

Women Police Vis-A-Vis Social Welfare

Abstract

In a democratic country it has been advocated that police system should be cordial relations between the police and community. Police roles in general and police women's role in particular are directly and indirectly related to social welfare. Therefore, the theoretical discussions that follow in this chapter would encompass the role of women police abroad and in India.

We have endeavored to achieve this objective through examining: the welfare role of modern police system and common concerns of police and social welfare and change the complementarity of respective roles of both the professions as components of criminal justice system evolution of police women's role and the emerging trends in the welfare role of women police.

Keywords: Democratic, Encompass, Theoretical, Endeavored, Trends.

Introduction

All over the world, along with the 'changes taking place in societies, the roles and goals of policing are also changing. The police role thus is continuing to develop with multiplicity of function from purely law-enforcement to that of a more varied role of public service. Nowhere, it is declared that police must tackle rabid dogs, settle family disputes, make the old lady in distress cross the road, give food to the apprehended vagrant child, stop the public transport bus and get the ladies seats vacated for the standing women passengers, rescue the drowning, the burning or the trapped. But they do it sometimes promptly and willingly, other times hesitatingly. A Peterson point out that police mandate is more than the basic requirement of stopping crime and enforcing law. He says that police do many things for which they have no formal legal mandate. A police officer's welfare image is more of a peace officer than a law enforcer. The policemen's role as a philosopher friend and guide has been conceived "of for about four decades back from" now by cumming. He pointed out that in metropolitan areas police are called upon to fulfill service functions.

Welfare/Services Role of Modern Police System:

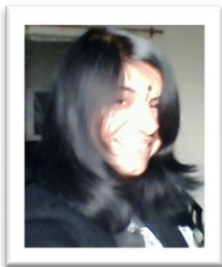
It was estimate by the New Britain Police Planning Department that approximately 70% of all requests for police service involved non-enforcement duties Kowalewski Peterson commented that existing research on the uniformed police officer in field situation indicated that more than half of his time was spent as an amateur social worker assisting people in various way." Whitaker has mentioned that in the United States 34% of all call to the police are for assistance in non-criminal matters. He suggests that a police officer needs something of the experience of an arbitrator, a social reformer, a lawyer and a doctor without being trained as any of them. According to him a number of social services that policemen perform although not strictly necessary to their primary task are invaluable in cementing contact and trust with the public.

Highlighting the Humane Service Role of Police in a Democracy German Day & Robert Comment

"Essentially law enforcement in a democracy is one of the most humane services a human being can render to his fellow. It is a sign of cynicism of our times that law enforcement is not university accepted as a humane service either by police officers themselves or by the public".

Even in India police being expressed as a force has started receiving criticism. It has been pointed out by Sinha that prior to 1942 civil police were never armed. British started arming them and used them to suppress and repress the national movement for independence. He further states that it is now being emphasized that a policemen is really a civilian in. uniform and to call police system a force is really a misnomer it is really a service.

Puri points out that police can win public confidence, if it functions as a service organisation and less as a force structure in the service of the people who are the ultimate masters in a democratic society.



Meenakshi Sharma

Associate Professor,
Deptt. of Political Science,
Gokul Das Girls Degree College,
Moradabad

While discussing the legitimacy of the police in a society. Mehra writes:

"In a democratic set up the police have to perform the task of reconciliation of authority with liberty. In a welfare state the police assume functions of a social service organisation in addition to their basic duties of prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order".

To highlight the service aspects of policemen's role Mullick in his book "a philosophy for the police comments":

"If the policeman neglects to help the needy and the poor he falls miserably from the ideal which a man strives for in any form of collective living. Therefore every policeman must devote himself whole heartedly to the service of the people. He should not require any rules and directions from the superiors for this work. The urge – for this must come from within his own heart".

Malviya states that police administrator from time to time have expressed their concern over evolving consensus about the role priorities and accountability of police in the new emerging society. There is a general agreement on the need for insulation of police against political interference at all time if police has to uphold the constitution and secure justice to all the citizens assuring the dignity of all individuals.

There is increasing realization that re-organization and re-orientation of police system has become inevitable for the new multidimensional role of the police in the democratic set up of our country. Whether it is law enforcement role or the non-enforcement role of the modern police the goal of policing in a welfare state continues to be that of service to the society or the welfare of the country.

