

# **Impact of Janamaithri Suraksha Project on the Safety/Security of the Tribal People in Kerala**



*Submitted to:*

**Home Department,  
Govt. of Kerala**

*Submitted by:*

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**March, 2015**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to place on record our sincere gratitude towards all those who have put in their efforts at their various capacities, towards the successful completion of this study – *Impact of Janamaithri Suraksha Project on the Safety/Security of the Tribal People in Kerala.*

At the outset, we would like to express our thanks to the Home Department, Govt. of Kerala, for entrusting us with the study and providing the necessary financial assistance.

Our sincere gratitude to **Dr. B.Sandhya IPS**, Additional Director General of Police, Armed Police Battalions, Nodal Officer for Janamaithri Suraksha Project & Special Officer, Tribal Development, for her scholarly inputs and active involvement in the successful completion of the study.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to Shri.S.Suresh IPS Director & IGP (Training) KEPA, Shri. M.K. Pushkaran IPS, Asst. Director (Outdoor) KEPA, Thrissur, for their support during the various stages of the study.

We acknowledge the contributions of Shri. V.S Vinayan and Shri. K.O.Varghese – the faculty members of the Research Institute, Rajagiri College of Social Sciences, in the report writing process.

A final word of gratitude to all the respondents viz. the Beat Officers, Asst. Beat Officers and Community Relations Officers (CRO's) of the respective Police Stations for their unstinted and whole hearted co-operation without which this study would not have been materialized.

**Dr. Celine Sunny**  
Executive Director

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

The Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the country are the groupings of historically disadvantaged people that are given express recognition in the Constitution of India. The reservation policy became an integral part of the Constitution through the efforts of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, father of Modern India and architect of the Indian Constitution; he participated in Round Table Conferences and fought for the rights of the Oppressed and Depressed Classes. The Constitution lays down general principles for the policy of affirmative action for the Scheduled Tribes. (Scheduled Tribe Development Department, Govt. of Kerala). Article 366 (25) of the Constitution of India refers to Scheduled Tribes as those communities, who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. This Article says that only those communities who have been declared as such by the President through an initial public notification or through a subsequent amending Act of Parliament will be considered to be Scheduled Tribes (Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India).

The Scheduled Tribes in the state of Kerala is largely heterogeneous and each community has different traditions, social custom, beliefs, rules, and practices. Census (2011) identifies 35 tribal communities in Kerala with 1.20 percent of the state's total population. Wayanad has the highest number of tribes with 37.36 percent, followed by Idukki and Palakkad (14 percent and 10.89 percent, respectively) which constitutes for more than 60 percent of STs in the State (KSPB, 2013). A socio-economic survey conducted by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department during 2008-10 in association with Kerala Institute of

Local Administration and local bodies revealed that the total families of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala are enumerated as 1,07,965 spread over in all the 14 districts of the State. Wayanad District has 36,135 Scheduled Tribe families (33.47%) followed by 14,315 families (13.26%) in Idukki, 13,223 families (12.25%) in Palakkad and 11598 families (10.74%) in Kasaragod. Seventy eight per cent of Scheduled Tribe families in the State are located in five districts, namely; Wayanad, Idukki, Palakkad, Kasaragod and Kannur. (Scheduled Tribe Development Department, Govt. of Kerala)

The tribal communities in Kerala have been historically marginalized and oppressed by various development factors and forces. The policies and schemes implemented by successive governments at the Centre and the state have further worsened the situation. The challenges to their civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights have been critical today, insofar as they perpetuate extreme form of deprivation in many ways. Their customary rights over natural resources such as forests, cultural identity, and traditional knowledge, including intellectual property rights, cultural heritage and traditional wisdom have been continuously at stake due to the interplay of various factors and forces. (Nithya, 2014)

Many studies show that, even after sixty years of formation of the state, tribals continue as one of the most marginalized community within the state, the post globalized developmental projects and developmental dreams of the state has again made the deprivation of the tribals of Kerala and the developmental divide has increased between the tribal and non-tribal in the state. Despite government initiatives, the existing socio-economic profile of the tribal communities is low compared to the mainstream population. The instruments of globalization have not rendered any positive impact in achieving the intended objectives of social security to the indigenous people.

The survey conducted by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration in association with the Local bodies and the Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department in 2008 - 2011, the living conditions of Scheduled Tribes in the state were very pathetic. The survey highlighted that there were 4614 landless tribal families in the State. More than 55 per cent lived in dilapidated houses. In all, 39,850 houses did not have kitchen and 49 percent did not have toilets. Half of the population deprived of pure drinking water and 1252 tribal hamlets were not electrified. More than 1300 tribal settlements faced threat from wild animals. The survey showed that there were 887 unwed mothers and 20,301 widows among ST women. Only 17 per cent of them were getting pension. Many of the families did not have any access to medical care. Among them 4,036 were differently-abled and 2386 were mentally-challenged. The community has 40,323 chronic patients. The literacy rate among the scheduled tribes is 72.77. Most of them used to drop out from schools at the primary level itself. Poverty and lack of access to educational institutions are the major reasons. According to the survey, 77,680 people in the age group of 15-59 were unemployed. This includes 2112 graduates, 200 postgraduates and 2066 with professional qualifications. Almost half the population of the community had taken loans, mostly from private institutions or individual money lenders. (The Hindu, 2011)

It was this pitiable situation of the scheduled tribes in the state of Kerala that the Left Wing Extremists (LWEs) or Maoists exploited fruitfully for their entry in to the state. In comparison to the tribes in other States, the life of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala is found to be far better. Even then, The Left Wing Extremists (LWEs) or Maoists are actively working for exploiting the tribal people and the fact that the maximum sightings of Maoists in the vicinity of tribal colonies assume greater significance in this context. (P.Vahid, 2014)

As in other States, the Maoists as a preliminary step, are visiting these colonies, interacting with the tribals, understanding and empathizing with their problems and ultimately propagating their ideology and strategy as the panacea for all ‘ sufferings’, both real and imagined. Maoists, by their articulate, passionate presentation, which carefully incorporates in-depth facts about the day to day lives of the Adivasis, magnifying their sufferings and distorting to suit their interests, the Governmental attitude towards the suffering tribal’s, so as to convince them that the only alternative is to take up arms and fight against a ‘heartless’ and ‘apathetic’ Government who would otherwise preside over their doom. Often, the pamphlets and notices seized from such areas slated to be distributed by the Maoists, it is observed that these are remarkably well presented, inspiring, and the distortions are smartly packaged, which can even move a literate person to speak out against the Government, not to mention the illiterate Adivasis.

To earn adequate goodwill among the tribals and other deprived sections of the society, the Maoists undertake activities such as the redistribution of land, enforce payment of minimum wages, impose taxes and penalties, hold people’s courts, destroy government property and enforce a social code in their areas of influence. At the same time, they organise peasants and tribals against traders and the government by which they are able to impress the tribals living in the remotest and most inaccessible areas. The inaccessible areas provide excellent havens for the Naxalites where they take shelter in tribal hamlets. Support from the local population varies from genuine sympathy to coercion. This has a direct impact on the functioning of the state security forces in these areas as it cuts off their intelligence gathering channels. (Singh, 2008)

The Maoist leaders are motivated largely by their desire to seek political power in disguise of fighting for genuine grievances arising from the political,

economic and social hardships of the suppressed tribals. It is India's longest neglect to develop the tribal areas which has created large pockets of alienation against the government and these pockets have become the spawning ground of Maoist terrorism. The governments concerned have to take note of the genuine grievances of the tribals and deal with them in a sympathetic manner. There has to be a system for a prompt enquiry into all allegations of excess and it is here the activists can contribute to reach the base realities and unveil the truth. Extremism cannot be effectively countered without modernising and strengthening our rural policing and the rural presence of the intelligence agencies. Not only the affected areas but also the tribal areas and coastal belts, which have not yet been affected by the Maoist virus, have to be developed on a crash basis in order to prevent the spread of the virus to them. There has to be an equal focus on several entities like education, employment, immediate settlement of disputes, environment protection and even providing security to the suppressed. The failure to develop the road infrastructure in the rural areas has facilitated the spread of Maoist terrorism. (Pradhan, 2012)

Increasing Maoist activities have recently been noticed in the state, where the rebels' presence has been identified in regions that come under 31 Police Stations limits in the Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad and Thrissur Districts. The Kerala Police recently issued lookout notices for 11 Maoists. Sensing the urgency of the situation, the Kerala State Government, on February 21, 2014, directed the Police Department to fortify 16 Police Stations in north Kerala on 'a war footing.' The Government ordered 300 armed Policemen to the region to provide 'perimeter defence and support' to Thunderbolts Kerala, the special weapons and tactics team of the State Police, which was spearheading 'anti-Naxal operations' there. (Das, 2014)

Against the backdrop of this intrusion of Maoists in several tribal hamlets and their growing threats to the safety and security of the state, especially to the tribal people, the Govt. of Kerala has decided to widen the activities of its most prestigious successful community policing project –the Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP) into the tribal areas too. Accordingly, in the year 2013, the project was launched in the 50 tribal police stations in the state of Kerala. The project has envisioned a proper and sustainable action to protect the tribal people in the state from these extremist groups. The JSP was not only aimed at the safety and security of the tribal people but also the overall development of the community. Though, within a short span of time (duration of 2 years), the project has carried out a number of activities in the tribal colonies, yet it has not taken its full swing in attaining its goals. Further, the recent Maoists intrusion reported from various quarters of the hamlets, has necessitated the strengthening of the activities of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project in the tribal police station limits of the state. The situation necessitated the decision makers to know about the present status of the project in terms of its strengths and weaknesses. A broad understanding of the project will be useful for them to prepare a comprehensive action plan for the betterment of the project, solving the existing drawbacks.

In is in this context that the present study has been undertaken by the Home Department, Govt. of Kerala to analyse the impact of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project in the tribal colonies, in preventing crimes and anti-social activities and subsequent ensuring of safety and security of the tribal people.

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

1. To find out the profile of the respondents.
2. To examine the status of beat visits and allied aspects.
3. To understand the perception of the tribal people about the Police.
4. To find out the problems/Issues existing in the tribal colonies.

5. To learn about the crimes committed against scheduled tribes in the colonies under study.
6. To examine the activities carried out by the Beat officers in order to: solve problems / issues in the colonies, detect and prevent the crimes, prevent anti-social activities, detect and prevent the sale and use of drugs/illicit liquor, help the woman and child victims of crimes, the welfare of tribal children in schools/ tribal hostels, and ensure the women's security, social security, and health security of scheduled tribes.
7. To find out the agencies / departments associating with the Janamaithri Police in implementing the Janamaithri Suraksha Project.
8. To assess the impact of Janamaithri Suraksha Project on the tribal communities.
9. To find out the problems faced by the Janamaithri officers in the implementation of the project and to draw appropriate suggestion to solve these problems.
10. To sketch the case stories that touched the respondents the most.
11. To recommend suitable strategies/measures for the effective implementation of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project in the tribal colonies of the state.

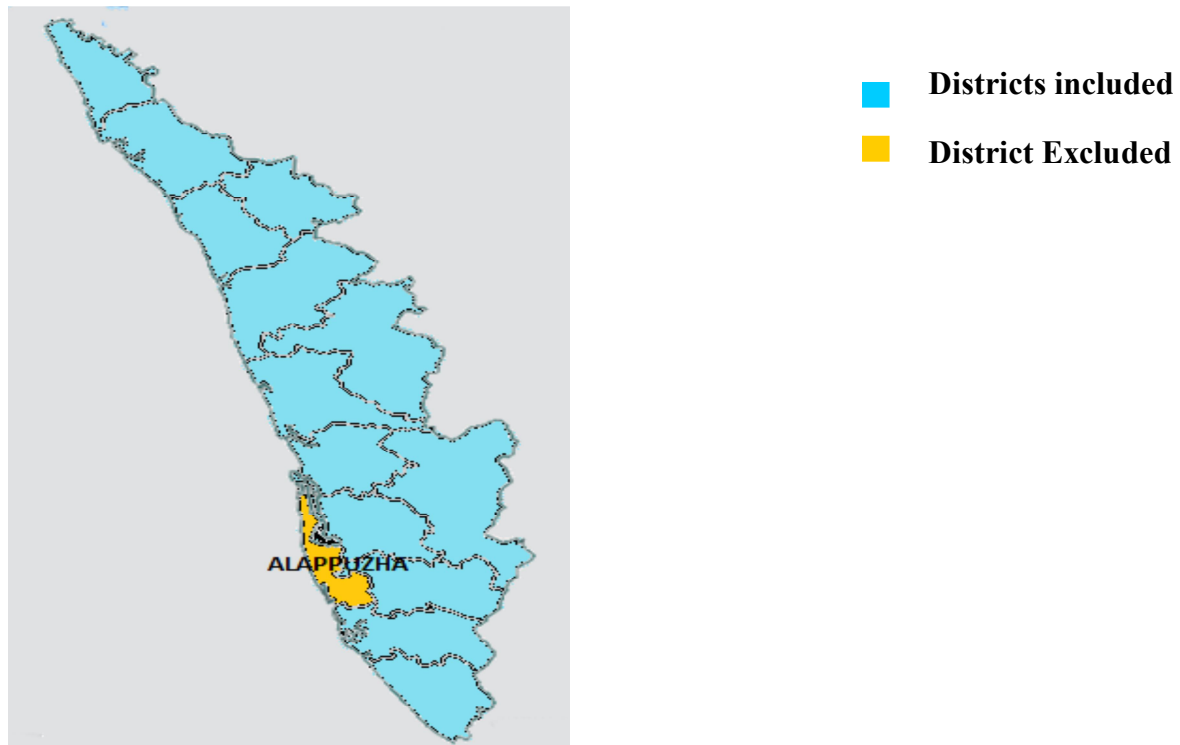
### **1.3 Methodology**

#### ***The Universe***

All the Beat Officers/Asst. Beat Officers/CROs of the Tribal Police stations with Janamaithri Suraksha Project constituted the universe of the study.

#### ***Geographical Area***

The 13 districts in the state of Kerala formed the Geographical area of the study. Alappuzha district was excluded from the study because of the absence of Tribal Police Station in the district.



### *Sampling*

Even though there are 50 Tribal Police Stations with Janamaithri Suraksha Project in the State of Kerala, only 43 were considered due to the absence or scattered nature of the Tribal Colonies. Accordingly, Seventy three (73) Beat Officers representing 43 Tribal Police stations of the 13 districts of Kerala formed the sample size.

## **1.4 Methods and Tools of Data Collection**

### *Methods*

Questionnaire and Desk Review were the methods used for the collection of data.

