untouchability is a “crime” it is immaterial where it is committed. A crime is a crime whether it is committed at a public place or at a private place. Hence, any discrimination on the ground of untouchability even at the private places should be covered by the penal law.

Suitable amendment to that effect, however, would be most appropriate and would be in consonance with the provisions of the Constitution. The Constitution under Article 17 states, “untouchability is abolished and its practice in any form is forbidden...” It is not said that untouchability is abolished only at public places. The Article in question contemplates abolition of untouchability at public as well as private places. However, the PCR Act, which is based on Article 17 of the Constitution fulfils the Constitutional objective partially. Therefore, suitable amendment should be made in the Act, so as to cover all the private places also in order to “abolish” untouchability.

The Term “Scheduled Caste” being construed in its narrow sense by virtue of the S.C Order 1950, the Scheduled Castes converts to Christianity could not avail the benefit of “Presumption” under Section 12* of the PCR Act. Therefore, in place of “Scheduled Caste” the Term “ex-untouchables caste” should be
inserted and the explanation of this term should be given under sub-section (db)
instead of “Scheduled Castes” so as to include the Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes converts to other religion.

The provision of ‘summary trial’ under Section 15(1), if applied
incapacitates the Magistrates in awarding maximum punishment under the Act.
Hence, this provision needs to be deleted. In order to get the cases expeditiously
disposed of suitable rules and regulations should be framed by the Central
Government under its rule making power under Section 16(B) of the Act.

There is no explicit provision in the Act, whether the imprisonment of the
convict is simple or rigorous. Hence it is necessary to provide clearly that the
convict should be liable to rigorous imprisonment.

It seems that the punishment provided under the Act is inadequate to deter
the prospective offenders. Therefore, it should be raised from one month’s
minimum imprisonment to six months and six months maximum imprisonment to
one year. The fine also should be increased from minimum rupees one hundred
to five hundred and from maximum rupees five hundred to one thousand. The
punishment under Section 7(1) and 11 of the PCR Act should be increased in that
proportion.

There is no reference in either of the three lists in the Seventh Schedule of
the Constitution as to the measures to be adopted for eradicating untouchability
and welfare of the ex-untouchables. Therefore, suitable amendment in the
Constitution Seventh Schedule should be made so that this subject appears in the concurrent list if not in the central list.

It is found that in some cases that accused were acquitted on the ground of want of *mens rea*. Therefore, it is suggested that, *mens rea* should not be required to be proved in the cases under the Act. The practice of untouchability in any form is not only a physical act, but it also reflects the mental attitude of the accused. A mere act of untouchability implies the *mens rea*, as such there is no need of additional proof to that effect. Thus even without amendment, the requirement of additional or special *mens rea* can be dispensed with by resorting to reasonable interpretation. At the most, explanation to that effect should be given to avoid unreasonable interpretation.

The present law implementing machinery seems to be inadequate and inefficient to bring about social equality. In this respect suggestions are given as under.

Although failure of law is not attributable to the caste character of the law implementing machinery, it is necessary to fill up the reservation quota in the police and judiciary, so as to create a sense of confidence amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and create a necessary apprehension in the minds of the caste Hindus.

Every Police Station should have an Assistant Police Sub-Inspector in charge of the cases in which the ex-untouchables are involved, with necessary staff and establishment so as to ensure prompt investigation.
The investigation done by such officer under the Sub-Inspector or station officer should be confirmed by the officer not less than the rank of Dy. Superintendent.

Instructions should be given to all the Police Station Officers that they should acknowledge the receipt of the complaint in a particular proforma showing date, time nature of offence, etc., under the complaint. Such receipts can be used to ascertain the facts regarding the registration of the case, date, time etc., whenever the plea of late submission of the complaint is raised in defence.

In case of physical injury to the victim of untouchability, medical certificate from the Civil Surgeon should be sought immediately and that should be read over to the complainant. If the accused is drunken at the time of commission of the offence he should be examined medically and an additional offence under the relevant Act should be registered against him.

Special prosecutors who are well versed in the PCR Act and IPC should be appointed to deal with the cases in which the ex-untouchables are involved, at the lower as well as higher courts.

