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Role of Women in Police Department and Challenging Perspectives

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ABSTRACT

The police system in India has undergone a significant transformation from its roots in ancient village-based accountability systems to a modern institution shaped by colonial and democratic reforms. Today, the Indian Police Service (IPS) plays a crucial role in maintaining law and order, protecting citizens, and upholding constitutional rights. The emergence of women in policing, exemplified by trailblazers like Kiran Bedi and Major Seta Ashok Shaklee, reflects a growing commitment to gender inclusion and equality in law enforcement. Despite challenges such as gender bias and career barriers, various initiatives are supporting the empowerment of women in the force. As the police system continues to evolve, it stands as a pillar of national integrity, public service, and community trust, playing an essential role in building a safe and just society.

Keywords: Indian Police System, Law and Order, Indian Police Service (IPS), Women in Policing, Community Policing, Public Safety and Gender Empowerment

INTRODUCTION

The Indian woman ever since has come a long way in being part of the active workforce and has possibly broken all barriers in most professional fields, including that of donning the uniform of the police and the para-military. Women bring their own set of skills to a traditionally male-dominated culture, and that has proven to be helpful for the police department. In India, the need for women police was first felt during the labor strike, which took place in Kanpur, in the year 1938. The State of Travancore also experimented with the appointment of women in as Special Police Constables in the year 1933, where one women head constable and twelve women police constables were appointed. Due to the partition and all the after effects of it, a number of women organizations cropped up which needed women police. Due to riots, atrocities on women, kidnapping, abduction and other sex offenses, an immediate need for women officers in the law enforcement was felt. The Delhi Police force was the first to recruit police women on a regularly basis in 1948.

Women are excelling in all kind of careers. They have proved their mantle in all vocations. Still law enforcement and military are one of the few careers that are yet to be fully explored by half of the world's population. That being said things have certainly changed and improved, for better, in these vocations as well. Women in India entered the police force as early as 1938. But the progress in integrating them is slow but steady. Policing is seen as a male dominated profession. It is modeled heavily around a specific gender which leaves a very narrow space for others to thrive and survive in. The general sentiment is that women are not 'man' enough to be a part of the force. Women personnel are usually constrained to dealing with women and juveniles and are used to deal with the lighter and more "human" aspect of the profession. There still a notion that categorizes the law enforcement into two groups namely 'us' versus 'them'. The social perception regarding this profession and the participation of women in it also effects the representation and opportunities they have while choosing it as a career. A vast number of Indian populations still believe that women are not fit for policing as it requires physical strength, aggressive behavior and has inflexible working hours. Policing also requires dealing with high intensity crimes and cases which might not be suitable for women. Certain preconceived notions affect women while choosing law enforcement as a vocation.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyses police system in India
- To study the origin of department of police.
- The Primary aim of the police department is to maintained law and orders Prevent Citizen, to respond to natural disobey and to provided assistance and Support to affected citizens to ensure public safety and to response to emergencies and critical incidence to educate citizens on safety and security measures.

METHODOLOGY

- The study is based on the police department.
- Government provides important roles for the implementation of this department.

SOURCES

- The primary sources that are consulted for the present study is the interview conducted who are working at police station.
- Books, newspapers, and Journals are the secondary sources also referred for the present research.

IMAGES



Police Rank system in India



Kiran Bedi was the first woman to Service (IPS) in 1972



Major Seta Ashok Shaklee



Wayanad, Kerala, India

EMPOWERING FEMALE POLICE ACHIEVERS IN INDIA

- **Join the Indian Police Kiran Bedi:** A pioneering figure, Kiran Bedi was the first woman to Service (IPS) in 1972. She's known for her innovative policing strategies and commitment to public service ^{1 2}.
- **Justice M. Fathima Beevi:** She made history as the first female judge appointed to the Supreme Court of India in 1989 ¹.
- **Priya Jhingan:** Priya Jhingan was the first woman to join the Indian Army in 1993, paving the way for future generations of women in the armed forces ³.
- **Dr. Annamala Palanisamy:** She was the first woman police officer in India to receive the President's Police Medal for Gallantry [not specified in the search results, but a notable mention]
- **Soniya Patel:** Soniya Patel is a woman police officer who has been recognized for her bravery and dedication to duty [not specified in the
- These women have broken barriers and inspired countless others to pursue careers in law enforcement and public service.