### *Tools of Data Collection*

*Questionnaire:* the questionnaire, which was prepared in consultation with experts, was administered among the respondents. The questionnaire consisted

of 28 questions seeking the details regarding; the profile of the Beat officers, status of beat visits and allied aspects, perception of the tribal people about the police, problems/issues seen in the tribal colonies, crimes committed against the scheduled tribes, activities carried out by the Janamaithri police in tribal colonies ; to solve the problems/issues in the colonies, to detect and prevent the crimes, to prevent the anti-social activities, to detect and prevent the sale and use of drugs/illicit liquor, to help the women / child victims of crimes, welfare of the tribal students in the schools/ hostels and the safety/security of women, society and health of the people. The questionnaire also consisted of questions pertaining to the various problems faced by the Beat officers and their suggestions to improve the functioning of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project in ensuring the safety and security of the tribal population. The status of their worth as police officer/individual after working as Janamaithri Beat officers was also included.

### **1.5 Sources of Data**

The respondents under study, i.e., the Beat officers, Assistant Beat officers and Community Relations Officers formed the source of primary data.

For the secondary data, the study relied on relevant Government reports, scholarly articles, news articles, research documents; books related to the topic, etc. The study reports on Janamaithri Suraksha Project and other relevant publications also formed the source of secondary data.

### **1.6 Data Processing and Analysis**

Processing and analysis of the data were carried out by making use of the manual and computer application like *Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)* according to the sequence of objectives of the study.

## **ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

The Community Policing Project, a noble venture of Kerala Police – the Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP), initiated in the year 2008 in selected 20 police stations has so far implemented in 248 police stations. The project has become a model for the other states in the country and drawn much appreciation at the international forums too. Motivated from the success stories of the project among the general community, it was decided to widen its scope to the most vulnerable section in the society – the tribal community. Accordingly, the project has been launched in 50 police stations in tribal areas on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013. Since its two years of implementation at tribal colonies, the JSP could carry out a number of activities for the welfare of tribal communities in the selected police station limits. Within a short period of time, the project has succeeded in making a cordial relationship with the tribal people and could intervene in many of the problems faced by the community. However, any venture with loads of activities and complexities needs to be assessed and reviewed periodically for its further shaping up. It will be better if it is done by the implementers itself.

It is in this regard, that the Home Dept., Govt. of Kerala has decided to conduct an evaluation of the JSP implemented in the selected tribal police stations of the state of Kerala. The evaluation was carried out by administering a well structured questionnaire among the Janamaithri Police Personnel viz. Beat Officers/Assistant Beat Officers and Community Relations Officers (CRO) – the implementers of the project. Accordingly, the data were collected from 73 respondents representing 43 tribal police stations where the JSP has been implemented. Efforts have been made to elicit information regarding their views and perception on the various activities carried out by them in the colonies and its impact on the tribal communities under their jurisdiction.

This chapter presents the analysis of the data collected from the respondents on the different aspects of the project. The major areas covered through the study are scripted under the following sections: 1) Profile of the Respondents, 2) Status of Beat Visits and Allied Aspects, 3) Perception of the Tribal People about the Police 4) Problems / Issues in the Tribal Colonies, 5) Crimes committed against Scheduled Tribes, 6) Activities carried out by the Beat officers, 7) Agencies / Departments associated with the Janamaithri Police, 8) Impact of Janamaithri Suraksha Project on the Tribal Colonies, 9) Status/Worth of the Respondents as a Police Officer as well as an Individual after Working as a Beat officer 10) Problems and Suggestions of the Respondents.

## **2.1. Profile of the Respondents**

This section depicts the profile of the respondents in terms of; Category of the respondents, Districts-wise distribution of the respondents and the police stations, and their social background in terms of variables viz. Age, Education and Designation.

### *Category of the Respondents*

The category of Janamaithri Police Personnel under study consisted of 16.4% Community Relations Officers (CROs) and 83.6% Beat officers / Asst. Beat officers. (Refer to table 2.1.1)

**Table No.2.1.1**  
**Category of Respondents**

| <b>Category of Respondents</b>          | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Beat Officers / Assistant Beat Officers | 61               | 83.6           |
| Community Relations Officers (CROs)     | 12               | 16.4           |
| Total                                   | 73               | 100.0          |

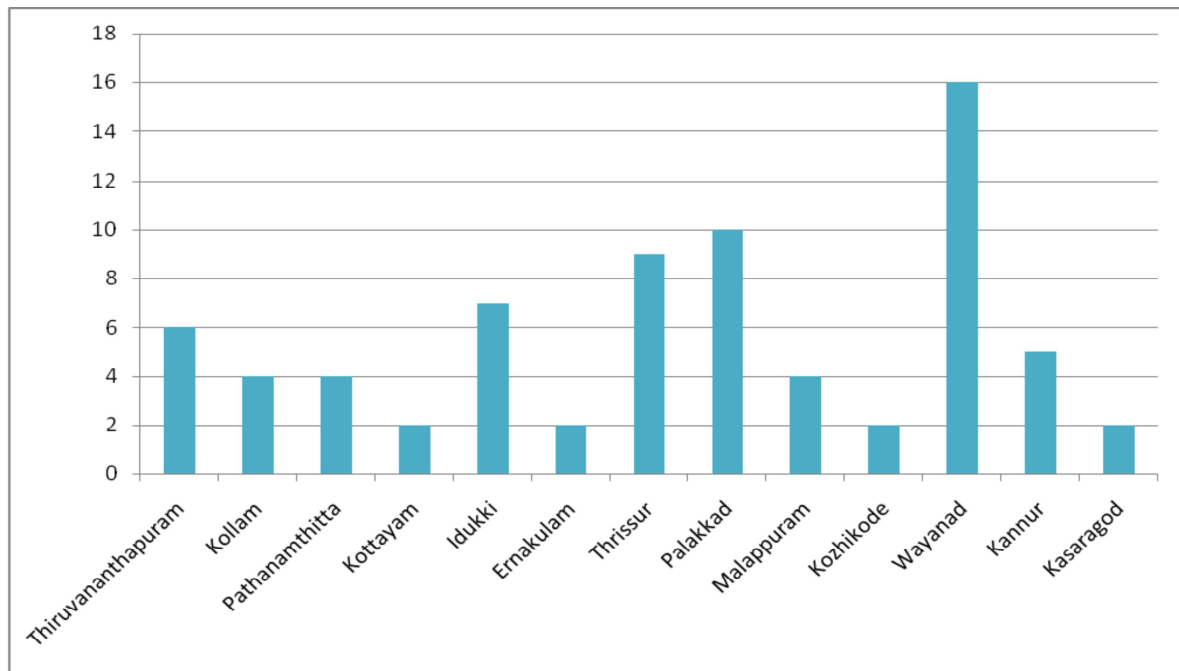
### *District -wise distribution of the Respondents / Police Stations*

In 2013, the Govt. of Kerala launched the Janamaithri Suraksha Project in the 50 tribal police stations of 13 districts in the state of Kerala except in Alappuzha where there are no tribal colonies.

Of the 13 districts, 73 respondents representing 43 tribal police stations came under the purview of the present study. Of these, the majority were from Wayanad district with 16, followed by Palakkad and Thrissur with 10 and 9 respectively. The least were from Kottayam, Ernakulam, Kozhikode, and Kasaragod districts with 2 Officers each.

The table No.2.1.1 showed that of the 43 tribal police stations, the most were from Wayanad district with 9 followed by Palakkad and Idukki with 5 police stations each, the reason being the predominance of tribals in these areas. The least number of Police stations were from Kottayam, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode with one Police station each. (Refer to figure 2.1.1)

**Figure No.2.1.1**  
**Number of Respondents – District Wise**



**Table No.2.1.1**  
**No. of Respondents – Police Station / District-wise**

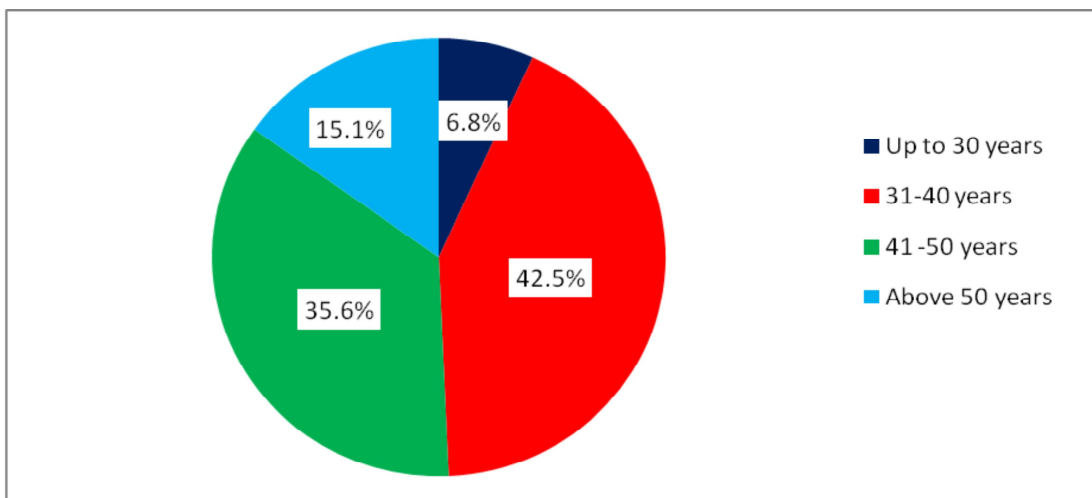
| Sl. No. | Police Station     | District           | No. of Respondents | Total |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 1       | 1.Vithura          | Thiruvananthapuram | 2                  | 6     |
| 2       | 2. Palode          |                    | 2                  |       |
| 3       | 3. Arynad          |                    | 2                  |       |
| 4       | 1. Thenmala        | Kollam             | 2                  | 4     |
| 5       | 2. Kullathupuzha   |                    | 1                  |       |
| 6       | 3. Meppadi         |                    | 1                  |       |
| 7       | 1. Chittar         | Pathanamthitta     | 2                  | 4     |
| 8       | 2. Perunad         |                    | 1                  |       |
| 9       | 3. Vechuchira      |                    | 1                  |       |
| 10      | 1. Mundakkayam     | Kottayam           | 2                  | 2     |
| 11      | 1. Kanjar          | Idukki             | 2                  | 7     |
| 12      | 2. Kullamavu       |                    | 2                  |       |
| 13      | 3. Kumali          |                    | 1                  |       |
| 14      | 4. Marayur         |                    | 1                  |       |
| 15      | 5. Kalliyar        |                    | 1                  |       |
| 16      | 1. Kuttambuzha     | Ernakulam          | 2                  | 2     |
| 17      | 1. Peechi          | Thrissur           | 3                  | 9     |
| 18      | 2. Vellikullangara |                    | 3                  |       |
| 19      | 3. Athirapilly     |                    | 2                  |       |
| 20      | 4. Wadakkanchery   |                    | 1                  |       |
| 21      | 1. Sholayur        | Palakkad           | 3                  | 10    |
| 22      | 2. Agali           |                    | 2                  |       |
| 23      | 3. Parambikullam   |                    | 2                  |       |
| 24      | 4. Kozhinjambara   |                    | 2                  |       |
| 25      | 5.Sreekrishnapuram |                    | 1                  |       |
| 26      | 1. Arikode         | Malappuram         | 2                  | 4     |
| 27      | 2. Idakkara        |                    | 2                  |       |
| 28      | 1. Thiruvambadi    | Kozhikode          | 2                  | 2     |

|              |                   |           |   |           |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|---|-----------|
| 29           | 1. Thalappuzha    | Wayanad   | 5 | 16        |
| 30           | 2. Vythiri        |           | 1 |           |
| 31           | 3. Kambalakkad    |           | 1 |           |
| 32           | 4. Meenangadi     |           | 3 |           |
| 33           | 5. Meppadi        |           | 1 |           |
| 34           | 6. Padinjarathara |           | 2 |           |
| 35           | 7. Thirunelli     |           | 1 |           |
| 36           | 8. Ambalavayal    |           | 1 |           |
| 37           | 9. Kenichira      |           | 1 |           |
| 38           | 1. Peravoor       | Kannur    | 2 | 5         |
| 39           | 2. Iritty         |           | 1 |           |
| 40           | 3. Aarallam       |           | 1 |           |
| 41           | 4. Kelakom        |           | 1 |           |
| 42           | 1. Badiadka       | Kasaragod | 1 | 2         |
| 43           | 2. Adhur          |           | 1 |           |
| <b>Total</b> |                   |           |   | <b>73</b> |

### Age

Majority (42.5%) of the respondents belonged to the age group of 31-40years followed by 35.6% in the category of 41-50 years. However, 15.1% were in the age group of above 50 years. (Refer to figure 2.1.2)

**Figure No.2.1.2**  
**Age group of the Respondents**



### *Educational Qualification*

Regarding the educational qualification of the Janamaithri Police Officers, more than one third (37.0%) of them were either Graduates (28.8%) or Post-Graduates (8.2%). While 32.9% reported of SSLC as their educational qualification, 28.8% reported of Pre-degree/+2/Higher secondary. (*Refer to table 2.1.4*)

**Table No.2.1.4**  
**Educational Qualification**

| <b>Educational Qualification</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| SSLC/SSC                         | 24               | 32.9           |
| PDC/+2/ Higher secondary         | 21               | 28.8           |
| Graduation                       | 21               | 28.8           |
| Post graduation                  | 6                | 8.2            |
| No response                      | 1                | 1.4            |
| Total                            | 73               | 100.0          |

### *Designation*

More than half of the respondents were either Civil Police Officers (CPOs - 42.5%) or Woman Civil Police Officers (WCPOs -11%). While Senior Civil Police Officers (SCPOs) constituted 21.9%, Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASI) formed 13.7%. However, 6.9% were Sub Inspectors of Police (SI/GSI). (*Refer to table 2.1.2*)

It was also noticed that of the 5 SI/GSIs, four and of the 10 ASIs, seven were Community Relations Officers (CROs).

