

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this Chapter an attempt is made to draw the conclusions arrived on the basis of the study. This Chapter highlights on the problems faced by the women police as well as police administration in general. Challenges before police administration in 21st century is touched briefly and a few recommendations for the improvement of women police for their efficient performance are made.

Problems Faced By Women Police :

During fieldwork women police came out with various problems while performing their duties. These problems can be listed as below :

- 1) Women police face certain personal problems, which are quite different from men police such as problems connected with monthly periods, pregnancy, family responsibilities etc. It is very difficult to perform hard duties during these situations particularly, monthly periods and pregnancy. During these period even sitting continuously for wireless duties is also very difficult.

- 2) Police force is on 12 hours duty. In fact in emergency they are on duty for 24 hours. Due to heavy workload they cannot have weekly holidays. All this affects their efficiency in general and those of women police in particular.
- 3) While on traffic duty, they face many problems. If they do not have vehicles, it is difficult for them to catch people violating traffic rules because chasing the culprits by foot is a difficult task.
- 4) Though women police have friendly and cordial relations with their men colleagues. Incidences of misbehaviors, maltreatment, rivalries, do occur some times.
- 5) Though in fieldwork it is observed that women police have very healthy relations with their police officers at police stations however, it is hinted that there are possibilities of maltreatment by the officers.
- 6) One of the severe problems faced by women police is in most of the police stations they do not have separate latrines, or rest rooms.

Recommendation To Improve Conditions Of Women Police :

1. While allotting duties to women police problems such as monthly periods, pregnancy, and family problems should be considered.
2. While fixing duty hours also above problems should be taken into consideration, so that efficiency of women police will not be suffer.
3. Vehicles should be provided to women police on traffic duty.
4. Women police are an asset to the department. Their number may be increased particularly in urban areas.
5. Working environment in police stations should be humane and minimum facilities should be provided in all police stations i.e. rest-cum-lunch room (the same may be used as dressing room), toilet facilities, candles and gas lanterns etc.
6. If police force is ready to use the association for the purpose of redressing their grievances and not for allegation, they may be permitted to form the association. At least women police should be allowed to have an association at the district level so that many unique problems with reference to women can be solved.

7. Finally, providing leadership and motivation the rank and file though depends upon the capacity of the superior officer most of them are interested in gloating regarding their status. If they try to improve the situation they can do it. They must win over their subordinates by understanding their problems and encourage them in their work instead of fault finding they should be positively react towards their subordinates and help them to correct their mistakes.
8. Public also should discharge their responsibility towards society in co-operating with women police specially in prevention and detection of crime. Police Force alone cannot fight lawlessness and crime in society.

Challenges For Police Regarding Women In The 21st Century:

The people have great expectations from the police, as it is an ubiquitous grievance redressal machinery of the government, having the most frequent contact with the daily life of the people. However, an attitude of superciliousness permeates its rank. Majority of policemen treat people with contempt or apathy, and are not averse to abusing their lawful authority from sadism or arrogance, from over enthusiastic, ham-handed or sheer thoughtless performance of duty, or for illegal gain. Trigger-happy

brutality is not uncommon while quelling disorder. Custodial torture and death are frequent occurrences. In their mistaken zeal to achieve results, policemen cut corners and use extra-judicial methods for investigation and crime-control. Such attitudes, conduct and behavior of policemen as well as decline in the quality of performance have soured the police-people relationship. Most people avoid contact with the police.

The major challenges before the police since the time of Independence has been to: (1) achieve openness and transparency in its functioning (2) Show greater professionalism in its conduct and operations; (3) eschew rude and abusive behavior (4) exercise restraint in the use of force., and (5) be impartial and fair in their daily conduct. This challenge is even bigger today, when the egalitarian spirit of the times has sharpened the people's awareness of their rights.

The emerging social, economic and cultural milieu has thrown up challenges of a newer kind before the police administration of the country. Its task is no more confined to maintaining law and order. It encompasses now a greater responsibility of coping with the awareness and fostering the new social order in more responsive and humane way. Latest

advancement in technology and pace of communication call for bracing up of the resources and forces.

There was considerable variance in the recording of incidents of crime against women. Crime against woman has remained sealed in the police records because of various reasons including the reluctance of the victims to come to the police station to report. Barring exceptions the general attitude in the lower cadre of the civil police towards the victims of atrocities and particularly women is no different from the general masses.

