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COMMUNITY POLICING: A MODERN POLICING APPROACH

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ABSTRACT
Due to the Increasing rate of crime in the community, the well established gap between the police officers and the general public is constantly increasing. As a result of it, the relationship between the police officials and public becomes very disgraceful. There is a need for cooperative relationship between them in order to function well by the police officials and to establish a secure community. The trust of the public is declining towards the police officials with the interval of time due to their mal behaviour. That is why the policy makers are continuously promoting the idea of Community Policing among the police officers. Police makers emphasize on the implementation of Community policing by the law enforcement agencies. So that they can regain the trust and confidence of the general public and they can perform their duty in a smooth manner with the assistance of the local residents of a society. Excessive use of physical force by the police officers towards members of the public has widen the gap between them. As a result of it, there is a huge sense of disbelief towards the police officials among the members of the community. So it is urged that the police officials should reinvigorate their planning while enforcing laws in the community. Another important aspect of Community policing is that it is a "Problem Oriented Policing" approach in which the design of crime is strictly analysed by the police officers. After detecting the pattern of crime, the policemen come up with different strategies in order to successfully counter these issues of crime and disorder. Primarily, the Community Policing aims on the detection and prevention of street or neighbourhood crimes and disorders and it also provides for improved planning for countering the local issues of the public.

KEYWORDS – *Policing, Social disorder, Law enforcement, Beat Officers, Decentralization.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Community policing is a modern day philosophy which primarily aims at the promotion of organizational planning within the Police Department. Community policing provides for a number of rules and regulations with the help of which the present day situation of crime can be reduced to a great extent. Community policing supports the utilization of cooperative Connections between the police officials and the members of the community. Community policing focuses on eliminating such opportunities that give rise to the various issues related to crime and disorder, issues related with public safety & security and the local issues of the community. Community policing aims at to address the root causes behind the commission of a crime so that the further crime can be stopped before their occurrence. Community policing does not only provide for detection of crime, responding quickly to a crime, solving a crime but it also provides for eliminating the fear of crime from the minds of local inhabitants of a community. Community policing widen the power of police officers so that they can work without any pressure from the top and can assist in making a society a better place to reside and work. Community policing enhances the number of functions assigned to the police officers as compared to the traditional form of policing. Community policing focuses on transformation within the police department that emphasize on Community policing. Community policing also provides for developing a bold cooperation between the police officers and the local residents of the community. Community policing is a practice that deals with the notion that the police-public interactions can prove to be a very important step towards the detection and prevention of crime. It plays a crucial role in accomplishing the objectives of Community policing. Police officers should modify their strategies in relation to the Community Policing so that they can get the favourable results out of it. Community policing can prove to be a important strategy in the direction of developing strong bonding between the police and general public. Community Policing also assist in eliminating the fear of crime from the minds of people. The strong bonding between the police and public is the main basis for the decrease in Crime statistics in community. Community policing can assist in tackling the common issues and challenges faced by the police officers and members of the community by developing a healthy relationship between them. Community policing increases the interaction between the police and public so that they can work in the direction of combatting the issues related with crime and disorder. Community policing can prove to be the most effective tool for the overall development of a community[1].

2. MEANING AND DEFINITIONS OF COMMUNITY POLICING

[1] *Community Policing: Comparative Aspects of Community Oriented Police Work, India, available at: https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/community-policing-comparative-aspects-community-oriented-police (last visited on November 21, 2024)*