Legal aid should be made available to all the ex-untouchables involved in any case. Such aid should be sufficient to contest the case at the lower as well as at higher court, and the procedure of availing the same should be simple and easy.
Majority of the accused under PCR Act go unpunished. Following suggestions can be given in this respect:

(i) It is observed that most of the law implementing officers presume that the cases under PCR Act are false and based on village political rivalries. It may be true in some cases. But until such cases are proved false in the court, how one could hold such opinion. The wrong presumption naturally leads them to arrive at wrong conclusions. Therefore, proper orientation of such officers is needed so as to change their attitude in favour of the complainants.

(ii) It seems that certain cases are compounded outside the court. It is unlawful. It is certain that unless there is some pressure or undue influence on the victims of untouchability, they would not come to settlement of the case. Both the parties, however, deceive the police and judiciary by giving false evidence before the court. Therefore, strict legal action should be taken summarily against the hostile complainant. As well as action should be taken against the accused for exercising undue influence over the prosecution and defeating the ends of justice.

(iii) A bond of good behavior should be taken from the accused as soon as the case is registered against him, so as to avoid the chances of pressure and atrocities on the ex-untouchables immediately after the case is registered.

(iv) The victim of untouchability under PCR Act and IPC should be entitled to compensatory discrimination and damages.
It is submitted that technical points like delays of short duration in lodging the complaint, recording of FIR not on the information given by complainant, but on the basis of investigation, lack of particulars in the complaint, some minor contradictions in evidence of the witnesses should be overlooked in the interest of justice.

It is the responsibility of the State Governments under Section 15A of PCR Act to adopt such measures, which may be necessary for ensuring that the Civil Rights are made available to the persons who are subjected to untouchability. Such measures may include legal aid, appointment of officers, special courts, setting up of committees, periodic surveys and the identification of "untouchability prone areas". There is no uniformity among the States in employing these measures.

There must be harmonious co-operation between the administrative officials, Police officials and judicial officials for the proper implementation of the law. It seems that at present it is lacking. The committees set up at present can secure such co-operation. Apart from the state and district level committees such committees should be established at taluka level also.

Independent evaluation of the working of the Act is essential so as to know whether or not the purpose for which the law in question has been made is being accomplished. The Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a Constitutional authority to evaluate the working of various safeguards in respect of the weaker sections. It seems that he is unable to fulfil his constitutional obligations due to inadequate staff at the headquarters and lack of field officers.
It is submitted that his constitutional status should be restored, he should be provided with adequate staff and field offices for his expeditious working.

Due publicity to the law is essential for its proper implementation which can be secured by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and social welfare ministries in the states instead of All India Voluntary Organisations.

Teaching of the PCR Act and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act at LL.B level is essential to improve the level of knowledge in this area of law. It is suggested that all the universities imparting legal education should include PCRA and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Act in their respective syllabi of the LL.B.

The following are some of the suggestions for the effective implementation of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocity) Act 1989:

According to Rule 7 of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Rules 1995 the offences committed under the Act shall be investigated by the Deputy Superintendents of Police. The Deputy Superintendents of Police who are Sub-Divisional Police Officers are already overburdened with supervision work and maintenance of Law & Order and VIP Security duties. They have to supervise about 8 to 10 Police Stations including Circle Police Inspectors Offices. In addition, they are also required to take up investigations of important heinous and complicated cases. Besides, there are other Special Acts and Provisions which require investigation to be done only by a Deputy Superintendent of Police. The number of atrocity cases being quite
large, it renders the task of investigation of these cases by the Deputy Superintendent of Police quite difficult, as a result the investigation of these cases are unduly delayed. As such the present arrangement (investigation by Dy. Superintendent of Police) does not serve the desired purpose. On the other hand, promptness and quality in the investigation suffer.

It would, therefore, be advisable to amend the Rule 7(1) to authorize the Police Inspector to investigate these cases. After all, it is the Police Inspectors who are Investigating Officers in all heinous and complicated cases. However, the Deputy Superintendents of Police can be entrusted with the investigation of very important and Special Cases under the Act.

Inclusion of False Caste Certificates cases in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Act:

As already discussed, obtaining False Caste Certificate and claiming benefits which are extended to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is also a serious offence and a worst type of atrocity. Therefore, it is necessary to amend the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Act 1989, by including penal provisions to deal with officials who issue false caste certificates and also those who obtained False Caste Certificates.

