



AXIS JURIS INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Website: axisjuris.com

OPEN ACCESS LAW JOURNAL – COPYRIGHT © 2023

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: MR. AHMAR MOHD AFAQ AFAQ

PUBLISHER: MR. SWAHNIK MONDAL

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution- Non-Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium provided the original work is properly cited.



DISCLAIMER

Without the previous written consent of the Publishing Editor of Axis Juris International Journal, no portion of this publication may be duplicated or copied in any way. All articles submitted to this publication are owned by the author and the Axis Juris International Journal editorial team. The editorial team of Axis Juris International Journal does not agree with the views contained in this publication; these are the writers' solely personal opinions. Axis Juris International Journal makes every effort to guarantee the truth and completeness of the material presented, but it disclaims all liability for any mistakes that may arise from human error or other causes.

COMMUNITY POLICING: A DEEP DIVE TO SEARCH THE HIDDEN**Written By-** Priyanka Jain¹*Received 16 January 2024; Accepted 18 January 2024; Published 30 January 2024***ABSTRACT**

This article is an attempt to understand community policing which at its very core asks for collaboration of Police and the community to stamp out crime. It is the facet of proactive policing. This Article delves deep into the historical aspect including the vision of Sir Robert Peel. Further, it bifurcates community policing from traditional i.e. a regular form of policing. Several characteristics are also highlighted which focus on decision making and thereby calling the public to work together with the Police. Community Policing has been recognized by the United Nations. Then the article highlights the trust factor in community policing by incorporating the trust equation to develop community partnership. Then the strategy of problem solving through the SARA model and its need by a crime triangle is highlighted. Then providing a structured approach is discussed in brief. Without it will not be conspicuous to the public and also it will hamper its proper functioning. Further advantages of community policing are discussed in detail followed by barriers in implementation of community policing. A Few popular community policing projects were initiated by different states like the “saanjh” project by the Punjab Police, and “Prahari” by Assam Police which was successful to the extent of eradication [P2] of grotesque crime of witch-hunting. “Jan Maitri Suraksha” Project by the Kerala Government. This article then attempts to dive into challenges and the bright future of community policing by suggesting a way forward. Traditional methods like third degree should be changed. Forensic analysis and evidence should be substituted. Ultimately the cooperation of every community member is appreciated in the end.

Keywords: *Community Police, Community Policing, Robert Peel, SARA Model, Crime Triangle, Witch-Hunting.*

¹ Student Under University of Delhi, Campus Law Center, Faculty of Law.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	75
COMMUNITY POLICING: NAVIGATING THE ANCIENT WORLD	76
COMMUNITY POLICING VERSUS TRADITIONAL POLICING	78
CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUNITY POLICING	79
Relying on Community-Based Crime Prevention:	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Reorientation of Patrol - Proactive Techniques:	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Increasing Accountability:	79
Decentralization:	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Citizens Participation:	80
Problem Solving:	80
Education:	80
Consultation:	80
Transparency:	81
Police Image:	81
Winning Community's Trust:	81
COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING AND UNITED NATIONS	81
COMMUNITY POLICING AND INDIAN LEGAL LANDSCAPE	82
KEY COMPONENTS OF COMMUNITY POLICING	82
DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP	82
ENGAGING IN PROBLEM SOLVING- SARA MODEL & CRIME TRIANGLE	83
	84
IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY POLICING ORGANIZATIONAL FEATURES	84

ADVANTAGES OF COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING	Error! Bookmark not defined.
BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY POLICING IN INDIA	Error! Bookmark not defined.
COMMUNITY POLICE TO BE A SUCCESSFUL ENDEAVOUR	86
Participation of Everyone in Policing	86
SOME POPULAR COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMMES	87
(A) PUNJAB	87
SAANJH	87
Highlights of Project “Saanjh”	87
(B) ASSAM	89
PROJECT PRAHARI	89
THE ASSAM WITCH HUNTING (PROHIBITION, PREVENTION AND PROTECTION), 2015	89
(C) KOLKATA	90
1) NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (2022)	90
2) DAMINI (2018)	90
(D) KERALA	90
JAN MAITRI SURAKSHA PROJECT	90
CHALLENGES BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION	91
WAY FORWARD	92
CONCLUSION	93

INTRODUCTION

Change is an important facet of society. Change is evitable by way of evolution of different species, elevation of lifestyle, rise in educational status, degradation of environment, constitutional amendments. So, change is a marker of development. Indian Police Act, 1860 brought Police into existence to take care of British families, British Officers. Later after independence the role of Police changed from protecting British families to all Indian families with an aim to maintain peace, law and order. With the passage of time Police also started participating in welfare functions alongside police functions of the State.