In fact it is being felt by some Mathur that the a contemporary police should be the spearhead of social change for the betterment of society.

The foregoing account thus indicates that police may become the means by which social change may be promoted and directed. This may be understood better through visualizing situation that arise while examples such as the implementing social legislation's concerning child neglect or begging or prostitution or dowry the police has a positive role to play in more than one way and thus may become the means for building a new and better state and society through the respective professional contributions.

The situation of breakdown of traditional family system, the acceptance of materialistic over moral, values the migration of people from villages to the cities the illiteracy the unemployment, the upcoming of shims, the problems of street children, poverty, natural calamities, terrorism, drug addiction etc. are the situations generated in the contemporary society. Many such situations of modern living make a person lonely detached worthless and rootless beyond the subtle influences of social control. Consequently, he who perhaps is a potential deviant may turn out to be a dangerous criminal for want of intervention by the right kind of support systems at the right point of time. Such situations are deep concern to police.

Prevention of crime has all ways been regarded as an important function of police and in

practices it seems to have been confined to prevention of street crimes and some other property crimes. The role of police in social defence, through being emphasised still lacks clarity with regard to function of police in this respect. The Report of the Committee on police Training 1974 ha laid emphasis on this and has recommended strengthening of training syllabi even for the IPS officers.

Sensitizing the Police for Welfare Role

In India the need for sensitizing the police for social service role was officially recognised not until the formation of the central Bureau of correctional services by the Government in 1961. The Bureau was renamed as the National Institute of Social Defence-in the year 1975 and its functions include-

1. Providing a forum for exchange of information on social defence.
2. Organising training courses for various categories of personnel involved in social defence including the police.
3. Advising the state Governments on matters concerning social defence; and
4. Bringing out publication in the field of social defence.

In the year 1965 a special all India seminar on Juvenile Delinquency Role of Police was organised to highlight the positive contribution of police in this regard (Government of India 1965).

Another seminar on Crime Correction and Probation was organised in the year 1967 that assessed the role of police in crime prevention and juvenile correction.

A central Agency "The Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science" was formed in 1972 under the Ministry of Home Affairs that organises special training courses to sensitize senior level police officers and the other agencies of criminal justice system together to promote better understanding and collaboration among them.

The National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development was instrumental in preparing a module on crimes against Women Role of enforcement agencies in 1988 after serious role of enforcement agencies in 1988 after serious deliberations on the subject.

Police as Component of Criminal Justice System

In recent years the term criminal justice system has gained popularity with all those who are concerned with the problem of crime and its prevention and control. By the criminal justice system we mean the police the prosecutorial services are meant the courts and the corrections, which are the component elements of the structure of criminal process. It has been described as a continuum an orderly progression of events. The reality is that it has never worked as a system and the different components / elements have isolated themselves and worked within water tight compartments with little co-ordination or intercommunication.

Police is an important component of the criminal justice system. Though the system is predominantly concerned with correction in reality hardly any attempt has been made to introduce corrections until after adjudication when the person is already halfway through the system. Corrections should be introduced at the first contact with the

criminal justice system. Police is the first governmental agency of the criminal justice system that comes in contact with the delinquent; therefore, the chances for his reform and his subsequent conduct are likely to be influenced a good deal by the experience he gains at the time of his first apprehension. It is important to have a treatment to have a treatment oriented person on the law enforcement team as the first contact of the criminal with the criminal justice system. It is here that the task of reform of rehabilitation of the deviant has to start. The effectiveness of the work carried out by other personnel in the remand home correctional institution or an aftercare home would be influenced to a great extent, though indirectly, by the impact of the first contact with the criminal.

Highlighting the Importance of the Role of Police in the Criminal Justice Process Pillai Comments

"The police provide the initial input into the criminal justice system. To the youthful delinquent and the first offender, the policeman represents, by and large, the authority of the state, the so-called majesty of the law in the process of the preliminary investigation, if the policeman carries out his duties firmly but with sympathy, understanding, fairness and with due regards to human dignity and community values, he would have ensured that those who are processed through the system have reasonable opportunities for eventual re-integration into the society from which they have come."

The aim of rehabilitation of the deviant back into the society as a law-abiding citizen could be achieved only through cooperative efforts of those concerned in the correctional process, VIZ the police, the probation officer, the criminologist the psychiatrist the sociologist the after care personnel.