Reasons for low conviction rate and suggestions to overcome them:

The main reason for low rate of conviction is heavy pendency in the court due to which the trail continues for a long period. In course of time, the witnesses become hostile. Even the victims become softened and lose interest in
pursuing the cases. The Investigating Officers are transferred and they also become disinterested in the case. To overcome this, it is advisable that the Special Courts should try the cases coming under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Act 1989, exclusively. This will help to improve conviction rate.

The non-payment of court attendance bhatta and allowances makes the witnesses lose their interest in attending the Court and depose the evidence as per the prosecution case. Under such circumstances, there is every possibility that the witnesses will be won over by the accused, which will result in acquittal of the cases. This is the actual position. To overcome this difficulty, in all atrocity cases, it should be insisted that T.A and D.A should be paid to the witnesses on the very date of hearing. This measure will also help in improving the rate of conviction.

The poor quality of investigation in some cases is also one of the reasons for low conviction. To overcome this, it is advisable that the Supervising Officers should pay special attention to monitor and supervise the investigation done by the Investigation Officers. During the stage of investigation, the Investigating Officer should be directed to keep in touch with the Public Prosecutors and seek advice from them.

Inordinate delay is caused in receiving Medical Certificate and Caste Certificate by the concerned authority due to which delay is caused in finalizing the investigation and to file the charge sheet. Therefore, steps will have to be
taken to expedite issue of Caste Certificate/Medical Certificate within a fortnight. positively.

Amendment to the norms for relief amount paid to the victims:

The relief amount at Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 20 of the Government Order dated 14.10.1997 is being paid at the rate of 25%, 50% and 75% as the case may be on conviction and in turn the victim is entitled to the receive relief amount only if the case is convicted, and not in case of acquittal. The acquittal of a case does not necessarily mean that the case is false. In most cases of acquittal, accused are let off for want of sufficient evidence or no evidence, as also on technical and legal grounds. Therefore, it would be advisable to pay the entire relief amount to the victims after the charge sheet is filed which would really help the victims.

Payment of relief/compensation to next of kins of SC/ST victims u/s 302 IPC:

It is noticed that in case of murder of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Investigating Officers are not adding Sec.3 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Act, due to which the Deputy Commissioners are hesitant to pay the necessary compensation to the next of kins. This causes a lot of hardship to the families of the deceased. The DG & IGP may be requested to issue instructions to all the unit officers to instruct the Investigation Officers to invariably add Sec. 3 Class 5 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Act, in cases of murder involving Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so that the Deputy Commissioners promptly pay the necessary compensation.
Amendment to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (P.A) Rules at Sl. No. 11 and 12 (Government Order regarding payment of relief amount):

At Sl. No. 11 and 12 of the Government Order dated 14.10.1997 of the Schedule of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (P.A) Rules prescribes relief for the outrage of modesty and sexual exploitation of women at Rs.50,000. - to each victim. Out of which 50% of the amount to be paid after medical examination and remaining 50% on conviction. It is experienced that in many cases medical examination is not carried out. Even where it is carried out, the examination reports do not disclose the evidence of sexual intercourse, because of delay in referring the victim for medical examination. In many cases medical examination does not disclose any evidence. Yet the charge sheet is filed on circumstantial evidence against the accused. Therefore, in such cases also, it is opined that the victim should be paid full relief after the charge sheet is filed.

Functioning of the Special Courts under the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989:

Section 14 of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Act 1989 provides for establishment of Special Courts for the purpose of speedy trial of atrocity cases. As such, the First Information Reports and the charge sheets were being filed directly in these courts. The accused persons, after arrest, are also being produced before these Special Courts. But the Supreme Court, in a recent decision in Gangula Ashok and Others Vs. State of Andhra Pradesh dated 28/1/2000 reported in 2000(1) Crimes 196 (SC) has held that the Special Courts u/s 14 of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Act, being court of Sessions, cannot take cognizance of an offence directly without the case being
committed to sessions court by a Magistrate, in view of the interdict imposed by Sec.193 of Cr.Pc.

This decision has resulted in further prolonging of trial of the cases under the Act as the pending cases are being remitted back to the concerned Magistrates. The committal proceedings are time consuming. This has to be remedied in the interest of speedy trial under the Act. Therefore, an amendment can be brought to Sec. 14 of the Act by adding the following.