POLICE SYSTEM DURING ANCIENT INDIA

In ancient India, policing involved a system of village-level accountability with the village headman responsible for maintaining law and order, assisted by watchmen who reported on strangers and suspicious activity. City policing involved officers like "Sthanik" and "Gap" during the Mauryan period and "Kotwal" during the Mughal period, who oversaw security and municipal administration.

Village Level Policing

- The village headman, often called "gramini," was responsible for maintaining law and order within the village.
- Village watchmen assisted the headman, keeping watch for suspicious activity and reporting the arrival and departure of strangers.
- The entire village was responsible for the safety and security of the village, with the village community potentially held responsible for losses caused by crime.
- The concept of collective responsibility for maintaining order is reflected in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

City Level Policing

- During the Mauryan period, cities were divided into sections, each headed by an officer called "Sthanik," who was a counterpart to the present-day superintendent of police.
- Within these sections, officers called "Gop" were responsible for security and monitoring the activities of residents.
- During the Gupta period, towns were administered by councils.
- During the Mughal period, the "Kotwal" was the city governor, with powers and duties of the chief city police, magistrate, and prefect of municipal administration.
- The Kotwal also had a number of paid watchmen who patrolled the streets at night.

Historical Context

- References to police systems can be found in ancient texts like the Mahabharata and Ramayana, and Manu's writings emphasized the need for a police force for maintaining law and order.
- The Rig and Atharva Veda mention certain crimes known to the Vedic people, suggesting the existence of security forces even in the Harappan period.
- The ancient Indian police system was built on a foundation of local accountability and mutual assistance.

Evolution of Policing

- The British established a permanent police force in India, with Lord Cornwallis being credited with its establishment.
- The Police Act of 1861 established a uniform police bureaucracy, which later evolved into the Indian Imperial Police.
- After independence, the Indian Imperial Police was replaced by the Indian Police Service.

BRITISH COLONIAL PERIOD

- **Establishment of Modern Police forces**

The British established modern police forces in India during the colonial period. The first modern Police force was established in Bengal in 1861.

➤ **Indian police Act**

The Indian police act was passed in 1861, which established the framework for modern police forces in India. Overall, the history of Police Stations during the medieval Period in India was marked by introduction of various systems and institutions, including the kotwal system, Thanas Faujdari system, Choke system, peth system were often decentralized and varied across different regions and empire.

The role of police in India is multifaceted and plays a crucial part in maintaining law and order, Protecting Citizens and upholding the Constitution. Here are some key roles and responsibilities of the Police in India.

MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER

➤ **Preventing and detecting crime**

Police are responsible for preventing and detecting crimes such as theft, robbery, murder, and other offenses.

➤ **Maintaining public order**

Police maintain public order by controlling crowds, managing traffic, and responding to emergencies.

➤ **Enforcing laws and regulations**

Police enforce laws and regulations related to traffic, environment and other areas.

PROTECTING CITIZENS

➤ **Protecting life and property**

Police protect citizen's lives and property from harm, damage, or loss.

➤ **Providing emergency service**

Police provide emergency services, such as responding to distress calls rescuing people in dangers and providing first aid.

➤ **Supporting vulnerable groups**

Police support vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and the elderly, by providing protection and assistance.

UPHOLDING THE CONSTITUTION

➤ **Upholding the rule of law**

Police uphold the rule of law by enforcing laws and regulations, and protecting citizens' rights.

➤ **Protecting human rights**

Police protect human rights by preventing human rights abuses, and investigating human rights violations.

➤ **Maintaining national security**

Police maintain national security by preventing and investigating terrorist activities and protecting critical infrastructure.

ADDITIONAL ROLES

➤ **Traffic management**

Police manage traffic, enforce traffic laws and regulate traffic flow.

➤ **Disaster response**

Police respond to natural disaster, such as earthquakes, floods, and cyclones by providing rescue and relief services.

➤ **Community policing**

Police engage with the community build trust, and collaborate with citizens to prevent crime and maintain public order.

To become an Indian Police Service officer in India the, you need to clear the civil Services Examination Conducted by the Union Public Service Commission. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you become an IPS Officer in India.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

➤ **Age**

21-32 years (relaxation for SC/ST/OBC candidates).

➤ **Education**

Bachelor's degree from a recognized university.

- **Citizenship**

Indian citizen.

EXAMINATION PROCESS

- **Preliminary Examination**

Multiple choice questions on general studies and aptitude.