The Task Force Report on Juvenile Delinquency and Youth Crime in US. 1967:41 mention:

"The prognosis for rehabilitation through counseling at a later point in the correctional-process, when problems are compounded by stigmatization and labeling is generally poor. Once the youthful offender has been apprehended by police and referred to juvenile court, the most skilled subsequent rehabilitation services have far less potential for success than they would have if they had been applied before the youth became involved in the formal criminal justice system.

It is being emphasized that the handiest place and earliest opportunity to provide counseling services are within the police setting when the offender first comes to the attention of the police for enhancing the potential for correction and rehabilitation.

In fact, it has been pointed, out that historically; the police department has been the only community institution to make house calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Kramer further notes that the public obviously recognises this social role, because 71% of the 2 million calls received by the Metropolitan Toronto Police in 1974 involved social problems, primarily family disputes.

Abel and Suh, emphasize that strong cooperative efforts between social reformers and police must be forged to combat effectively or prevent

spousal abuse. They note that social reformers and social service agencies involved with women's issues should develop positive professional relationship with local police. They suggest regular meetings between social reformers and police and quarterly open forums and invitation for police to serve on social service advisory boards. They further suggest:

"Ideally, police officers can identify at-risk persons to social workers, once identified, such at risk persons could be targeted for education, out-reach and follow up. Such macro focused techniques could be applied to potential victims..... Also social workers could organise seminars to educate police.... Such educational programmes Blight promote work effective early police intervention efforts".

History of Police Women's Role

In the U.S., the new area of police work, known as "Police Social welfare" emerged in the early decade of the present century. The initial police social welfare was 'exclusive domain of women police' and is closely linked with the emergence of women police in the early 1900s. The first police social service volunteers were police women, who were responsible for providing certain social services, usually to women and juveniles.

Roberts in his article on the history of the police social service movement, contends that there is evidence that policemen were ever assigned to perform social service function during the first quarter of the twentieth century. He explains that at that time social service was a predominantly female profession, and so it is understandable that the first police social service movement was through establishment of women's bureaus in the police departments, which in turn was the direct result of a desire for better protective and preventive social services for women and children.

In fact an attempt in examining the historical development of women police clearly shows that the police women were inducted for the first time only to perform the social service functions in relation to women and children. The first documented appointment of a woman with police powers occurred in 1905 in Portland, Oregon to help cops with the problem of youth women soliciting the attention of I urnbermen, miners, laborers and vacationers in II SPREE". Her efforts were so successful that a permanent department of public Safety for the protection of young girls and women was created" Initially, women police performed the duties that were considered motherly, nurturing and sympathetic." Presumably, women were perceived as inherently maternal and consequently most useful in mothering: type capacities.

The world's first regularly rated police woman in Los-Angeles, California, Alice Stebbins Wells was an educated woman and a professional social service volunteer she was appointed a police officer in 1910 and prior to her employment in police, Mrs. wells had made a study of crime and concluded that there was a strong need for women in police service. She acquired her position only through the support of many local citizens, whom she had persuaded to sign a petition to the mayor requesting that she be put on the police force.

According to Roberts, at Chicago also 1911, a social worker on duty at the police station was found to be very useful in tackling the grievances of people and thus reducing the litigations considerably and thus won favorable comments from the courts with the result 10 police women with social service experience were appointed within 2 years.

It has been seen that most of the police women lured during the first decade came from social service backgrounds. Their duties generally included supervision of public places of recreation, responsibility for female suspects and missing persons. Several authors have noted that due to the background of these women and the nature of their assignments, the women police officers came to be known as 'specialized social service volunteer.

By 1920, the prospect of police women serving in social service advocacy roles, particularly on behalf of juveniles, seems to have taken hold. In 1920, Director of the Women's Bureau of the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington D.C., clarified the role of police women as aiming to bring about a close relationship between social volunteers the public and the police.

Roberts further Notes

"Actually, early police women were far more interested in providing social work intervention than in doing patrol work. It comes as no surprise, then that the police women's energies were often diverted or working full time in areas such as protective services to defend and explain their true purpose and function." The original constitution of the International Association of Police Women sanctioned the use of police women chiefly for protective and preventive work, the employment of professionally trained women and the establishment of courses of instruction in universities and the keeping of proper records.

