

### **Professional Victimization Among Police Officials in Trivandrum District, Kerala**

**Rajmohan R. Pillai**, Research Scholar, Reg.No: 1813401271073, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.

**Lt. Dr. R. Sivakumar**

Assistant Professor & Supervisor, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice,  
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.

### **Police**

Police is a force where a team of people work to prevent crimes and enforce law in the society. The word "POLICE" is deriving from Greek word "polis" meaning state. The full form of police is public officer for legal investigations and criminal emergencies. They are uniformed individuals who are responsible for keeping law and order intact. Police works all over, the world they had their own divisions and work as a team to protect people and prevent from crime. The professional police force in the world was first established in September 29, 1829 in London. After, In British Indian government introduces Indian council's act 1861. Under this act new police force named, superior police service (sps) was formed. In 1905, it is termed as Indian imperial police. In 1948, after independent the police force termed as Indian police service (IPS). In Indian history one can discern two distinct police system: a rural village-based system and system emanating from the dominant section of the society.

### **Police after Independence in India**

The Constitution of India came into operation on January 26, 1950. The Constitution of India provides police is a state subject according to article 246. There have been additions in police organization at national level, after the independence but no change in its structure or work patterns. The CRPF was created in 1947, CBI was created in 1963, CISF in 1964 and BSE in 1965. Except CBI others are paramilitary, but police organizations. Except CBI others have no investigative functions and no public orientation. In 1979, National Police commission was formed under the chairmanship of Dharamvira and it laid 8 reports in the table of parliament in 1981 but

still no government have accepted the recommendations of NPC and still we are following the age old Indian police act which is now outmoded.

### **Responsibilities of Police**

The police occupy the most strategic position in crime prevention. Its role in the prevention on the crime can hardly be over emphasized. Since maintenance of law and order is the primary responsibility of the police, the police by its performance, must repose confidence among the members of the public that the police as a class is there to protect their lives, properties and safeguard their constitutional rights.

### **Roles and Duties**

Under the Section 23 provides the role, duties, powers and responsibilities as spelt out in the police act of 1861.

1. Prevent the commission of offences and public nuisances
2. Detect and bring offenders to justice
3. Apprehend all persons whom the police are legally authorized to apprehend
4. Collect and communicate intelligence affecting the public peace
5. Obey and execute all orders and warrants lawfully issued to the Police by any competent authority
6. Take charge of unclaimed property and furnish an inventory thereof to the Magistrate of the District, and be guided by his orders regarding their disposal
7. Keep order on the public roads, Thorough fares, Ghats, Landing places and at all other places of Public Resort
8. Prevent obstructions on the occasions of assemblies and processions on the public roads.

### **Grievances of Police**

Heavy work load which necessitated unduly Armed Police (Battalions and Armed Police armed unit in each district) men and officers are deployed continuously. Therefore, they are unable to meet their family.

- Lack of attractive monetary compensation for work.
- Lack of housing availabilities.
- Lack of adequate welfare measures including hospitals.
- Lack of sympathetic attitude of superior officers.
- Lack of favorable service conditions and physical facilities at Police Stations.

## **Operational Definition**

### **a) Victim**

A person, who harmed, injured or killed by any crime, accident or any other action is called victim. Person who has felt helpless and face of misfortune or ill treatment he comes self-victimization. Everyone who does not have access to their basic facilities and rights is a victim.

### **b) Victimization**

"Victimization" refers to an event where persons, communities and institutions are damaged or injured in a significant way. Those persons who are impacted by persons or events suffer a violation of rights or significant disruption of their well being. A person who has come to feel helpless and passive in the face of misfortune or ill treatment. Sellin and Wolfgang identifies their five typologies as: primary victimization, secondary victimization, tertiary victimization, mutual victimization, and no victimization.

Crime victim is a person who has been physically, financially or emotionally injured and or had their property taken or damaged by someone committing a crime.

### **c) Professional Victimization**

Victim playing is the manufacture or misrepresentation of victimhood is the demonstration of supporting, manhandling, managing planning, looking for consideration or spreading obligation regarding others. Somebody who does this again and again is known as a "professional victimization". If victimization takes a dominating role in an individual's mind that person will be setup for ongoing and endless rational conflict. And if a person unyielding in his stance, the person will become a professional victim. Professional victim will never accept any others suggestions; he will never consider any others opinion and always think his decisions were right, and having not accept and non-negotiating behavior.

### **d) Police officials**

Police official's means who are working in the police department from Constable Cadre to Director General of Police. Police is a person whose job is to enforce laws, investigate crimes, and make arrests a member of the police.