As society is an ever-evolving entity, evolution is required in everything that deals with it. Independent India also witnessed an increase in crime rate. So, policing also requires adaptations to tackle the ever-increasing crime statistics. Police have to navigate a complex cluster of societal interests, requirements, crime patterns, and trends from social problems to social disintegration, hence, the need for social participation becomes important. Community policing stands as a collaborative and improved response to this demand, by instilling confidence in the public, securing their participation and emphasizing empathy, reliability, accountability, accuracy, credibility, intimacy, personal orientation, and shared responsibility. Indian State's Police have implemented some programmes that highlights Police collaboration with the public it includes "Saanjh"², "Community Liaison"³, "Prahari"⁴, "Help Desks", to enhance speedy registration of complaints, and less formality regarding the registration of the complaints.

² Punjab Police, 'Collaboration between the Community and Panjab Police' (PPSAANJH) <https://ppsaanjh.in/>. accessed 20 January 2023

³ Assam Police, 'Community Liaison Group' (Police) <https://police.assam.gov.in/portlet-innerpage/community-liaison-group-clg>. accessed 20 January 2024

⁴ Assam Police, 'Project PRAHARI' (Police) <https://police.assam.gov.in/portlet-innerpage/project-prahari>. last accessed 20 January 2024

COMMUNITY POLICING: NAVIGATING THE ANCIENT WORLD⁵

Starting tracing from the Nineteenth Century in the year 1829, Sir Robert Peel also known as the *father of modern policing* first talked about Democratic Policing. He gave Nine principles which are called Peelean Principles.

VISION: Sir Robert Peel's Three Core Ideas

1) The goal of policing should be to prevent occurrence of crime, not apprehension of offenders. A Police Department to be effective needs to have low crime rates in their area, not high statistics of arrest.

2) Public support is the key to preventing crime. Through public support or community support police can stop crime before its occurrence. Every member of the community as a volunteer of the member force must share the responsibility of crime prevention.

3) To gain public support police should respect community principles. To earn approval police should endeavour to build reputation by enforcement of law without any partiality, hiring and training officers who can represent and understand the community, and force should be used when no other way is left.

Following are nine principles suggested by Sir Robert Peel, also known as Peelean Principles:

“Police is the Public and the Public is the Police” it means police should act as community members to gain the confidence of the public, and public should share the goal of crime prevention or crime reduction as a community police.

1) To prevent crime and disorder, any alternate method excluding military force should be used. Which is also not as harsh and severe as legal punishment.

⁵Law Enforcement Action Partnership, 'Sir Robert Peel's Peelean Principles' (Law Enforcement Action Partnership) <https://lawenforcementactionpartnership.org/peel-policing-principles/> last accessed 18 January 2024

- 2) Police power is dependent on public approval, effectiveness of their functions and duties are subject to the ability of police to secure and maintain public respect. Police's existence, actions and behaviour depend upon public approval.
- 3) To maintain the respect and approval of the public, police should secure the willing cooperation of the public to observe the laws.
- 4) Police should always recognize that more the public cooperation is achieved less will be the use of force to ensure observance of the law.
- 5) Police can win and maintain public support by doing impartial services. Police should not give different treatment with respect to status. Police should stay ready to sacrifice to protect and preserve life. Police should be friendly and courteous towards the public all the time.
- 6) Police shouldn't use coercive force before using persuasion, advice or warning. If the public is not giving into the observance of law even by persuasion, advice, or warning, only then police should use physical force that is also minimal.
- 7) Police should keep in mind that police are public, it comes from the public, and public are police. That means police officers are doing the job of the public only, they are not different from the community.
- 8) Police in the exercise and discharge of its duties should not start taking the role of a judge. They should not decide punishment. They should show respect to the judiciary.
- 9) First test of the effectiveness of Police is the absence of crime, not the police action to deal with it.

It is an approach to reduce crime through community partnership. It is based upon the ideology that crime cannot be reduced only by the intervention of law-enforcement agencies. If members of the community are not participating actively then suspicious activities will not be tracked properly. Even if community members report these suspicious activities anonymously even then it will be easy for police to stamp out that mess from the place quickly and without any error. Community policing is a strategy of policing that focuses on police building ties and working closely with members of the communities.

