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POLICE AND SOCIETY

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The role of police in India is the maintain of law and order and the prevention and detection of crime. Police is one of the vital law enforcing agency. Development and welfare activities can be undertaken successfully only if the foundation of law and order are well laid and well looked after.

Polish officers are both part of the community they serve and the government protecting that community. The purpose of law enforcement in a free society is to promote public safety and uphold the rule of law so that individual Liberty that may flourish.

The Platonist Spoke truly for all times when he said "Except the Lord keep the city, the Watchmen taketh but in vain".

One of the greatest risks in all attempts will be find the rule of the police in society Is too overestimate their significance. The police have two main roles to play Crime investigation and crime prevention. The police man's job is thus To enforce laws that protect people and property. It is said that the police reacts after crime is committed but plays no part in the causes of criminality.

In recent years, however, the police organization it's paid more attention. This is big cause of new role expected of the police, their increasing work, Load, and the increasing corruption in the police system, weather or not the police acknowledge police corruption Harassment and violence, the public now wants some plain answer to some plain question.

Among the questions asked were; why are the police officials corrupt? Why do the police stations not record First Information Reports promptly? Why do the Police close their eyes to the crimes of sons and daughters of VIPs? Why do they rob ordinary citizens for the smallest failings? Why do they break the bones of suspects during investigations?

Why do the cops not pay for the fruit and vegetables they buy, or for the rickshaw and the state transport buses they board? These questions not only made the officers realize that it was much easier to extort a confession than to answer straight questions call mom but also the fact that even small children had such a bad impression of the police and hardboard many prejudice against them.

How do some criminals fall into the hands of the police while a large number remain undetected? The fact is that the police are Reactive rather than proactive. Most offenses are not reported to the police at all either because they involve no victim or all because the victims are afraid of harassment by the Police. Moreover police contact with citizens are mostly in response to calls initiated by them rather than the result of police action through detection of offenses.

Further the police arrest only those offenders who are poor and powerless. The rich and influential manipulate to remain free. In addition, a large number of crimes fail to result in the apprehension of the law-violators largely because of the obstacles to police work caused by influential politicians and bureaucrats.

Many crimes known to the police are handled in informal and discretionary ways by the policeman. No wonder, the police often become a target of public hostility and the police promptly return these feelings.

Lastly the police respond to the public outcry to reduce crime by not registering a large number of reported cases or by registering crime under less heinous sections. In states like Bihar and UP, non-registration and minimization of crime is practiced on such a large scale that the statistics have little relevance to the actual state of crime.

Even a senior police officer like Ved Marwah has said "Managing of statistics has taken the place of implementation of anti crime measures." (The Hindustan Times, October 25, 1993). Such a response is, in fact, counterproductive because not enough gets known to the police about the actual state of crime to enable it to take countermeasures for checking crime.

For this reason it is now considered essential by social scientists to understand the variables that influence the differential handling of cases by the police. The social scientist even today gets a cold reception in the Police Department for they are suspected of having a major interest in exposing the police to further public condemnation.

Nevertheless, some scholars like PD Sharma have attempted to study police functioning and written books and articles on the police system. Some police officers too (like N.S. Saxena, Ved Marwah, K.S. Ghosh, K Mathur, Rustom, Shankar Sarolia etc.) have tried to study the international working of police systems.

Our analysis of the police in this atmosphere is not concerned with police administration or with police structures or police organization it deals with the police as they actually operate.

THE police in India has been under considerable criticism from various sections of Society, Reports in newspapers and journals add up to indicate that there is perhaps no crime which the police has not committed. The upholders of law and order appear to be its worst violators and one is reminded of Justice A N Mulla's remark about the police being a bunch of criminals in uniform. What makes the police act in a manner which is contradictory to the role it is expected to perform? Or, to be more specific what ails the Indian police? This was the basic question before the national seminar on 'The Role of the Police in a Changing Society in India' organised jointly by the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta and Law Research Institute, Calcutta. The seminar was held on November 2 and 3, 1985 at the IIMC Campus at Joka. The theme of this seminar was topical was evident from the unexpectedly high participation of over seventy delegates comprising eminent academicians, civil liberties activists, journalists, lawyers, judges and police officials, both serving and retired. In his welcome address, Justice Salil K Roy Choudhury, Chairman of the Organising Committee, noted that there was a need to review the activities of the police in the changing social and political conditions. The police should no longer remain as an oppressive arm of the government as it was during the colonial days. It is now expected to engage in activities other than maintaining law and order. There are of course several constraints which the police has to face. The entire gamut of the criminal justice system needs to be critically reassessed and the role of legislators, judiciary and the police needs to be reviewed so as to evolve a system which will check the erosion of confidence of the people in this institution. Justice Roy Choudhury also dealt with the problem of political interference in the activities of the police but he pointed out that the problem is not always that of police versus politicians but also of a nexus between police and politicians where the former willingly succumb to the manipulations of the latter in exchange of personal gain. While dealing with accountability of the police, he noted that the press can play a constructive role in bridging the gap between the police and the people. The legislators too have a right to review the activities of the police and this should not be interpreted as interference as the norms which govern the police as an instrument of social control and norms which allow the elected representatives to scrutinise the activities of the police need not be contradictory. In this context, secrecy in the police organisation needs to be reviewed. Too much of secrecy reduces the level of accountability. It encourages and perpetuates the clandestine nexus between unscrupulous politicians and opportunistic policemen.