Social Service Training of Women Police

There is historical evidence to suggest how professional social work contributed in the training of women police abroad. In fact, during the initial period of police women in U.S.A., many of the police women had either received training in schools and colleges about social service. There were reasons, which could be accounted for this. First the main duties of police were to deal with social conditions that threatened the moral safety of young girls and women and to supervise those women who were held in custody by government agencies (police, prisons, detention homes etc.) Second, it was the women's welfare organizations, on whose initiative, women police were first appointed on police departments. In Germany and Britain also, the police women were appointed to protect women and young girls in moral danger and to supervise and enforce laws concerning prostitution. Thus, the nature of duties mainly being welfare oriented.

The Department of Criminology of the University of California was the first University to offer diploma courses on the work of women police that was directed by Alice Stebbins Wells, who herself was a trained social worker and was the President of International Association of Police Women at that time.³³ Lieutenantmina C. Van Winkle, Director of the Women's Bureau at Colurbiat Who was also the

President of International Association of Police Women co-operated with George Washington University that offered Social Service Courses.

Higgins advocates the need for instructing the existing police women with basic equipment in the field of social service. She prepared a blue print of a training programme for police women that included 3 aspects the 'legal' the 'social' and the 'medical'. The social aspect includes courses on-social Services social approach to the problem of delinquency and crime, Police women as a social agent Techniques of social investigation, reports, prevention and control of delinquency and crime, cooperation with the other agencies etc. The medical phase covers the Courses on public health, the physical aspect of Crime and Delinquency, Psychological aspects of crime and delinquency, psychiatric aspects of crime and delinquency and psycho-analysis as a method. The legal phase covers the course on history of law enforcement, Evidence, Criminal Procedure, Resume of the laws, techniques of self-defence and general police work.

In fact a look at police women's role shows that it has always been understood and knows in relation to work with women or children, they are the criminal, the deviants, the victims of special situations, the distressed or the insecure in western countries the women's welfare organisations took the lead in advocating the need for compassion and human treatment of women and children.

Though, in case of India the initial appointments of women police were not the outcome of initiative taken by women welfare organisation, yet initially the need for women police was for the protection of women (abducted women and the refugee women) and later on for work with children (the destitute and the delinquents) too. Gradually, the need for special training in social service was also considered important and therefore the Delhi's senior most woman sub-inspector was deputed to Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay in 1958, where she received training concerning the problems of immoral trafficking and juvenile delinquency. This was also the period when the related social legislation has been or was being passed.

The Delhi Police Commission also highlighted the need for special training in Juvenile delinquency, social defence and child psychology. The Commission condemned the recruitment of middle aged women in lowest ranks and stressed the need for young educated women at officer's ranks (ASI and Si) who could the potential to develop interest in public service of a very difficult and delicate kind through special training.

The major thrust for special training in social service for women police in Delhi came with direct recruitment of young educated women police officers (ASIS and SIS) by police since 1970, as a consequence of Delhi Police Commission's recommendations. Recruits were trained in social welfare and social service work during 1970-71. During this period some more women officers from Goa, Jammu and Kashmir and Meghalaya were also deputed to the special training by their respective State Police Departments. The duration of as this special training has been one academic year for the

women SIS. This training was specially designed with a view to enable the women officers to understand human behaviour, social problems and deviance and develop special skills in dealing with these problems, especially in relation to women and children. Special emphasis was laid on sensitizing them to understand the causation of crime and develop humane approach in relation to their role in the implementation of social legislations and prevention of crime.

The Committee on Police Training (1974) has not directly dealt with the training of women police. However, while highlighting the need for greater involvement of police in social defence work, it has recommended the scope of invaluable service that units of women police could render. In this context, the Committee does recommend that women police should be given sustained training in recognised institutions of social work education (Government of India).

The National Police Commission (1980) recommends the following in respect to training of women police:

“Basic training course should be same as for their male counterparts and women should be trained as the same training institution where men are trained to ensure uniformity in recruitment and training. However, certain modification may have to be made in the physical training programme for women recruits. Instead of toughening their physical strength, training should be directed to instill a sense of physical self-confidence and equip them with physical safety techniques-mastery over tactics of unarmed combat Such as judo and karate. In addition special instructions to deal with agitations and mob upsurges in a humane and sensitive manner.”