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Community policing is also known as community-oriented policing. Community policing is the law enforcement philosophy in the contemporary world. The actual meaning of Community policing is the association between the police officers and members of a community. Both the police and public are engaged in solving the problems of a specific area of a community. For example, Residential Welfare Association has been established in the various localities. These associations works as the representative of the people residing in that residential area. These associations are engaged with the police officers in order to sort out the local issues of the community. These associations works as a bridge between the community members and high rank police officers. Community policing needs the police officers to engage themselves with the local residents of a community so that they can work for their mutual benefit. Under the concept of Community policing, the police officers are trained to detect the crime, prevent the crime, solve the crime, find out the root causes behind the crime instead of just responding to the crime after it's occurrence. Community policing here would be when the residential welfare association is supported by the police officers in the problem solving. Community policing has very broader application, it consists a variety of operations such as detection of crime, prevention of crime and finding the main causes behind the crime etc. Community policing also emphasizes on making the local inhabitants of community, active participants in the services of police. Moreover, if the patrolling in neighbourhood is supported by the Beat officers of that area, it would result into effective problem solving and crime prevention. Community policing focuses on creating good partnership between the local residents of community and police officials, within which both will work together to solve the problems of the community[2].

Community policing stress upon developing strong connections of policemen with the general public. Community policing provides for a variety of strategies that emphasize on increasing the level of interaction or communication between the police and the public. Enhanced interaction between the police officers and members of community will boost up their trust and confidence in each other. As a result of it, the increasing crime statistics can be reduced to a significant extent. The main aim of Community policing is to establish good relationship between the members of the community and the police officials in order to diminish the social chaos[3]. Community policing is a intelligence-led policing which provides for various plan of actions to detect and prevent crimes, solve crimes and to maintain peace and order in the community. Police officers are not solely responsible for maintaining tranquillity in the community, they require the full cooperation of members of the community. Community policing can prove to be a effective method of policing with the help of which the trust of the public can be enhanced towards the police officers and the police legitimacy can be increased towards the general public. Community policing aims on the crime prevention strategies, enhanced visibility of the operations of Police officers, decentralization of police powers so that the requirements of the community members can be fulfilled, enhancing the cooperative relationship between the police officials and the local inhabitants of the community. Community policing seeks to maintain the high standard of life among the members of the community. Community policing stresses upon to develop a cooperative partnership between the police officers and general public so that they can address and solve the various issues that disturbed both the Police department and the members of the public. Community policing replaces the traditional form of policing by providing equivalent significance on the detection of crime, prevention of crime and maintaining law and order in the community. Community policing provides that the members of the general public should come forward as active partners of police officers and they should voluntarily associate themselves with the police officers in the decision-making process. Comprehensively, the emphasis is given on creating strong bonding between the policemen and local residents of the community. It enables the police officers to quickly detect, evaluate and respond to the local issues of the community members in a methodical manner. By working together as active associate or ally of each other, the police officers and the public can stop the increasing figures of crime.

2.1. **Definitions Of Community Policing**

According to "Bertus Ferreira" - *"Community policing is a philosophy of full service personalized policing, where the same officer patrols and works in the same area on a permanent basis, from a decentralized place, working in a proactive partnership with citizens to identify and solve problems."* [4]

According to "Punjab Police Website" - *"Community Policing focuses on the Police being proactive in delivering the services and having increased interface of the Police with community. It is true example of police public partnership where citizens have been empowered with the help of the police. Thus community policing is an effective answer to a complex situation."*[5]

According to "John Riley" - "*John Riley was a professor in Justice Centre explains Community policing, "As a philosophy of policing that requires police officers to act with increased levels of autonomy and professional discretion to solve problems and to develop partnerships with the community. It is true that community policing also involves delegation to the field level*

[2] *Community Policing, India, available at: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_policing (last visited on November 21, 2024)*
[3] *Chaos means, "a state of utter confusion or disorder; a total lack of organization or order."*
[4] *Community Policing: A Contemporary Perspective, India, available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273448903_Community_Policing_A_Contemporary_Perspective (last visited on November 21, 2024)*
[5] *Definition of Community Policing, India, available at: http://punjabpolice.gov.in/ComunityPolicing.aspx (last visited on November 21, 2024)*

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officers who take on the spot decisions thus decentralizing policing. It also encourages officers to respond fast and in a transparent manner as they are held accountable by the local community. Therefore logically delegation, decentralization, quick response, transparency and participation become essential ingredients of community policing. And all these are hallmarks[6] of good policing."

