

## TRANSFORMATION IN POLICE FUNCTIONING: INDIAN PERSPECTIVE OF COMMUNITY POLICING

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**Abstract:** The corporation amongst the community and the police as per the Community Policing policy has been addressed as worthwhile policy to take care of the safety and security matters. As India pursues to support its Community Policing program, it is recommended that an examination and understanding of parallel efforts in related contexts shall bring forward significant lessons for the preparation and application of Community Policing Policy. Muller perceives in relation to Mexico, Latin America as well as to India, 'the agreement on the helpfulness of community policing between politicians, civil society and the public to cultivate security and the relationship amongst the public and the police may help replication from a on the examination and precarious assessments concerning the application of community policing programs in other developing nations'[1]. This paper anticipates to make a contribution to this replication.

**Keywords:** Macro indicator, Kalman filter, stock returns, time-varying-parameter, dynamic model.

### INTRODUCTION

Community policing basically can be defined as normal policing of a society in consultation, collaboration and partnership with the community as a whole. The core of community policing is to reduce the gap amongst the police and citizens to such a degree that the policemen becomes a combined part of the community which they serve. They get recognition and confidence of the society which further results in unstructured collaboration from the people who are involved in crime prevention and security within the local area[2].

### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The objective of this paper is:

- To comprehend what Community Policing means.
- To evaluate the past of Community Policing in India.
- To examine the practices of Community policing in varied states of India and draw their enactment.

### CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY POLICING

Community policing is a substitute policing approach, which is established on the norms of crime prevention through which community participation results in crime prevention as well as enhancement in the complete quality of life within their neighborhood. The main aim behind establishing the concept of community policing was to make both the people and the police cooperate with one another before any grave problem ascends. Community policing is a valuable concept and an instrument to alter the image of the police, make a stronger police force and generate changes in the approach of both within the force and also between the public and police.

Community policing offers regionalized, modified policing services to the community. It cannot be treated as a system which needs to be applied and rejected, but needs to be perceived as a new approach which is vibrant, flexible and modifies depending upon the requirements of the community. The extensive role of police department within the community policing requires constant and tireless communication with the people in the community, so that unitedly they are able to stop illegal activities. People belonging to the community function as supporters and volunteers and the community policing officer also perform as a connection to public. [3]Community policing is vital and necessity of the day, hence almost every nation has adopted different types as well as arrangements of community policing but the focal idea continuous to be the same.

Community policing is beneficial in specially three areas which are Community- specific benefits which includes documentation and perseverance of community apprehensions, possession of local difficulties, enhanced local physical and social atmosphere and reduced fear of crime. Whereas benefits in relation to the police shall include an improved police-community relationship, optimistic view points regarding the police, a community observation of police “suitability” and most importantly, a growth in the job contentment of police offers. Benefits includes reduced potential regarding the police-citizen conflict, a drop in crime rates and also increase in not only passing of information but also creating more sources for the same amongst the police and community.

The main ideology behind creating the concept of community policing is to decrease the gap amid the policemen as well as the citizens to the extent that the police attains the position of becoming a very significant part of the community it serves. Hence in order to accomplish this, each and every policeman in charge of a particular area should be well aware of all the members of the community and he needs to be recognized by them [4].

An environment comprising of both harmony as well as trust, along with both privacy and hostility, is essential. Certain researchers have contended that community policing, as a model is very multifaceted as it involves applicational over the police department and not just in certain selected units of officers. It is difficult as it

needs the different levels within the police department, to be in synchronize with the community it serves. Lastly, it is difficult since it requires the police agencies to handle certain tasks like meeting the community, permitting the communities to agree the police operations or highlight order preservation above the law implementation and along with these additional duties the police department needs to still do their duties which they have been managing for past many years but differently.”

Community policing actually is an exemplar shift. Though community policing engages a different types of approaches and strategies, the right principle of community policing is similar to the adhesive that clutches these policies and procedures together. The fundamental unit of community policing needs to be geographically as well as demographically condensed enough to allow a foot-patrolman to be well aware of everyone within a realistic span of time and in turn be acknowledged by every member within the community. The policing and security requirements of a condensed geographical area can be effortlessly recognized and catered to by engaging local assets. This form of knowledge shall also restrict the commonness of indigenous anti-social behavior, also along with this it shall keep outsiders at bay. Proactive action is the other main feature of community policing [5].

