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राजस्थान समाजशास्त्रीय परिषद् की

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Role of Police in a Changing Society

Manju Singh
Praveen Singh

Abstract : The role of the police in today's developing society has become challenging. The pace of development in society is very fast. The establishment of peace, maintaining law and order, social coherence, etc. is the responsibility of both the police and the public. Socio economic disadvantages cause an increase in crime rates. Many crimes are motivated by social evils. In this research paper, an attempt has been made to highlight the role of police in the changing society, the attitude of the general public towards police, and the efforts of the police in the changing society to fight crime and to present its community welfare and protector of law and order image in the society.

Keywords: Police, Crime, Society, Community Policing, Child-Friendly Policing.

In the modern world, the police system is working extensively to maintain law and order (Parsons, 1972). As per the need of the changing society police forces are performing their roles such as maintaining law and order in society, reducing crime, strengthening the investigation process and mechanism, extending cooperation with the public at the community level, and introducing new interventions i.e. community policing, CLG scheme, Police Mitra scheme, Student Police Cadet scheme, Suraksha Sakhi scheme, State Investigation Unit for Crime against Women (SIUCAW), SJPU, CWPOs, Child and Women Friendly Police Stations etc. These systems and structures of police work at both centers as well as at the state level. Although their specialization differs from each other, police perform their respective role and follow professional ethics and code of conduct while performing their respective duties. The central forces are experts in handling hostilities, war and conflicting situations and also respond and are available for preliminary reply in times of severe internal security and safety dangers (I-Pleaders, 2021).

The word police has a sense of security. Whenever the name of the police comes, the character of such a person arises in the mind, who has all the qualities like calmness, patience, discipline, integrity, dutifulness, sensitivity, courage, efficiency, knowledge, etc. This is the reason why the meaning of 'police' has also been given in the same way (Merton, 1968). According to the Oxford Dictionary - "Law is the custom or rules recognized by a community, which the community is bound to follow." Many sources have been described by scholars regarding the origin of the word police. The meaning of the Greek language politia has been related to citizenship or administration of the state or government, while the Latin word politia has also been related to the state or administration or civilization. There are many other names for the police force in different countries of the world like- the constabulary, 'Jedermery' police service, 'law and enforcement agencies', 'civil guard' etc. Personnel belonging to these services are called Police Officers, Troopers, Sheriffs, Constables, Rangers, Peace Officers, etc. (Merton, 1968).

This role is, however not a new phenomenon. In ancient India, the historical aspects of the police system are mentioned in the Vedic literature, economics, and historical texts. Among those who give information about undesirable activities in the society in the Indian

sense of economics etc., mention of sanyasi, farmer, courtesan, etc. is found. In the Arthashastra, there is also a mention of a system called Rakshana as an organization for doing police-related work for internal security. From the Gupta period to the Middle East, an officer named "Dandapashik" was mentioned as the head of the police system. During this period, due to the influence of the feudalistic structure on the nature of the polity, the role of the feudal lords in police-related work also became important.

In present times it is the duty of the police that wherever there is crime, where there is suppression of good, where there are atrocities on the weak, wherever immorality is prevailing and wherever there is fear in the mind of man, he should be present there. "Save the public, protect the public, help the public in disaster and calamity", this should remain the ideal of the police all over the world.

A policeman performs his duty diligently When people are celebrating festivals in their respective homes and families, the Police are doing their duty. At the time of riots, when all the people try to be safe at their home or any other place, the policeman is putting his life in danger to protect the public. The role of police in the society is very useful and necessary, Friendly and voluntary relations between the police and the society are the basic needs of a democratic system. For the establishment of social security and peace, the police also have to do the work of preventing crimes and punishing the criminals according to the process of Law and Justice.

In the 21st century, the police have been constituted at two levels - one welfare and the other maintaining law and order. On the one hand, by helps the general public, by imparting confidence in society, and doing welfare work, on the other hand, it also shows its controlling side by stopping incidents of crime and violence by maintaining law and order. For example, the reasons for crimes like dowry, corruption, theft, smuggling, and atrocities also come from the society itself. Women's low status in the society and dowry system are the reason for crimes like the murder of girl child and bride-murder and the prohibition of widow remarriage, illiteracy of women is largely responsible for prostitution. Thus, the general public also has to cooperate and extend their support to the police departments and police persons, then they will perform their roles of welfare and control, respectively.