Define Police: "a person whose job is to enforce laws, investigate crimes, and make arrests a member of the police".

A police officer is a warranted law employee of a police force. In the majority countries, "police officer" is a generic term not specifying a particular rank. In various, the use of the rank "officer" is legally reserved for military personnel.

New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers conversing with other officers in a police car  
Police officers are generally charged with the apprehension of suspects and the prevention, detection, and reporting of crime, protection and assistance of the general public, and the maintenance of public order. Police officers may be sworn to an oath, and have the power to arrest people and detain them for a limited time, along with other duties and powers. Some officers are trained in special duties, such as counter-terrorism, surveillance, child protection, VIP protection, civil law enforcement, and investigation techniques into major crime including fraud, rape, murder, and drug trafficking. Although many police officers wear a corresponding uniform, some police officers are plain-clothed in order to pass themselves off as members of the public. In most countries police officers are given exemptions from certain laws to perform their duties. For example, an officer may use force if necessary to arrest or detain a person when it would ordinarily be assault. In some countries, officers can also violate traffic code to perform their duties.

## **Review of Literature**

Increasing the number of women recruits alone will not enough; institutional changes are as important. Since 2009, when the home minister set 33 percent as the target for women representation in the police, increasing women's recruitment in the police force has been the goal of the central and state governments. Yet, India persists with a male dominated police force. In 2019, women comprised less than 10 percent of police personnel. Only seven states (Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat and Sikkim) had more than 10 percent policewomen. In fact, there has been only a 5 percent increase in the number of policewomen in a decade (3.65 percent in 2009 to 8.98 percent in 2019) (Srivastava, 2020).

We know that this year's figures are alarming compared to previous years, said a policeman. Though 35 cops have died of COVID, the other major cause has been suicides, which stands at 37. Police personnel speaking to DT Next cited various reasons for the increase in deaths, stress being the common thread. Lack of dignity at work is another factor causing stress for policemen. "Of late, a lot of engineering graduates, too, have joined the department in the constable

rank either due to self-interest or lack of job opportunities. But they are disturbed by the way they are treated by senior officials. Similarly, those directly recruited as SIS do not respect subordinates," said a policeman. Travelling for hours and bizarre shifts and not getting grievances addressed are major factors contributing to the poor health status of policemen (Venkadesan, 2020).

A 28-year-old police constable was killed on the spot after a double murder accused hurled a country-made bomb at a special police team attempting to arrest the man at Manakarai village near Murapanadu. According to police, when the team was in pursuit of Muthu and his aides, the accused hurled country-made bombs at the police personnel and ran into the forest. The police also retaliated but Subramanian was killed on the spot as a bomb fell on him (Dass, 2020).

Police officers are at a high risk of suicide than any other profession. In fact, suicide is so prevalent in the profession that the number of police officers who died by suicide is more than triple that of officers who were fatally injured in the line of duty. Researchers are attributing these statistics to the unique combination of easy access to deadly weapons, intense, stress and human devastation that police are exposed to on a daily basis (Hilliard, 2019).

Police being a part of executive is not free from political interference. Politicization of police force and its use to take undue advantage by those in power. Quality of investigating standards is deteriorating, lack of equipment, weaponry used in obsolete. Workload again is one of the major reasons for the inefficiency of police (Tiwari 2018).

Policing is considered as a more stressful profession than other professions and it has a greater risk of stress. The number of female officers has significantly increased in recent years. The results shows that women police have a problem of working alone at night, overtime work, negative comments from public, increased assignment and work on holidays. Although the proportion of female police officers has increased, they still encounter some barriers due to gender stereotypes (Kavitha & Gayathiri, 2018).

Police requires the confidence, cooperation and support of the community to prevent crime and disorder. For example, police personnel rely on members of the community to be informers and witnesses in any crime investigation. Therefore, police-public relations are an important concern in effective policing. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission has noted that police-public relations are in unsatisfactory state because people view the police as corrupt, inefficient, politically partisan and unresponsive. Community policing requires the police to work

with the community for prevention and detection of crime, maintenance of public order, and resolving local conflicts, with the objective of providing a better quality of life and sense of security. It may include patrolling by the police for non-emergency interactions with the public, actively soliciting requests for service not involving criminal matters, community-based crime prevention and creating mechanisms for grassroots feedback from the community (Chaturvedi, 2017).

Policing has been described as the most challenging, life threatening and stressful jobs in the world. It is associated with bureaucracy, danger and tense community relations. Police work seems not a job but a calling. Police officers are considered to be "always on duty" (Pandey & Veer, 2015).