A cross examination of Designation of the respondents with their Age group showed that nearly 70% of the CPOs and 90.9% of the WCPOs were in the age group of 40 years or below. However, the majority (75%) of the SCPOs belonged to the age group of 41-50years. Interestingly, all the Sub Inspectors (SI/GSI) under study in charge of the Janamaithri Project (JSP) in the tribal

areas were found to be nearing to their retirement age; i.e. they were in the age group of above 50 years. Cent per cent of the ASIs were in the age group of either above 50years or 41-50years. (Refer to table 2.1.3)

*It can be seen from the data that the majority of the senior officers (ASI &SI) in the Tribal Janamaithri Police Stations were nearing to their retirement age.*

**Table No.2.1.2**  
**Designation of the Respondents**

| <b>Designation</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| CPO                | 31               | 42.5           |
| WCPO               | 11               | 11.0           |
| SCPO               | 16               | 21.9           |
| ASI                | 10               | 13.7           |
| SI/GSI             | 5                | 6.9            |
| Total              | 73               | 100.0          |

**Table No.2.1.3**  
**Designation Vs Age group of the Respondents**

| <b>Designation</b> | <b>Age group (in Years)</b> |                 |              |               |                 |              |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                    | <b>No Response</b>          | <b>Up to 30</b> | <b>31-40</b> | <b>41 -50</b> | <b>Above 50</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| CPO                | 0                           | 5               | 18           | 8             | 0               | 31           |
|                    | .0%                         | 16.1%           | 58.1%        | 25.8%         | .0%             | 100.0%       |
| SCPO               | 1                           | 0               | 3            | 12            | 0               | 16           |
|                    | 6.3%                        | .0%             | 18.8%        | 75.0%         | .0%             | 100.0%       |
| ASI                | 0                           | 0               | 0            | 4             | 6               | 10           |
|                    | .0%                         | .0%             | .0%          | 40.0%         | 60.0%           | 100.0%       |
| SI/GSI             | 0                           | 0               | 0            | 0             | 5               | 5            |
|                    | .0%                         | .0%             | .0%          | .0%           | 100.0%          | 100.0%       |
| WCPO               | 0                           | 0               | 10           | 1             | 0               | 11           |
|                    | .0%                         | .0%             | 90.9%        | 9.1%          | .0%             | 100.0%       |
| Total              | 1                           | 5               | 31           | 25            | 11              | 73           |
|                    | 1.4%                        | 6.8%            | 42.5%        | 34.2%         | 15.1%           | 100.0%       |

### *Number of Years Worked as Beat Officer*

More than half of them had only 1-6 months (38.4%) or less than a month (15.1%) experience as Beat officers. 19.2% had worked as Beat officers for a period of 6-12 months, while 13.7% for a period of 1-2 years. However, only 9.6% reported of a long period (above 2 years) as Beat officers. (Refer to table 2.1.4)

**Table No.2.1.4**  
**No. of Years Worked as Beat Officers**

| <b>No. of Years</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| No response         | 3                | 4.1            |
| Less than a month   | 11               | 15.1           |
| 1-6 months          | 28               | 38.4           |
| 6-12 months         | 14               | 19.2           |
| 1-2 years           | 10               | 13.7           |
| Above 2 year        | 7                | 9.6            |
| Total               | 73               | 100.0          |

## **2.2. Status of Beat Visits and Allied Aspects**

An analysis of the data related to the status of beat visits and allied activities of Beat officers was carried out in terms of variables viz. the period of Beat officers in charge of the beat, number of tribal colonies in the beat, number of colonies visited during the period, and time and place of beat visits.

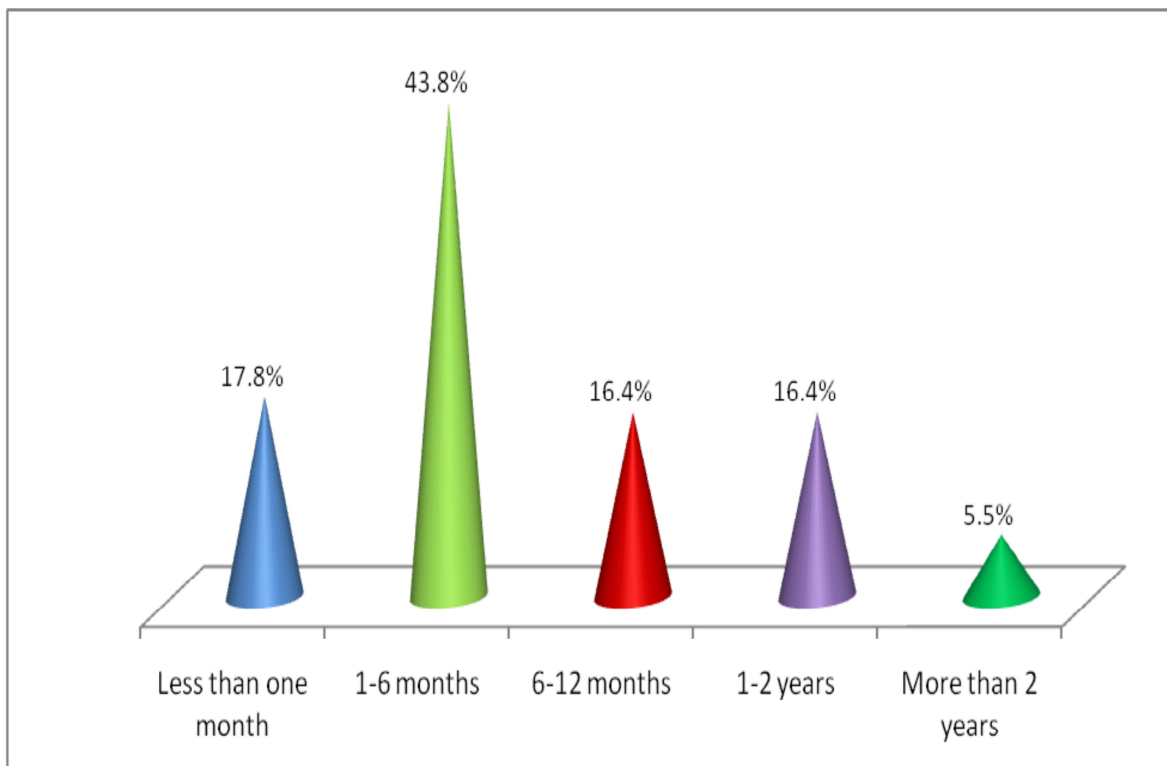
### *Period of Beat Officers in charge of the Beat*

Most (43.8%) of the officers had only 1-6 months of experience in their present Beat. Surprisingly, 17.8% were new comers i.e. they had not even completed a month in their Beat. Almost an equal number (16.4% each) reported that they

had been in charge of the Beat for a period of 6-12 months and 1-2years. (Refer to figure 2.2.1)

It is to be noted from the data that more than 60% of the Janamaithri officers under study had given charge of the Beat only from the last 6 months onwards or below it. It depicts a trend of frequent shifting of Janamaithri Officers which in turn might affect the project adversely.

**Figure No.2.2.1**  
**Period in charge of the Beat**



#### *No. of Tribal Colonies in the Beat*

More than half (53.4%) of the respondents had either only 1 (27.4%) or 2-5 (26%) tribal colonies in their Beat area. However, 11% each had to look after 6-10 and 11-20 colonies. Interestingly, 23.3% reported of holding charge of more than 20 tribal colonies. (Refer to table 2.2.2)

**Table No.2.2.2**  
**No. of Tribal colonies in the Beat**

| <b>No. of Colonies</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1                      | 20               | 27.4           |
| 2-5                    | 19               | 26.0           |
| 6-10                   | 8                | 11.0           |
| 11-20                  | 8                | 11.0           |
| Above 20               | 17               | 23.3           |
| No response            | 1                | 1.4            |
| Total                  | 73               | 100.0          |

*No. of Colonies Visited during 2014-15*

Majority (57.5%) visited all the tribal colonies in their Beat during the year 2014-15 while 21.9% visited more than half. However, 11% of the Janamaithri officers visited only less than a quarter of the colonies. *(Refer to table 2.2.3)*

A cross analysis of the number of colonies in the Beat with the number of colonies visited revealed that all the officers with only one tribal colony in their beat, had visited (all) the respective colonies. However, half of them could not cover all the houses in their colonies since they had assumed charge of this beat recently. *(Refer to table 2.2.3)*

Of the officers who had 2-5 colonies in their beat, 68.4% visited all the colonies while 10.5% visited only less than a quarter.

Among the respondents who had 6-10 tribal colonies, 37.5% visited all the colonies but another 37.5% could not visit even a quarter of the colonies allotted to them.

Regarding the officers with 11-20 colonies, none of them visited all the colonies, but 62.5% could visit more than half of the colonies.

With regard to the respondents who had charge of above 20 tribal colonies, 29.4% visited all the colonies, while 35.3% visited more than half and 29.4% visited more than a quarter. *(Refer to table 2.2.3)*

**Table No.2.2.3**  
**No of Tribal Colonies in the Beat Vs No. of Colonies visited**

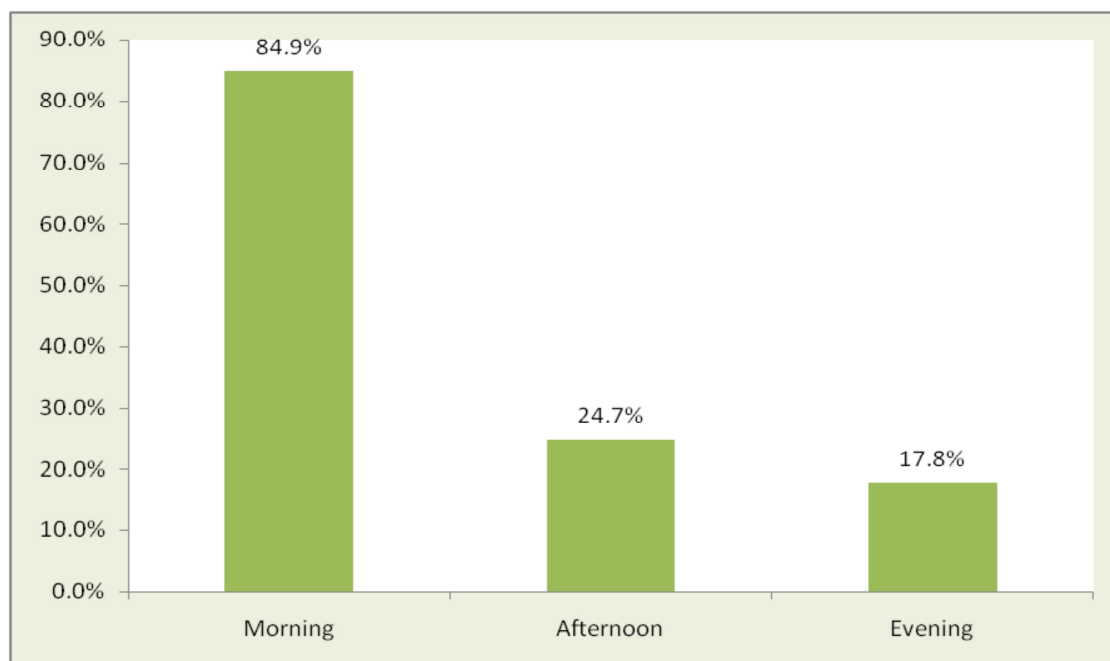
| No. of Tribal Colonies | No. of Colonies visited during 2014-15 |                |                     |                     |        |
|------------------------|--|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------|
|                        | All the colonies                       | More than half | More than a quarter | Less than a quarter | Total  |
| 1                      | 20                                     | 0              | 0                   | 0                   | 20     |
|                        | 100.0%                                 | 0.0%           | .0%                 | 0.0%                | 100.0% |
| 2-5                    | 13                                     | 3              | 1                   | 2                   | 19     |
|                        | 68.4%                                  | 15.8%          | 5.3%                | 10.5%               | 100.0% |
| 6-10                   | 3                                      | 2              | 0                   | 3                   | 8      |
|                        | 37.5%                                  | 25.0%          | .0%                 | 37.5%               | 100.0% |
| 11-20                  | 0                                      | 5              | 1                   | 2                   | 8      |
|                        | .0%                                    | 62.5%          | 12.5%               | 25.0%               | 100.0% |
| Above 20               | 5                                      | 6              | 5                   | 1                   | 17     |
|                        | 29.4%                                  | 35.3%          | 29.4%               | 5.9%                | 100.0% |
| No response            | 1                                      | 0              | 0                   | 0                   | 1      |
|                        | 100.0%                                 | .0%            | .0%                 | .0%                 | 100.0% |
| Total                  | 42                                     | 16             | 7                   | 8                   | 73     |
|                        | 57.5%                                  | 21.9%          | 9.6%                | 11.0%               | 100.0% |

#### *Time of Beat Visits*

With regard to time of beat visits, the majority (84.9%) of the officers had visits in the morning. Nearly one fourth of them had visits in the afternoon and 17.8% in the evening. *(Refer to figure 2.2.1)*

*It can be understood from the data that the usual time of beat visits is in the mornings. However, it is flexible depending upon the situation of a particular area. It was also noticed that no night visits were reported by the officers.*

**Figure No.2.2.1**  
**Time of Beat Visits by Beat Officers**



#### *Place of Meeting*

More than half (52.1%) of the Janamaithri officers reported that they met the people in their houses, whereas 27.4% at the public places. However, 16.4% met the colony members at both the houses and the public places. (*Refer to table 2.2.4*)

**Table No.2.2.4**  
**Common Place of Meeting**

| Place of Meeting              | Frequency | Percent |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Public place                  | 20        | 27.4    |
| House                         | 38        | 52.1    |
| Public place and House        | 12        | 16.4    |
| Public place, House, & Others | 3         | 4.1     |
| Total                         | 73        | 100.0   |

### **2.3 Perception of the Tribal People about the Police**

The Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP) in the tribal colonies is expected to make a cordial relationship between the tribal people and the police. The JSP has insisted on the police to facilitate a friendly atmosphere with the people so that they can share their problems/issues with the police fearlessly. One of the objectives of the project is to improve the relationship between the community members and the police. In this regard, the present study sought the views of the Beat officers regarding the perception of the tribal people about the police. The perceptions analysed here were on: behaviour, approachability, helpfulness and performance of the police in their areas of operation.

#### *Behaviour of the Police*

The Beat officers have a vital role to play in the successes of the project. It is his/her skills that bridge the gap between the police and the tribal people. Hence, the study had an inquiry about the perception of tribal people regarding the behavior of the Beat officers.