COMMUNITY POLICING VERSUS TRADITIONAL POLICING

Community Policing is a paradigm shift in traditional policing in following aspects:

ELEMENTS	TRADITIONAL POLICING	COMMUNITY POLICING
Responsibility	Responsibility of maintaining peace in public vests with the police only.	Maintaining peace in the public is a shared responsibility of both the police and of the community by working hand in hand or hand in gloves.
Approach	Reactive approach to crime	Proactive approach to crime.
Involvement	There is no community involvement rather a secrecy is maintained.	There is active community involvement not only in receiving information but also in making decisions.
Trust	Public do not trust the Police because of its brutal behaviour.	Trust is built-up with the regular friendly talks, and intellectual conversations.
Cultural understanding	In this model, police do not care about cultural issues, life -styles.	In this model, police understand the culture, language, norms of the community.

Rapport	Police do not focus on building rapport with the community, only investigate the matter and leave the spot.	Police work out more on building rapport with the residents and shop-keepers, other social institutions to enhance its credibility.
Authority	Centralized decision-making power.	Decentralized decision-making power.
Policing-Model	Strict	Community-driven and friendly

CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUNITY POLICING

Following are the important characteristics of the Community-Oriented Policing:

Relying on Community-Based Crime Prevention:

Community policing emphasizes the active engagement of the community in preventing and addressing crime. Identifying hot-spots of crime. Rather than relying solely on law enforcement, it encourages collaborative efforts with residents, local market, local organizations, and businesses to identify and address crime and disorder.

Reorientation of Patrol - Proactive Techniques:

Traditional patrolling often involves reactive responses to incidents. In community policing, there's a shift towards proactive techniques. This may include community patrols, problem-oriented policing, and engaging with community members to address potential issues before they escalate. Where residents are patrolling when they sense anything suspicious.

Increasing Accountability:

Community policing promotes accountability within law enforcement agencies. Officers are accountable not only for enforcing laws but also for building positive relationships with the community, addressing community concerns, and contributing to the overall well-being of the neighbourhoods they serve. It emphasizes the welfare function of police.

Decentralization:

Community policing often involves decentralized decision-making authority. Entire decision making is not emanating from the police, elder citizens or any learned individual is taking the lead in formulating decisions along with the designated police-officer. This allows officers to have more autonomy at the local level, tailoring their approaches to the specific needs of their communities.

Citizens Participation:

Actively involving community members in decision-making processes, problem-solving, and the development of crime prevention strategies. This participation fosters a sense of shared responsibility and ownership of public safety. This also creates fear in the mind of the perpetrator that some preventive measure will definitely be taken by the members, this leads to the deflection of the offender from the hot-spot.

Problem Solving:

Community policing is centred around identifying and addressing the root causes of crime rather than merely responding to incidents. Identification of the problem, followed by the analysis of the problem, then formulating the strategy to curb the menace. Officers work collaboratively with the community to develop and implement solutions to ongoing issues.

Education:

Providing educational resources to the community, such as crime prevention workshops, physical training, safety seminars, and informational materials. Even to the offender by identifying his interests. For example, if he is interested in sports, he can be provided with the training of those sports. Purpose of policing should not be restricted till mere punishment; it should extend to reformation.

Consultation:

Regular consultation with community members to gather input on policing priorities, concerns, and strategies. This two-way communication fosters trust and ensures that policing efforts align with community needs.

Transparency:

Transparency is crucial in community policing. Law enforcement agencies openly share information about their activities, policies, and decisions with the community. This transparency helps build trust and confidence.

Police Image:

Community policing aims to improve the public perception of law enforcement. By engaging positively with the community, officers work to enhance their image and demonstrate their commitment to serving and protecting the community's best interests.

Winning Community's Trust:

This is one of the most important characteristics of Community-Oriented Policing, which is developed through open communication, community engagement, police-officers approachable demeanour, prompt action of police to community's grievance, through ongoing effort and genuine commitment towards community's welfare.