The commissions established from time to time tried to bring changes in the functioning of the police through their reports and suggestions. Prakash Singh v. Union of India case in 2006 also highlighted that some police officers don't perform their assigned role of protecting the common people with due diligence misuse their authority and abuse and torture the public for their own good (Yudhishtir, 2021). After this incident, the Supreme Court issued several directions and orders to both Central and State Governments in September 2006 to provide relief to the general public from mismanaged police power. State governments are also directed to constitute security commissions to frame policies and mechanisms for police operations; ensure that police don't work under the excessive influence of state administration and review police performance in the state (Kumari and Sharma, 2016). State governments are also directed to establish Police Complaints Authorities at the state as well as at district levels to investigate complaints of misconduct and misuse of abuse of power and authority by police officers. The Supreme Court of India also directed for the separation of Investigation and Law Enforcement Officers to enable strong police-public relations, better proficiency and competency, and a fast investigation

process. Some state governments have implemented the directives and directions issued by the Judiciary, whereas, some states have not implemented these guidelines yet (Yudhishtir, 2021).

The Police Act of 1861 conceived the police as a 'force' rather than a 'service' and it had the primary goal of keeping the Indians in hard authoritative control of police force in all provinces. The major reason for this mechanism was to make policing more useful and beneficial to suppress public mutiny, prevention and detection of crime, and harmful actions of the general public against the British Raj (The Police Act, 1861).

Another accomplishment of British rule in India was seen in 1902 with the establishment of the All India Service Commission by Lord Curzon (Bayley and Bittner, 1984). The 'Police' has been placed in the 7th schedule [state list (2)] of the constitution after independence, due to this police force coming under state control. However, to bring essential reforms in police structure, functioning, administration, management, and investigation process, and to meet the expectations of the common people; the Central government influences the state governments from time to time (Kumari and Sharma, 2016).

There are law enforcement agencies or institutions in all societies and states for this task to prevent crime from happening and to identify it when a criminal incident occurs. Police are the most important of these. For the police to properly discharge its duties, the society confers powers on it to arrest, search confiscate, etc. The formalities and procedures to be followed by the police to perform these duties are described in the Criminal Procedural Law. The policeman derives his power from the law and consequently, his authority or powers have also been limited by the law itself.

The present scenario and environment of the country lay excessive accountability and responsibility for protecting the integrity, security, and brotherhood along with maintaining the law and order in the society of police departments of respective states. Further, the present systems of police administration are evidently unequipped and spontaneous to control the problem situations and circumstances, whereas, in a democracy (India), police administration plays an important role in implementing the laws and maintaining order situations in the country (I-Pleaders, 2021).

In the criminal justice system, the function of the police is to implement the law, to establish peace and order, to investigate crimes, and to arrest criminals. If there is a violation of any law, then arresting the violator, production of their challan in the court of law, thorough preparation of witnesses, and finally production of the offender in the court for punishment. Police have a positive, cooperative, and meaningful role in society by collecting the facts of the crime committed by the offender and presenting them before them to determine the order of punishment by the court.

Police will be responsible and answerable to the public and not to any ruling party; In addition to the police investigation of crimes and protection from criminals, nowadays, the role of police in every sphere of life such as domestic tensions, kidnapping, disappearance, elections, organizing rallies, sports events fairs, and festivals is increasing and the demand is increasing, due to which their responsibilities are increasing. / Expanding the scope. The situation of inadequacy of police personnel (1.44 personnel per 1000 persons) commensurate with the total population of India reflects the workload of the police service. In independent India several committees and commissions [Gore Committee, 1972 (Gore

Committee Report, 1973); National Police Commission, 1979-81 (<https://ipc498a.files.wordpress.com/2008/09/firstreportnpc.pdf>); Vohra Committee, 1993 (<http://indiapropect.org/Blog/?p=23>); Ribeiro Committee, 1998-99 (http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/programs/aj/police/india/initiatives/analysis_ribeiro.pdf); Second Administrative Reform Commission, 2005 (Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, 2007)] were instituted for making police administration and police functioning more transparent, accountable and beneficial for the common public.

Modern police work requires effective communication, cutting-edge or advanced weapons, and a high level of mobility. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) of India found deficiencies on several facades. The armaments used by junior police forces are outdated and cannot match the modern weapons used by anti-social elements. The CAG found that the arms of many state police departments are archaic and the process of purchasing firearms is lengthy, resulting in a shortage of arms and ammunition. As per the audit reports; police vehicles are limited and new vehicles are often used to replace older vehicles and drivers are in short supply. This has an impact on the reaction time of the police and consequently on their effectiveness. The Central Government launched the Police Telecommunication Network (POLNET) project in 2002, which aims to link the country's police and paramilitary forces through a satellite communication network that will be significantly faster than the current radio communication system. However, audits have revealed that the POLNET network is not working properly in various states of the country (I-Pleaders, 2021).