Accordingly, more than half (53.4%) of the officers under study rated ‘Good’ for the perception of tribal people on the behaviour of the police, while 43.8% rated it as ‘Satisfactory’. *(Refer to table 2.3.1)*

#### *Approachability to the Police*

Regarding the perception of people on the approachability to the police, the majority (49.3%) of the officers rated it as ‘Satisfactory’. However, a good number (47.9%) perceived it as ‘Good’. *(Refer to table 2.3.1)*

#### *Helpfulness of the Police*

As for the perception of tribal people on the helpfulness of the police, the majority (56.2%) rated it as ‘Good’, followed by, 42.5% as ‘Satisfactory’. *(Refer to table 2.3.1)*

### *Performance of the Police*

The perception of tribal people regarding the performance of the police was rated as ‘Good’, by 53.4% of the police officers while 45.2% stated it as ‘Satisfactory’. (Refer to table 2.3.1)

**Table No.2.3.1**  
**Perception of the Tribal People towards the Police**

| <b>Perception on</b>          | <b>Good</b> | <b>Satisfactory</b> | <b>Poor</b> | <b>No response</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Behaviour of the Police       | 39          | 32                  | 1           | 1                  | 73           |
|                               | 53.4%       | 43.8%               | 1.4%        | 1.4%               | 100.0%       |
| Approachability to the Police | 35          | 36                  | 0           | 1                  | 73           |
|                               | 47.9%       | 49.3%               | 0.0%        | 1.4%               | 100.0%       |
| Helpfulness of the Police     | 41          | 31                  | 0           | 1                  | 73           |
|                               | 56.2%       | 42.5%               | 0.0%        | 1.4%               | 100.0%       |
| Performance of the Police     | 39          | 33                  | 1           | 0                  | 73           |
|                               | 53.4%       | 45.2%               | 1.4%        | 0.0%               | 100.0%       |

### *Change in the Perception of the Tribal People*

To the query on whether there has been any change in the perception of the tribal people about the police after the implementation of JSP, almost all (97.3%) of the respondents reported of a positive change noticed among them in this regard. (Refer to table 2.3.2)

**Table No.2.3.2**  
**Change in the Perception of the Tribal People**

| <b>Status of Change</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Positive                | 71               | 97.3           |
| No change               | 2                | 2.7            |
| Total                   | 73               | 100.0          |

## **2.4. Problems/Issues in the Tribal Colonies**

The primary responsibility of a Beat officer working in the tribal colonies under Janamaithri Suraksha Project is to understand the major problems/issues in the respective colonies. They are expected to make deliberate efforts to solve the problems in the colonies with the assistance of the competent authorities and the people themselves. If the Beat officers could address the basic problems/issues in a tribal colony, the people will trust him and will share all their problems and issues as well as any sensitive information. The police cannot make a successful entry into the community without opening their eyes towards the basic problems of the community. Accordingly, the present study had a probe into the problems /issues existing in the tribal colonies.

### *Problems existing in the Tribal Colonies*

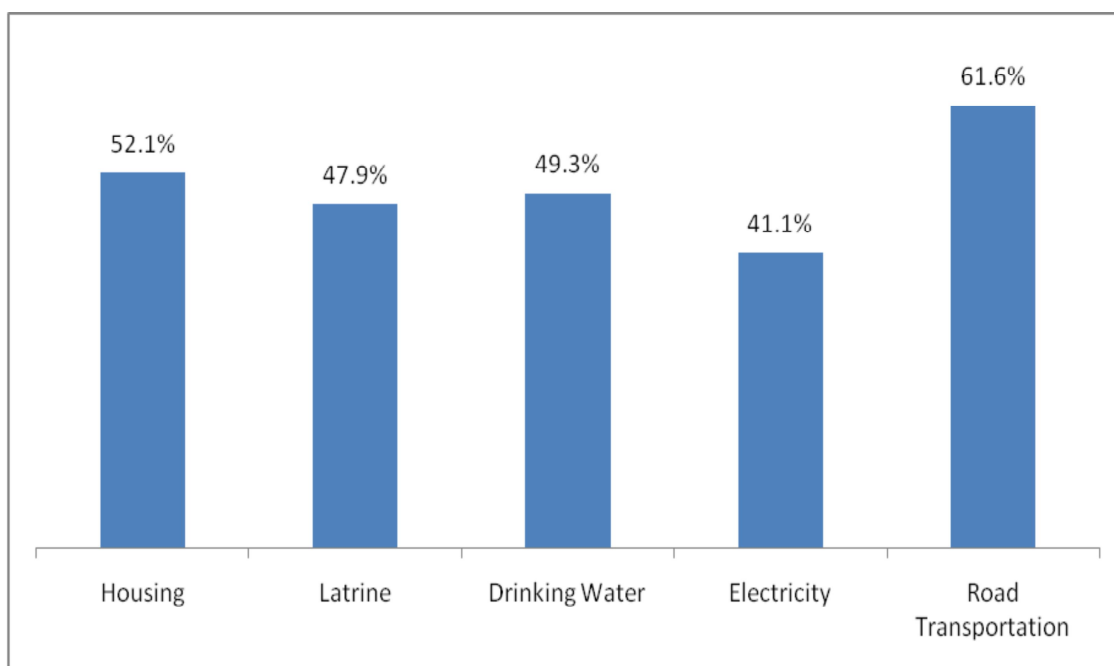
A query in this regard showed that the majority (79.5%) of the respondents reported of the problem of ‘alcoholism/drug abuse’ in the colonies under their jurisdiction followed by 74% of ‘lack of infrastructural facilities’ like; road transportation (61.6%), housing (52.1%), drinking water (49.3%), latrine (47.9%), and electricity (41.1%). (*Refer to table 2.4.1 & figure 2.4.1*)

A good number (54.8%) cited of the ‘unemployment’ among the tribal youths, while 39.7% stated ‘educational backwardness’ especially among the students. Though, comparatively lesser in number, violence against women (19.2%), and presence of Maoists (16.4%) and other problems (13.7%) like; disturbance/threat from wild animals, malnutrition / health problems of the people, unwed mothers, marriage before the age of 18years, etc. were also reported by the Janamaithri officers as the prominent issues still existing in the tribal colonies of the study area. (*Refer to table 2.4.1*)

**Table No.2.4.1**  
**Problems existing in the Tribal Colonies**

| Problems   | Status of Problems |       |       |
|--|--------------------|-------|-------|
|  | Yes                | No    | Total |
| Lack of Infrastructural facilities   | 54                 | 19    | 73    |
|  | 74.0%              | 26.0% | 100%  |
| Educational backwardness   | 29                 | 44    | 73    |
|  | 39.7%              | 60.3% | 100%  |
| Unemployment   | 40                 | 33    | 73    |
|  | 54.8%              | 45.2% | 100%  |
| Alcoholism / Drug abuse  | 58                 | 15    | 73    |
|  | 79.5%              | 20.5% | 100%  |
| Violence against Women   | 14                 | 59    | 73    |
|  | 19.2%              | 80.8% | 100%  |
| Presence of Maoists  | 12                 | 61    | 73    |
|  | 16.4%              | 83.6% | 100%  |
| Others ( <i>Wild animals, health problems &amp; malnutrition, family card planning, child marriage</i> ) | 10                 | 63    | 73    |
|  | 13.7%              | 86.3% | 100%  |

**Figure No.2.4.1**  
**Lack of Infrastructural Facilities**



## 2.5 Crimes Committed against the Scheduled Tribes

India is committed to the welfare and development of its people in general and of vulnerable sections of the society in particular. Though, special social enactments have come into force from time to time for Scheduled Tribes/ Schedules Castes in order to uphold the constitutional mandate and safeguard the interests of these vulnerable sections of the society, the tribal people in the country have been victims of countless crimes. A total of 6,793 cases of crimes committed against STs were reported in the country during the year 2013 as compared to 5,922 cases in the year 2012, thus showing an increase of 14.7% in 2013 over 2012. The crime rate was highest in Kerala at 27.8 as compared to only 6.5 at the national level. Hence on an average, 28 persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes in Kerala were victims of crimes per one lakh STs Population during 2013 (National Crime Records Bureau, 2013).

The present study also had a look into the Crimes committed against the Scheduled Tribes in the colonies under study. The respondents were asked to respond on the reported cases of crimes in their Beats viz: Crimes against Scheduled Tribes, Crimes against Women, Drug and Alcohol related Crimes, and Other Crimes.

### *Crimes against Scheduled Tribes*

A query on the crimes committed against the Scheduled Tribes during the last 2 years, revealed that 16.4% (12) of the respondents confirmed the occurrence of the same in their Beat limits. However, the majority (83.6%) were on the reverse. (*Refer to table 2.5.1*)

**Table No.2.5.1**  
**Crimes committed against Scheduled Tribes during the last 2 years**

| Status of Reported Crimes | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Yes                       | 12        | 16.4    |
| No                        | 61        | 83.6    |
| Total                     | 73        | 100.0   |

### *Crimes against Tribal Women*

Of the 12 respondents who reported of the crimes against the Scheduled Tribes, 4 confirmed the crimes against women in their jurisdiction. Of which, 2 had three cases each and the rest (2) had one and two cases each. The nature of crimes were; rape, cases registered as per Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, IPC section 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), section 447 (Criminal trespass), etc. (Refer to table 2.5.2)

### *Drug/Alcohol related Crimes*

Of the 12 respondents, 8 reported of the crimes related to Drug/Alcohol in their beat jurisdiction, of which, 3 had three cases each and another 3 had only 1 case each and the remaining 1 (from Wayanad Ambalavayal PS) had registered 64 cases in his police station in this regard. The cases registered were; as per Abkari Act, (Prevention of Destruction to Public Property Act) PDPP Act, etc. (Refer to table 2.5.2)

### *Other Crimes*

Only 2 respondents reported of the other crimes. Of which 1 had three cases and the other had one case each. The nature of crimes was; cases of murder (IPC 302), cases registered as per PDPP Act, etc. (Refer to table 2.5.2)

**Table No.2.5.2**  
**Type of Crimes committed against STs during last 2 years**

| Type of Crimes  | Frequency | Percent (N=12) |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Crimes against Tribal Woman                                   | 4         | 33.3           |
| Drug/Alcohol related Crimes                                   | 8         | 66.7           |
| Other Crimes (Cases registered under IPC 302, PDPP Act, etc.) | 2         | 16.7           |

## **2.6 Activities carried out by the Beat Officers**

The Janamaithri Suraksha Project at the tribal colonies is not only committed to ensure the safety and security of the people, but also to implement the various welfare activities for the scheduled tribes. At present, the Government is running many a developmental as well as welfare programs for tribal people through different Departments and schemes. But it is a fact that many of them are not aware about a large number of such programs or how to earn its benefits. In such situations, the role of Janamaithri Police becomes very essential and useful. In different Colonies, there are various issues. Government officials of various Departments have to be present there and after studying their problems, remedial measures have to be implemented properly after applying mind to those issues. There are many other problems/issues in the colonies to be addressed like; alcoholism, drug abuse, crimes against the people, anti-social activities, etc. Hence, the responsibility of a Janamaithri Police officer and the activities to be carried out by him are of utmost importance.

The present study had made an attempt to explore the activities carried out by the Janamaithri Police to: 1. Solve the Basic Problems in the Colonies, 2. Detect and Prevent the Crimes against the Scheduled Tribes, 3. Prevent Anti-social Activities in the Colonies, 4. Detect and Prevent the Sale and Use of Drugs/Illicit liquor, 5. Help the Woman and Child Victims of Crimes, 6. Welfare of the Tribal Students in the Schools / Hostels and 7. Women's Security, Social Security and Health Security of the Tribals.

### *Activities to Solve the Basic Problems in the Colonies*

Though for many years, the various governmental and non-governmental agencies have spent much for the tribes in the state of Kerala, it is very heartening to hear that most of the tribal colonies in the state are still lacking basic amenities like; housing, electricity, drinking water, latrine, road transportation etc. Hence, the Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP) has a special

focus on the basic problems of the colonies and the activities they carried out to solve these issues with the assistance of other concerned departments/ agencies.

A query in this regard to Janamaithri police officers revealed that except 11%, all the others (89%) reported of carrying out various activities in their beat limits to solve the basic problems in the colonies. In this regard, nearly half (49%) of the respondents had contacted the concerned authorities viz. LSGs, ST Development Department, Electricity Board, etc., while 33% conducted Adalats. A good number (22%) said that they organised sanitation campaigns to solve the hygiene problems in the colonies under their beat jurisdiction. 12% cited of other activities like: PSC coaching for unemployment issue, formation of student police cadets (SPC) and conduct of awareness classes / PTA meetings for hygiene related problems, and convening of ward level meetings for discussing the problems. (*Refer to table 2.6.1*)

**Table No.2.6.1**  
**Activities carried out to Solve the Basic Problems in the Colonies**

| <b>Activities</b>  | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent<br/>(N=73)</b> |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| No Activities carried out  | 8                | 11.0                      |
| Conducted Adalats  | 24               | 33.0                      |
| Contacted the concerned Authorities  | 36               | 49.0                      |
| Organised Sanitation Campaigns   | 16               | 22.0                      |
| Others ( <i>ward meetings, SPC/PTA meetings, PSC Coaching, Awareness class</i> ) | 9                | 12.0                      |

#### *Activities to Detect and Prevent Crimes*

The JSP aims to prevent / reduce crimes with the Police – People partnership. Majority (61.6%) formed Jagratha Samithis to detect and prevent crimes in the tribal colonies, while more than half (50.7%) of the Beat officers provided timely service of police to the people. Conduct of frequent beat visits (43.8%) and Creation of awareness about the crimes and subsequent measures to be

adopted (37%) were the important activities carried out in this regard by the Beat officers. A good number (20.5%) revealed that they trained a group of tribal people to inform the Police about the crimes; nearly 10% however, had carried out no such activities to prevent / reduce crimes in the tribal colonies. (Refer to table 2.6.2)

**Table No.2.6.2**  
**Activities carried out to Detect and Prevent Crimes**

| <b>Activities carried out</b>   | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Per cent<br/>(N=73)</b> |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|
| No Activities carried out   | 7                | 9.6                        |
| Created awareness about the Crimes and the subsequent Measures to be adopted.         | 27               | 37.0                       |
| Provided timely service of Police   | 37               | 50.7                       |
| Trained a group to inform the Police about Crimes                                     | 15               | 20.5                       |
| Formed Jagratha Samithis  | 45               | 61.6                       |
| Conducted frequent Beat Visits  | 32               | 43.8                       |
| Others ( <i>Contact with Moopan, Promoter, Animator etc. and Awareness classes</i> ). | 5                | 6.8                        |

#### *Activities to Prevent Anti-social Activities*

In the recent times, the presence and activities of anti-social elements like; Maoists, Dalit Human Right Movement (DHRM) and other Extremist groups in the state of Kerala is found to be a matter of great concern. According to a new report “An intelligence report warns that the chances are very high that the terror groups, Maoists and other anti-social elements exploit the pathetic living standards of the Adivasi and other SC/ST population in the state by offering money, liquor and better lifestyle in to find a safe haven to expand their anti-social activities”. (Express, 2014). Hence, the Janamaithri Police officers are expected to give a special emphasis on this matter.

A query on the activities carried out by the Beat officers to prevent anti-social activities in the tribal colonies revealed that the majority (64.4%) imparted

training to the tribal people to inform about the anti-social activities in their area. While 19.2% conducted raid for the presence of Maoists/Other extremist groups, 6.8% carried out ‘Other’ activities viz. frequent beat visits, creation of awareness about the Maoists and their activities, showing of the photographs of the Maoists, etc. However, nearly one fourth (24.7%) of the Beat officers under study had conducted no activities in this regard. It might be due to the absence of such anti-social activities in their beat limits. (*Refer to table 2.6.3*)

**Table No.2.6.3**  
**Activities carried out to prevent Anti-social Activities**

| <b>Type of Activities</b>  | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent<br/>(N=73)</b> |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| No Activities carried out  | 18               | 24.7                      |
| Trained the people to inform about Anti-social Activities  | 47               | 64.4                      |
| Conducted Raid for the presence of Maoists/other Extremists Groups                                 | 14               | 19.2                      |
| Others ( <i>frequent beat visits, awareness classes, showing of photographs of Maoists, etc.</i> ) | 5                | 6.8                       |

#### *Activities to Prevent Drug/Illicit liquor*

For many years, the high prevalence of illegal brewing and supply and consumption of illicit liquor was considered as a prominent problem in the tribal colonies of the state of Kerala. A good number of tribal families are facing serious family problems due to alcoholism and drug abuse. The Janamaithri Suraksha Project is specifically aimed at solving these problems in the colonies.