Proactive steps shall result in the development of not only co-operation but also partnership in order to prevent crime and preserve the security within the specific area. These steps shall help in the community police officer to earn the acceptance as well as the trust of the community. Finally, his very existence within the area shall prevent crime and disorganized behavior. With this achievement, the community surely will accept the police officer’s authority. With this kind of strong relationship the community shall become united (a reason which is visible due to its nonexistence from today’s urban settlements) and therefore the citizens’ will have the ability to find a solution to their conflicts without the involving the police. This can become a big factor where by the conflicts can be reduced to a great [6].

## **1. HISTORY OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN INDIA**

Factually police in our nation has frequently been

considered as unethical, incompetent, ruthless and many a times as criminal. As a consequence, the faith and lawfulness within the people has been very low. Simultaneously, public security as well safety has gradually gained significant importance for many Indians. Almost every day different types of cases of crime and threat are reported in the media. This type of threat is not restricted to any specific social class, though the poor are more prone as they have limited prospects to safeguard themselves and are more vulnerable.

Since quite few years India has been a primitive society with some tradition whereby placing authority to certain peoples. [7]. Formation of a police organization and allotment of certain specific powers of law implementation, along with precautionary, analytical and impeaching responsibilities can be traced back to “Kautilya”.

Consequently even during the era of the Mughals, police was considered lower in ranking in comparison to the military and also collection of the revenue was given the main importance. Due to these circumstances the citizens enclosed themselves within their community and became independent. It was at this time the commands given by the rulers were followed without any kind of confrontation as they were mainly regarding the collection of income and not concerning good governance as such. This type of attitude and thought process amongst the rulers and the people existed during the period of both the “Mughals” as well as the “British”. Over the time substituted the semi military model of policing with civil police system. All the people belonging to different castes were self-sufficient as everyone had a specific task to perform. This helped in fulfilling the complete requirements of the society. Though the citizens did not have any role to play in the affairs of governance during both the Mughal as well as the British era.

Within the agriculture dominated Indian society policing was peaceful by nature and did not have any major issue. Being a self-contained society all the requirement as well as the needs were taken care at the local levels by the means of different mediums like the “Panchayats”. It was only later during the British rule that when there was an increase in the violent crimes like dacoities/robberies

(by “Thugs”) that a need was felt to establish an official police force within India. Originally the policing was done in a very fundamental form though later it developed to become more advanced and professional.

Few of the significant milestones within the journey of introduction of an official police system within India are mentioned as under.

Incorporation of a police system in Sindh during the year 1843, it was almost like the royal Irish Constabulary. The three Collectorates of Sindh viz. Hyderabad, Karachi and Shikarpur were located under a British military officer having a European sub-collector under each one of them. The main function of these officers was to execute functions and duties related to both the revenue and police functions and also had the authority to judge the minor criminal cases. Though at the district level police was under the command of a European lieutenant who was completely responsible to the Provincial Police Chief (a British army officer) and through him to the Chief Commissioner. Severe crimes were tried by a military commission[8].

The extension of this in Bombay was further undertaken by Governor in 1848. He recommended that the office was required to be built for the Commissioner of Police for Mumbai and Superintendents of Police in-charge of police at the district level, who shall be functioning under the authority of the district magistrate. He also re-energized the concept of rural policing and most of his recommendations were presented during the years between 1852 and 1855[9].

Police Commission of 1860 suggested a standardized police system which shall have great effects. It eliminated the concept of military police, suggested civil law enforcement having district based police system. According to this new developed arrangement the Inspector General was to be the complete in-charge of the jurisdiction along with the district superintendents who had to function under the overall control and management of the district magistrates. As per this system the positions of Inspectors, Head constable, Sergeants and Constables were generated. Preservation of village police was another significant feature[10].

Indian Penal Code during 1860 was presented with

specific definition of every specific crime and this lead to formation of a well-organized criminal justice system within the country[11].

Police Act of 1861 was created on the suggestion given by the Police Commission 1860. Inspector general of police was given the responsibility for efficient functioning, discipline as well as the well-organized running of police within the state. The para-military arrangement paved way for the district police units with standardization in the complete country. Posts such as of Head constable, Sergeants and Constables were also created. Police lines for staff along with funds for the uniforms were also introduced. The association and structure established was quite a success in effectively regulating fierce crime such as robberies and dacoities[12].

Indian Evidence Act 1872 included the law of evidence for escalating the investigation being done by the police and offered the same in the courts. This Act is even today valid and is being used though certain minor changes have taken place.[13]

Second Police Commission of 1902 established the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the posts of Range Deputy Inspector Generals (DIGs) was created by distributing the province into ranges. Along with this the Commission further made the Railway Police, the cadre of Sub Inspectors and Armed Police for every district head quarter. This system was present even during the Independence. Islington 1912 and Lee Commissions 1924 were declared. Their suggestions resulted in getting considerable recruitment of Indians within the police force.