“.......taking cognizance thereof directly as court of original jurisdiction.

Some of these suggestions are also applicable to the PCR Act.

Role of the Investigating Officer:

Proper investigation into the cases of atrocities and proper building up of records to be submitted to the court is very important. Conviction or acquittal of cases solely depends upon the investigation. One of the reasons we have already seen for the cases of conviction being very negligible is poor quality of investigation. The Investigation Officers should be very careful in investigating all the aspects concerned with the case and to build up perfect records without giving room for any ambiguity, doubt or mis-interpretation of facts. The Investigating Officers generally know the expectation of the court and how the courts accept or reject the evidence produced before them. Close observation of study of the previous cases would give clear idea in this regard.

Training is very important to the Police Officers. In the training for the probationers and also in the in-service training for the officer and officials of the police department, discussion on social justice which would include the study of...
the two major Acts, the constitutional provisions relating to the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities could be part of the curriculum. The various aspects of conducting investigations could be discussed in detail, in the training and the officers could be given some practical training also in conducting investigations, building up of complete reports, to be filed before the courts.

In case of any doubt in conducting the investigation or in preparing the reports, the investigating officer could consult the senior officers and also the public prosecutors. Regularly attending the court and representing the facts of the case properly before the court are also very important. In case the investigating officer is transferred outside the jurisdiction, when he is called upon to attend the court, he should still continue to evince interest in the case, study the case thoroughly again and fight for justice in the court.

The Investigating Officer should furnish all the details of the case to the Public Prosecutor so that he would powerfully to represent and argue the case in the court.

The Investigating Officer and the Public Prosecutor should train the witnesses to be firm in their stand and not to get perturbed when the defense counsel try to confuse them.

The Investigation Officer should be committed to see that the culprits are punished and the recurrence of such cases in the same place or in other places, is avoided.
Crucial Role of the Judges:

It may be inappropriate to give any sort of advice to the Judges while dealing with these matters. However, it may not be out of place if a few suggestions are made. The Judges are mainly concerned with protecting the interest of the innocent people, while punishing the culprits. Therefore, many cases are not proved. The Judges are also responsible for rendering social justice. They could also make out the intention of the witnesses turning hostile and also when the victims of atrocities giving different version, detrimental to their own interest. The newspaper reports and the reports of the legislature committee could be taken into account by the judges.

In case of atrocities, the Revenue Authorities conduct thorough inquiry into the matter, then only the relief amount is sanctioned and other rehabilitative measures are taken up. This is done by no less an authority than the Deputy Commissioner of the district, who is also the District Magistrate, after thorough enquiry and after satisfying himself about the occurrence of atrocity. The Deputy Commissioner submits report to the Government about the atrocity, after personal enquiry in most of the cases, which are serious in nature. These reports usually contains the real facts of the case, which the culprits (accused) may try to manipulate at a later stage before the court with the intelligent maneuvering of the matter by the expert advocates. Therefore, the judges could also consider and appreciate the facts of the case as submitted by the District Magistrate. Besides this, the judges also know how to ascertain the truth.
There are also cases in which the lower court passes judgement for conviction. In the appellate courts the cases end in acquittal. The judges of the appellate courts could also consider other sources of evidences suggested here and see that the culprits are punished by upholding the decision of the lower courts.

The very purpose and intention of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 is that when the people who commit offences under the Act are punished, it will be a deterrent feature and further occurrence of atrocity, either in the same place or elsewhere, is prevented. This way the judiciary could be doing a great social service by rendering real social justice.

2. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

1. The two important Acts i.e., The Protection of Civil Right Act 1955 and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocity) Act 1989, though seemingly with the different aspects like abolition of untouchability, ensuring civil rights to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and prevention of atrocity, respectively, there are many aspects which are common in both the Acts. Both the Acts identify the offences and prescribe the punishment to those who commit the offences. Since there are many over-lapping aspects, the Government of India could consider promulgating a common Act combining the provisions in both the Acts. This new Legislation could provide great supportiveness in abolishing the practice of untouchability and preventing perpetuation of atrocity on the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.
2. The implementation of these two Acts, is left to the State Governments concerned. Due to the local pulls and pressure of different nature, the local police authorities, many a time are not in a position to function effectively in the implementation of these Acts and in punishing the culprits. Besides, these Acts are not uniformly implemented in all the States. The officers who are entrusted with the responsibility of implementing these Acts should, therefore, be independent from the control of the State Government and they should perform their duties without any fear or favour. To ensure this, it would be advisable to have an independent agency of the Government of India on the same pattern of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to deal with the offences under these two Acts (or in the new Legislation if promulgated as suggested above). This independent department could work in close rapport with the state police authority. There should be regional or zonal head offices for each zone in the country with branches in each state.

3. The procedure to be followed by the special courts in trying these cases should be simplified. There should be a time target for disposal of these cases. Provision should be made for special courts to conduct trial and enquiry in the place of atrocity, soon after the occurrence of atrocity, or at least in the near taluk headquarters.

The provision for granting adjournment should be either totally deleted or limited to 2 to 3 adjournments only. These special courts could also function as mobile courts.
Education and empowerment to SC/ST women would improve all aspects of life and would go a long way. This would both directly and indirectly help to minimize the cases of atrocities. The percentage of reservation for SC/ST women in Government should be increased. “Educate a man, you educate an individual, educate a woman, you educate a family”.

The works of Dr. Ambedkar and other social reformers should be translated in local languages. The messages of social change and transformation should be made known to the people.

Smaller booklets, which are the epitomized version of voluminous books, should be written and published in the local languages, as people cannot read and understand voluminous books.

The Government should conduct Seminars and workshops to discuss the problems of SC/STs and to suggest corrective measures. The Government should also fund the voluntary organizations to conduct such seminars and workshops.

At present, only in the universities there are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Cells which deal with the problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students. Such Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Cells should be started in every School and College not only to solve the problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students but also to pay special attention in creating awareness among the students and to improve their personality.
Special coaching should be arranged for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students in schools and colleges to improve the performance in the academic.

In view of the emergence of globalization, liberalization and privatization, special coaching in various skills which are sought after in the employment market, should be given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in particular.

In this scientific age, it is necessary that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe youths should be educated and encouraged to use the technological gadgets.

One day in a year should be earmarked to be the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Empowerment Day like the Teachers Day. Seminars, workshops and functions should be organized on that day with the full participation of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people.

Reservation is a means for higher kind of achievement. People get into certain posts and go higher and higher, achieving greater things. They should also help the less fortunate people among them to come up in life as a pay-back to the society. Thus reservation would play a positive role. Reservation also brings about social change, as different categories of people work together and serve the society.

The Government policy should make a clear-cut distinction between creating opportunity and providing equal opportunity. One of the definitions of
equality is, providing equal opportunity to the people to prove their inequality. Therefore, the Government should create environment for equal opportunity.

Dr. Ambedkar's life is an example as to how a person can not only grab the opportunity and use to the maximum, but also as to how a person can create opportunity and succeed in life with extraordinary dedication, commitment, sense of purpose, direction and discipline.

Dr. Ambedkar said there are three principles for success - the first principle "hard work" and the second principle "hard work" and third principle "hard work". The message of Dr. Ambedkar to the people was that they should become graduates in the university of life by building their mental fiber.

(3) SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Though the subject matter for this research work is the case study of socio-economic and political causes of atrocity on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka since 1980, besides presenting the major cases of atrocities that have taken place in Karnataka and analysing the causes of atrocities namely social, economic and political causes, efforts have been made to cover several aspects set out in the objectives of the study.

The study has covered the cases of atrocities since 1980 and as the subject does not indicate the period upto which the cases have been taken up for the study, some of the important cases that have taken place upto 2002 have also
been included. In addition to the three major causes of atrocities - social, economic and political - other causes have also been discussed.

The title of the research work indicates the study is about cases and causes of atrocities. The study will not be complete without any discussion on the other important aspects of atrocities are not discussed. Therefore, in addition to covering the general aspects concerning the study in the first and the second chapters, detailed discussions have been made regarding relief, remedial and rehabilitative measures in the fourth chapter. The whole research work would become an exercise in futility, if it confines only to the discussion of cases and causes of atrocities. To make the study meaningful and purposeful, in this last chapter V measures to prevent the occurrence of atrocities have been dealt with in greater details. Even in that, Paradigm shift and self-improvement movement have been dealt with elaborately as they are the most important measures to improve the lot of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe and to countervail and mitigate the incidence of atrocities.