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING AND UNITED NATIONS⁶

Community-oriented policing is appreciated by the United Nations peace operations that enhances trust of the public at large in the law enforcement agencies. As per United Nations, Community-oriented policing not only improves the trust of the public but also strengthens the bond and effectiveness of police including other law enforcement agencies. United Nations peacekeeping operations insist on protection of life, property and human rights by the law enforcement agencies. Community-oriented policing can be a game changer in achieving this goal. However, the United Nations seeks some more conceptual clarity regarding community-oriented policing. This conceptual clarity can be a guiding light to help United Nations police to ensure peace operations.

⁶ United Nations Police, 'Community-Oriented Policing' (United Nations Police) <https://police.un.org/en/community-oriented-policing>, last accessed 18 January 2024

COMMUNITY POLICING AND INDIAN LEGAL LANDSCAPE

Community policing is a measure that seeks to bridge the gap between the police and the public. India has no statutory law, or policy regarding community policing so far. But there are certain provisions where participation of public or shared responsibility of community is made explicit. In [Section 37 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973](#) every community member has been made bound to assist a Magistrate or a Police Officer when his aid is demanded for arresting or preventing the escape of a wrongdoer; in the prevention or suppression of a breach of the peace; or prevention of an injury to any public property including railways, canal, telegraphs.

However, this is punitive in nature and this does not emphasize on the friendly rapport of community and public as breach of these duties is punishable under [Section 187 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860](#). Moreover, [sec. 38 of The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973](#) protects the person who provides aid in the execution of the warrant.

Further, [sec.39 of The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973](#) imposes a duty on every person to provide information about certain offences: offences against the state, offences against the public tranquility, offences relating to illegal gratification, offences relating to adulteration of food and drugs, heinous offences like culpable homicide, murder, offences relating to kidnapping and ransom, kidnapping for ransom, offence of theft after preparation for causing death, offences of robbery and dacoity, criminal breach of trust by public servant, mischief against property, house trespass, lurking house trespass etc. But none of these provisions suggest personal bonding or a clean image of police. It only mandates public participation in a coercive manner.

KEY COMPONENTS OF COMMUNITY POLICING

Following are the key components of Community Policing:

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Let us look at the trust equation⁷. It was developed by **Charles H. Green**.

⁷ Jostle Blog, 'Trust Equation: How to Assess the Trust' (Jostle Blog) <https://blog.jostle.me/blog/trust-equation> last accessed 23 January 2024

Trustworthiness= (Credibility +Reliability + Intimacy)/ Self- orientation

This equation has four variables namely, Credibility, Reliability, Intimacy, Personal Orientation.

Credibility: It means one knows what he is talking about. He has good knowledge. So, here in community policing, a police officer should be an expert while listening to the concern of the community.

Reliability: It means one keeps his word. One does not say only to say. Or to cheat upon anyone. If police officers keep his promise or the Department itself then the public will start believing in the police and it will help in building a strong foundation of a healthy relationship.

Intimacy: Intimacy includes a personal connection. How comfortable one is with the other. If one can tell their darkest of the secrets? Here in Community Policing, police should be a compassionate listener and promise to not use this against the revealer.

Self-Orientation: It is the negative variable in this equation. If someone only thinks of his goal then that one will not be admired by others. So, if police always keep thinking about making reports, or receiving appreciation, a promotions-centric approach, then it will be taken as selfish and self-oriented. It will badly impact the relationship between the community and the police.

Hence, building trust requires knowledge, understanding, open and privileged communication, and comfort while raising grievances to enhance trustworthiness, and reducing selfish goals of seeking promotions or other perks through police service.

ENGAGING IN PROBLEM SOLVING- SARA MODEL & CRIME TRIANGLE

a) SARA Model⁸: The SARA model was coined and developed by **John Eck** and **William Spelman** in 1987 which was based on Problem-Oriented Policing proposed by **Herman Goldstein**. Community policing often employs the SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment) problem-solving model. This process involves identifying the problems, reasoning the underlying causes, formulating an effective response, and assessing the impact of the implemented way-out for the problem.

⁸ Center for Problem-Oriented Policing, 'The SARA Model' (Center for Problem-Oriented Policing) <https://popcenter.asu.edu/content/sara-model-0> accessed 22 January 2024

b) Crime Triangle: Triangle is that geometric figure which has three vertices, which denotes all three vertices are important to maintain that triangle. In the Crime Triangle three vertices are: **Offender**, **Victim** and **Opportunity** respectively. Offender is unknown, Victim is unknown, so, they cannot be removed, but opportunity in the form of hotspot, timing, situation can be lessened or monitored even if not removed.

