



Police Women in India - Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract:

By enforcing the law, the "police" institution plays a crucial role in maintaining "law and order" and controlling people's behavior. Women are consistently joining the police force and performing their jobs with full dedication and effectiveness. Now, the contribution of women to the police cannot be ignored, and it almost certainly is significant. This article looks at data from Global, India and Karnataka regarding proportion of women police and entry of women police in the states.

Keywords:

Enforce, Police

Introduction:

Women first entered the police force in India as early as 1938 (Ghosh and Rustamjee). Prior to independence, a few provinces and princely states had employed women in the police force. These were Kanpur, in Uttar Pradesh, the erstwhile princely state of Travancore, Bombay City and Lahore. However, after partition in 1947, large scale migration of population created problems of riots, atrocities on women, kidnapping abduction and other sex offences. Relief camps were started for women and children and large scale efforts were launched for recovery of abducted women and girls by government as well as voluntary organizations. Keeping in view all these factors it was thought necessary to raise women police.

By employing "formal means" to regulate human behavior, the police can be viewed as an agent for "social order and control." Men were thought to be best suited to carry out the responsibilities and duties that come with being a police officer, and the term "police" was used to represent a masculine image. However, this sexist portrayal of "Police" as a masculine profession is slowly fading away.

The term "policewomen" is used to refer to anyone who carried out the same tasks and responsibilities as men. However, they are frequently treated with prejudice. They are unwelcome and susceptible to psychological illness, both external and internal. When two roles (or even multiple roles) are being performed simultaneously, one role acts as a barrier to the other. Due to the patriarchal idea of "sexual division of work at their house," which applies to women, she is responsible for the household. She is also accountable for her actions in the public sphere because she is a policewoman. a previous role that discourages them from playing the latter role. In addition to surviving a role conflict (policewomen and housewives), they face a variety of challenges related to their chosen profession, which they have chosen for their own expectations and family income. As a result, the profession of "policewomen" is difficult and fraught with "sets of complexity"; that require investigation.

Definition of 'Police' Women:

The term 'POLICE' derived from the Greek word "politia", which means 'the condition of a State or Government'. As defined in Oxford Dictionary, the term 'police' means "the civil force of a state, responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the maintenance of public order". Police is also defined as (by Marriam- Webster Dictionary) "the department of government concerned primarily with maintenance of public order, safety, and health and enforcement of laws and possessing executive, judicial, and legislative powers" (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/police>)

Need of Women Police

- As the result of the partition of the India in 1947, a huge number of refugees from Pakistan migrated to Indian, due to communal rage occurring during that period. There were number of distressed women who were regularly visiting to the Prime Minister and senior officials day-to-day. For the security concern, to prevent unsanctioned female intruder, the recruitment of women in the police force was assed. In additions to provided security, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation also looked-for women police to recover the abducted women (Bhardwaj, 1976).
- To prevent the fragility of the problem of handling women agitators in several movements such as political agitations, bundhs, strikes, linguistic and communal riots etc. the essence of women force is also realized. In such situation, if they were handled by the male police, the social activities objected to it (Roy, 1975).

The increasing numbers of girls and women detained for juvenile offences and delinquency made it urgent for women to join the police service in order to better negotiate with and manage them.

Global perspective of Police Women:

The recruitment of women is a slow process worldwide. In both developed and developing nations, it takes a long time. There was resistance to the entry of women when recruitment for women police officers began in various nations. In the beginning, only cases involving women and minors were considered for police recruitment. In the beginning, policewomen were not allowed to be promoted, and discrimination continues to hinder their advancement into the force (Price, 1996). It's crucial to remember that the majority of the police force is made up of women, even though the number of women who have signed up for the force varies. Their makeup differed in both the global and public settings. The policymaker is of the opinion that there urgently needs to be a "substantial number" of women in the police force. Despite the lack of a clear definition, "significant or acceptable women police" exist.

There is a lot of regional variety when it comes to the percentage of women in the police force worldwide. Table 1.1 provides a global perspective on the women's police force's composition.

Table-1.1

Percentages of Female Police Officers and New Recruits in various countries

| Country/ Department | Year | Percentage of Female Officer | Percentage of Female (New Recruits) |
|------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|--|
| Australia | - | - | - |
| Australian Federal | - | - | - |
| Canada (156 Agencies) | 2011 | 19.6 | - |
| Eire | 2008 | 21.3 | - |
| England and Wales (43 Forces) | 2009 | 25.0 | 37.0 |
| Fiji | 2012 | 20.0 | - |
| Ghana | 2007 | 19.7 | 31.8 |
| Hong Kong | - | - | - |
| India | 2010 | 05.1 | - |
| New South Wales | 2011 | 25.7 | 33.1 |
| New Zealand | 2011 | 17.6 | 2327.1. 5 |
| Nigeria | 2010 | 12.4 | - |
| Northern Ireland | 2012 | 26.7 | - |
| Northern Territory | - | - | - |
| Pakistan | - | - | - |
| Papua New Guinea | - | - | - |
| Police | 2011 | 22.1 | - |
| Queensland | 2011 | 20.8 | - |
| Scotland (8 Forces) | 2008 | 23.1 | - |
| South Africa | 2011 | 23.5 | - |
| South Australia | 2011 | 24.6 | 26.6 |
| Tasmania | - | - | - |
| United States (14,744 Agencies) | 2010 | 11.8 | - |
| Victoria | 2011 | 28.8 | - |
| Western Australia | 2011 | 25.8 | 28.4 |

*Source: Prenzler & Sinclair, 2013

The above data shows that the highest proportion of police women found in Victoria (28.8) followed by Northern Ireland (26.7), Western Australia, England and Wales, New South Wales, South Australia represent Police women in good proportion compare to other countries.