In any society, which is in the transition from tradition to modernity and from conservatism to liberalism, it is quite natural that the people in the higher strata would not like to so easily give up their dominating position. When it becomes mandatory that they should come out from the higher portals of being masters, lords and so on and become equal with the ordinary people, that too with their own workers, menials, labourers and with people who are in the lowest rung of social hierarchy called the untouchables and other most backward peoples, they become furious and they try to oppress, suppress and ill-treat those peoples.
Awakening, self-assertion and clamouring for self-identity for equality - social, economic and political, equality of status and opportunity and retrieval of human dignity, by those who were hitherto treated as inhuman and sub-human beings, adds fuel to fire and the result is violence, assaults, rape, murder, on these helpless people. This violence and other inhuman treatments are not just atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but they are atrocities on humanity.

Creating awareness and paradigm shift in the perception, attitude and behavior of both the upper strata as well as the others in the lower strata has been considered necessary to bring about social justice, social change and social, economic and political transformation. These socio-political and psychological aspects have been dealt with in greater details, while discussing the preventive measures.

Further, it is reiterated that social change and social transformation is possible only through personal transformation, self-help, self-esteem and self-elevation. Personal victory alone will lead to public victory. These aspects which have been set out in the hypotheses of the study have been fully covered and proved in this work.

Scope for further study and evaluation:

In this work several important aspects concerned with the study have been examined, as far as possible. There may be several other aspects which need to
be studied and enquired into. Even the aspects covered in this work may require further investigation and research, as this is a very important subject, which we are encountering in the country. It is hoped that this study will pave way for further study and research. Further in-depth study needs to be taken up for impact evaluation on the following aspects:

1. To evaluate the actual working of the PCR Act & Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (PA) Act in all aspects.
2. To analyze the process of disposal of cases by the police.
3. To study the progress of cases in the courts.
4. To identify the nature of weakness in the prosecution and other infirmities attributable to prosecution agencies.
5. To examine the quality and adequacy of the legal and other assistance provided to the victims of atrocities and the witnesses.
6. To go into the promptness and adequacy in providing relief and in taking up rehabilitative measures as laid down in the Act and the Rules.
7. To assess the results of preventive measure and to have close monitoring of atrocity cases.
8. To guage the impact created and the changes brought about in the social condition and inter-caste relations attributable to the implementation of this law.
9. To suggest remedial action which can lead to better implementation of the law.

A need for political will:

Several aspects and measures have been discussed in this work, by way of presenting the issues and also suggesting remedial measures. But ultimately the political decision would make a difference in putting an end to this social
problem and also in completely routing out the cancerous growth of casteism, communalism etc., which are eating away the very vitals of the Indian society. “If there is a will, there is a way”. If there is a political will, there are several ways of solving any problem. But unfortunately, there is no political will to solve these problems. It is most unfortunate for the country that there are politicians and political leaders who even hold very high offices, are caste and communal-minded. Many suggestions have been made in this work and elsewhere from time to time for effective implementation of the laws and legislations. A famous sociologist has said If mores are sufficient laws are unnecessary. If mores are insufficient laws are un-enforceable. Having this in view, suggestions are also made in this work for creating awareness among all the categories of the people regarding the absolute need for the establishment on a casteless society, free from communal and other differences and building up of the individual personality with competence and character.

Karnataka is considered as one of the best States in India, with better administration. In the matter of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and in the welfare and well-being of the people also, it could make all-out efforts to reduce the incidence of atrocities and help the people in a lasting manner. Madhya Pradesh has made a substantial headway in the matter in evolving the highly acclaimed “BHOPAL DOCUMENT” and implementing the 21-point programme for the overall development and welfare of the SCs and STs. Karnataka could replicate these programmes with suitable modifications and additions, if necessary.
Even at the national level, such unique programmes could be evolved and implemented in all States, in the place of or in addition to the age-old welfare measures.

It is hoped that soon people at the helm of affairs realize this and create the political will to end many social evils, coming in the way of peace, progress and prosperity of the country and help these people in a substantial and meaningful way.