So, in community policing, police and community collaboration can identify the opportunities of crime, thereby, reducing by way suggested by community and police officers collectively.

IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY POLICING ORGANIZATIONAL FEATURES

These include public awareness, foot patrols, decentralized decision making, help desks to enhance communication and active presence to further relationship management. Community Policing ideals like relationship management, interpersonal communication, understanding of different cultures and their customary and mercantile practices should be implemented at all levels of recruitment. These features can be put into practice by technology.

ADVANTAGES OF COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING

Community-oriented policing also breaks the ice between the public and the police. It acts as a bridge unlike traditional reactive policing. In traditional reactive policing informants want to go anonymous because of fear of being questioned or even implicated in the matter.

Community-Oriented Policing focuses on welfare function over law-enforcement function. It improves the image of police as upholder of community welfare rather than agents of state who always have to ensure order in the society even by using punitive methods

This increases psychological satisfaction of both, the members of the public and police personnel, that they are doing good for the society, they are upholding the emotional needs as well as values. It enhances police accountability to the community by ensuring regular meetings and compassionate hearing of community concern's and promising to solve them at the earliest.

Decentralization: Decentralization means distribution of authority, decision-making from police-station to nodal officers or members of the community. This enhances community participation, sharing of ideas, which brings police closer to the residents, shop-keepers, sanitation workers and make police-officers more concerned and familiar with the specific dynamics, perspective of the

community. This further enhances building of trust towards police, as people start realizing that now police are more approachable, friendly, and even capable enough to redress our grievances or concerns. This also adds to the learning of locals regarding policing and crime-prevention strategies.

Hence, decentralization in community -oriented policing creates and fosters collaboration, commitment, public safety, greater -sense of purpose.

BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY POLICING IN INDIA

Police-People Partnership: Collaboration of community and police is negligible because of fear of police, their rude behaviour, many times police also show partisan conduct towards affluent, so voice of common people go unheard.

Organizations should be ready to accept the philosophy: Since this concept is not so popular and social institutions believe in maintenance of law and order only. Shifting to community-oriented policing requires organizational changes, psychological shifts to accept a new role, intervention of psychologists to understand the victim as well as the accused.

People are not easily ready to accept: People have a tarnished image of Police because right from its inception in 1860, it was barbaric towards public by way of shooting at sight, using bad behaviours at the time of arrest, so, in this complex of non-trust, people cannot believe at first sight that Police can ever be the friend of the public.

Lack of knowledge inadequate training: Police training includes performing different tasks to maintain their health and vigour to face and solve any hard situation, to face and conquer danger, to strategize immediately during the time of emergency, psychologically they are prepared to be strict in demeanour over friendly and empathetic with the public. So, there is a lack of training as a community police or friend of the community.

Lack of motivation: Since a bad image of police leads to rejection of police services. So, police officers do not receive much motivation. To improve police image, police have to offer some goodness to society by way of understanding and cooperating, for this police department needs to implement certain strategies to increase motivation to handle community orientation.

No rural based community policing programmes: Rural areas have different ways of living, since most of the people are agriculturist, so theft related to cattle, crops, or usurpation of land are most common. Also, there may or may not be proper road structure or housing schemes. In all,

they are quite different from urban settings. So, the way of policing is also different. Villagers share a deep bond among each other, same way, they will start sharing responsibility and bond with the Police also. But unfortunately, there is no special training so far, on rural community policing, rural areas have the same culture unlike urban settings where there are a lot of cultures across the area. So, it is important to keep in mind the special requirement of rural areas to effect community policing in these areas.

Lack of continuity: Since the Police Department witnesses a lot of transfers, one officer may not be there for long. Rapport building requires a lot of time and once trust is formed, it should be shared for a long duration of time. But if police personnel keep transferring then how can the community maintain the bond. It is not easy to share concerns again and again with the new entrants even if they are humble and understanding.

Police image: General opinion of the public about the Police is intimidating, corrupt, non-cooperative, procrastinator, rude, unapproachable, this bad image is further degraded by the intervention of the media. So, it becomes utmost important to rebuild this image by implementing modern policing techniques to make this profession the most dignified profession. Following are the main indicators of bad image of the Police:

Non- registration of complaints: Sometimes citizens do not register the complaint, sometimes Police do not pay heed to the complaints;

Police behaviour: Police behaviour is motivated from the colonial times where Police used to be anti-society.