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Study :

- 1) There is a necessity to review the system of manning the investigating machinery and the prosecution branch in the State civil police to make it more responsive to women victims of atrocities. It is necessary that the State police should revise the strength of their investigating officers and have a fair mix of women investigating officers working side by side with their male counterparts. This mix of sex in the investigating cadre should be developed by filling up existing vacancies with women officers of suitable basic qualifications as well as by marginal addition augment in areas of extreme deficiency. However, it should be realized that it is not possible to have a

parallel force of women investigating officers as this would not only be inconvenient in management but would lead to a division of duties in the work of police investigation which we do not desire. Women police officers should be posted as investigating officers in all police stations in urban areas where the urban population is above 1 Lakh. The States may devise systems suitable to them keeping in view the local needs, and facilities to post women police officers of lower rank in police stations in rural or semi-urban areas. Special training in public relations be imparted to the women police officers as part of their basic training.

- 2) We reiterate that women victims should not be put in the police stations premises at night pending their questioning and the rules already existing in the police manuals or orders of the State ISGP should be strictly enforced. The State IGP should take review of existing orders to ensure that they have practical applicability.
- 3) The instances of police officers (where such a practice exists) asking women victims of atrocities to appear at police stations or to report in writing personally at the police stations, should be dispensed with. Police offices under the Acts are empowered to record FIR if they receive information of a crime

on their own. This practice should be applied in the cases of atrocities against women. Written reports sent to the police station by couriers or mail from women victims in particular should be accepted as FIR and not kept for enquiries under section 154 cr.P.C. It is commended because a large number of complaints received on atrocities against women are filed after enquiry in police records, which are not of a permanent nature and therefore, will escape future surveys and research activity.

- 4) The States/UTs should develop their departments of serology in their Forensic Science Laboratories to meet the challenge of quick results and easy, accessibility of police officers to this facility for women victims of atrocities particularly in rape cases. Where possible an outpost of the Forensic Laboratory dealing with examination in serological and chemical divisions should be considered.
- 5) Crime against women such as rape, kidnapping, abduction, abetment to suicide, dowry acts, procurement of minor girls, unnatural offences involving women, import and export of girls, buying / selling of minors for the purposes of prostitution already being treated as "special Report cases" should be

taken for direct cognizance and attention of the senior supervisory police officers.

- 6) A time limit of 90 days should be fixed for completion of the police investigation with a maximum period of further 30 days for the security and filling of the case by the prosecution agency in the criminal courts.
- 7) In most of the States / UTs cases of rape and kidnapping are tried at the sessions courts. State/UTs are recommended to review the case for delay in the prosecution and trial of cases falling under these categories and if there is difficulty in having a continuous trial. Where the State laws do not treat criminal cases of atrocities on women triable by Sessions Judge as in the cases under the Dowry Act and abetment to suicide. Such cases, we recommend, should be made triable by the sessions courts.
- 8) The trial of rape and kidnapping cases should preferably be held in camera on an application being moved by the victim and the publication of the proceedings of the court should be kept confidential in such cases.
- 9) There is a need for review of the punishment prescribed for the atrocities against women under the various sections of the Indian Penal Code and a maximum sentence must now be

considered for the accused. The maximum punishment prescribed at present in some cases also requires to be revised upwards. Where rape is committed by more than one person with careful planning and with severe barbarity it is recommended that death penalty or transportation for life as the punishment.

- 10) The system of rehabilitation of victims of atrocities is quite deficient in our country. It is necessary that rehabilitation centers should be set up in each State at the division level with properly trained staff. Hostel facilities at the State expense should be given to such victims until they themselves request for discharge. The pattern should be on similar lines as the rescue homes without the prison line fortifications.
- 11) It is also necessary to have the presence of a social psychiatrist during the trial proceedings to assist the victim to tender her evidence in court. The social psychiatrist will not be subject to any questioning or interpretation from the defense. His or her role should be to assist the victim in overcoming any problems or emotional disturbances during the trial proceedings.

- 12) We recommend that all police investigating officers should henceforth be sent through at least a short course in social psychology and in the treatment of abused victims.
- 13) Kolhapur Police has started its web site from 2nd April, 2002 called "Kolhapurpolice.com" where limited information about Kolhapur police is provided. The quality and quantity of information should be increased so that it will help the women's organisations, researchers and general public to get an idea about how the police force is working and help the police more constructively.
- 14) Finally, last but not least, the problem of corruption also needs special attention. While conducting fieldwork the researcher observed many reasons, such as insufficient salary, over burden of work, risk in the work as well as greediness of man. To root out this problem we recommend that a review of salary of police personnel, duty hours, nature of work etc. should be done by appointing a Commission by the Government.