CHAPTER VIII
FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Home Guards organization is an independent disciplined and uniformed body of volunteers constituted under Karnataka Home Guards Act 1962.

The volunteers are public spirited men and women who while following their own occupations voluntarily undertake to place their services at the disposal of the authorities to carry out such duties and functions in relation to protection of person, security of property and preservation of public order, or tranquility as may be assigned to them in accordance with provision of the Act and the rules made their under. Home Guard organization plays a crucial role in maintenance of law and order, disaster management, along with police organization through their meaningful participation. It involves training of Home Guards, mobilization of voluntary leaders, local institutions for active participation in social control.

The present study aimed at understanding the role of Home Guards in the larger context of analyzing the activities of Home Guards. The present study is confined that Home Guard organization which is located in Bagalkot district of Karnataka state. The present study has analyzed
400 men and 30 women Home Guards drawn from 16 units of its area of operation in Bagalkot district.

**Socio-economic background of the respondents**

Most of the respondents in this study are in their age group of 20 - 40 years. Average age of respondents is 30 years, the age, which is most productive in the life of any individual. A majority of the respondents are belonging to Hindu religion (88.3 per cent). Among them most of them are belonged to backward and lower castes (79.7 per cent). In this study we came across members, most of them backward, schedule caste and schedule tribes. So far as educational level of the respondents is concerned the finding shows a majority of respondents are literate, who have obtained primary and secondary education. Majority of the respondents’ occupation is weaving. Weaving is a predominant occupation in the sample area. Some of respondents are private employees working in sugar factories, schools, colleges and small portion 1.3 per cent are government employees. Majority of respondents have less than Rs. 10000 annual incomes. This indicates that there is poverty among the respondents.

**Programs and Activities Home Guards**

The major activities of the Home Guards organization are to prepare and train the Home Guards to work with police organization. The training helps the Home Guards to develop different skills and to
prepare in any kind of situations in the maintenance of law and order. There are different aspects with regard to training, parade, welfare programs, accommodation, allowances, transfer facilities and health etc. Regular parade for the Home Guards contributed much for the physical and mental development it helps to develop sense of discipline. Majority of the respondents have stated that they are attending parades and duties regularly. With regard to training programs finding shows that 90 per cent of the respondents have attended training programs. In the present study, an effort is made to know the respondents opinion about timings and duration of parade. 60.0 per cent are satisfied that the timings and durations of the parade is appropriate, about 25.0 per cent are not satisfied the timing and durations of the parade. An effort was also made to know the respondents opinion about the hours of work that they engaged in duties. 36.0 per cent have expressed the satisfaction over the hours of work. Where as majority of the respondents were not satisfied with their hours of work.

With regard to the distribution of parade allowances more than half of them stated that the parade allowances should be paid in every 3 months, 29.0 per cent have said that it should be distributed in every 2 months. It is because they can get adequate amount which will help them to meet their financial requirements.
Home Guards have no fixed salary. They are working for meager amount of allowances. Finding shows that majority of the respondents have stated that if they get a free pass in government buses to travel, it would be a great help to them. As far as medical facilities are concerned, the finding shows that a significant majority of respondents have said that they are not getting any medical facilities. With regard to the selfless service rendering by the Home Guards, majority of the respondents' are satisfied with their selfless services to the nation and society.

As far as educational qualification for appointment as a Home Guard 4th standard at present, majority of the respondents have suggested the qualification for appointment may be fixed to minimum 10th standard. A significant majority of the respondents have opined that the existing retirement age should be enhanced. Further, an effort was also made to know as to what should be the retirement age. As far as regularization of services of Home Guard is concerned, majority of respondents have opined that their services should be regularized.

Attitudes and Aspirations:

In the present study, the respondents have shown a positive perception towards their role. However as far as their perception about the improvement of their economic status, the finding shows that majority of the respondents have stated that their economic status has not improved after joining the organization. It is because still they are getting
lower allowances for their duties. As far as their opinion about the improvement in social status is concerned the finding indicates that majority of the respondents have stated that, their social status is improved after joining the organization.