According to "Koch" and "Bennet" – Koch and Bennet analyze the definition of Community Policing in 1993 as, "*A belief or intention held by the police that they should:*

- *Consult with and take account of the wishes of the public in determining and evaluating operational policing policy and practice; and*
- *Collaborate with the public whenever possible in solving local problems."*

According to "Chandigarh Police Website" - *"Community policing focuses on crime and social disorder through the delivery of police service that include traditional law enforcement as well as prevention, problem solving, community involvement and partnership. The community policing model balances reactive responses with pro-active problem solving, centred on the causes of the crime and disorder. Community policing requires police and citizens to join together as partners in the endeavour to identify and effectively address various issues."*[7]

According to "Robert R. Friedmann" - Robert R. Friedmann defines the concept of Community Policing in 1992 as, *"Community Policing became a 'buzz word' that is taken for granted by professionals and scholars who used the term to replace other terms such as foot patrol, crime prevention, problem-oriented policing, community-oriented policing, police-community relations and more."*[8]

According to "Stipak" - Stipak defines Community policing in the year 1994 as, "*A management strategy which aims to promote joint responsibility of community members and police for the purpose of safety. In other words, community policing is about police – citizen partnership."*

According to "Andhra Pradesh Police Website" – Andhra Pradesh Police explains Community Policing as, *"A Community policing as a Police-Public partnership programme. This programme orients the way that the police should think and act. It broadens the police mandate beyond the narrow focus of fighting crime to include efforts to fight fear of crime and disorder as well. Community Policing provides an organizational strategy that motivates police officers to solve community problems in new and innovative ways. It envisages that the police must closely work with the people in the community by allowing average citizens a say in the police process, in exchange for their support and participation."*

3. NEED FOR COMMUNITY POLICING

Traditional model of policing was proven to be redundant due to many flaws in this system. That is why the traditional model of policing cannot be continued in the contemporary world. Due to various flaws in this traditional policing system, need for a modern policing approach was felt. Policy makers come up with the idea of community policing as the replacement of traditional model of policing. Policy makers accepted the fact that there is a strict need for a innovative policing approach in order to combat the crimes and disorders in the community. The intensity and essence of crimes these days outcome in the requirement of a more proficient method to tackle this situation.[9] That is why the Community policing has gained absolute momentum as the effective law enforcement practice in the last couple of years. The police officers and the representatives of the community have thus put forward a new and more productive method to make the community a safe and secure place and to enhance the overall standard of life in a community. The planning or approaches to Community policing may differ from place to place as per the population of a area, geography of area and the necessities of a particular community. That is why, Community policing is not controlled by any set of rules and regulations.

Moreover, There has been a lot of changes within the social pattern or structure of community. In this swiftly changing social environment, where the crime statistics are at it's peak, neighbourhood decay[10] is increasing day by day, police officers are

[6] *Hallmark means, "a typical characteristic or feature of a person or thing."*
[7] *Community Policing: Definition, India, available at: http://chandigarhpolice.gov.in/community-policing.htm (last visited on November 21, 2024)*
[8] *Robert R. Friedmann, Community Policing: Comparative Perspective and Prospects 2 (Prentice-Hall, America, 1st edn., 1992).*
[9] *Why do we need Community Policing, India, available at: https://www.google.com/amp/s/blog.ipleaders.in/need-community-police/amp/ (last visited on November 21, 2024)*
[10] *Decay means, "to become gradually damaged, worse, or less."*

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occupied in dealing with high levels of violent acts, the idea of Community Policing can prove to be a perfect replacement for the traditional model of policing.