Police fear: Fear of Police has been found more than the fear of crime.

Organizational culture of secrecy and confidentiality: Police forms the organ of the Executive branch of the administration. So, the Police is suspected to be conniving with the politicians. Due to this transparency issue, the Police have a bad and untrustworthy image among the masses.

Neglecting People: Ignorance at the hand of Police leads to total dissatisfaction in the mind of the Complainant. Like in the matters of women offences, Police have been found to assume the victim as guilty or negligent.

COMMUNITY POLICE TO BE A SUCCESSFUL ENDEAVOUR

Participation of Everyone in Policing

Holistic and Community- led approach which empowers the citizen to contribute in crime prevention in society. It involves understanding the grievance and agony of a concerned individual by listening to his grievance by way of compassionate hearing and providing solutions in a persuasive manner. This motivates citizens to participate more with the local police which in turn helps in developing proper communication, bondage with the police thereby contributing to effectiveness of policing.

It provides opportunities for ordinary citizens to effectively contribute to the prevention and detection of crime by night patrolling, community beats, assisting traffic police by sharing their job. People can also collect information regarding places that are vulnerable to crime, those community members who are vulnerable to crime or recently targeted to chalk out some plan to keep them safe. Members can perform interviews of the neighbourhood to assess the condition of law and order in their society.

SOME POPULAR COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMMES

(A) PUNJAB

SAANJH⁹

Community Policing in Punjab has been adopted as a philosophy as an insight from Sir Robert Peel and not as a programme that the Police are the public and the public is the police. In this philosophy, police and community of Punjab collaborated to

- 1) identify needs and problems of the community and then,
- 2) work in collaboration to find solutions to the community problems while meeting aspirations of the community.

Here it is called “Saanjh” which means collaboration. It is implemented to respond to the expectations of the 21st century in the State of Punjab. It was provided with an institutional framework in 2011.

Highlights of Project “Saanjh”

⁹ Punjab Police, 'PPSAANJH' (PPSAANJH, 'PUNJAB POLICE') <https://ppsaanjh.in/>. last accessed 21 January 2024

1. “Saanjh” project is a setup of management of 27 Community Police Resource Centres known as commonly as “District *Saanjh Kendra*”, 114 Sub-Division *Saanjh Kendra* called Community Policing Suvidha Centres and 363 Police Station Outreach Centres called “*Saanjh Kendra*” in the State of Punjab.
2. A Community Affairs Division headed by an ADGP at the Police Headquarters along with IGP, DIG & AIG to monitor, evaluate and look after administrative & office work concerning the functioning of the *Saanjh Kendra* across the Punjab. District Community Police Officers (SPs/DSPs) shall be the supervisory officers at District level.
3. To make Saanjh Kendra distinguished, all the Centres have uniformly designed buildings with standardized furniture furnishing and layout.
4. All Saanjh Kendra are Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
5. Every Saanjh Kendra shall be run by a Police-Public Committee comprising school Principals, students, and elderly citizens.
6. All *Saanjh Kendra* are digitized.
7. “*Saanjh Kendra*” provides for the partnership of the Community and Police in planning and implementing locally relevant Community Oriented[P3] Projects. Experts including Lawyers, Psychologists and Counselors have been engaged in panels for resolving disputes pertaining to women, children, senior citizens, and nuisance which affect the quality of life in the neighbourhood.
8. Saanjh Centres also deals in Legal Aid, Victim Relief Centres, Women Shelters, and Non-Governmental Organisations working for empowerment of disadvantaged sections of society.
9. Both the Police and the Community members involved in public dealing at the *Saanjh Kendra* have been trained about the concept of Community Policing. Training is a continuous process comprising soft skills and management skills.
10. *Saanjh Kendra* makes sure that every member of the Punjab comes to these centres and

trained staff listen to them and Police aid through these staffers.

11. Now these *Saanjh Kendra* are running as self-sustaining modules in the State of Punjab.

(B) ASSAM

PROJECT PRAHARI¹⁰

Project 'Prahari' was initiated in 2001, in the village 'Thaigarguri' to curb the menace of women being branded as witches. Total of five people were killed brutally in the name of witches. This project was taken up as Community Policing to tackle such malady of society. It means "People for progress" in their dialect. This project is carrying out welfare functions like repair of school buildings, focusing on adult-literacy, establishment of libraries, awareness for education and literacy. A sense of belongingness at the ends of law-enforcement agencies serving as a bridge and reducing the phobic reaction of the villagers towards police. It also improves hygiene for new mothers by establishing a low-cost sanitary system in villages. Knowledge of maternity and medical education has helped in curbing the menace of branding as witches. With the collaboration of State Women Commission instances of witch-hunting, women crimes, gender violence, superstitious beliefs are cured as compared to previous.