A probe in to the activities carried out by the Beat officers to prevent drug/illicit liquor in the tribal colonies showed that the majority (71.2%) had organised camps/seminars to create awareness among the tribals about the negative impact of the same. While 46.6% Beat officers acted/worked with Jagratha Samithis, 38.4% conducted raids against illicit brewing. However, 13.7% gave helping

hands to the addicted persons for relieving them from the addiction. (Refer to table 2.6.4)

**Table No.2.6.4**  
**Activities carried out to Prevent Drug/Illicit liquor**

| Activities                            | Frequency | Percent<br>(N=73) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| No Activities Carried out             | 7         | 9.6               |
| Organised Awareness Camps/ Seminars   | 52        | 71.2              |
| Acted jointly with Jagratha Samithies | 34        | 46.6              |
| Helped the Drug addicted Persons      | 10        | 13.7              |
| Conducted Raids                       | 28        | 38.4              |

*Activities to Help the Women Victims of Crimes*

The data in this regard showed that most (47.9%) of the Janamaithri officers provided legal aid to the women victims, whereas 28.8% arranged medical assistance. A good number (21.9%) reported that they had helped the victims to register cases or arrested the accused. While 17.8% arranged stay for the victims at the Nirbhaya shelter home, 11% provided financial assistance. (Refer to table 2.6.5)

**Table No.2.6.5**  
**Activities carried out to Help the Women Victims of Crimes**

| Type of Activities                                       | Frequency | Percent<br>(N=73) |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| No Activities Carried out                                | 18        | 24.7              |
| Provided Legal Aid                                       | 35        | 47.9              |
| Arranged Medical Assistance                              | 21        | 28.8              |
| Provided Financial Assistance                            | 8         | 11.0              |
| Helped to Register Cases/Arrest the Accused              | 16        | 21.9              |
| Arranged Stay at Nirbhaya Shelter Home/<br>Others places | 13        | 17.8              |

### *Activities to Help the Child Victims of Crimes*

Most (43.8%) of the respondents reported that they had provided legal aid to the child victims of crimes, while 23.3% each arranged medical assistance to the victims and made arrangements for continuation of education of the children respectively. However, 32.9% reported of the conduct of no activities in this regard. (Refer to table 2.6.8)

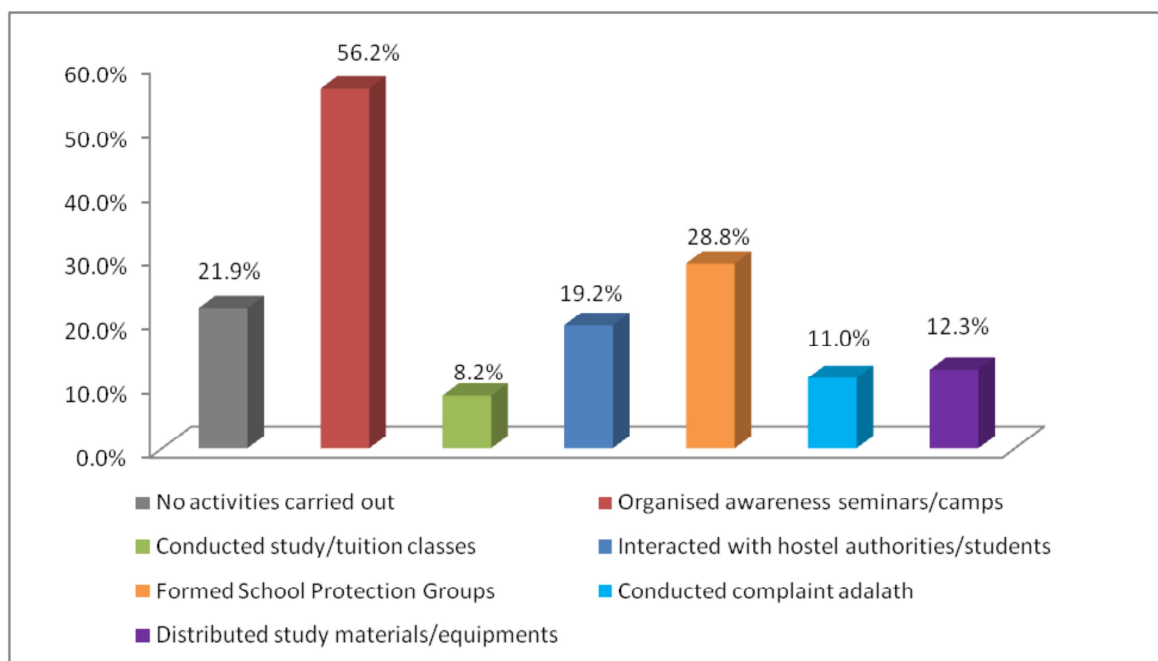
**Table No.2.6.8**  
**Activities carried out to Help Child Victims of Crimes**

| <b>Activities</b>                           | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent<br/>(N=73)</b> |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| No Activities Carried out                   | 24               | 32.9                      |
| Provided Legal Aid                          | 32               | 43.8                      |
| Arranged Medical Assistance                 | 17               | 23.3                      |
| Provide Financial Assistance                | 5                | 6.8                       |
| Helped to Register Cases/Arrest the Accused | 14               | 19.2                      |
| Arranged for Continuation of Education      | 17               | 23.3                      |
| Provided Shelter                            | 11               | 15.1                      |

### *Activities for the Welfare of Tribal Students*

More than half of the Beat officers reported that they had organised awareness seminars / camps for the tribal students in hostels/schools to motivate them in bettering their education, while 28.8% had formed school protection groups for the welfare of the tribal students. A good number (19.2%) revealed that they had frequent interaction with the hostel authorities and the students whereas 12.3% had distributed study materials/equipments and 11% had conducted complaint adalaths. Some (8.2%) Beat officers had even arranged tuition / study classes for the students. More than one fifth of the respondents however, had no activities to report in this regard. (Refer to figure 2.6.1)

**Figure No.2.6.1**  
**Activities carried out for the Welfare of Tribal Students**



#### *Activities to Ensure Women's Security*

To the query on the activities carried out by the Janamaithri police to ensure women's security, the majority (65.8%) stated that they had organised awareness programmes for the women, while 13.7% conducted self defence classes and 5.5% acted in association with the Oorukoottam, ST Promoters, and Animators. Nevertheless, more than one fourth of the Beat officers reported of any such activities. (Refer to table 2.6.9)

**Table No.2.6.9**  
**Activities carried out to Ensure Women's Security**

| Type of Activity  | Frequency | Percent<br>(N=73) |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| No Activities Carried out   | 15        | 20.5              |
| Organised Awareness Programmes                                      | 48        | 65.8              |
| Conducted Self-defence Classes                                      | 10        | 13.7              |
| Activities in association with<br>Orrukoottam/ST promoter/Animators | 4         | 5.5               |

### *Activities to Ensure Social Security*

Majority of the respondents had organised awareness programmes to ensure social security in the tribal colonies under their beat jurisdiction whereas 9.6% conducted souhruda sadass and 5.5% prepared few tribals as informants for ensuring the safety of the tribal people. (Refer to table 2.6.10)

**Table No.2.6.10**  
**Activities carried out to Ensure Social Security**

| Type of Activities             | Frequency | Percent<br>(N=73) |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| No activities carried out      | 20        | 27.4              |
| Organized Awareness Programmes | 48        | 65.8              |
| Conducted Souhruda sadass      | 7         | 9.6               |
| Prepared few as Informants     | 2         | 2.7               |

### *Activities to Ensure Health Security*

With regard to the activities carried out in relation to health security of the tribal people, more than half of the respondents reported of the awareness programmes they had organized in this regard. However, a good number (43.8%) conducted general medical camps and 12.3% organised eye checkups/ cancer detection camps. (Refer to table 2.6.11)

**Table No.2.6.11**  
**Activities carried out to Ensure Health Security**

| Activities  | Frequency | Percent<br>(N=73) |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| No Activities Carried out                                       | 16        | 21.9              |
| Organised Awareness Programmes                                  | 37        | 50.7              |
| Conducted General Medical Camps                                 | 32        | 43.8              |
| Conducted Eye Checkups/<br>Cancer Detection Camps               | 9         | 12.3              |
| Arranged Vehicle for facilitating Medical care<br>to the People | 1         | 1.4               |

### *Perception on the Results of the Activities/Interventions*

To the query on whether their intervention had helped to prevent any crimes in their beat area/police station limits, a great majority (80.8%) responded positively whereas the rest (19.2%) were on the negative.

Of those who reported of the result of their activities, most (56%) pointed out the prevention of illicit brewing as a positive result. A good number (33.9%) stated that they could prevent child abuse in their area, while 15.3% could stop land grab incidences. The other crimes (10.2%) controlled by the Janamaithri police as a result of their interventions were: ganja cultivation, domestic violence, drinking habit, general crimes, etc. (*Refer to table 2.6.12*)

**Table No.2.6.12**  
**Perception on the Results of the Activities/Intervention**

| Particulars  | Frequency | Percent |
|--|-----------|---------|
| <b>Activities/Intervention Prevented any Crimes</b>  |           |         |
| Yes  | 59        | 80.8    |
| No   | 14        | 19.2    |
| Total  | 73        | 100.0   |
| <b>Nature of Crimes Prevented (N=59)</b>   |           |         |
| No Response  | 7         | 11.9    |
| Illicit brewing  | 33        | 56.0    |
| Child abuse  | 20        | 33.9    |
| Rape   | 1         | 1.7     |
| Land grab  | 9         | 15.3    |
| Others ( <i>Gunja cultivation, drinking, reduction in all crimes, domestic violence etc.</i> ) | 6         | 10.2    |

## **2.7 Agencies/Departments associated with the Beat Officers**

The Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP) at the tribal colonies along with its motive of protection of the tribal people from the internal and external threats also aims at the overall growth of this less developed community. In this regard, the Beat officers have been taking efforts to sort out the problems/issues in the colonies and to solve these as best as they could. The problems included; lack of housing, lack of latrine, scarcity of drinking water, absence of electricity, problems related to the road transportation, alcoholism, drug abuse, etc. It is not an easy task for the police to solve these grave problems existing in the tribal colonies as they have insufficient financial or physical strength to resolve these issues by themselves. This situation compels them to contact other agencies/ govt. departments to speak for these marginalised people.

Accordingly, a query to the Beat officers about the agencies/departments associated with them in their activities showed that the majority (61.6%) had received the assistance/help from the 'SC/ST Development dept. /Promoters followed by 45.2% from the Health dept. A good number (43.8%) reported of their association with the Forest dept. or Excise dept. especially for the activities related to the prevention of illicit brewing, gunja cultivation, Maoist raids, etc. while 30.1% and 23.3% with the Local Self Governments and the Tribal Welfare Organisations/Groups. Nevertheless, 19.2% and 17.8% each reported of the association of Clubs/Private agencies/Charitable organisations and Women's groups respectively. However, 6.8% of the Janamaithri police officers under study had no association in this regard with any of the agencies / departments, the reason being their recent entry into the project. (*Refer to table no. 2.7.1*)

**Table No.2.7.1**  
**Agencies/Departments associated with the Beat Officers**

| <b>Name of the Agency</b>  | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent<br/>(N=73)</b> |
|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| SC/ST Development Dept./Promoters                                      | 45               | 61.6                      |
| Forest dept./Excise Dept.  | 32               | 43.8                      |
| Health Dept.   | 33               | 45.2                      |
| Local Self Governments   | 22               | 30.1                      |
| Women's Groups like Kudumbasree units                                  | 13               | 17.8                      |
| Social Welfare/Education Dept.   | 10               | 13.7                      |
| Tribal Welfare Organisations/Groups                                    | 17               | 23.3                      |
| Clubs/Residence Association /Private Agencies, Charitable Orgs, etc... | 14               | 19.2                      |
| Others ( <i>PSC, Employment Officers, Animators</i> )                  | 3                | 4.1                       |
| Association with no other Agencies                                     | 5                | 6.8                       |

## **2.8 Impact of Janamaithri Suraksha Project**

The success of any project implemented for the welfare of the community highly depends on the impact it had made on the various aspects of its set goals. Accordingly, the present study assessed the impact of Janamaithri Suraksha Project at the tribal colonies in terms of aspects viz. 1.Reducing the problems / issues in the colonies and 2.Improving the conditions/ situations of the tribal hamlets. The impact was assessed on a 3 point scale - low, medium and high based on the perceptions of the respondents – the implementers, on the above mentioned aspects. Not Applicable was also included as the 4<sup>th</sup> scale for the Beats where there were no such problems in the colony prior to the implementation of the JSP.

### ***2.8.1 Reducing Problems/Issues in the Tribal Colonies***

The problems / issues dealt in this regard were; alcoholism, drug abuse/tobacco use, activities of blade mafia and occurrence of crimes.