Independence of India in 1947 and announcement of the Constitution in 1950 are a significant milestones in the journey of Indian police. Safeguard of Fundamental Rights became the very significant part of the duty of the Indian police. This modification from British rule (dictatorship) to democracy transformed the environment totally. Now the Law enforcement which was earlier considered to be an instrument for suppressing the local population became answerable to public[14]. This transformation of the police role has taken significant time to combine and citizens carry on with the fear of the police in spite of its hard work to depict itself as a

“service” and not “power”.

The selection of the Kerala Police Re-Organization Committee in 1949 was followed by a succession of Police Commissions appointed by various State Governments, primarily during the sixties as well as the seventies. Local Acts, accumulation of State Police Manuals also continued, resulting in the law enforcement being a constant the state subject.

Criminal Procedure Code of 1973 was an additional most important effort to reorganize the investigative and court trial techniques. It gave consistency and clearly laid down the constraint on state vis-a-vis rights of citizens.

The National Police Commission in 1977, was the very first after our nation had gained Independence and was headed by Sh. Dharam Vira. Under this eight reports had been produced and suggested revamping of police working. The Commission expected to professionalize the police department and recommended methods that can help in decreasing the political intervention, making the working of the police not only transparent but also accountable. Though some of the main suggestions have not been executed. Different national as well as the state level committees have operated without bringing about the significant modifications within the police system.

## **EXPERIENCES OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN DIFFERENT STATES OF INDIA**

In India, the schemes and programs for increasing people's involvement in policing have been organized in different States. Few of them have been mention below:-

1. It was in the state of Kerala that the Crime Prevention Committees were established at the police station level in 1998 to deliberate regarding the crime related problems locality-wise in order to control crime. The Kerala police has also introduced a special program known as Student Traffic Education Programme. [15]
2. Whereas in the capital Delhi at both Thana Level as well as the District Level Committees were formed in every police station and also in every district to encourage communication amongst the police and the public. The Thana

- Level Committees fall under the jurisdiction of the current area MLAs while the District Level Committees fell under the Members of Parliament. Meetings are held every month where the representatives of the public are also included. [16]
3. While in the state of Karnataka, in order to strengthen the police and public relation a Neighborhood Watch Scheme has been launched. These initiative shall also help in decreasing property related crime and juvenile delinquency as the youth of the country will be involved in the policing activities. [17]
  4. The police of the Tamil Nadu state have introduced “Friends of Police” movement. This will further help in increasing the participation of the citizens in the crime prevention work. The prime motive behind introduction of this program is to not only create but also maintain a close contact with the people and produce a sense of civic responsibility amongst them in order to restraint crime. [18]
  5. In the state of Gujarat a scheme of Gram Rakshak Dal was launched. By this scheme, the villagers who were complying the prescribed qualification of age, literacy and physical fitness will be appointed as members of Gram Rakshak Dal as per the provision of section 63 (b) of the Bombay Police Act, 1951 (as valid to the State of Gujarat). They execute duties significant to crime prevention in the village. [19]
  6. In the state of Punjab the police assimilated the concept of community policing and is making efforts to give a human face to the force. A CRPC system including all the services at a particular platform was established in the Punjab police during the month of February 2003. The community Policing Centre is listed as an independent society along with the corporation with representatives of the police, the government as well as the civil society. From the origin of community policing in the state of Punjab the Community and the Police jointly accomplished the Community Policing Resource Centre. [20]
  7. Even in the state of Haryana the Police has been making efforts to make the concept of community policing a success. For example the Government Railway Police Haryana has established GRP rail warden association under the leadership of Bharti Arora SSP GRP Haryana. Different people belonging to various sectors of the society for example like the daily passengers, auto rickshaw drivers and vendors have been chosen as rail wardens and perform their duty and responsibilities efficiently towards decreasing crime and this is one of their prime motive. These selected rail wardens work under the management of their particular S.H.O and continuously observe the people who have the potential to commit crime. In order to encourage them they are also awarded. [21]
  8. In the state of Andhra Pradesh ‘Maithri’ is the name under which the policy of Community Policing has been launched. ‘Maithri’ initiated in the year 2000 in the state. This programme has achieved great success as after the introduction of this program people started appreciating the police - public partnership in making the society safer. By the year March, 2004 almost 32 per cent of the population were protected under the program of Maithri, having around 7200 Maithri Committees which included almost 3 lakh citizens as the members. [22]
  9. In the state of Arunachal Pradesh since past few years different activities have been started in Roing (Lower Dibang Valley District) by the District Police as part of its Community Policing. The initial activity was the “Youth Leadership Training Program” which had been launched with the assistance of an NGO known as “Art of Living”. This was a workshop for 6 days with 3 hours every day involves self improvement and pressure

dismissal programs. Applicants which may also include children benefited from the program. The next activity in the course of community policing was the morals portrayed through the medium of a video which had been created by the NGO “The Way to Happiness”. [23]