Women Home Guards: their problems and prospects

Majority of the women respondents stated that they joined home guards organization with the intention of getting additional income to their families. It is also heartening to note that when they attend duties outside home, they are supported by parents and their husbands to take care of their children. Most of the Women Home Guards reported that they get co-operation from their male counterparts. They also feel that they are working on par with men. However most of the women complained that in the place of their work they are facing the problems of accommodation, sanitation. Most of them feel that they should be given facilities like maternity benefits, medical allowances and the like.

SUGGESTIONS:

On the basis of the experience and response received from the respondents, the following suggestions are made to improve the conditions of home guards

(1) The allowances, promotions and status of Home Guards need an upward revision.
(2) Selection and recruitment must be done based on at least higher secondary educational background.

(3) Home Guards in lower ranks to be encouraged to use their initiative and discretion while dealing with the public.

(4) Housing, transportation, communication need to be provided to the Home Guards on priority.

(5) All personnel should undergo periodic refresher courses and counseling. They should be sensitized to deal with the public and treat all people irrespective of caste, religion and region.

(6) As Home Guards have poor economic background, a ration facility (food grains in concessional rates) should be provided.

(7) 5-percentage reservation to the children of Home Guards in all the Departmental selections and employment (state, central, co-operative boards, corporations).

(8) The scholarship to the children of Home Guards studying in professional and technical educational should be given.

(9) The retirement age of Home Guards should be raised from 55 years to 60 years.

(10) To provide health care insurance to the Home Guards and their families similar to Arogya Bhagya scheme as in police organization.

(11) The parade, duty and training allowances should be raised.
Minimum honorarium of Rs 1000/- per month to all the Home Guards should be provided.

Maternity benefits should be provided to women Home Guards.

Development infrastructure at unit officer level and provision of government buildings to all units.

The services of Home Guards may be utilized to the full extent by deploying them in archeological department, hospital, musarai department that would provide yearlong employment to them. (at present, they are getting duties only 3-4 months in a year).

To mobilize the Home Guards in unit officers, a part-time assistant is required as it is provided in taluk unit officers, who can also take care maintenance of unit office.

A free bus pass to the Home Guards should be given to them whenever they are on duty.

Organized Home Guards unit in college is akin to NCC, NSS etc with the aim of familiarizing and to introducing students to the functioning of Home Guards.

To raise the Home Guards honorarium 30% every year on the basis of raising DA to the State and Central Government Employees.

To provide revised feeding allowance of Rs.50 per day of every day of deployment.
The honorary Home Guards commandants who are qualified, educated and with social reputation, their services should be recognized appropriately the researcher suggest to the Government to provide the following respectful honour to all the commandants of Home Guards

1. To upgrade the Districts commandants of Home Guards to the equal rank of Superannuation S.P. (Superintendent of Police) with collar clip.

2. Modernization of District commandants offices E.g: Provision of Cars, Laptop and modern equipments etc.,

3. To permit to use the ceremonial dress as that of S.P.

4. To increase the office duration of commandants up to the age of 60 years.

5. To provide the Honorarium of Rs.2000=00 to all the Staff officers and Unit Officers of Home Guards.

6. To nominate the District Home Guards commandants as an honorary member in all the Districts committees.

7. To increase the mileage cost per kilo meter rate.

8. To increase the Fuel consumption (District) from 60 liters to 150 liters and Residence Landline phones to unlimited.

9. To provide Division wise Authority of Home Guards to supervise the functioning of the Home Guard Division.
CONCLUSION:

In conclusion we can say that Home Guards a group of public spirited people drawn from all walks of life, high and low without any distinction of caste, creed or community. This is voluntary and disciplined organization, ever ready to meet any emergency both with strength and with popular appeal. Home Guards is serving for the cause of development of the nation. It is an auxiliary to the police it work for communal harmony and protection of weaker section of the society, Home Guards is to help the community during emergencies they are trained in rescue and relief work and their services should be help to the community in any kind of natural calamity.

But still the work to be done to strengthen the organization. Most of the respondents report that they have gained sufficient training, respect, and satisfaction of selfless service. They recognize that due to the efforts of the Home Guards organization their capacity is being recognized and provided an opportunity to serve the society. It has an integrated approach for a service of the society. The organization not only imparting necessary training and awareness but at the same time it is undertaking different kinds of welfare activities. Needless to say that the efforts put by Home Guards organization are meaningful and helpful to the society.