### *Alcoholism*

With regard to the impact of JSP in reducing alcoholism in the tribal colonies, the majority (72.6%) reported of ‘medium impact’ followed by 23.3% with ‘high impact’. (Refer to figure 2.8.1)

### *Drug Abuse/Tobacco Use*

Most (69.9%) opined that the interventions of JSP in preventing/reducing the drug/tobacco use by the tribal people had ‘medium impact’, followed by 23.3% reported of the ‘high impact’. Desperately, nearly 10% mentioned about the ‘low impact’ of the project on the same. (Refer to figure 2.8.1)

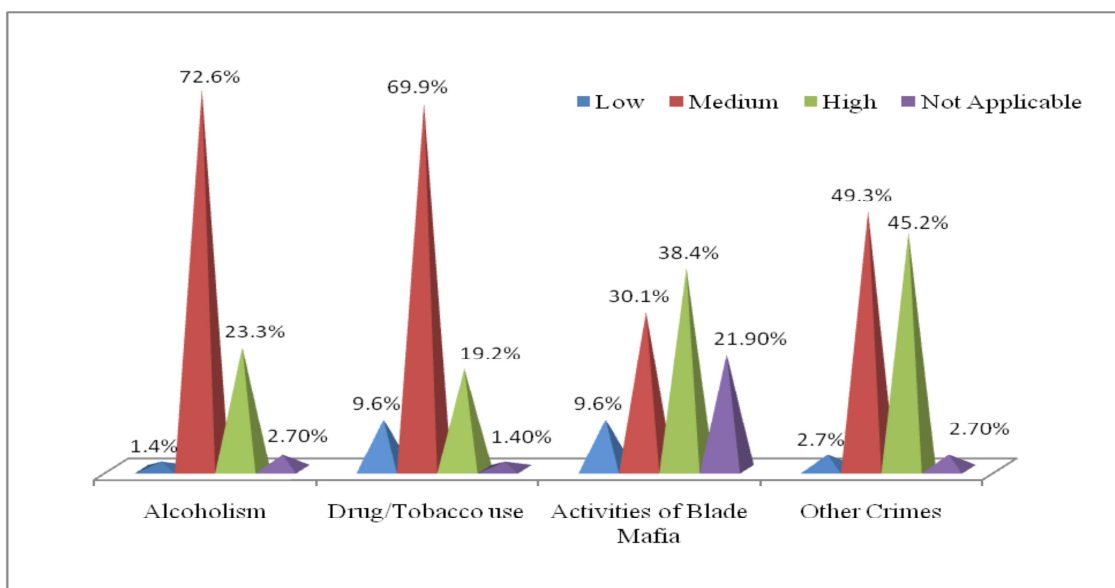
### *Activities of Blade Mafia*

Majority (38.4%) reported of the ‘high’ impact of JSP in this regard while 30.1% stated of the ‘medium’ impact. (Refer to figure 2.8.1)

### *Crimes*

Regarding the reduction in crimes, the majority (49.3%) reported of the impact of JSP in this regard as ‘medium’. However, a good number (45.2%) pointed out it as ‘high’. (Refer to figure 2.8.1)

**Figure No.2.8.1**  
**Impact of JSP in Reducing Problems / Issues in the Colonies**



## ***2. 8.2 Improving Conditions/ Situations in the Tribal Colonies***

The study probed the impact of JSP in improving the state of affairs in the tribal colonies and the tribal police station limits. The improvement in situations assessed in this regard were on; relationship between the police and the people, registration of crimes, security feeling among the people, safety / security of the women and children and education of the children.

### ***Relationship between the Police and the People***

The prime motto of the community policing – the Janamaithri Suraksha Project, is to prevent crimes and ensure safety/security of the people through the community – police partnership. Hence, it is imperative to have a positive relationship between the people and the police.

A query in this regard revealed that the majority (67.1%) of the Janamaithri officers reported of the ‘high’ impact of JSP in relation to improving the cordial relationship between the tribal people and the police. While 30.1% considered the impact in this regard as ‘medium’, 2.7% viewed it as ‘low’. (*Refer to table 2.8.2*)

### ***Registration of Crimes***

Many a times, the crimes may have gone unreported as the victims do not come forward to complain out of fear or humiliation. Only when the tribal people get confidence in the police, they would come forward to register complaints in the police station. The improvement in the registration of cases in the police station also can be considered as a bettered relationship between the people and the police.

More than half (53.4%) of the Beat officers rated the improvement in registration of cases after the implementation of JSP as ‘medium’ while 35.6% ranked it as ‘high’ and 6.8% as ‘low’. (*Refer to table 2.8.2*)

### *Security feeling among the People*

To make the tribal people feeling secure is of great importance as they are generally considered as fearful of crimes or exploitations. This feeling can confine them to their homes or their colonies, and it undermines their trust in the others. Fear is a key “quality of life” issue for many people. Fear leads to withdrawal from public life, and it undermines informal and organized efforts by the community to control crime and delinquency. Hence, by providing a security feeling among the tribal people is one of the important objectives of the JSP.

A query to the Beat officers in this regard showed that the majority (63%) replied that the JSP had a ‘high’ impact in providing security feeling among the tribal people. However, 32.9% rated it as ‘medium’ and 2.7% as ‘low’. (*Refer to table 2.8.2*)

### *Safety /Security of Women*

Regarding the impact of JSP in bettering the safety / security of the tribal women in the study area, 67.1% Janamaithri officers reported of ‘high impact’ followed by 28.8% with ‘medium impact’. (*Refer to table 2.8.2*)

### *Safety /Security of Children*

According to 67.1% of the respondents, the safety/security of the tribal children in the colonies has improved at ‘high’ level after the implementation of JSP. Another 26% viewed the level of impact as ‘medium’. Nevertheless, 5.5% found only a ‘low’ impact in this regard. (*Refer to table 2.8.2*)

### *Education of Children*

As the education of children in tribal colonies was considered as very low, the JSP had a special focus on the same. A query to the Beat officers in this regard revealed that though only 24.7% mentioned about the ‘high’ impact, the majority (71.2%) reported of the ‘medium’ impact. (*Refer to table 2.8.2*)

**Table No.2.8.2**  
**Impact of JSP in Improving the Situations in the Tribal Colonies**

| <b>Situations Improved</b>                     | <b>Impact of JSP</b> |               |             |                 |              |
|--|----------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
|  | <b>Law</b>           | <b>Medium</b> | <b>High</b> | <b>Not App.</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| Relationship between the Police and the People | 2                    | 22            | 49          | 0               | 73           |
|  | 2.7%                 | 30.1%         | 67.1%       | 0               | 100%         |
| Registration of Crimes                         | 5                    | 39            | 26          | 3               | 73           |
|  | 6.8%                 | 53.4%         | 35.6%       | 4.1%            | 100%         |
| Security feeling among the People              | 2                    | 24            | 46          | 1               | 73           |
|  | 2.7%                 | 32.9%         | 63.0%       | 1.4%            | 100%         |
| Safety/Security of Women                       | 1                    | 21            | 49          | 2               | 73           |
|  | 1.4%                 | 28.8%         | 67.1%       | 2.7%            | 100%         |
| Safety/Security of Children                    | 4                    | 19            | 49          | 1               | 73           |
|  | 5.5%                 | 26.0%         | 67.1%       | 1.4%            | 100%         |
| Education of Children                          | 2                    | 52            | 18          | 1               | 73           |
|  | 2.7%                 | 71.2%         | 24.7%       | 1.4%            | 100%         |

## **2.9 Status of Worth of the Respondent as a Police Officer as well as an Individual after Working as Beat Officer**

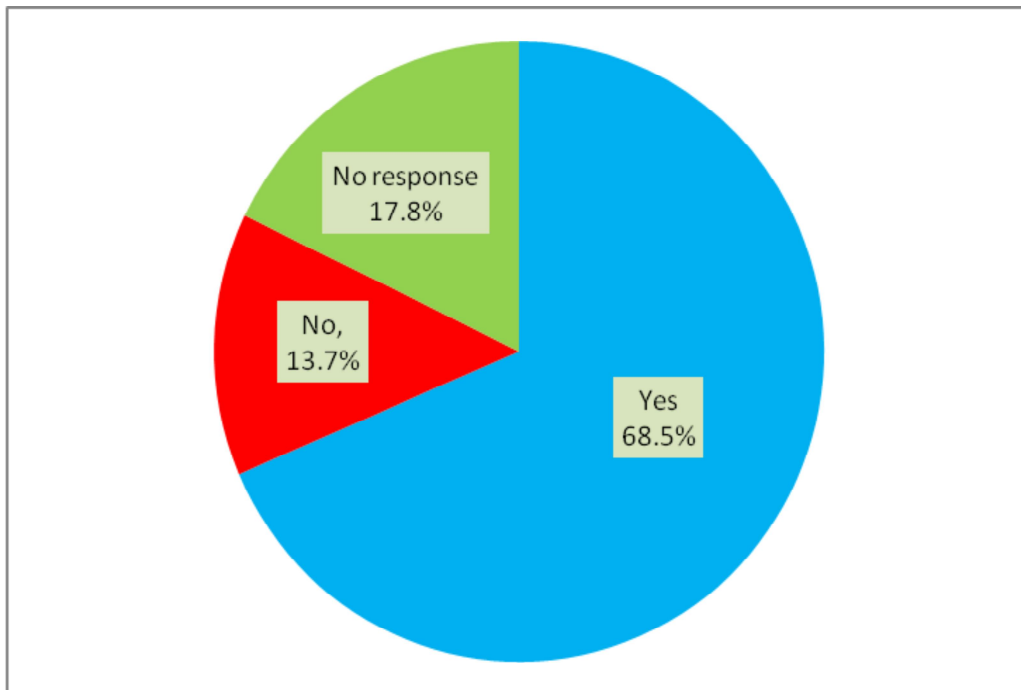
The Janamaithri Surakha Project (JSP) is a community oriented welfare project. To achieve the target of a community project, the implementers have to show cent percent commitment. Working in tribal colonies is a much more responsible and committed work for the Beat officers. A lot of activities, they have to do in the colonies for the underprivileged. During the implementation of the JSP at the tribal hamlets, the officers have to communicate with a number of people from the different walks of life. Overall, the experience in the project is expected to provide an opportunity for the officers to develop and improve their personality to perform their duties in the most effective manner.

Accordingly, the present study had made a query on the status of their worth as a police officer as well as an individual after working as a Beat officer. A good majority (50, 68.5%) of the Janamaithri police officers affirmed that their status

has improved in this regard. However, the rest (23, 31.5%) were either not responded to the query (17.8%) or responded negatively (13.7%).

Of the 50 respondents who reported of the improvement in value/worth after working as Beat officers, 15 expressed their satisfaction on the ‘Good rapport they built with the tribal people and the confidence the people gained for reporting the cases to the police without fear’. 11 police personnel stated that they ‘Developed a positive attitude toward life’ during their service as Beat officers. The other responses in this regard were; ‘Improvement in personality - enhancement of Communication skills, Self Confidence, Leadership, etc. (7), Facilitation of reduction in crimes (6), and Facilitation of reduction in alcoholism and tobacco use (4).

**Figure No.2.9.1**  
**Status of Worth as a Police Officer as well as an Individual after**  
**Working as Beat Officer**



**Table No.2.9.1**  
**Ways of Improvement**

| <b>Ways of Improvement</b>  | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent<br/>(N=50)</b> |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| Developed a Positive Attitude towards Life  | 11               | 22.0                      |
| Improvement in Personality ( <i>Communication skills, Self Confidence, Leadership</i> )                       | 7                | 14.0                      |
| Facilitation of Reduction in Crimes   | 6                | 12.0                      |
| Facilitation of Reduction in Alcoholism and Tobacco use   | 4                | 8.0                       |
| Good Rapport with Public and they ( <i>men and women</i> ) gained Confidence to Report to Police without Fear | 15               | 30.0                      |
| Not Mentioned   | 8                | 16.0                      |

## **2.10. Problems and Suggestions of the Respondents**

Despite better outcomes on certain indicators, the much proclaimed Kerala community policing – the Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP), has been facing some hindrances in its implementation especially at tribal areas. It is now, more than 2 years since its launching at 50 tribal police station limits and the community has reaped a lot of benefits from it. However, certain hitches and notches are being visible here and there, which in turn were reflected from the responses of its implementers who were also the respondents of this study. In order to achieve its set goals, these hitches and notches have to be solved. In this regard, the present study had a query to the respondents regarding the problems faced by them in the implementation of the Project and sought their suggestions for solving these problems. This section presents the problems and suggestions made by the respondents in this regard.

### **2.10.1 Problems faced by the Respondents**

The Janamaithri police personnel are the appropriate persons to say more about the problems/drawbacks of the JSP since they are the implementers of the project in the field. The prominent problems they came across in the implementation of the JSP in the tribal colonies are scripted below.

Nearly three fourth (74%) of them had expressed their concern over the ‘Lack of adequate number of Janamaithri police personnel’ in their police stations. As the Beat officers have been entrusted with a wide range of duties in the beat areas as well as in the police stations, they have no sufficient time to concentrate more on their work with this limited number of police personnel.

Another major problem reported by 60.3% was ‘Lack of facilities like vehicle, infrastructure, etc. Since most of the tribal colonies are in the remote areas, it is not easy for the Beat officers to visit all the colonies timely without a vehicle or other infrastructural facilities.

While 54.8% expressed their dissatisfaction on the ‘Absence/Lack of Vanitha Police’, 53.4% confronted with the problem of ‘Wide area to be covered’.

Further, ‘Lack of inter-departmental co-ordination’ (37%), ‘Lack of adequate funding’ (31.5%) and ‘Excess number of tribal colonies in a Beat’ (27.4%) were also reported as problems. (*Refer to table 2.10.1*)

**Table No.2.10.1**  
**Problems faced by the Janamaithri Police Officers**

| <b>Type of Problems</b>   | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent<br/>(N=73)</b> |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|
| No Problems   | 3                | 4.1                       |
| More number of Tribal Colonies in a Beat                                  | 20               | 27.4                      |
| Wide area to be Covered   | 39               | 53.4                      |
| Lack of Adequate number of Police personnel                               | 54               | 74.0                      |
| Absence of Vanitha Police   | 40               | 54.8                      |
| Lack of adequate Funding  | 23               | 31.5                      |
| Lack of other Facilities like Vehicle, Infrastructure etc.                | 44               | 60.3                      |
| Lack of Inter-Departmental Co-ordination                                  | 27               | 37.0                      |
| Others ( <i>lack of planning, colonies in forest, additional duties</i> ) | 3                | 4.1                       |

### **2.10.2 Suggestions by the Respondents**

It is worth noticing that the Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP) has completed more than two years of its functioning at the 50 tribal police station limits. A number of responsibilities and tasks had been in wait for the Janamaithri Police Officers to deal with, in the tribal colonies. The present study in its preceding section revealed the problems that the Beat officers have been facing in its implementation in the tribal colonies. Though, within a short period of time, the project had undertaken loads of activities, still it has miles to go to achieve its set target. In this regard, suggestions were sought from the respondents in overcoming the barriers they have been facing while working with the tribal population.

An overview of the suggestions revealed that of the 73 Janamaithri police officers under study, 83.6% (61) gave various proposals to improve the functioning of the JSP at the tribal colonies. It was also noticed from the data that among those who had no suggestions (12, 16.4%), most (8) had only a short span of work experience with the Janamaithri project; i.e. less than a month or 1-6 months. (*Refer to table 2.9.2*)

**Table No.2.10.2**  
**Suggestions by the Respondents**

| <b>Status of Suggestions</b> | <b>Frequency</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Yes                          | 61               | 83.6           |
| No                           | 12               | 16.4           |
| Total                        | 73               | 100.0          |

#### ***Major Suggestions***

##### ***1. Increase the number of Janamaithri Police Personnel***

The existing number of personnel in many of the tribal areas is inadequate to cover all the colonies in the remote areas. Hence, it is imperative to appoint

adequate number of Janamaithri police personnel in the project at the tribal police stations.

### *2. Appoint Vanitha Police Personnel*

A Woman Police Officer is a must for the beat duties so that the women in tribal colonies could share their problems and issues openly. In some of the beats, the absence of Vanitha Police Officers was noticed. Hence, there arises the urgency to appoint women officers for the beat duties.