It is significant to note that India has recorded lowest proportion of Police women (05.1%) further U.S has also lower proportion of police women (11.8).

Women Police in India:

India has been aiming to ensure at least one woman in every three police officers for years now. Based on the recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (set up in 2005), the Central government has been issuing advisories from time to time asking states to increase the representation of women in police to 33 percent of the total strength. (<https://ceda.ashoka.edu.in/genderstats-13-womens-representation-in-indias-police-force>)

Table - 1.2
Growth of Indian Police Force and Women in Indian Police (2001-2010)

| Year | No. of Police Personnel | No. of Women Police Personnel | Proportion of Women Police personnel (percent) |
|------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 2001 | 13,08,010 | 23,889 | 1.83 |
| 2002 | 13,08,971 (0.07) | 33,259 (39.22) | 2.54 |
| 2003 | 13,11,516 (0.19) | 39,387 (18.42) | 3.00 |
| 2004 | 13,37,183 (1.95) | 45,016 (14.29) | 3.36 |
| 2005 | 13,42,858 (0.42) | 43,519 (-3.32) | 3.24 |
| 2006 | 14,06,021 (4.70) | 51,454 (18.25) | 3.66 |
| 2007 | 14,25,181 (1.34) | 56,286 (9.36) | 3.94 |
| 2008 | 14,73,595 (3.39) | 52,322 (-7.04) | 3.55 |
| 2009 | 15,57,497 (5.69) | 65,456 (25.10) | 4.20 |
| 2010 | 15,80,311 (1.46) | 72,652 (10.99) | 4.59 |

Source: Annual Crime in India Statistics Report issued by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Ministry Home Affairs, Government of India (2001-2010).

Figures within the bracket represent percentage.

Table No. 1.2 explains how the Indian Police Force and Women in Indian Police have grown throughout time. The percentage of women serving as police officers in India as of 2001 was just 1.83, or 23,889 women. Only 51,454 (3.66) of the total police employees in 2006 were women, according to estimates. Although the proportion of women in the police has increased recently, the rate is still low. Although their representation has increased, it is still below the 2010 figure of 5% (4.59%) of the total police workforce. While women are underrepresented in the field.

State wise distribution of women:

Table - 1.3

Year of Entry of Women Police in the States/Union Territories in India

| Sr. No. | Name of States/ Union Territories | Year of Initial appointment |
|----------------|--|---|
| 1 | Andhra Pradesh | 1950(Erstwhile State of Hyderabad) |
| 2 | Arunachal Pradesh | 1977 |
| 3 | Assam | 1969 |
| 4 | Bihar | 1952 |
| 5 | Chandigarh | 1977 |
| 6 | Delhi | 1948 |
| 7 | Gujarat | 1948/49 (Authentic information not available) |
| 8 | Himachal Pradesh | 1975 |
| 9 | Jammu & Kashmir | 1965 |
| 10 | Karnataka | 1960 |
| 11 | Kerala | 1943 |
| 12 | Madhya Pradesh | 1953 |
| 13 | Maharashtra | 1939 (Greater Bombay) |
| 14 | Manipur | 1961 |
| 15 | Meghalaya | 1976 |
| 16 | Mizoram | 1987 |
| 17 | Nagaland | 1968 |
| 18 | Orissa | 1961 |
| 19 | Pondicherry | 1974 |
| 20 | Punjab | 1948 (Correct information not available) |
| 21 | Rajasthan | 1955 |
| 22 | Sikkim | 1970 |
| 23 | Tamil Nadu | 1973 |
| 24 | Tripura | 1961 |
| 25 | Uttar Pradesh | 1974/67 (Correct information not available) |

Sources: (i) Information available from the State Government (only 11 states)

(ii) Bureau of Police Research and Development, New Delhi.

Table 1.3 discusses the year of Entry of Women Police in the States/Union Territories in India. It is to be noted that Maharashtra is the first state to introduce women to the police force (in 1939). Even Kerala state (1943) has recorded women in police force well before Independence of the country. The women entry in police force in Karnataka was in 1960. The states like Gujarat, Punjab, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh have given early opportunity to enter women in police force.

Conclusion:

Women first joined the Indian police in 1938, but their advancement has been gradual. There has been an upsurge in the number of women joining the Indian police service over the past several decades.

India Justice Report, compiled by groups working towards reform of the justice sector, says it will take 33 years for India's police force to achieve 33% women representation. Based on its findings, the IJR notes that it will take 33 years for the country's police force to achieve the desired target of 33 per cent representation for women. While Odisha among the larger states will take 428 years to achieve it, Bihar will

take eight years, according to the report. The Delhi Police will take 31 years, while Mizoram will take 585 years to reach the target, it adds. (www.theprint.in)

While attempting to close the gender gap by filling share posts for women, there are times when the requirements are laxened in order to maintain the required number. More can be done to encourage women to work in law enforcement, in addition to the increased awareness of their potential to have a good impact. Ensure that all policies, procedures, and programmes are bias-free. In the end, many people think that a proactive recruiting drive aimed at young females should start as early as grade school, so they can perceive law enforcement as a viable career option for them.

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