THE ASSAM WITCH HUNTING (PROHIBITION, PREVENTION AND PROTECTION), 2015¹¹

The Assam Witch hunting (prohibition, Prevention and Protection), 2015 was brought into existence, which received the assent of the President of India on June 13th, 2018.

This was the best result of community and police collaboration in the State of Assam. This is quite a stringent Act against the ugliest and grotesque act of finding and branding any woman as 'witch'. Any offence relating to witch-hunting is cognizable, non-bailable, non-compoundable. Punishment goes to seven years along with a fine of Rs. Five Lakhs. If someone kills any person

¹⁰ Assam Police, 'PROJECT PRAHARI' (Police) <https://police.assam.gov.in/portlet-innerpage/project-prahari> last accessed 20 January 2024

¹¹ Assam Government, 'The Assam Witch-Hunting (Prohibition Prevention and Protection) Act, 2015' (Assam State Portal) <https://assam.gov.in/sites/default/files/dms/The%20Assam%20Witch%20Hunting%28Prohibition%20Prevention%20and%20Protection%29%20Act.%202015.pdf> last accessed between 19-25 January 2024

after branding a witch then it will be punishable under section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. This Act also follows restorative justice. Fine realized as a punishment for the offence shall be given to the victim or his/her family.

(C) KOLKATA

Kolkata Police have initiated two programmes under its community police wing namely:

1) NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (2022)¹²

Common citizens are encouraged to come forward and become the eyes and ears of the Police to make their area free from any illegal and unlawful activity.

They are encouraged to keep a watch on their surroundings and report such obnoxious activities to the Police. Youth[P4] of the area are also encouraged to do patrolling in and around their area.

2) DAMINI (2018)¹³

This project signifies women empowerment. It was an educational and health related programme that is made exclusively for vulnerable children from the streets of Kolkata. Also, these children are encouraged to learn handicraft, sports, art, drama, music to take the best out of themselves.

Among these vulnerable kids, ages between ten to sixteen were encouraged to participate in football coaching to develop their confidence, social awareness, and channelise their energy to strength building, team-work.

This project was helpful as it would protect the street children from the social evils of child-marriage, human trafficking, domestic violence, cruelty, begging, and not receiving education.

(D) KERALA

JAN MAITRI SURAKSHA PROJECT¹⁴

¹² Kolkata Police, 'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH' (Kolkata Police) <https://kolkatapolice.gov.in/kpinitiatives/neighbourhood-watch/> last accessed 23 January 2024

¹³ Kolkata Police, 'DAMINI' (Kolkata Police) <https://kolkatapolice.gov.in/kpinitiatives/damini/> last accessed 23 January 2024

¹⁴ Thiruvananthapuram City Police, 'JANAMAITHRI SURAKSHA' (Thiruvananthapuram City Police) <https://tvmcity.keralapolice.gov.in/page/janamaithri-suraksha> accessed 25 January 2024

This is a Community Policing project initiated by the government of Kerala Jan Maithri means friendship with people. In Thiruvananthapuram city it was implemented in eighteen police stations. It allows citizens to join hands with the police for neighbourhood watch, crime prevention at local level, conserving the resources. Its results have been found promising as Law Enforcement becomes better than before.

CHALLENGES BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION

Following are the challenges in the implementation of the Community-Policing:

Methods of recruitment: Traditional recruitment methods do not emphasize on emotional quotient and communication skills. Most of the time Police are supposed to be too strong or even ruthless towards the sentiments of the society.

Training: The training of Police is basically military in its inception. They are taught to work under the commands of their superior like they cannot even breathe by themselves. Training regarding Mediation, culture, relationship management has not been provided.

Speedy Media reporting: Media has been seen tarnishing the image of Police, by way of telling mistakes and loop-holes to earn TRP. This in turn strain the relationships, it is against the spirit of Community Policing.

Unaccountable police functioning: If police do not take accountability of their conduct like in mass firing case, use of force, arresting anyone then community will not trust them.