### *3. Relieve Beat Officers from Other Duties*

Despite the Beat officers having so much work to do in their beat areas, they have been instructed by the SHOs or other senior officers to do the works in the police station too. It makes them difficult to give cent percent commitment to the project. Hence, it is advisable to spare the Janamaithri police officers from other duties and responsibilities of the respective stations.

### *Appoint Fresh Candidates & Dedicated Persons as Beat Officers*

It would be better to appoint fresh candidates as Beat officers and providing them with adequate training. Further, the project activities in the tribal colonies are required to be carried out with dedication and passion.

### *Reduce the area of a Beat / Increase the number of Beats*

Reduce the Beat area / Increase the number of Beats so that the Beat officers could conduct regular beat visits easily. It was found that the Beat officers are facing some problems to visit all the tribal colonies in their Beat due to the excess number of colonies.

### *Janamaithri Training to all Police Personnel*

The lack of comprehensive knowledge/awareness about the Janamaithri Surakha Project (JSP) by the senior police personnel including Station House Officer (SHO) would affect the project defectively. Hence, ensure that all the

police personal especially SHOs, Writers, etc. get adequate training about the project.

*Allocation and Timely Distribution of Sufficient Fund*

Some of the Janamaithri police stations in the tribal areas are reported to be running short of sufficient fund. Hence, ensure the timely availability of the fund required for the beat visits as well as for meeting the expenses of vehicle and its fuel.

*Provide Govt. Subsidies/Grants through the Project*

Disburse the Government Subsidies and Grants for the Scheduled Tribes through the Janamaithri Suraksha Project. It will then help the Beat officers to solve some of the basic problems in the tribal colonies to a great extent.

*Understand and Solve the Problems*

The Beat officers should have the awareness/understanding of the problems/issues in the tribal colonies under their jurisdiction. The officers also have to take efforts to solve the problems in the colonies with the help of other government departments/agencies. Further, the importance should be given to the basic problems like; lack of infrastructural facilities, alcoholism, unemployment, educational backwardness, etc.

*Organise Awareness Programmes/Classes*

The tribal people including women and children should be provided with intensive training on; alcoholism/drug abuse, education of children, threat of Maoists, women's rights etc. Experts in the respective fields should handle the classes and the audio/visual aids should be employed to the maximum possible extent.

### **2.11 Case Stories - Problem that touched the Beat Officer the most...**

The present study had made an enquiry with the Janamaithri police officers regarding a single problem/incident happened in their beat/police station limits that touched them immensely and subsequent measures they had undertaken to handle the same. Of the 73 respondents, 41 narrated about the incidences they confronted with in their beat limits.

Many instances were reported by the police officers mainly related to the issues in the tribal colonies like; alcoholism, physical and mental illness, lack of infrastructure facilities, celebration of tribal festivals, poor conditions of children, case of unwed mother, etc. However, this section has made an attempt to brief a few of the selected problems/cases viz. 1. Alcoholism and subsequent family problems 2. Physical and mental illness of the tribal people, 3. Pathetic condition of the children in the tribal colonies and 4. Haunting experience with the unwed mother.

#### ***1. Curbing the Menace of Alcoholism and subsequent Family Problems.....***

Alcoholism is a grave problem in many of the tribal colonies. A few of the Beat officers, especially from the districts viz. Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Kollam, Idukki, Thrissur and Wayanad narrated the incidences related to the menace of alcoholism. As pointed out by an officer from Kottayam, the issue that touched him most was family problems in the five tribal families of his jurisdiction. Their family lives were seriously affected by the ways/activities of the members who are addicted to alcohol. The officer learnt about the problem during his visits to the colony and had a discussion with the members of the family. Subsequently, he sent the alcoholics to a de-addiction centre. He also facilitated the de-addiction treatment for them. The officer was continuously monitoring their treatment and subsequently there was a tremendous improvement in the state of affairs. This turned to be a great solace for the affected families.

Another officer from Idukki reported that he was instrumental in bringing back a family from the verge of disintegration/break down due to alcoholism. The harmful drinking habit of the head of the family invited the wrath of people from several quarters. The officer visited the family many a times and provided necessary support and guidance to the family members. Further, he arranged counselling sessions to the addicted person through the help of his senior officer - the DYSP. The Beat officer was so contented in realising that his efforts became fruitful and the family atmosphere become peaceful.

## ***2. A Helping Hand to the Sick Persons.....***

Another crucial issue that touched upon few of the Janamaithri officers were 'mental and physical illnesses' observed among the tribal people, especially among the children and the women. The illnesses due to the lack of nutritious food, unhygienic conditions in the colonies, absence of proper care and treatment, etc. were the major concerns in the colonies.

A CRO from Wayanad district had to deal with a mentally ill patient during his service at the present police station. The condition of the person was very pathetic and he had no one to look after him. The officer approached the concerned authorities and made arrangements for providing necessary medical care to the patient.

Another officer from the same district spoke about the unhygienic conditions in a colony under his beat limits. Many sick persons were found to be living in the unhygienic conditions of the colony without proper care and treatment. As a part of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project, he conducted a massive cleaning programme in the colony with the active involvement of the tribal people. The officer also made necessary arrangements for sending all the sick persons in the colony to the nearby hospital for adequate treatment and the situation changed to a positive note.

A woman officer from Kottayam wrote a story of a mother and her 28 year old daughter who was mentally sick. When the officer visited them, the daughter was naked and was shouting and using abusive words at the neighbours and throwing stones to the houses nearby. It was a heartening scene for the woman police officer. She learnt that no one including the relatives were there to look after the mother and the mentally sick daughter. The woman police officer then put the mother in an old age home and the daughter in a hospital for the mentally retarded persons. She further made adequate arrangements for the daughter's treatment at the hospital. Once she got recovered, the officer took both the daughter and the mother back to their home. The woman officer then brought forth this case to the attention of the neighbours and they are now extending much love and compassion to the family and they are lending a helping hand as and when required.

One respondent from Kannur district discussed about the stories of a paralysed and 3 mentally handicapped persons (including 2 women) of his beat. He produced these sick persons before the Additional district Magistrate and afterwards arranged necessary treatment at the Kozhikode Medical College. He also monitored about their well being.

An officer from Wayanad district cited the malnutrition problem among the tribal people especially among the pregnant women and children. Though, the officer had an updation about the issue to the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, the problem could not be solved. Further, he brought the case to the notice of the Health Department. Now, he is very optimistic about a positive situation emerging as a result of the joint efforts of both the Health Department and Scheduled Tribes Development Department.

### ***3. Pathetic Conditions of Children in the Tribal Colonies.....***

The situations of children in many of the tribal colonies are found to be very pathetic. They have been facing problems like; poverty, malnutrition, school dropouts, mental and physical illness, etc.

A Janamaithri officer from Kozhikode district narrated a heartening story of a group of tribal children aged 1-12 years gathered in a colony premise without adequate food and cloths. It was so dismal to note that they were eating mud out of sheer hunger. The health condition of the children was very feeble too. On seeing this, he rose to the occasion and provided medical assistance to the children. Further, he collected used cloths from various sources and supplied it to them so that they could properly dress up.

Another officer from Thrissur mentioned about the critically ill children in a tribal family under his jurisdiction. When the officer visited the family, the children were in a critical condition. As a Janamaithri police officer, he brought the problem to the notice of the concerned authorities with utmost importance resulting in the taking over of the responsibility of the children by the state Government.

An officer from Wayanad district reported of a case related to the tribal children dropping out of the schools. According to him, most of the tribal colonies under his beat limits have a large number of children, especially from the 'Panniya' category not attending to school. Their parents were also not much interested in sending them to schools. The Beat officer, during his beat visits made aware the parents about the importance of education and motivated them to send their children back to school. Further, he contacted the children and encouraged them to pursue their studies. As a result of his relentless efforts, he could solve the problem of drop out children to an extent.

#### ***4. Haunting experience with the Unwed Mother.....***

A police officer from the Attappadi block in Palakkad district had to face a haunting experience from an unwed mother. He, on hearing about the case of a 21 year old unwed mother, went to the lady and enquired in detail about her situation. However, the woman was so reluctant to reveal any information regarding the same. Later, he contacted her over the phone and she went to the extent of destroying the phone as a protest. Afterwards, she was so annoyed and threatened him that she would complain against the officer to the Human Rights Commission. Hence, he reported the matter to the officials of the Women Cell, Anganwadi centre, and Health Dept. He then realised that even they could not do anything fruitful in this regard as she was so adamant on not revealing anything related to her status of unwed motherhood. As no solution was arrived at so far, the officer was so disappointed and he informed the matter to the concerned authorities and the tribal women's group viz. 'Thaikulam' for solving the problem.

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Scheduled Tribes (STs) - a historically disadvantaged people in the country are facing challenges from different parts of the society. Though the life of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala is found to be better compared to the tribes in other states, their living conditions are pathetic. Many socio-economic studies carried out by the ST Development Dept. and other agencies during the last 10 years have also reaffirmed this fact. The policies and schemes implemented by successive governments at the Centre and the state have further worsened the situation. This situation of scheduled tribes in the state was found to be exploited by the Left Wing Extremists (LWEs) and Maoists, using the tribal areas as their epicentre centre of anti-social activities. The recent maximum sightings of Maoists in the vicinity of tribal colonies assume greater significance in this context. Against this backdrop of security threat, the Govt. of Kerala has widened the activities of its prestigious project - the Janamaithri Suraksha Project – in the tribal areas too. Accordingly, in 2013 the project has launched in 50 Tribal Police Stations of the state too. It has now completed its 2 years of activities in the tribal colonies. Within a short span of time, the project could implement many activities for the welfare of the tribal community living in the selected police station limits. However, It is imperative to have a regular assessment of the project for making it more appealing. It is in this regard that the present study titled: ***‘Impact of Janamaithri Suraksha Project on the Safety/Security of the Tribal people in Kerala’***, was undertaken by the Home Department, Govt. of Kerala to probe into the impact of the project in preventing crimes and anti social activities in the tribal colonies and to reshape and enhance its activities for making the tribals’ lives, safe and secure.

***The major objectives of the study were:***

1. To find out the profile of the respondents.
2. To examine the status of beat visits and allied aspects.
3. To understand the perception of the tribal people about the Police.
4. To find out the Problems/Issues existing in the tribal colonies.
5. To learn about the crimes committed against the scheduled tribes in the colonies under study.
6. To examine the activities carried out by the Beat officers in order to: solve problems / issues in the colonies, detect and prevent the crimes, prevent anti-social activities, detect and prevent the sale and use of drugs/Illicit liquor, help the Woman and child victims of crimes, the welfare of Tribal children in schools/ tribal hostels, and ensure the women's security, social security, and health security of scheduled tribes.
7. To find out the agencies / departments associating with the Janamaithri Police in implementing the Janamaithri Suraksha Project.
8. To assess the impact of Janamaithri Suraksha Project on the tribal communities.
9. To find out the problems faced by the Janamaithri officers in the implementation of the project and to draw appropriate suggestion to solve this problems.
10. To sketch the case stories that touched the respondents the most.
11. To recommend suitable strategies/measures for the effective implementation of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project in the tribal colonies of the state.

Keeping the objectives close in front, a review of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project at the various tribal police station limits was carried out. For this, 73 Beat officers representing 43 Tribal Police stations of the 13 districts of Kerala were identified and elicited information related to the various aspects of the

project through the administration of a questionnaire. This chapter presents the findings derived from the data related to the subject of the study and the subsequent recommendations drawn out of it.

### **3.1 MAJOR FINDINGS**

The findings are scripted under the following heads viz. 1. Profile of the Respondents, 2. Status of Beat Visits and Allied Aspects, 3. Perception of the Tribal People about the Police 4. Problems / Issues in the Tribal Colonies, 5. Crimes committed against the Scheduled Tribes, 6. Activities carried out by the Beat Officers, 7. Agencies / Departments associated with the Janamaithri Police, 8. Impact of Janamaithri Project on the Tribal Colonies, 9. Status/Worth of the Respondents as a Police Officer as well as an Individual after Working as Beat Officer and 10. Problems faced by the Respondents.

#### **3.1.1 Profile of the Respondents**

##### *Category of the Respondents*

- The category of Janamaithri Police Personnel under study consisted of 16.4% Community Relations Officers (CROs) and 83.6% Beat Officers / Asst. Beat Officers

##### *District -wise distribution of the Respondents /Police Stations*

- Out of the 14 districts in the state of Kerala, only 13 came under the purview of the study. Alappuzha district was excluded as there were no tribal police stations.
- Of the 73 respondents, the majority were from Wayanad district with 16, followed by Palakkad and Thrissur with 10 and 9 respectively.
- The least number of respondents were from Kottayam, Ernakulam, Kozhikode, and Kasaragod districts with 2 Officers each.

- Of the 43 tribal police stations, the most were from Wayanad district with 9 followed by Palakkad and Idukki with 5 police stations each.
- The least number of Police stations were from Kottayam, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode with one Police station each.

#### *Age*

- Majority (42.5%) belonged to the age group of '31-40years' followed by '41-50 years' (35.6%). 15.1% were in the age group of 'above 50 years'.

#### *Educational Qualification*

- More than one third (37.0%) of the Janamaithri officers were either Graduates (28.8%) or Post- Graduates (8.2%).
- While 32.9% were SSLC educated, 28.8% were having Pre-degree/+2/Higher secondary.

#### *Designation*

- More than half (53.5%) were either CPOs (42.5%) or WCPOs (11%).
- 21.9% were Senior Civil Police Officers (SCPOs), while 13.7% and 6.9% constituted Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASI) and Sub Inspectors (SI/GSI) respectively.
- Out of 5 SI/GSIs, 4 and of the 10 ASIs, 7 were Community Relations Officers (CROs).

#### *Number of Years Worked as Beat Officer*

- More than half of them had only 1-6 months (38.4%) or less than a month experience as Beat officers.
- 19.2% had worked as Beat officers for a period of 6-12 months, while 13.7% for a period of 1-2 years. Only 9.6% reported of above 2 years service as Beat Officers.

### **3.1.2 Status of Beat Visits and Allied Aspects**

#### *Period of Beat Officers in charge of the Beat*

- Most (43.8%) had only 1-6 months experience in their present Beats.
- 17.8% had not even completed a single month in their Beats.
- 16.4% each had been in charge of the Beats for a period of 6-12 months and 1-2 years.

*It is to be noted from the data that more than 60% of the Janamaithri Officers under study had given charge of the Janamaithri Beats from the last 6 months onwards or below only. It depicts a trend of frequent shifting of Janamaithri Officers which in turn might affect the project adversely.*

#### *No. of Tribal Colonies in the Beat*

- More than half (53.4%) of the Beat officers had either 1 (27.4%) or 2-5 (26%) tribal colonies in their Beat areas.
- 11% each had 6-10 and 11-20 tribal colonies and 23.3% had been holding more than 20 tribal colonies.