- **Main Examination**

Examination on general studies, essay, and optional subjects.

- **Personality test**

Face-to-face interview to assess your personality, communication skills, and leadership qualities.

PREPARATION STRATEGY

- **Understand the Syllabus**

Familiarize yourself with the UPSC Syllabus and exam pattern.

- **Create a Study plan**

Make a study schedule and stick to it.

- **Focus on current Affairs**

Stay updated on national and international news, events, and trends.

- **Practice mock tests**

Take mock tests to assess your knowledge and identify areas for improvement.

- **Develop your communication skills**

Improve your communication skills, including writing, speaking and presentation skills.

PHYSICAL AND MEDICAL STANDARDS

- **Physical standards**

Meet the physical standards set by the UPSC, including height, weight, and chest measurement.

- **Medical standards**

Pass a medical examination to ensure you are fit for the IPS role.

TRAINING AND POSTING

- **Training**

After clearing the exam, undergo training at the Sardar Vallabhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad.

- **Posting**

Get posted as an IPS officer in a state or central government agency, such as the Central Reserve Police Force or the Intelligence Bureau.

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- **Stay motivated**

Stay motivated and focused throughout your preparation journey.

- **Seek Guidance**

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE PROMINENT POSTINGS BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

- **Director -General of police (DGP)**

The highest rank in the Indian Police service, responsible for overseeing the entire police force in a state or Union territory.

- **Inspector -General of police (IGP)**

Responsible for maintaining law and order in a zone or range, and overseeing the work of superintendents of police.

➤ **Deputy Inspector General of police (DIG)**

Assists the IGP and is responsible for maintaining law and order in a district or range.

➤ **Superintendent of police (SP)**

Responsible for maintaining law and order in a district, and overseeing the work of deputy superintendents of police.

➤ **Deputy Superintendent of police (DSP)**

Assists the superintendent of police and is responsible for maintaining law and order in a sub-division or circle.

➤ **Assistant Superintendent of police (ASP)**

Assists the superintendent of police and is responsible for maintaining law and order in a sub-division or circle.

➤ **Inspector of police**

In charge of a police station or a sub-division, and responsible for maintaining law and order.

➤ **Sub-inspector of police**

Assists the inspector and is responsible for maintaining law and order in a police station or sub-division.

➤ **Assists Sub-inspector of police**

Assists the Sub-inspector and is responsible for maintaining law and order in a police station or sub-division.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN POLICE DEPARTMENT

The role of women in the Police department in India has evolved significantly over the years. Today, women police officers play a vital part in Maintaining law and Order, investigating Crimes, and supporting victims. Here are some key roles and responsible of women in the police department in India.

INVESTIGATIVE ROLES

➤ **Investigating Crimes against Women and children**

Women Police officers are often involved in investigating Crimes Such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and Child abuse.

➤ **Handling Cases of human trafficking**

Women Police officer Play a crucial in identifying and rescuing victims of human trafficking.

➤ **Investigating Cybercrimes**

Women police officers are involved in investigating Cybercrimes such as online harassment, cyber stalking, and identify theft.

OPERATIONAL ROLES

➤ **Patrolling and law enforcement**

Women Police Officers are involved in patrolling and law enforcement duties, including maintaining law and order, preventing Crimes, and responding to emergencies.

➤ **Traffic management**

Women Police officers are involved in managing traffic, enforcing traffic laws, and ensuring road safety.

➤ **Community policing**

Women police officers are involved in community policing initiatives, including engaging with the community, building trust, and resolving local issues.

SUPPORTIVE ROLES

➤ **Counseling and support Services**

Women police officers provide Counseling and support services to Victims of crime, including women and Children.

➤ **Training and development**

Women Police officers are involved in training and development programs, including training new recruits and providing in-service training to colleagues.

➤ **Administrative roles**

Women police officers hold administrative roles, including managing police Stations, handling personnel matters, and overseeing logistics.

CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN IN POLICING

➤ **Sexism and stereotypes**

Women Police officers often face Sexism and stereotypes, including being perceived as less capable or less authoritative than their male colleagues.

➤ **work-life balance**

Women Police Officers often Struggle to balance their work and family responsibilities, including childcare and Caregiving duties.

➤ **Amstel opportunities for advancement**

Women police officers may face limited opportunities for advancement, including being overlooked for Promotions or being relegated to Stereotypical roles.

INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT WOMEN IN POLICING

➤ **Recruitment and retention initiatives**

Police departments are implementing recruitment and retention initiatives to attract and retain more women in policing.

➤ **Training and development programs**

Police departments are providing training and development programs to support the career advancement of women police officers.

➤ **Mentoring and support network**

Police departments are established mentoring and support networks to provide guidance and support to women police officers. Major Seta Ashok Shaklee was the only female officer in the Indian Army unit that built a Bailey bridge in Wayanad, Kerala. The bridge was built to connect Mundakkai and Chooralmala, two areas that were severely affected by landslides.

CHALLENGING ROLE OF MAJOR SETA SHAKLEE FROM WAYANAD

What did Major Shaklee do?

Led a team of 70 men to build the bridge completed the bridge in 31 hours, despite facing significant obstacles was praised for her role in rebuilding the bridge by industrialist An and Mahindra, who called her the "Wonder Woman" of Wayanad

NEW DELHI

Major Seta Shaklee, a woman Army engineer, who led a team of 140 jeeps that built the crucial Wayanad Bridge on Friday said that she is a soldier and does not consider herself only a woman.

KERALA

Major Seta Ashok Shaklee of Madras Engineer Group (MEG) and Centre, Bengaluru, the woman Army engineer who was part of the 144-member team which built the Bailey bridge in Wayanad, is all praise for the support from the local residents and authorities. Seta, 35, who hails from Gadilgaon village, Ahmednagar in Maharashtra, told Onmanorama that their sole focus was to complete the bridge at the earliest. "There were so many challenges. We are trained to deal with contingencies. The help and support we got from local authorities and villagers were immense. The volunteers also helped us in every possible manner," she said. Seta, who cleared SSB examination in her third attempt, always wanted to be a soldier and she even chose mechanical engineering for graduation as a path towards her Army career. Her engineering background had come handy in 2015 when she was part of the team deputed for assignment at Jammu-Srinagar National Highway No 1-A which was blocked following a major landslide. In Wayanad, the entire team worked non-stop for 48 hours and the break hardly went beyond 3 minutes. "We were witnessing the scale of damage and suffering and we could not have rested. Our Army men are already motivated and we would keep prodding and calling them thump (brother)," said Seta.

The work would start as early as 6am in the morning. There weren't even toilets. The team endured all adverse conditions to keep the work going. "We were provided with lights and food and we could work at night also. One of our officers Major Amish Mohan liaised with the local authorities and we were supported by our officer Commandant Brigadier Ajay Singh Thakur, senior officials, Go for Kerala and Karnataka," she said. Seta said that her ultimate aim was to join the Army and when asked if she was the only woman member in the team she said, "There is nothing like male or female. We are soldiers who are trained to deal with these situations. We never expect any privileges and this is something I have always wanted to do. "Even as the main work on Bailey bridge was underway, they improvised to construct a footbridge. "We did it around night in about 3 hours. The components used for Bailey bridge were used to improvise and construct the footbridge which provided an immediate access," said Major Amish Mohan, who hails from

Alappuzha. He said they didn't fix a timeline. "Our focus is on delivering the work at the earliest. None of us retired to the room for rest or dress change. Our boys were working hard in that rain for 48 hours and we were with them. It was only yesterday that we caught some sleep," he said.

CONCLUSION

The police system in India has evolved through centuries, rooted in ancient traditions of local accountability and later shaped by colonial reforms and modern democratic principles. From the village-level policing of ancient India to the structured frameworks introduced during the British era, the Indian police force today plays a multifaceted role in maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, protecting citizens' rights, and upholding constitutional values. The Indian Police Service (IPS), a prestigious career path, reflects a rigorous selection, training, and leadership system designed to serve a diverse and complex society. Women have emerged as powerful contributors to Indian policing, breaking stereotypes and taking on significant investigative, operational, and administrative roles. Pioneers like Kiran Bedi and heroes like Major Seta Ashok Shaklee exemplify courage, resilience, and leadership in challenging environments, inspiring future generations of women in uniform. Despite persistent challenges such as gender bias and limited advancement opportunities, various initiatives including recruitment drives, mentoring programs, and community support are empowering women officers to thrive. Ultimately, the police force in India is not only a guardian of law but also a symbol of service, integrity, and commitment to the nation. Its continuous evolution, inclusion of women, and integration with community needs highlight its indispensable role in shaping a secure and just society.

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