It is necessary to follow the Japanese police system which is based on political neutrality and democratic control, as it is built in such a way as to ensure absence of arbitrary and political interference. The National Police Safety Commission & the National Police Agency is under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet Office; the Prime Minister is not empowered to exercise direct command or control. This guarantees the Commission's independence and ensures its political neutrality (Dilip Patil, 2014).

## **Research Methodology**

### **Research design**

This study is based on Quantitative research method.

### **Objectives of the study**

1. To find out the social- demographic variables of the police officials.
2. To understand the nature, extent and patterns of victimization among the police personnel
3. To find out the impact of victimization among police officials in Trivandrum District

### **Universe of the study**

The universe of present study has been Trivandrum District

### **Sample**

The sample of this study includes sub-inspector of police and inspector of police.

### **Sample Size**

The total number of sample size is 105 Sub-inspector and Inspectors.

## Sampling Technique

Purposive sampling method of Non probability sampling technique has been used in the present study.

## Data collection

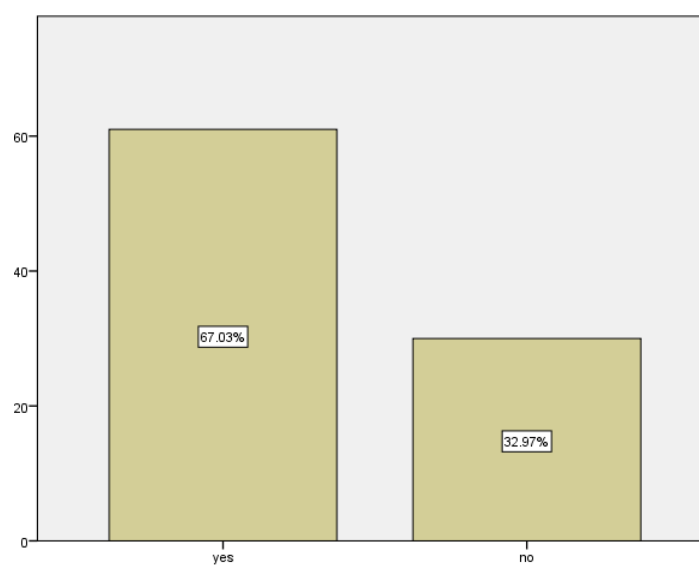
Primary data of the study was collected among the sample using a personal distribution questionnaire. The personal distribution questionnaire was designed and prepared by the researcher in view of the objectives of the study, after approval of the guide and expert, the tool was subjected to pilot study to appreciate the validity of the tool and after pilot study the tool was altered, corrected and finalized.

## Tool

The Personal Distribution Questionnaire (PDQ) was framed by the researcher.

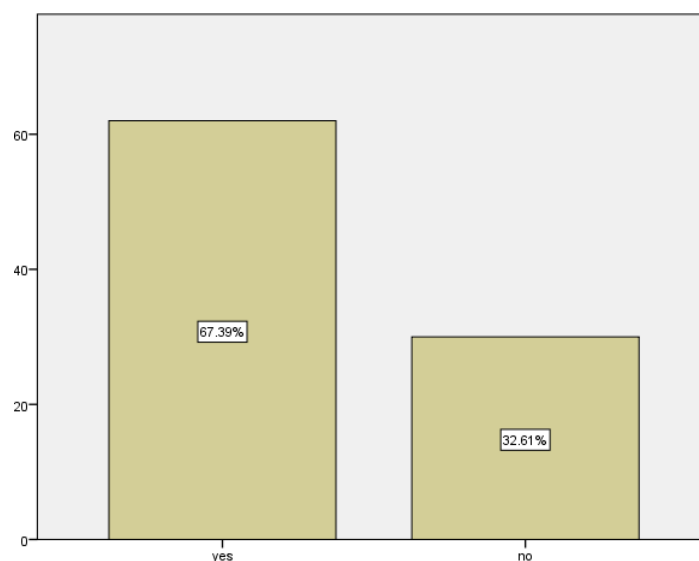
## Data analysis

The collected data was analysed with the help of IBM SPSS software. The results obtained are processed and applied for various analyses like frequency analysis, bar graph, pie chart, correlate analysis bi-variate method. The data is interpreted and discussed below in the form of figures.