#### *No. of Colonies Visited during 2014-15*

- Majority (57.5%) visited all the tribal colonies in their Beats while 21.9% visited more than half.
- 11% visited only less than a quarter of the colonies in their Beats.
- Category-wise, the officers with 1 tribal colony in their Beats visited all the colonies during the year 2014-15.
- Regarding the officers having 2-5 colonies, 68.4% visited all the colonies but 10.5% visited only less than a quarter.
- Of those having 6-10 colonies, 37.5% visited all of them, while another 37.5% could not visit even a quarter of the colonies in their beats.
- With regard to those having 11-20 colonies, none of them visited all the colonies, but 62.5% visited more than half.

- Among the officers having more than 20 tribal colonies, 29.4% visited all the colonies, while 35.3% visited more than half and 29.4% visited more than a quarter.

#### *Time of Beat Visits*

- Majority (84.9%) had beat visits in the morning, 24.7% in the afternoon, and 17.8% in the evening.

*It can be understood from the data that the usual time of beat visits is in the mornings. However, it is flexible depending upon the situation of a particular area. It was also noticed that no night visits were reported by the officers.*

#### *Place of Meeting*

- Most (52.1%) cited the place of meeting as ‘houses’ followed by 27.4% as ‘public places’
- 16.4% stated it as both the ‘houses and the public places’.

### **3.1.3 Perception of the Tribal People about the Police**

#### *Behaviour of the Police*

- More than half (53.4%) rated ‘Good’ for the perception of tribal people on the Behaviour of the Police, while 43.8% rated it as ‘Satisfactory’.

#### *Approachability to the Police*

- Majority (49.3%) rated it as ‘Satisfactory’ followed by 47.9% as ‘Good’.

#### *Helpfulness of the Police*

- Most (56.2%) rated as ‘Good’ followed by, 42.5% as ‘Satisfactory’.

#### *Performance of the Police*

- 53.4% rated it as ‘Good’ followed by 45.2% as ‘Satisfactory’.

#### *Change in the Perception of Tribal People*

- Almost all (97.3%) of the officers reported of a positive change in the perception of tribal people towards the police.

### **3.1.4. Problems/Issues in the Tribal Colonies**

#### *Problems Existing in the Colonies*

- A good majority (79.5%) reported of ‘alcoholism/drug abuse’ as a main problem existing in the tribal colonies under their beat jurisdiction.
- 74% pointed out ‘lack of infrastructural facilities’ like; road transportation (61.6%), housing (52.1%), drinking water (49.3%), latrine (47.9%), and electricity (41.1%) as the other prominent problems.
- More than half (54.8%) cited the problem of ‘unemployment’ among the youths, while 39.7% of ‘educational backwardness’ of students.
- 19.2% and 16.4% each reported of ‘violence against women’ and ‘presence of Maoists’ respectively.
- 13.7% mentioned about ‘other problems’ such as; disturbance/threat from wild animals, malnutrition / health problems among the people, unwed mothers, marriage before the age of 18years, etc.

### **3.1.5. Crimes Committed against Scheduled Tribes**

#### *Crimes against Scheduled Tribes*

- Of the 73 respondents, only 12 (16.4%) reported of the incidences of crimes against tribes in their beat areas.

#### *Crimes against Tribal Women*

- Of the 12 officers, four reported of the crimes against women in their beat limits. Of which two each mentioned about registration of 3 crimes, while the other two cited 1 and 2 crimes respectively at their police stations.
- The nature of crimes were; rape cases, cases registered as per Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, IPC section 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty), section 447 (Criminal trespass), etc.

### *Drug/Alcoholism related Crimes*

- Eight respondents informed about crimes related to drug abuse/alcoholism, of which, three reported of 3 cases each, another three of 1 case each, and among the rest one had 2 cases and another 1 (*from Wayanad Ambalavayal PS*) had 64 cases.
- The cases registered were as per; Abkari Act, PDPP (Prevention of Destruction to Public Property Act) Act, etc.

### *Other Crimes*

- Only two respondents reported of the other crimes. One had 3 cases and another one had 1 case in their Beat jurisdiction. The nature of crime was murder (IPC 302), cases registered as per PDPP Act etc.

### **3.1.6. Activities carried out by the Beat Officers**

#### *Activities to Solve the Basic Problems in the Colonies*

- 89% reported of the various activities they carried out in their beat limits.
- Most (49%) had ‘contacted concerned authorities’ like; LSGs, ST Development Department, Electricity Board, etc. to solve basic problems in tribal colonies, while 33% ‘conducted Adalats’ and 22% had ‘organised sanitation campaigns’,
- ‘Other activities’ organised (12%) were; ‘Conduct of PSC coaching’, ‘Formation of student police cadets (SPC)’ and ‘conduct of awareness classes / PTA meetings’, and ‘organisation of ward level meetings’.

#### *Activities to Detect and Prevent Crimes*

- More than half (50.7%) of the officers had provided ‘timely service’ to the people while 43.8% and 37% each had ‘conducted frequent beat visits’ and ‘made aware of the people about the crimes and subsequent measures to be adopted’ respectively.

- 20.5% had ‘trained a group of tribal people to inform the Police about the crimes’.
- Nearly 10% however, had carried out no activities to prevent / reduce the crimes.

#### *Activities to Prevent Anti-social Activities*

- Majority (64.4%) had ‘imparted training to the tribal people’ to inform about anti-social activities in the area, while 19.2% had conducted raids for the presence of Maoists/other extremist groups.
- 6.8% had carried out ‘other’ activities like; frequent beat visits, creation of awareness about Maoists and their activities, showing the photographs of the Maoists, etc.
- 24.7% had not carried out any such activities in their Beat limits; the reason might be the *absence of such anti-social activities existing there*.

#### *Activities to Prevent Drug/Illicit liquor*

- Most (71.2%) organised camps/seminars to make aware the tribal people about the negative impact of the alcoholism / drug abuse.
- While 46.6% worked with Jagratha Samithis for the prevention of illicit liquor/drug abuse, 38.4% conducted raids against illicit brewing.
- 13.7% helped the addicted persons to relieve them from the addiction.

#### *Activities to Help the Women Victims of Crimes*

- Most (47.9%) helped the victims by providing legal aid, whereas 28.8% arranged medical assistance and 21.9% registered the cases/ arrested the accused.
- While 17.8% arranged stay for the victims at the Nirbhaya shelter home, 11% provided financial assistance to the victims.

#### *Activities to Help the Child Victims of Crimes*

- Most (43.8%) provided legal aid to the victims, while 23.3% each had arranged medical assistance and continuation of education of the children respectively. 32.9% had no activities in this regard.

#### *Activities to the Welfare of Tribal Students*

- More than half of the officers had organised awareness seminars / camps for the students to motivate them in bettering their education, while 28.8% had formed school protection groups for their welfare.
- While 19.2% had frequent interaction with the hostel authorities and the students, 12.3% distributed study materials/equipments and 11% conducted complaint adalaths.
- Few (8.2%) had arranged tuition / study classes for the students.
- More than one fifth of the respondents had no activities in this regard.

#### *Activities to Women's Security*

- Majority (65.8%) organised awareness programmes in relation to safety/security of the women, while 13.7% conducted self defence classes and 5.5% worked with Oorukoottam, ST Promoters and Animators.
- More than one fourth of the Beat officers had no activities related to the security of women.

#### *Activities to Social Security*

- Majority (65.8%) organised awareness programmes among the tribal people for their social security whereas 9.6% conducted souhruda sadass.

#### *Activities to Health Security*

- Nearly half of the officers organized awareness programmes for tribal people to promote their health status.
- 43.8% conducted general medical camps, and 12.3% organised eye check-ups / cancer detection camps.

### *Perception on the Results of their Activities/Interventions*

- A great majority (80.8%) perceived that their interventions had helped to prevent crimes in the tribal colonies.
- Most (56%) pointed out ‘prevention of illicit brewing’ as one of the positive results of their interventions.
- While 33.9% stated ‘prevention of child abuse’, 15.3% about ‘ending of land grab incidences’ as the results of their interventions.
- 10.2% viewed that they controlled any of the activities like; ganja cultivation, domestic violence, drinking habit, general crimes, etc.

#### **3.1.7 Association with Other Agencies/Departments**

- Majority (61.6%) had an association with the ‘SC/ST Development Dept. / Promoters in their activities followed by 45.2% with the Health Dept. and 43.8% with the Forest Dept. / Excise Dept.
- The other key agencies associated with the Beat officers were; Local Self Governments (30.1%), Tribal Welfare Organisations/Groups (23.3%), Clubs/Private Agencies/Charitable Orgs.(19.2%), Women’s Groups (17.8%), etc.
- 6.8% had no association with any agencies / departments, the reason being their recent entry into the project.

#### **3.1.8 Impact of Janamaithri Suraksha Project**

##### ***3.1.8.1 Reducing Problems/Issues in the Tribal Colonies***

##### *Reduction in Alcoholism*

- Majority (72.6%) reported of the impact of JSP in this regard as ‘medium’ followed by 23.3% as ‘high’.

#### *Reduction in Drug Abuse/Tobacco use*

- Most (69.9%) reported the impact in this regard as ‘medium’ followed by 23.3% as ‘high’ and nearly 10% as ‘low’.

#### *Reduction in Crimes*

- Majority (49.3%) reported of the impact as ‘medium’ followed by 45.2% as ‘high’.

### **3.1.8.2 Improving Conditions/Situations in Tribal Colonies**

#### *Improvement in Relationship between the Police and the People*

- Most (67.1%) stated about the ‘high impact’ of JSP in improving the relationship between the people and the police, while 30.1% reported as ‘medium impact’, and 2.7% as ‘low impact’.

#### *Improvement in Registration of Crimes*

- While 53.4% reported of the ‘medium’ impact, 35.6% stated of ‘high’ impact and 6.8% of ‘low’ impact.

#### *Improvement in Security feeling among the Tribal People*

- Majority (63%) perceived a ‘high’ impact while 32.9% observed ‘medium’ impact and 2.7% ‘low’ impact.

#### *Improvement in Safety /Security of Women*

- Most (67.1%) reported of the ‘high’ impact followed by 28.8% as ‘medium’ impact.

#### *Improvement in Safety /Security of Children*

- 67.1% rated the improvement in safety/security of children as ‘high’ followed by 26% as ‘medium’ and 5.5% as ‘low’.

#### *Improvement in Education of Children*

- Nearly one fourth (24.7%) of the Beat officers observed the impact as ‘high’ whereas the majority (71.2%) as ‘medium’ impact.

### **3.1.10. Status/Worth of the Respondents as a Police Officer as well as an Individual after Working as Beat Officer**

- A good majority - 50 (68.5%) reported of an increase in their worth/value as a police officer as well as an individual after working as a Beat officer. 31.5% were either not responded to the query (17.8%) or responded negatively (13.7%).
- Of the 50 respondents who reported of an improvement in their value/worth, 15 cited it as 'Good rapport they built with the tribal people and the confidence shown by the people to report to the police without fear'.
- 11 police personnel stated that they 'Could develop a positive attitude toward life' during their service as Beat Officers.
- 'Improvement in personality through enhancement of Communication skills, Self Confidence, Leadership, etc.' (7), Facilitation of reduction in crimes (6), and Facilitation of reduction in alcoholism and tobacco use (4) etc. were the other improvement in their worth/value as Beat officers.

### **3.1.10. Problems of the Respondents during implementation of the JSP**

- A great majority (74%) reported of 'Lack of adequate number of Janamaithri police personnel' as a main problem they have been facing in the implementation of the project at tribal colonies.
- A good number (60.3%) pointed out 'Lack of facilities like vehicle, infrastructure etc.'
- 54.8% expressed their dissatisfaction on the 'Absence/Lack of Vanitha Police' and 53.4% about the problem of 'Wide area to be covered'.
- 'Lack of inter-departmental co-ordination' (37%), 'Lack of adequate funding' (31.5%) and 'Excess number of tribal colonies in a Beat' (27.4%) were the other prominent problems reported by the officers.

## **3.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The preceding chapter has thrown light into the various aspects of the implementation of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP) in the tribal colonies of Kerala depicting the status of its impact. At the backdrop of the findings derived from the primary data collected from the Beat officers and the interactions of the research team with the stake holders, following recommendations have been drawn to enhance the functioning of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project in promoting the safety and security of the tribal population. The recommendations are scripted under the 4 major heads viz. 1. Appointment and Transfer of Janamaithri Police Officers 2. Training Programmes to Beat Officers and Community Members 3. Allocation of Funds, Grants and Subsidies and 4. Police Station / Beat Related Aspects.

### ***3.2.1 Appointment and Transfer of Janamaithri Police Officers***

- Employ more Police Personnel for the Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP) at the tribal areas so as to ensure the smooth implementation of the project activities.
- Recruit fresh candidates as Beat officers with appropriate training in JSP activities.
- Set up a team of officers – new and existing officers exclusively for the Janamaithri Suraksha Project and relieve them from other duties in the Police Stations.
- Select dedicated and committed officers for the Janamaithri Suraksha Project for the effective implementation of the project at the tribal colonies.
- Ensure the service of woman police personnel in every beat facilitating the tribal women to share their problems.

- Avoid frequent transfer of the Janamaithri personnel who are working in the tribal areas in order not to create interruption in the project activities and not to affect the cordial relationship between the people and the police. *Though, the JSP at the tribal colonies in the state has been completed its two years, most of the respondents in the present study were found to be not having even 1 year of experience in their beats.*

### **3.2.2 Training Programmes to Beat Officers and Community Members**

- Provide intensive training on Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP) to all the police Personnel including Station House Officers (SHOs) and Writers for creating awareness about the importance of the project.
- Include the topics viz. communication skills, behavioural skills, motivation, counselling etc. in the training module for the Beat officers.
- Provide the trainings and awareness programmes for the community on topics related to; Maoists and their intrusion in to the tribal pockets, their objectives, and various activities and its negative impact on the tribal community.
- Ensure the services of the subject experts while handling the sessions in the training programmes.
- Use audio-visual aids to the maximum possible extent for the effective dissemination of the information/Knowledge, during the trainings.

### **3.2.3. Allocation of Funds, Grants, and Subsidies**

- Allocate sufficient fund for the JSP for the smooth implementation of the project activities.
- Ensure timely disbursement of the funds allocated for the Janamaithri Suraksha Project.

- Distribute few Govt. Subsidies/Grants for the Scheduled Tribes through the Janamaithri Suraksha Project for instilling trust in the scheme among the tribals.

#### ***3.2.4 Police Station / Beat Related Aspects***

- Prepare an action plan for the JSP specifically for each of the police station limits and get approval from the concerned authorities.
- Reduce the area of the existing large beats since many of the tribal colonies are in remote areas and the Beat officers are struggling hard to reach all the colonies and to make frequent contact with the people

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## **APPENDICES**

- 1. Questionnaire**
- 2. References**



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