Reverence for Life

"Reverence for Life" is the title of the book written by Albert Schweitzer, one of the noblest souls of the world. Having come to know about the plight of the native blacks in French Congo, who were suffering from a host of diseases, but never even touched by the ‘white’ doctors, due to racial segregation, Schweitzer took it as a challenge and cast his lot with the natives of the French Congo. He gave up his career in which he had achieved international reputation as a Biblical scholar, a philosopher, a theologian and a musician and started studying medicine in his 35th year of age and spent rest of his life in the wild jungles helping and treating the suffering masses. No wonder, this great noble personality was honoured with the prestigious Nobel Prize. He had the strong conviction about the essential sanctity of the human personality, regardless of race or colour or conditions of life. "If that ideal is abandoned", he said, "the intellectual man goes to pieces and that means the end of culture and even humanity".2

The very phrase “Reverence for Life” is highly inspiring, motivating, insightful, and transformational. It means reverence for one’s own life and the lives of others. When people have the reverence for life all the feelings of high and low, the parochial feeling of colour, race, caste and communal discriminations, ill-treatment, etc., will automatically disappear. Instead, people will sublimate their baser feelings and fill their hearts with feelings of love, compassion, humanity, universal brotherhood, service and contribution.

Purandara Dasa, one of the saints of Karnataka, has sung several songs called *Dasara Padagal* basically to arouse devotion to God and also to urge the people to give up greed, caste and communal feelings and to lead principled life. He said “Manava Janma Doddadu, Ida Halumada bediri huchappagalira” (human life is great; do not waste it, you madcaps).

George Bernard Shaw’s views on the value of human life is most empowering. According to him:

“This is the true joy in life – that being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. That being a force of nature, instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die. For the harder I work the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It's a sort
of splendid torch which I’ve got to hold up for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.”

Helen Keller, who was deaf, dumb and blind, but one of the most powerful personalities in the world (whose brief life sketch has been given in the “self-help movement”) has said “Life is either a daring adventure or just nothing.” If a person with major handicaps like Helen Keller could lead life as an adventure, as an expedition, as an exploration, as a safari and as a pilgrimage, people with just social handicap could lead their life in a much more powerful, meaningful and purposeful manner.

Victor Frankl focused on the need for meaning and purpose in our lives, something that transcends our own lives and taps the best energies within us. The late Dr. Hans Selye, in his monumental research on stress, basically says that a long, healthy, and happy life is the result of making contributions, of having meaningful projects that are personally exciting and contribute to and bless the lives of others. His ethic was “earn thy neighbor’s love.”

ITHAKA

Ithaka was the beloved island home of the legendary Greek hero, Odysseus. After a leading role in the Trojan War, Odysseus roamed the world for ten years, having adventures, meeting challenges and learning lessons that profoundly charged him. Today an odyssey means a long, often exhausting, exhilarating and/or excruciating transformative journey. Life is an Odyssey to ITHAKA.

The following poem “Itaka” written by the Greek poet Constantine Peter Cavafy, is an exquisite song of encouragement to travelers set out on a voyage of self-discovery, self-improvement and self-elevation. It is a personal affirmation of our real life journey.

ITHAKA
As you set out in search of Ithaka
Pray that your journey be long,
full of adventures, full of awakenings.
Do not fear the monsters of old...
You will not meet them in your travels
if your thoughts are exalted and remain high,
if authentic passions stir your mind, body and spirit.
You will not encounter fearful monsters
if you do not carry them within your soul,
if your soul does not set them up in front of you.

- CONSTANTINE PETER CAVAFY

This poem is an empowering and transformational message and a personal affirmation to the whole humanity and most aptly to the progressing people.

When we start our expedition,, the real journey of our life, let us pray that it is long, full of adventure and full of awakenings. We will not meet the monsters of old – the social evils, adversities, etc., - if we do not carry them

within our soul and if our soul does not set them up in front of us. Even if we happen to encounter these old monsters, sometime we will conquer them, if our thoughts (perceptions, paradigms, beliefs, dreams, goals and missions) are exalted and remain high, if authentic passions stir our mind, body and spirit.

LET US LIVE WITH EXALTED AND LOFTY THINKING AND AUTHENTIC PASSION FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE.