

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Generally the term "Police" has been defined as a formal government organization responsible for enforcing the laws of society and maintaining peace. The definition encompasses the local (Municipal, Country), State and federal policing agencies. Police force has three types of basic duties to perform viz. maintain law and order, investigate crime and protection of life and property of the citizens.

Police department was established in 1861 in India by the British mainly to safeguard their rule. The traumatic experience of the mutiny of 1857, made the British to devise a police system to secure their rule with an iron hand. However, after independence the entire flow of State activity acquired development perspective. Now, the police has to perform their role which is appropriate for a democratic self – governing country and they are not merely to reflect the strength and the glory of administration.

In India maintenance of law and order and internal security is primarily the responsibility of State government⁽¹⁾. It is to detect and prevent crimes. Each State maintains strong police force which is headed by a Director General of Police / Inspector

General of Police. For the purpose of maintaining law and order, each State is divided into ranges and each range is controlled by Deputy Inspector General of Police. Range is further divided into Division, Districts, and Circles. In cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta there is a system of Police Commissioner, where police functions under the direct control of a Police Commissioner. He also enjoys several magisterial powers. Senior police officers belong to Indian Police Service cadre and as such they are all India Service personnel and their conditions of services are regulated by the Central Government. Other police officers are recruited by the State Government itself. Main functions of police as per Bombay Police Manual a model Police Station should discharge seventeen types of duties. They are :

The Functions Of Police Station⁽²⁾:

- 1) Station duties
- 2) Investigation of crime
- 3) Prosecution
- 4) Writer staff (taking down complaints)
- 5) Copying
- 6) Surveillance
- 7) Summons and warrant

- 8) Traffic duty
- 9) Ordalies duties
- 10) Town patrolling
- 11) Chowky duty
- 12) Flying squads
- 13) Railway station duty
- 14) Beat duty
- 15) Police station escort
- 16) Outpost duty
- 17) A) Court escort
B) Night patrol
- 18) Miscellaneous duty

A country which aims at establishing a welfare State, police functions are expected to be more comprehensive as to touch every facet of life. Due to the development of the concept of welfare State, their functions of police have increased further. Thus, police force has to perform multifarious functions. Obviously, this calls for very careful manpower planning particularly at the police station level. However, work distribution depends upon the availability of persons.

Need For Women Police :

The last quarter of the 20th century constituting the final moments of the old millenium witnessed dramatic changes in the situation and position of Indian women. Now we see women in every field of work shoulder to shoulder with men. In spite of more than 50 years of independence our country is not free of social evils such as crimes, corruption, terrorism, communalism. Crime against women such as dowry deaths, all types of sexual exploitation and harassment are on the increase. To add to this, a new trend has developed i. e. stabbing, burning, and acid throwing by young men resulting from one sided love or other reasons. In a society where relationship between men and women are still grounded in gender inequality the new false image of the modern "liberal" women promoted by a section of entertainment and mass communication industries has in turn spawned fresh forms of sexual exploitation.

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T_rough such issues have been raised by many voluntary organizations committed to the development and security of women. In a developing country like India the main responsibility falls on the shoulders of police administration. Keeping this in

view, after independence many of the States have recruited women in police force.

Importance of Women Police :

Women police play an important role in society. Particularly in urban areas for the sake of livelihood women in large number go outside. Safety of women in public places such as bus stands, railway stations, bazars, busy streets, cinema halls, schools and colleges and rush hours cannot be neglected. Women police are extremely helpful in detecting dowry death, molestation, rape etc. In searching and investigating women criminals, escorting women prisoners to courts and hospitals and in monitoring processions they play an important role. They also help in reducing complaints from public regarding treatment given to lady prisoners in police stations. They are effective in mob control due to the fact that society by and large respects women and mob do not become very aggressive when women police are present. Women are by and large duty conscious and honest in their work. They are also used to such type of duties like wireless and computer operation, office work etc. which befits their stamina. Taking into consideration above factors there is a need to study the role and functioning of women police in society is felt.

Thus keeping in view all these factors this study tries to understand the role and functioning of women police in Kolhapur city. The researcher try to study the problem from historical perspective. The study will cover the period from 1995 to 2000. The study try to throw light on some aspects of personnel administration, relationship between women police and their men colleagues, public opinion and police – public relationships as also the problems faced by women police. The study also try to assess the approach of women police towards crime against women.

Police Scenario In Maharashtra – An Overview :

Maharashtra State has the total area of 3,09,790 Sq. Kms. With a total population of 9,38,39,000 (1997). The ratio of police men (One lakh) per unit area i. e. 100 Sq. Kms. and per unit population is 46.3 and 153 respectively. Police force as sanctioned on 31.12.1998 is 3,231 which is 2.25 % of sanctioned police strength. The ratio of the lady police officers to women police force is 1:14.7 out of a total of 221 women police at Kolhapur range, Kolhapur District has 69 women police⁽³⁾.

In the State on an average 134 policemen are there per lakh population. For Kolhapur district it is only 65. However, average work load per investigating officer in the State is 15.60. In Kolhapur district it is hardly 10.28. This indicates that sanctioned strength is not sufficient when compared to the position of the State as a whole⁽⁴⁾.

Kolhapur District contributes hardly 1.6 % (1998) to cognizable crimes in the State. The incidences of torture followed by molestation, rape and dowry death is the current trend in crimes against women in the district contributing 1.3%, 1.5 %, 2.8 % and 7.4 % respectively⁽⁵⁾.

Generally, the investigation of cases and offenses is primarily done by the subordinate civil police officers i. e. police Inspectors to Head Constable in District and Commissionerate. The total strength of investigation officers is 38.347. For the year 1998 total IPC cases investigated is 2,28,517. The work load per investigation officer works out to be 1:5.95. For example, 3,64,445 SSL cases were investigated during 1998. The average work load per investigating officer is 1:9.50⁽⁶⁾.

Data And Methodology :

This study deals with role and functioning of women police in Kolhapur city and aims to confine its attention to the areas in which women police personnel are used in a large number. This is mainly due to the fact that the approach made use of is the case study technique restricted to the inquiry regarding the role and functioning of women police in Kolhapur City only. The required data is collected through following means :

The primary data is collected through usual social survey techniques, i. e. structured and unstructured interviews with a few selected officials who are in service having sufficient experience and knowledge about the subject. The data provided by women police and the organisations in the city connected with the problems of women. Random survey of about forty people of different age groups through unstructured interviews in the jurisdiction of four city police stations were conducted. The data is quantified, analysed and evaluated.

Secondary data, include published and unpublished documents, reports etc. of Government of Maharashtra and Government of India and various agencies related to police or police administration as well as related literature found in news papers and periodicals, journals etc.

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Chaperisation :

The Chapter II in sequence provides profile of police organisation in Kolhapur city. It discusses the subject from historical angle and the development of police organisation to the present day and the connected matters.

The Chapter III, Police Personnel Administration deals with the problems of personnel administration covering the process of recruitment to retirement including employer – employee relations.

Chapter IV deals with role and functioning of women police in Kolhapur city and the connected problems.

Chapter V deals with public opinion and public relations. This Chapter deals with the expectation of public from different strata of society from the police personnel particularly from women police.

The concluding Chapter VI outlines the conclusions arrived on the basis of the study. This Chapter highlights the problems of women police as well as a few recommendations for the improvement of women police for their efficient performance.

REFERENCES

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- 3) Government of Maharashtra, State Crime Records Bureau (Pune), Crime in Maharashtra, 1998 P. 20, PP 373 – 74, P 380.
- 4) Ibid, PP 12 – 13.
- 5) Information provided by Police Head quarters, Kolhapur dated 09/01/2003.
- 6) Government of Maharashtra, State Crime Records Bureau (Pune), Crime in Maharashtra, 1998 P 374.