In Kerala, specifically, the 'Janamaithri Suraksha' project paved the way for a "Community Policing" system. This new programme of "Community Policing" started in 2008 intending to involve policing with the community, understanding their need and empathically handling their particular problems and prioritizing community safety (<http://keralapolice.org/newsite/janamaithri.html>, 2021). Beat officers are the centre point of this particular "Community Policing" system. These beat officers work closely with the community and try their best to solve the problems of the community. To help the community people, these beat officers mainly use the method of home visits (Social work method). Beat officers initially develop their connections with the community people and then develop confidence in the community and win their trust which serves as a major input for the correct intelligence information about the crimes in the community. On the lines of the 'Community Liaison Committee' in the Kerala Police Act, 2011 or 'Community Liaison Groups' (CLGs) under the Model Police Act, 2015; CLGs were formed in all the districts of Rajasthan and they were functioning properly (http://keralapolice.org/newsite/janamaithri_social.html#jana2; 2021).

Both the governments (Central and State) are contributing to the modernization of state police forces by improving the police infrastructure, such as building police stations and purchasing armaments, communications equipment, and vehicles for the police force. However, insufficient use of money for modernization remains a recurring problem (I-Pleaders, 2021).

Objectives

1. To analyze the role of the police in the changing society and the attitude of the public towards the police.

2. To know the growing gap between police and the public.
3. Child protection measures taken by the government
4. To make suggestions to improve the protector and helper image of the police for the public in society.

Research Methodology

The current research is descriptive in nature. The city of Jaipur has been chosen for being the capital city and also the police headquarters being located in Jaipur. Both primary and secondary data sources have been used to draw suggestions and policy conclusions. The primary data is collected using a qualitative approach, including an assessment of the problems faced by the general public while dealing with the police and the problems faced by the policemen while dealing with the general public; an analysis of the role of police in a changing society and the attitude of the general public towards the police; And the growing gap between the police and the general public and before the police in the 21st century has been assessed. Focused group discussion is used as a method of data collection. In addition to this 30 Questionnaires were filled and 5 case studies in Jaipur city were conducted. Ethical consent has also been obtained from all the respondents and their confidentiality has been maintained. Source of Secondary Data, Book Reviews, Research Journals, Newspaper Articles, BPR&D, NHRC, SHRC, Police Training Academies and Schools, annual reports from government organizations and other internet sources, etc.

Results and Discussions

Undoubtedly, in the 21st century, work pressure on police forces increased due to changing lifestyles, the introduction of new modern technology, and lack of support from the public in crucial matters such as incidences of hate crimes, rapes of children, chain snatching by organized gangs, targeting houses of people living alone and elder citizens, forced beggary and forced prostitution, acid attacks and other crimes. In some cases the police do not deal the situation properly and sometimes police personals who are handling the cases are pressurized by the accused through political connections. However, in numerous cases, it is also seen that police personnel were also involved in taking bribes from the people and businessmen. Along with that, it was also reported in numerous incidences that many police personnel got transferred to other places due to not listening to the political leaders and many others committed suicide due to political pressures. On the one hand, affiliations play a large role in departmental inquiries and punishment proceedings of officials and influence performance appraisals and awards to officers and staff on the other.

It cannot be generalized that the police are only responsible for that, we as common citizens also have some roles and responsibilities to do to make our country as well as state the best in all formats as had been discussed by a great philosopher (Robert F. Kennedy) that “every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves and every society gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on” (<https://quotes.yourdictionary.com/author/robert-f-kennedy/71066>).

The concept of 'proactive policing' has been used in the police administration in recent times. At the time of following this concept, police are expected to take protective and preventive measures while they collect information and intelligence about the occurrence of some dangerous events or already happened events. Proactive policing also gives the power

of taking the suo-moto initiatives to the police forces in the case of cognizable offense 'seems' to have occurred. Along with that, the people-friendly provisions were made especially for the marginalized sections (women, children, elders, specially-abled, etc.), so that they can easily reach the police and access services of the police force. This kind of policing also focuses on developing confidence and bond with the local people and adding them as 'partners' in the prevention of crime. Strong steps and changes are required at every level of policing along with increasing the interaction with the general public and bringing out the fear out from their mind in the need of the hour.

In the changing society; police have to perform various roles i.e. Safety/protective; Educative/informative; Emergency responsiveness activities; Investigative activities; Helping/responding activities; and Punitive activities. In this 21st century people have various expectations from the police such as the police treat everyone impartially regardless of their caste, colour, and religion; police help everyone at any given time of need and emergency. It is also expected from the police that they understand the problems faced by young people and remain helpful and friendly towards young people in the community and society.