Fake encounters and fake arrests: Sometimes Police get into unlawful conduct like fake-encounter or fake arrest for formality to maintain law and order. This makes the public think that it is the enemy of the public.

Fake investigation reports by police: Many times, Police cannot conduct proper investigation because of late reporting or destruction of evidence, it forward closure report. This put a question mark on the credibility, efficiency of the Police.

Attitude of police: Authoritative or dictator-like attitude of Police creates fiction in intimacy of community in front of the Police. Community members cannot talk comfortably and trust the Police. So, how the problem solving will be achieved.

WAY FORWARD

Community Policing is one of the most people-friendly policing. However, it is not known to people generally because of its low popularity. It is studied as a subject only. It is important to popularize it by way of Media, social media, Skits, awareness programmes, and even considering laying a Community Policing Bill in the Parliament.

Our old The Police Act, 1860, also needs a revamp, it is silent on different forms of policing. It should either be repealed or amended to ensure the mention of all policing methods and techniques to ensure their implementation. Community Policing should not be restricted only to rural areas or help desks in metropolitan areas.

Since the Police is an executive wing. So, it is always badly criticized for being under the control of politicians, and such defamation should be kept under check. It in turn criminalizes police, which badly impacts the mental health of the police personnel.

Regular health check-ups of police personnel should be organized. They also undergo a lot of pain and agony because of too much work pressure and public expectations, this will enhance their performance, preferably constabulary who even do not get a chance to attend to their families when they need them most.

Traditional methods of investigation should be changed. If third-degree is the only remedy, then what is the use of technology, and forensic science? New methods of forensic science, Artificial Intelligence should be deployed during investigation. For oral examination, the help of clinical psychologist, criminologists must be resorted to. This way mental agony of both the accused and the Inquiry Officer will be reduced.

Working conditions of the Police Department require a deep thought. This includes vehicles used by them. Indian Police use the same vehicle as the common public. Sometimes they do not have enough fuel to drive. While the offender is driving a fast car with a lot of safety features. Then the media will create a brouhaha that the Police are incompetent and the offender could not be caught.

The Media in [P5] place of criticizing the Police should also highlight good deeds of the Police like Community Policing projects to improve the people police collaboration as well boosting the morale of the Police. Thereby in turn improving the bad image of the Police.

CONCLUSION

The goal of any method of policing is to make society free from crime or at least reduce the number of such instances. To make it happen several ways of policing were implemented but none of them could reduce the rate of crime. However, those methods could create fear of the police more than the fear of crime. A need was felt to extend help to the underprivileged or any remote area like hill ranges, outskirts, forest bound areas.

Since the society is ever evolving, the traditional methods of functions including teaching methodology, banking, police training requires a so that our country can go to the status of developed country soon. Our policing model is based on the colonial model which has had no room for mercy and welfare activity since its inception. So, it needs to be amended, or certain guidelines and policies need to be outlined so that it can add value to the police functions of the state. It augments the role of the police to improve its productivity and further enhance the speed, efficiency, credibility, accuracy, job-satisfaction, image of the police, confidence of the community, sense of security

To secure this end it is important to educate society about community policing and about crime including factors of crime, why an individual commits a crime and why it happens in society. Such workshops or counseling should be made available to everyone through police programs, webinars, skits by school and college students, in a nutshell by community involvement. It can be made possible by using peer-to-peer teaching methodology where one person learns it and teaches the other and this cycle keeps going on. Education empowers everyone. So, education regarding community policing will also empower society to combat effectively with the occurrence of crime.

Since different states have started community policing by way of different projects, particularly in rural areas, where villagers have participated enthusiastically and could change the face of their area to good. These programmes introduced maternity care, improved hygiene, adult education, night patrolling by villagers, regular meetings, citizens as volunteers, eradication of offences like witch-hunting. All this shows light towards the end of the tunnel. Future of community policing seems promising if some challenges are addressed for the time being. Community Policing is in consonance with the spirit of welfare state and maintaining a balance and peace in the community

In the pursuit of effective policing and crime free society, it falls upon the shoulders of every citizen, even non-citizen, to extend their hand for the security and welfare of the concerned place. It is a unified effort that seeks partnership of both law enforcement agencies and individuals to build a safest foundation to build such strategies to counter or even reduce the occurrence of crime and habitual offenders as per the records. Community Policing is a people friendly policing.