Highlighting need for social service inputs the National Police Commission (1980) further recommends:

“The effectiveness would be greatly enhanced if they receive special training in social work in a Institute of Social Science qualify them to diagnosis and treat social ailments. They should also be put ill special-courses in schools of social work to perform their special role in relation to women and children. Intensive training should be imparted to them in the enforcement of special Acts relating to children and vice and also in the technique of search of women and their belongings.

Welfare Role of women Police in India

When we look back at the Indian scene in relation to history of police women we find that unlike U.S.A., women were neither recruited for the first time due to the pressure exerted by the women's welfare organisations, nor were the early police women professional social service volunteers; as has been the case with America. Also, the concept of police social service, (as it developed with the induction of women police in U.S.A) never took birth and as such was totally unknown to Indian Police. Despite these differences, when we examine the role police women performed, we find that they had been involved in social service function to a noticeable degree, especially in relation to work with women and children.

The history of women police shows that soon after Independence, the ministry of Relief and

Rehabilitation needed women police for the recovery of abducted women. There was a rush of grieved distressed women, who approached the Prime Minister daily and so far for P.M.'s security also women police were needed, Police women were found to be of greater utility in interrogation and search of female suspects, escorting women under trials and juveniles, restoring vagrant and missing children and girls to their homes etc.³⁷

Following the successful examples of Police Attendance Centers in U.K. and police Clubs and Holiday Camps in U.S.A., the police in India also established specialized police units for helping children.³⁸ Juvenile Aid Bureau at Calcutta was formed in 1950 juvenile aid police unit at Bombay got established in 1952 and in Hyderabad and Madras similar units started in 1958 and 1960 respectively. The functions of these special units included patrolling of high delinquency areas, enquiring into the cases of destitute and keeping liaison with welfare agencies. Juvenile Aid Police Unit (JAPU) in Bombay has been managed by lady officers, under the control of DCP Crime Branch, CID. This unit has an Advisory Committee that includes officials and non-officials as its members.

Another notable social service venture of police has been the starting of “Boys Clubs” in some states, such as Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujrat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Chennai etc. Such clubs are meant for children between the ages of 10-16 years and function around recreational activities. Such services are based on the principal that juvenile delinquency can best be tackled at pre-delinquency stage. In Mumbai, other activities like film shows, excursions and supply of books and magazines have also been done. Social services have been secured through ‘Maharashtra State Probation and After Care Association’ for doing case work with the needy children from the Boys Club.

The Maharashtra Police took initiative in starting a ‘Social Security scheme’ in 1976 for helping the young and helpless women from being exploited by the unscrupulous elements. The scheme concerns itself with restoring and rehabilitating the young girls who are run away and are insecure, through the services of the social security centers established at the all major cities. Under this scheme, the Maharashtra's women police work in collaboration with the “social responsibility group” of YWCA.

The made a project for the street children in the resettlement colonies considered to be ‘delinquency prone areas. An experimental project which took birth under the leadership the DCP incharge, crime-branch. A woman police inspector is the overall incharge of the center. This Juvenile Aid Center has the benefit of having the services of a team of professional social workers and vocational instructors for carrying out the programmes effectively. The programmes mainly included Recreational Activities, Literacy Work, Vocational Training and Counseling Service. Similar project may and should be formulated in Uttar Pradesh.

When we look at the problem of gender violence we find that it is not a new one yet in the recent past it is being increasingly recognised as a social problem.

Oppression of women can be seen in the form of rape, sari, female infanticide, female foeticide, dowry deaths, Wife beating, emotional torture. Aggarwal has presented dominant anti women culture premises of the Indian traditions that reveal logical linkage with the different forms of violence on women. It is generally felt that patriarchy and religion reinforce and interact is increasing the manifestation of both overt and covert violence against women.

An analysis of the situations of crime against women shows that larger numbers of women are the victims of crime. Despite many legal provisions and social programmes for the protection of women, the women remain unprotected not only by the laws breakers, but also by the so called law-protectors viz. the policemen. The cases of mass rape by the policemen have hit the headlines of newspapers, in any a time.

Also the traditional social norms of Indian society inhibit the distressed women or their parents to condemn openly the act of violence by a person. Under such circumstances the reluctance on the part of the victim of violence to register a case against the family members becomes all the more difficult. The men therefore take advantage of the isolation in which the Indian women is placed. It is because of this situation that violence against women presents peculiar problems for the police in our country and the situation becomes too delicate to be handled by male Police.