10. In Assam the concept of Community policing has been applied in a much intensive manner since the year 1950. The launch of the Village Defense Organization was the initiative of late Hari Narayan Baruah. VDO was officially established with the acceptance of the Village Defense Act of the year 1960. Currently there are around 11,000 Village Defense Parties and each party has around 10 individuals as their member and are functioning in the state of Assam and executing yeomen's services along with the police in order to prevent and detect crime and also preservation of law and order. [24]
11. The state of Bihar has also made efforts to develop a well-developed community policing initiatives. The CID Branch of Bihar Police along with the Ladli Foundation developed the concept of Women Community Police to offer a safe and secure environment to the people. The main motive behind this was to make women familiar with Police and that they are able to completely understand the system followed by the police to eliminate the taboo regarding having a direct interaction with either the police station or the policemen. For this enterprise, girls who were studying in various colleges of Patna were identified and trained as volunteers. They were issued ID Cards authorized by the Bihar Police and were named as Ladli Cops. [25]
12. While in the state of Chhattisgarh the police have successfully used the method of community policing to decrease incidences like road accidents, cyber- crimes and sexual violence against women. In the district of Balod, the Superintendent of Police (SP) Arif Sheikh IPS initiated three movements under the authority mission known as Navodaya. This campaign won Arif the "oscar" of community policing. It was a proud moments as it was his efforts which also got laurels to the first Indian police team as it won the CISCO International Association of Chief of Police's international award for community policing. [26]
13. The state of Goa Police's initiative of community policing was known as the “Little Police”. This was launched to remove the long standing fear psychosis which had been created in the minds of children while communicating with the police. This initiative has also been awarded the Special Jury Award (Smart Policing Award) by FICCI for being the best practices for policing. [27]
14. In the state of Himachal Pradesh community policing was practiced at four different levels namely (a) beat, (b) police station, (c) sub-division and (d) district. Beat policing teams included both the citizens and the police men in order to achieve reduction in the crime within the beats. Community Policing Committees of the police stations, “Sahyog Yojna” for teaming up with other agencies/youth and “Smmarath Yojana” for distinct cooperation with women/girls at sub-divisional level, “Maitri Yojna” (Victim and witness care scheme) created at the district headquarters were some of the initiatives taken under the community policing scheme of himachal Pradesh. Though there has been no evaluation of the functioning of these forums. [28]
15. In the state of Jammu & Kashmir, an experimental project on community - oriented policing scheme was initiated in the city of Jammu. The main aim behind this initiative was to encourage optimistic communication and create stronger bonds amongst the police and the public. Another important aim behind this was to reduce and detect the crime with the help of the citizens. By this scheme, a police-

public squad shall be established for every sector / colony. Certain volunteer citizens shall represent the people and build up a stronger bond amongst the police and public and to include the citizens in the working towards crime prevention and detection. [29]

16. In the state of Jharkhand, community policing has been launched in the areas which are backward so that any form of communication can be established with the people living there. The most important objective is to generate consciousness to fight the Maoists. Areas such as Opag and Kharwar village which are quite backward and have become their core. Hence the police have built up stable camps so that they are able to establish a better bond with the people living in this area. [30]

### CONCLUSION

This type of analysis and study has helped in understanding how the community policing has been initiated in different states in our nation. Although its popularity or its influence on crime and public-police relations is still open for debating. Though, it has become quite clear now that Community Policing faces a two broad set of challenges. First being as to how to overcome institutional and organization confrontation caused due to the police consolidated and classified structure, prevailing sub-culture of the police that is hesitant to accept that Community Policing can make a modification in struggling against crime and the deficiency of human, organizational as well as financial resources to implement the extensive modifications that Community Policing demands. Secondly, is in what way to overcome the dares at the CPC level, which relate to how to: safeguard valuable involvement by all members in the community, to overcome difficulties caused by the client and to confirm that security services do not help only those who have strong connections and that communities have the necessary capability to efficiently make the police answer able amongst others significant issues.

Consequently in India, how the Community Policing programs are being acknowledged and are meeting

requirements as these dares may to a great extent determine how successful they will be in fulfilling the objectives of the program and this shall contain determinations concerning better public ownership.

### ENDNOTES

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