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Police-public relation: A study

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Abstract

Police-public relationship is a very hot topic of discussion both in media and by the common people of streets. In India police's image is not at all clean though it is a very tough job to handle the crimes and criminals. Public does not pay respect due to fear and hatred they harbor against the cop. The cop is coupé by dirty politics in Odisha that directly tarnish the reputation of the police despite of several good deeds and efforts for controlling and eliminating crimes by enforcing effective law and order.

Keywords: Police, evidence act, vigilance, investigation, criminology, colonization, judiciary

Introduction

Police system in India owes to the Colonial origin. Before the colonial entry in India people were mostly controlled by morality, ethics, religion, folkways etc. Now the CCTV surveillance, the most modern automation system of round-the-clock vigilance, had had its universal presence before the Colonial Era in the form of the Omnipresence of the Almighty. At the approaches of secularism and modernism, the police system was introduced by the Colonial government to control crimes and law and order system in the colonized countries. In India the Police Act was introduced in 1861 along with the IPC to define and specify crimes, their natures and provision of punishment.

Police system of controlling crimes and restoring law and order is a universal phenomenon. In the same way a police man is universally detested by the common people even though it is for the protection the common people. People could not believe in police system as it is under the control and the ruling parties. A famous economist and Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen once said that the main duty Indian police are to destroy the criminal evidences of the ruling looters and to unnecessarily harsh the opposition members.

The urbanization is rapidly gaining its space. In the same way the crimes and criminals are being modernized. The urban crimes are very much modernizing and challenging to the police. To curb such crimes and to restore the faith of public on police, the Commiserate Police system was adopted in India which is modernized with sophisticated weapons and given some extra judicial power.

The police Commiserate in the twin cities of Odisha are a recent origin. Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, the twin cities had its police commissionerate 2000 by a separate police act empowering certain judicial power though it is not fully implemented yet. Since 2000 the police commissionerate has been functioning effectively though it suffers from certain wants and maladies. City people believe in this system which has been proved as a better administration of police after effectively controlling the organized crimes in the city.

The home department's budget is not up to satisfactory. The state government could not provide adequate sophisticated instruments to modernize the police in the urban areas. The central assistance is meant only to curb the Maoism in western Odisha and other infested districts. The commissionerate police face certain financial crises.

When the Mumbai Police commissioner leveled a serious allegation against the Home Minister of Maharashtra that the later demanded hundred crore rupees a month from the Commissioner as commission, it questioned the sanctity of the urban police which claimed to be honest. It also revealed the nexus between the police and criminals. Such allegation eroded the faith of public on police. It is very difficult to restore faith on police when the departmental head brought such allegation. The Mumbai Police Commissionerate has failed to check the organized crimes of the metropolitan city which houses more than a 100 million population.

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In this way the twin city police commiserate has been questioned for being a tool in the hands of politicians. The first police commissioner of the twin city Binaya Behera disclosed the police-criminal nexus in Odisha as result he was transferred immediately after that. Again he was not promoted to the top post of DGP due to such disclosure. Again Santosh Sadhangi, the police commissioner of the twin city, who worked most effectively, was transferred as he could not fulfill the demands of his political boss. The urban police are a hand in the glove of the politicians who make the police dance as per their own interest.

Despite such fissures the urban police of the twin cities have initiated lot of steps to restore faith on police and its result has been noticed. Police Commissionerate has indulged in many welfare activities like arranging blood donation camp, running destitute centers, school, old age centre and many other activities. In this way the police have attempted to win the hearts of mass and some extend succeed to restore its image in public. It is reported that the city police is collecting more than hundred units of blood every year.

Police are always blamed for the lower rate of conviction. As per the Home Department information, the conviction rate is only 8 per cent in Odisha in the year 2017 which is far below than that of the national average. It is not at all appropriate to blame only to the police because in the judiciary system police is a part which acts under executive. The judiciary system the court does not take the police into confidence. Police cannot be an eyewitness in any crimes. The role of the investigation officer is to charge sheet and to produce the evidence in court. The evidence act is also very complicated and it was designed by the colonial government for their own benefits not for the welfare of Indians. Everybody including Supreme Court has pronounced judgment for the reformation of such old outdated laws and system but no step is taken either by the union or the state governments.

The political wills are not there to change such old and colonial laws because the politics has its roots gripped in corruption and injustice. No political party raises its voice for the amendment of police law though they often complain for its massive misutilization by the ruling class and rich. It is an open secret that the police protect ruling class by proving them the safe heaven to loot and further it ease their path of corruption by destroying the evidences. Most of the Odia electronics media brought and leveled serious allegation against police for destroying blue chips, video clips and other forensic evidence in the Mamita Meher's murder case. In all the high profile cases evidences are destroyed so that the central investigating agencies will not find any proofs in case it probes by political pressure. Such proofs were found in Sony cases though a large numbers of politicians were involved police exempted them from investigation and later they were arrested by the CBI.

The Odisha police is not that much trained and well-equipped to tackle the rising organized crimes in the twin cities. The criminals are much more skilled in crimes to easily hoodwink to the police and sometimes the police are seen escaping from the situation instead of taking legal action. The central government provides sufficient funds as demanded by the state governments for police training, sophisticated weapons and vehicles but most of the states like Maharashtra, UP and Andhra Pradesh have successfully modernized their police getting central government aid but Odisha could not utilize the fund properly. The

administrative system functions in a lethargic way to utilize the fund if the percent of commission is not attractive. In this way a huge amount of fund returns to the centre without being invested in time.

Often police is blamed by the media and intellectuals in Odisha without understanding the real problems. The media negatively portrays police for TRP without touching the core. Recently a lot of shows were telecast in news channels mocking the commissionerate police and its way of functioning. For example police is shown dosing in the police station. It is known that police patrolling throughout the night, untimely duties, overnight raids may be the cause of such dosing but media only shows the negative sides of the positive outcome. In this way the media, which should bring the reality, is misleading public portraying police negatively.

To strengthen police both morally and to develop their commitment for public is largely dependent on public and their changing mind set. The public must co-operate the police and the civil society should pressurize the political system to reform police making it free from the clutches of dirty politics. The public could change system in case they will be conscious.

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