The police of some states have been quite responsive in this regard. The 'ANTI-DOWRY CELL' which was set up in 1983 continuously been enlarging the scope and nature of its work over the years and it was renamed as the crime (women) Cell in 1985. This cell handles women's complaints now only from punitive angle, but also from a corrective point of view. Majority of the police-in-charge of the District Crime Women's Cells is Women Inspectors, who had earlier received special training in this regard. The cell may also utilizes the services of NGO's working in the field of women's welfare and other special police office earlier. The need special work intervention was being met partially through the members of the voluntary women welfare organisations and special police officers (SPOS) only.

In Mumbai, the Special Cell for Women in Distress is fundamentally different from usual police departments. The Mumbai Police merely provides office space and administrative support and the cell is run by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Women police Advantageous for Welfare Role

While defining the duties of police women, Riggings reports their use as protective preventive agents. She mentions that police women are constantly vigilant of people and places whose influence might prove hazardous to young people, thus becoming part of a crime and delinquency prevention programme in their various communities.

Sharman while commenting on the psychological view of women in policing has reasoned out that larger benefit would accrue by using more women police. The reasons highlighted by him also include: the proficiency of women in 'service role' and their capacity to provide better service to women and children.

Two of the four evaluation studies viz. (Bloch et al. 1973, 1974; Sherman, 1975; Bartlett at., 1977; Sichel, ⁵¹ 1978) carried out in police petrol in the United States found that police women were regarded more favorable than policemen. Here, Citizens felt police women handled domestic disputes better and were more sensitive, respectful, pleasant and competent.

Melchionne notes that police women's "natural aptitude" in Service Role is bound to garner respect and support of the public for them.

Inaugurating a seminar organised by the Indian Society of Cxmunology, Chandurkar, former Chief Justice of Supreme Court of India highlighted the need to recruit more women police officers. He commented:

"The adversary system of justice, which meant cross examining the rape-victim in the witness box often cause stress and trauma to her, forcing her to go into the details of the crime. The use of women police officers for such investigation would put the victim more at ease."

Besides the whole range of social legislation's concerning the juvenile justice, probation, immoral trafficking, beggary, untochability, dowry, eve-teasing etc. have opened up new avenues of service role for the police, where women prove to be better suited.

Bhardwaj, while examining the advantages of posting women police in police station, has highlighted the social service role of women in this system of appointments, she says:

"The general public would find it easier to ask for assistance in the area of personal assistance, mental health and personal problems. The properly trained police officer could initiate guidance and counseling, or do aggressive case work and make debut in the pathological system. Proper work by women officers in this regard would make the police organisation as asset to the community in a way, which would be different from the one, normally known. The women officer would be in a position to assist in crime prevention especially in case of women and children through improved police community relations.

Recommendation of the National Police Commission (NPC) says : "The presence of women police station would help in creating trust and confidence in police. Women police can also help in giving better attention to the "Service" aspects of police work. The entire philosophy, culture and attitude of police should be such as to make a police station appear and function as a ready source of relief for Persons in distress. In our view, the presence of women police in police station would help to a great extent in achieving this objective.

While emphasizing that women police should entrusted with all the duties being performed by their male counterparts, the Commission further stressed the additional duties related to welfare work and crime prevention work that included: handling and Investigating sexual offence in women and children. Juvenile delinquency case work, Crime prevention work, giving talks at Schools, communities etc.

The importance of the social role of the women police is well explained by the concluding remarks of Mahajan in his study on police women:

"The women's new role in police remains unattractive to the women population. It has yet to gain recognition and acceptance from the policemen and a society at large. It can, however, be made more attractive if the nature of work is made to resemble to that of a social workers."

Police certainly has advantages over other alternative interventive agencies, such as women's welfare organisations, other interventive agencies and the courts. The welfare organisation usually maintain the conventional official working hours and also, the general public (of which women in distress form an insignificant fraction numerically) may not be aware of their existence or the procedure to seek help from them and filing a legal suit against the husband or the in-laws to seek justice is neither feasible, nor easy for most of those women, who are the victims of crimes against them. On the other hand local stations are readily approachable and within easy reach and police assistance from wireless control room can be easily tapped through the telephonic message. Around the clock availability of the police marks it easily accessible for crisis intervention at odd hours.