4. ATTRIBUTES OF COMMUNITY POLICING

Community policing is a modern day policing approach and it has various attributes. These are as follows:

4.1. Philosophical Attributes Of Community Policing

Community policing is the most imperative replacement for the traditional policing system. Community policing challenges the basic principles of traditional policing system. Traditional form of policing emphasizes on separation of the Police department from the local residents of the community. In traditional policing, the police officers had limited powers and they did not have much connection with the general public. Police officers were more confined to their professional work. Due to which there was a situation of estrangement between the police officers and the general public. In traditional form of policing, the behaviour of police officials towards the members of neighbourhood was not good at all. As a result of it, the necessity of a new policing approach was felt in the police department. When Community policing came into existence, then the role and functions of the police officers increased significantly. In contrast to traditional policing, Community policing treats the members of the general public as the co-producers of the services of the police. Community policing focuses on making the Police officers and members of a community, active partners of each other[11].

As per the idea of Community policing, the police officials and local residents of a community are equally responsible for diminishing the rate of crime and disorder in a community. They are jointly accountable for enhancing the overall quality of life in a society. According to this law enforcement philosophy of Community policing, the beat officers who are appointed at field level should come up with local residents of community to ingress into the process of decision and policy making. Community policing encouraged the local inhabitants of a community to voice their issues to the concerned police officer of their neighbourhood and it is the prime duty of the police officer to deliberately solve these issues within a reasonable time. Professionalism of police is very significant but they should not detach or aloof[12] themselves from the members of a community. Under the concept of Community policing, the beat officers are required to make connections with the members of general public in a friendly manner. Law enforcement and Crime prevention are the significant aspects of the policing but Community policing acknowledge that, in actuality, the police officers are more oriented towards the non-enforcement projects. These non-enforcement projects include maintaining peace and order in community, fulfilment of needs of members of a community and providing social services to the community. As a result of it, Community policing emphasizes on decreasing crime rate, problem solving and taking care of victims of crime along with making apprehensions.

4.2. Tactical Attributes of Community Policing

Community policing requires that the police officials have to ameliorate their bonding with the local residents of the community. Community policing directs the police officers to bring a change in their attitude towards the members of a community. Police officers have to make significant switch in their mal-behaviour towards the general public. The programs and activities that are linked with Community policing are focusing more and more on fostering a strong relationship between the police officers and members of the community. The sense of empathy and harmony between police and public in order to successfully implement Community policing. The following interrelated projects can help in enhancing the standard of communication between the police and public, increasing the capacity of police officers to participate in problem solving partnership by establishing a cooperative relationship with the members of the community[13].

4.2.1. Relationship Between the Police Organization and The Community

In order to advance the relationship between the police department and communities, the police officers are required to first obtain the input from the members of a community. This plan of action can prove to be very significant in order to solve local issues of the community. A number of methods can be utilized in order to accomplish this plan of action such as by conducting home visits in the neighbourhood by the policemen, by conducting surveys, by organizing meetings with the representatives of different communities on a regular interval. These methods will ensure the free flow of information to the police officers from the members of a community and it will assist the police officers in detecting and solving the various issues of a community members. In order to prevent crime in the neighbourhood, the beat officers can encourage the members of a community to observe any dubious behaviour and report the same to the police officers. Any illegal or suspicious behaviour can easily recognized by this plan of action and it will be very effective in prevention of crime. On the other hand, the police officials can also educate the local inhabitants of a community on how to keep away from become the sufferer of a crime and if a crime is

[11] *Police: Community Policing, India, available at: https://law.jrank.org/pages/1648/Police-Community-Policing-Definition-community-policing.html (last visited on November 21, 2024)*
[12] *Aloof means, "removed or distant either physically or emotionally; not friendly and not getting involved."*
[13] *Id. at 8*