Police & Technology

Under this section, researchers want to know the general views on technology in police departments. Successful policing also requires a decent knowledge of new available technologies so that police can be up to date about the new systems and approaches used by criminals (Bayley and Bittner, 1984). Data shows that 24.0 percent of respondents strongly agree and 52.0 percent of respondents agree with this statement. Generally, younger officers are more efficient and skillful in utilizing new technologies than older Officers because they are friendlier with the technology and easily learn the new tech updates than the older ones. 43.0 percent respondents strongly agree, whereas 13.0 percent strongly disagree with this. Further, technology makes the police department more transparent and accountable to the community (40.0 percent respondents agree and 23 percent disagree with this statement) along with that it also helps the police departments improve their image in front of the community by reducing crime from the community with the use of advanced technology in the surveillance system (Hinds, 2009).

It is noticed from the recent practices in police systems that additional importance and weightage are being given to the officers making decisions based on technology, data, and advanced analysis than the officers using only their personal experience while making the decision and suggesting some recommendation in a particular situation (Bayley and Bittner, 1984). After implementing new technology, the police department has to take regular feedback from the police officers (both junior, senior, and field level officers) about the functioning and adaptability of using new technology, whereas, some are of the view that IT created extra work for police persons (Rosenbaum et.al., 2005).

On the other side, technology helps the police personnel in tracing defenders/accused/wanted persons and other persons of interest; tracing vehicles of interest; and checking the history of a specific location or person before reacting to alarming situations and crimes. Thus, our hypothesis that the challenges of police can be solved through technology only is not right; technology is essential and helpful for identifying the crime situation and also in tracing the accused persons. But there are other several factors which help the police in solving their challenges in the 21st century.

Child Protection and Violence-Free Police Systems

Article 15 of the Constitution has given powers to state governments to ensure special care of the children and also make special provisions for children so that their basic human rights are protected and all needs of the children are met. With the provisions and mandates of UNCRC, UNICEF is closely working with every state government to protect the child's dignity and worth. Every state is taking initiatives for the betterment of children and working for the best interest of children as well as strengthening the child's necessary freedoms and respect for human rights.

There is no scope for violence against children in a civilized country like India. Therefore, systems dealing with children should be violence-free. In the last few years, there has been a noticeable shift and the justice and justice delivery system is trying to become child-friendly. In the last 10 years, proactive child protection laws have come up and there are specific roles assigned/expected from police. But over some time police behaved in a particular manner and it will take some time to make police child-friendly. To establish violence-free police systems, number of initiatives have been taken up by the Rajasthan Police and they are briefly narrated as follows:

Designated CWPOs in every police station: In every police station, there is provision of at least one Child Welfare Police Officer (CWPOs) to deal with the cases of children in a child-friendly manner (Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015). Rajasthan Police has made significant progress in establishing Child-Friendly Police Stations in every district of the state of Rajasthan.

Special Juvenile Police Units: To coordinate all functions of police related to children, Special Juvenile Police Units have been constituted in each district. Designated police officials and social workers are being trained and sensitized to effectively render their services to both categories of children – CNCP and CICL. Efforts are being made to ensure regular meetings of SJPU, increase visibility of SJPU, and close coordination with CWPOs and other child protection functionaries.

Capacity building of CWPOs and AHTU Officials: Series of Child Protection capacity building programs are being organised for CWPOs and AHTU Officials. These capacity-building programmes are designed to strengthen the knowledge, attitude, skills and coordination of designated police officials. CCP-SPUP is regularly conducting capacity-building programmes at different levels. CCP-SPUP is also running offline and online child protection courses for child protection functionaries.

Student Police Cadet Scheme: Rajasthan Police is implementing the Student-Police Cadet (SPC) scheme for engaging the school-based youth in learning self-defense skills and developing trust in the police. During this initiative, efforts will be made to train students as future leaders in society. Students will also be taught values and ethics related to respect for the law, discipline, civic sense, confronting social iniquities, and empathy for vulnerable sections of society including children. This scheme has been successfully implemented in Kerala.

Safe School Programme: With UNICEF's support Rajasthan Police has developed a replicable model of Safe School Programme, where schools, police and students come together and develop competencies of key stakeholders in schools and ensure safety and security of children. CCP-SPUP is also replicating this initiative in a number of schools. Such initiatives are designed to prevent growing violence against children.

Orientation programmes with SHOs: To strengthen internal coordination within the police, SHOs are being oriented on child protection/friendly systems and the expected roles of CWPOs. The objective of this initiative is to ensure desired support for CWPOs at the Police Station level.