Women Police as an Instrument of Social Political Change

India's Independence in August 1947 and the Constitution of India which was implemented in 1950 brought a drastic change in the philosophy of the state. Overnight a police state was turned into welfare state. The preamble of the constitution promised to establish a secular and democratic republic. It guaranteed fundamental rights to all the citizens. Irrespective of caste, sex and religion.

In order to give a concrete shape to the concept of a welfare state the parliament enacted a number of legislation. These laws, no doubt, seek to provide. Security for women and raise their status, but to achieve a breakthrough in the tradition, customs and accepted values in Indian society they have to be implemented effectively. Unfortunately the law enforcement agency, is neither strong enough to fight against the vested interests nor imaginative enough to take cognizance of the intricacies involved in the implementation of laws. The result is that in spite of legislation and hue and cry-raised by voluntary organisations in the country, the fact of women remains more or less the same. This is confirmed by the report of the committee on status of women appointed by the Government of India. The International women's decade (1975-85) also could not bring about much change. Law no doubt is an instrument of social change but more legislation does not ensure such a change.

According to K. Davis 'By social change is meant only such alternations as occur in social organisation, that is, the structure and function of society. The socio-political change is 'a very lengthy and subtle process. Further there are number of agencies involved in the process. Any social change requires a change in the environment of the country. There should be an awareness and desire among people for such a change, should be awareness and desires among people for such a change which

should be reflected in their attitude and behavior. There should be strong pressure groups to see that the change is accepted and lastly the law enforcing agency should have the strength and the commitment to see that these social legislations are implemented effectively.

Even after forty-five years we have not been able to realize the main goals of the constitution of India. The Social legislations are there but effective implementation is lacking.

The Dowry Prohibition law was passed in 1961 and though according to 1978 Government Statistics no case were registered, for violation of it, we know that dowry has become more or less an integral part of our social system. Despite, anti dowry demonstration and campaign to rouse public opinion against this social evil, Dowry crime are on the increase. Newspaper everyday reports deaths of women by burning. D.P. Police records for 1978 list 380 cases of women dying of burns, Since then the number is on increase.

The constitution of India gave attention to the needs and problems of women and the parliament enacted a number of laws to protect women and their interests. In 1983 some important changes were incorporated in the IPC and the criminal procedure code. As per this Act, Cruelty in terms of mental and Physical torture abutment to suicide of a woman by her Husband or Husband's relatives can be punished with imprisonment for a term up to three years and be liable for fines. This act also provides for a through enquiry by a police officer of the death of women within 7 years of marriage. The police officers are also empowered to order a post mortem of dead body in such cases. It is against this background that one has to find out ways and means of effectively implementing laws relating to women. A nation cannot claim to be progressive if half of its population is exploited the way it is done in India.

The problem is a very complicated and comprehensive one. The law enforcement agency should be made more effective in tackling the problem in the right perspective as observed earlier more existence of social legislation does not ensure their effective implementation. It is partly the responsibility of the law enforcement agency to see that the laws are enforcement in the right spirit.

The need for women police has been accepted all over the world both in developed and developing countries from the point of its social importance or equal employment opportunities for woman but also from that of management. The functions of woman police at the first instance relate to women suspects, accused and victims of crime. While in the case of women suspects, criminals, women police is used mainly to protect the honour of women and to save them from molestation. In case of victims of crimes, especially those involved in cases of rape harassment by husband-in-laws women police have special role to play and it is here that they can help in bringing a subtle social change.

The women Police have great potential to cool-defuse and deescalate many situation. In non-combative roles requiring restraints, patience and endurance, they can be easily employed. They are specially needed in area where police come in contact

with women so as to prevent complaints of indignity and misbehavior towards women. The presence of women in police stations will greatly help in giving better attention to the service aspects of police work.

A detailed analysis of the function assigned to women police by the national police commission itself will prove that there is a lot of scope for women police to act as agent of socio-political change.

The National Police Commission has entrusted handling and investigation cases involving vice or sexual offences such as rape, trafficking in women and sexual-offences against children.

Now day's cases of sexual offences have been on the increase. Even the protectors of law (police) are involved in these offences. To book the culprit it is essential evidence is established and proper enquiry is conducted. It is generally observed that formal enquiries may not lead the police officer to unearth the truth. Hence informal means will have to be adopted. A man may try to suppress facts. It is for the women police to get a true picture and help the victims. The very purpose of the law will be defeated if these cases are not bandied with perspicacity. By helping the victims of sexual offences women police can bring a suitable change in the behaviour of men.