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about to happen to a person then how to deal with that situation.[14] Police officials should encourage the members of the community to participate in crime prevention projects of police such as neighbourhood watch. More crucially, the advance coordination between the police officers and local residents of a community depends on the sense of trust and confidence between them. Despite the fact that, most of the decision making power is taken by the police officers, a persistent relationship between the police officials and members of a community can be established if the police officers start responding quickly to the needs of the community members and held themselves answerable to the members of a community for any action they take during their duty hours. Police officers should illustrate allegiance and answerability by making an assessment on how far they have pleased the concerns of general public and by giving members of a community with quick and constant updates regarding a specific case. Police officials can conduct surveys or they can make door-to-door visits in the community or they can conduct interviews over phones with local residents of a community to find out "Customer Satisfaction" with the standard of police services delivered to them. Feedback should be given via reports, bulletin, newspapers, circulars or by making community pronouncement.[15]

4.2.2. ***Quality of Police-Public Interaction***

It is one of the foundation of Community policing is the effort to enhance the standard of communication between the policemen and local residents of a community. More and more police officers are required to be assigned in the hotspot area of crime to foot or car patrol in order to expedite personal connection between police and public. In order to civilize the cooperation between police personnel and public, the police officers are getting to know the local inhabitants of the community to which they are assigned. The task of patrolling played a significant role in providing a big opportunity to police officers to associate themselves with the members of the community in the maintenance of law and order. The visible presence of police officers in the neighbourhood makes general people feel more safe and secure. The presence of police officer eliminate the fear of crime and enhance rapport between the police and public. Ultimately, the police officer is responsible for the overall development of a community with the utter cooperation of public.

4.2.3. ***Solving Engagement***

for conception that the police officers and the members of community should fraternize with each other in order to solve the local issues of the neighbourhood. This notion overs the criticism of Community policing that it is merely an practice for upgrading the relations between police and public. Actually, the Goldstein stated that the establishment of problem solving engagement between the police officers and community led to the departure of traditional form of policing. Rather than just responding to the issues of crime & disorder after their occurrence, the police officers are fortified to let the members of a community to detect the local issues of the community and to work with the police officers to discover the most effectual outcome. Community policing is considered as the innovative approach of policing in which the police officers are under the responsibility to trace out the main causes behind the crimes. It is the imperative duty of police officers to solve the issues of the community members within no time. Nevertheless, the law enforcement is considered as the most important process for the effective problem solving but the police officers should find out other techniques of social control as per the preference of community members. In a nutshell, problem solving does not merely depends upon the strong relationship between the police and public, but on the capability of police officers to identify the pattern or connections between occurrences and on the readiness of police officers to pick long term solutions over short term solutions.[16]

4.3 Organizational Attributes of Community Policing

The traditional model of policing consist of the reactive patrolling and incident based responses of police officers. That's why the Community policing shift away it's focus from these types of tactics and recommended some important changes within the police department. Under the traditional form of policing, the police organization was considered as the red tape institution due to the centralization of powers. In traditional policing, the structure of police department was fixed in the hierarchical order and the decision and policy making power vested with those who were at the high rank in the police department. The decisions taken by high rank officials then conveyed to the field officers in the form of rules and orders, and implemented by way of stiff sequence of command. Field officers were working under the direct control and supervision of high rank officials that is why the senior rank officers were accountable for the decisions made by field officers.[17]

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[14] *Characteristics of Community Policing, India, available at: https://www.ipl.org/essay/Characteristics-Of-Community-Policing-PC9HHJW3RU (last visited on November 21, 2024)*

[15] *What is Community Policing, India, available at: https://www.discoverpolicing.org/explore-the-field/what-is-community-policing (last visited on November 21, 2024)*

[16] *Linda A. Miller, Karen Hess, et.al., Community Policing: Partnership for Problem Solving (Delmar Cengage Learning, Boston, 7th edn., 2013).*

[17] *Organizational transformation in Community Policing, India, available at: https://cops.usdoj.gov/organizationaltransformation (last visited on November 21, 2024)*