Orientation programmes with CLG Members: It is equally important for police to increase community-level engagement on child-friendly/protection issues. In this regard, orientation programmes are being organised at a range level where CLG Members are oriented on child protection issues and the urgent need for community-level support/response toward the prevention of violence against children.

Collaboration with CWCs, JJBs, DCPUs, CCIs, DLSAs, and CSOs: To ensure the best interest of children CWPOs/SJPU is increasing their collaboration with CWCs, JJBs, DCPUs, CCIs, DLSAs, and CSOs. At the district level DCPUs are the most important body for ensuring child protection. Often CWPOs don't get the desired support from DCPUs, especially in terms of resources required to support children of both categories – CICL and CNCP.

Orientation of Rajasthan Police on Child Protection: All newly recruited police officials are being trained and sensitized by the Rajasthan Police Academy on child protection laws. In this regard, RPA is organizing regular training programmes where subject experts are invited for desired deliberations. The subject of child rights/protection is also covered in regular refresher training programmes of police officials.

Gradual increase in the number of women police officials: To facilitate cases of girl children, it is mandatory to assign responsibility to women police officials. Rajasthan Police is making serious efforts in this regard through regular recruitment of women police officials, gradually state is seeing an increase in the number of women police officials at the Police Station level.

My Safer Jaipur: Jaipur Police Commissionerate is trying to develop a replicable model of safer cities. In this regard, initial steps have been taken through Rapid Safety Assessment in Jaipur. Based on findings and recommendations of the assessment, year-long community/school level interventions are being designed to increase the safety of citizens within homes, public spaces, workplaces, roads, etc.

However, the Police department is doing as much as they can to improve their image in the general public. Thus, our hypothesis that Violence free police system is not in working condition is rejected because police had initiated many community outreach programmes as mentioned above to make their system violence-free and approachable for the general public.

Suggestions to Improve the Protector and Helper Image of the Police in Society

In addition to intellectual incentives in police, the need for technological innovation has also become important. Widespread technological innovation in computer networking (especially useful in detecting white-collar crime and fraud) forensic performance testing, and DNA With identification, things like the use of nuclear equipment for computer fingerprint recognition and increasing advanced surveillance capability and monitoring activities have become very necessary. Intelligence activities are an essential function of the police. In this era of political, diplomatic, and technological change, failure to improve

intelligence gathering, comparison, and analysis has catastrophic results. Intelligence activities may be vital to a successful future.

In the 21st century, the police are facing many important ethical and ethical challenges. This would require not only a change in the doctrinal framework but also a structural/normative Magna Carta that would make the police strong, smart, efficient and functional. Generally, reforms are needed on many fronts in the police system, but specifically, reforms are needed on major three facades to strengthen the police administration all over the country. Firstly, redesigning and restructuring the constitution of police forces through administrative, and legislative changes, via making commissions and committees and making this more people-friendly. Secondly, upgrading the infrastructure and enhancing the capacity of the police persons via advanced training, capacity building programmes, enhancing soft skills for dealing with the common public, inculcating stress management skills, and improvement in investigative skills are fundamental to this. Thirdly, and most important is the technological scaling-up (FICCI, 2012) of the police officers and persons to prevent crimes before their occurrence. As we all know this 21st century is also known as the era of digitization, thus, technological advancement of police persons is also a need of the hour (Singh and Singh, 2021).

Modifications are required at numerous levels of these above-mentioned broader heads. Beat patrolling, mobile patrolling, and technologically advanced surveillance systems (high-security cameras) are required in this digital era to match the pace and speed of criminals on cyber fronts. Along with that to make a powerful, controlling and trustworthy first line of intelligence in police; it is also suggested to keep beat constable in the same beat for at least 2-3 years to develop confidence amongst the community and win their trust (FICCI, 2012).

Conclusion

Today's developing society is not a challenge but also an opportunity for the police, which should not be let go by the police and take advantage of it. The police is the strongest, direct expression and authority of the government, which has to maintain civil peace and harmony and justice and law and order in every situation. It is the responsibility of the police to protect and respect the fundamental rights of the people, to apprehend and prevent crime, and to provide assistance and services to the people.

In the 21st century, the police have to identify a highly efficient organization. There is a need to empower the police personnel in our country. Human activities in other areas of the new century are increasing the police workforce, which is an important topic. The police need to monitor the development of the latest technology, technology and management. The police leadership has to understand these challenges and responsibilities adequately. The prevailing perceptions among the general public about the police have to be changed and an environment has to be provided in which they can do their work with maximum credibility and on the surface of truth.

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