Trafficking among women is an all India phenomenon and continues as before. The police are helpless in preventing it. Women police with determination can definitely find out ways and means to rescue the women from the clutches of such persons and try to arrest this social evil to some extent.

Another area of functions of women police which has been rightly, highlighted by the national police commission pertains to the role of women police as social workers. The commission has entrusted to women police. Social work and child welfare.....Liaison works with social welfare organisation/voluntary organisations and assisting women and children in distressing. Acceptance of the role of women police as social workers is a clear indication that women police is expected to be an agent of social and political change.

Initially the police entrusted women with a very limited role in cases relating women and children. Most of the state police departments tried the tentative employment of a few women, often untrained and without police powers for selected duties. Next came recognizing of their value in dealing with important cases relating to women and children. After realizing the advantages of the system, they were given police training and police powers.

The women police can also play a very constructive role as an agent of socio-political change in establishing truth in cases of unnatural and dowry deaths of women, bride burning etc. It is known fact that truth is always suppressed in such cases and unless extraordinary pains are taken, culprits cannot be punished and if culprit can escape punishment the very purposes of social legislation is lost.

While we harp on the fact the future of the country depends on the young boys and girls, juvenile delinquency is on the increase. These youngsters need proper care and treatment as they belong to a very sensitive age group. They need love and affection, sympathetic attitude and patience. If proper

treatment is not given to them they degenerate into hard core criminals, having an adverse impact on the society as whole. It has been realized that in all cases of juvenile delinquency more and more women police should be associated. If women police can help these children in becoming good citizens this will automatically bring a lasting change in the society, Dr. Kiran Redi (a women police officer; IPS) ushered reformation in Tihar Jail and reforms were positive and brought about a welcome change from the prison drudgery.

Confirming with the principle that prevention is always better than cure, National Police the commission has entrusted a very important task to women police of giving talks to children in schools, on crime prevention, road safety etc. It is being done in big cities. There is need to spread in whole of the state. The prevention of crime helps in establishing a better society of the country.

As already pointed out police in India still suffer from the social stigma, more over the police" community relations had never been cordial. Most of the people have no confidence in police. What is needed is to cultivate cordial police-public relations and the national police commission has rightly chosen women in policing for this task.

Thus women police can serve as agent of change in many ways, but it needed changes in the recruitment and training policies.

As training stand today the recruitment policy puts emphasis on physical strength of the candidates. The various tests, which are prescribed for the recruitment of women police, try to examine stamina of the candidates. There is no method to test the other qualities which are essential for women police to perform their function as women e.g. patience, politeness, sympathetic attitude, better understanding of the human nature etc.

More than recruitment, it is training which will deep impact on the attitude and behaviour of women police. As stated, the women police by and large receive the same training as man police take except that in some case physical training is less strenuous. The syllabi of both man and women police training is the same, despite the need women police do not receive many special training to handle cases like bride burning, molestation etc.

The environments in which women police are trained make them tough police officer. The police in generally associated with the exhibition of muscle force and women police do not want to lag behind men police in this respect. They are never prevailed upon that they should exhibit feminine qualities like patience, tolerance, sympathetic and helpful attitude and a concern for human beings especially for women and children. The net result of such training is that turns soft and polite women into hard police officer.

To sum up it may be said that in spite of various limitation women police can play a very effective role as an instrument of socio-political change. The change may not be very visible at the beginning but it will have lasting effects. There should be a re-examination of the present policies pertaining to women police to achieve the pious objectives of welfare and social change.

Conclusion

The environments in which women police are trained make them tough police officer. The police in generally associated with the exhibition of muscle force and women police do not want to lag behind men police in this respect. They are never prevailed upon that they should exhibit feminine qualities like patience, tolerance, sympathetic and helpful attitude and a concern for human beings especially for women and children. The net result of such training is that turns soft and polite women into hard police officer. To sum up it may be said that in spite of various limitation women police can play a very effective role as an instrument of socio-political change. The change may not be very visible at the beginning but it will have lasting effects. There should be a re-examination of the present policies pertaining to women police to achieve the pious objectives of welfare and social change.

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