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On the other hand, Community policing focuses on that the field officers are more acquainted and experienced amount the communities as compare to the high rank police officers. The police officers at field level are required to have more autonomy so that they can quickly response to the local problems of community and can participate in problem solving. The independence and freedom of field officers to quickly respond to the issues of community is fortified by the decentralization of the structure of police department. Community policing stress upon the establishment of Community substations in the different areas of community. Community policing directs the police department to provide field officers with all important resources in order to enhance the ability of police officers to solve problems and to make police department more flexible. Under the concept of Community policing, the field officers are encouraged to be ingenious in their efforts to find out the solution for different problems of street crimes, neighbourhood crimes. Community policing does not consider the department arrest, or citations as the sine qua non[18] of police department, but it pay it's attention towards the maintenance of law and order and the social services. Without making significant changes in the structure of police department, it's administration style, and it's system of effectiveness and answerability, Community policing can't be implemented in the most suitable manner.

5. PROBLEM AREAS OF COMMUNITY POLICING

The need for community policing was felt among the policymakers due to the fact that members of the community do not have sense of respect or goodwill towards the Police department. The image of the police officers is getting substandard among the local residents of the community day by day. The relationship between the police and public is not compassionate or familiar at all. The actions of police officials towards the members of the community are often seemed of being perfidious[19] in nature. The formation of Indian police was done during the Britishers rule. That is why it was contemplated as the agency of persecution which wanting to restrain the chauvinist movement. So there is a pressing need to change the mind-set of people towards the police officials.

Nowadays, There have been several problems in relation to the police officers. sometimes police officers have come under the inspection of members of the community with the aid of media. Cases of police brutality are being seen everyday. Sometimes it is observed that the policemen are not handling or investigating the cases properly. Incidents of police taking bribe have become very common these days. Members of the community have to make frequent rounds of police stations in order to register their F.I.R. Due to this situation, the members of the community has detached themselves from the police officials. There has been a sense of distrust between the police and public. So it is the need of the hour to implement Community Policing for curbing these concerns of the community.

6. METHODOLOGY

This research work explains the idea of community policing as a modern policing approach. The present research work is done by using relevant evidences and examined by other research as well. The research has been carried out with the help of legal postulations. Since the concept of community policing is proving to be very beneficial internationally, that's why an attempt has been made in this research work to identify various favourable outcomes it can have in India. The present study is non-doctrinal in nature and descriptive in approach. In doctrinal research method the researcher has relied on secondary sources such as books, articles and websites.

7. CONCLUSION

Community policing is an effective method of law enforcement in the contemporary world. Police and public act as the facilitators to implement community policing. But the mind-set of members of the community is very clear towards the police officers, they have a substandard profile of police officers in their mind. Due to which the police department is facing a lot of problems in implementing community policing . It becomes very complicated for the police officers to implement community policing without the cooperation from members of the community. So there is a pressing need for making crucial changes within the organizational structure of police department. By doing this, the police officers will be able to regain the trust and confidence of the local residents of a community.

A few steps that can be taken in order to make community policing a success are as follows:

- Attempts should be made to strengthen the bonding between police and public;
- Police officers should patrol in their area of assignment on a regular interval so that the members of the community can feel more comfortable in their presence;
- Police officers are needed to be more accessible to the general public so that the free flow of information can be assured from members of community;

[18] *Sine Qua Non means, "an essential condition; a thing that is absolutely necessary; the essential, crucial, or indispensable ingredient without which something would be impossible."*

[19] *Perfidious means, "perfidious is someone or something that cannot be trusted or that is dishonest; deceitful and untrustworthy"*

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- The profile of police is considerably damaged by the interference of political parties corruption cases and other negative reports against them, therefore the recruitment of police officers should be done in a proper manner.

There are a number of instances where community policing proved to be ideal method for eliminating crime and disorder from the community and establishing good nexus between the police and public. Community policing has not only assist in creating a safe community but also has been able to strengthen the bonding between police and public. Therefore, it can be said that Community Policing is a advantageous practice towards the establishment of a safe and secure community.

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