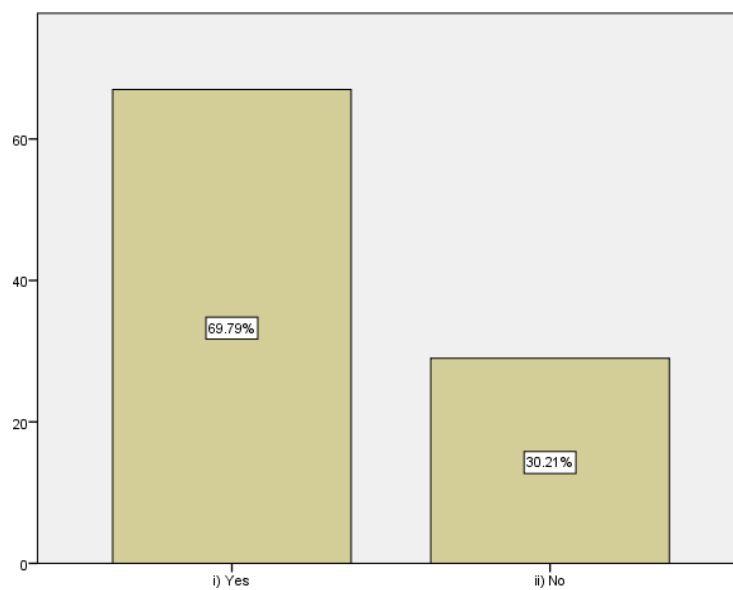
(Figure 1)

This figure 1 shows that 67.03 percent of the respondents didn't get proper food, accommodation and toilet facilities during bandobast, 32.97 percent of the respondents got the proper food during bandobast.



(Figure 2)

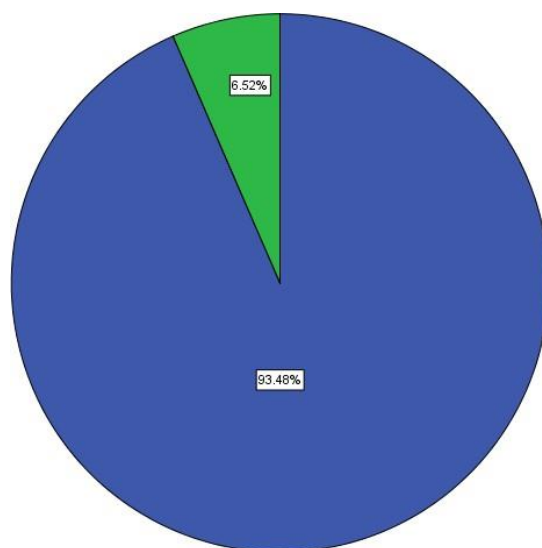
This figure 2 shows that 67.39 percent of the respondents said that Trivandrum police not having enough strength, 32.61 percent of the respondents said that Trivandrum police strength is enough.



(Figure 3)

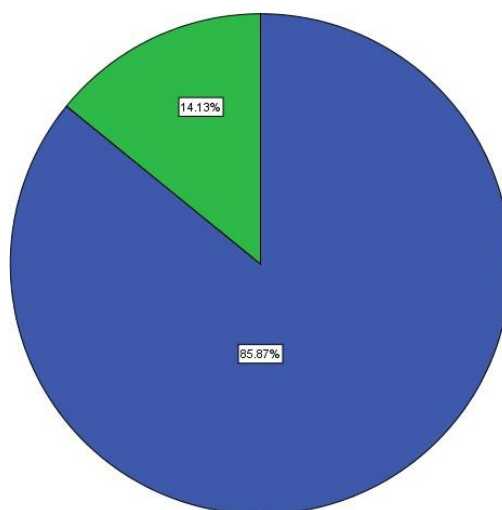


This figure 3 shows that 69.79 percent of the respondents said that lack of modern facilities in police force delay in apprehending criminals, 30.21 percent of the respondents said that the current facilities is enough.



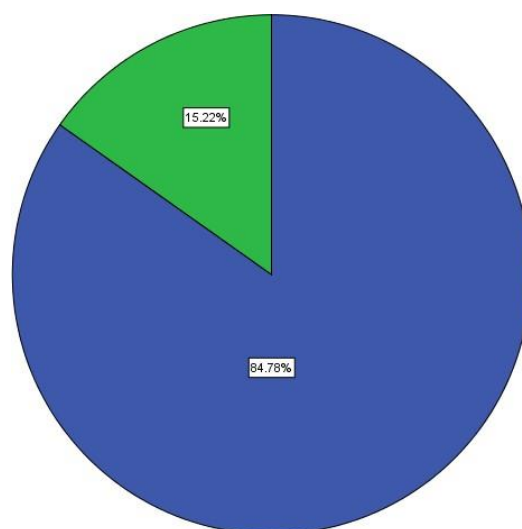
(Figure 4)

This figure 4 shows that 93.48 percent of the respondents said that work stress affects their mental health, 6.52 percent of the respondents think that work stress is not affecting their mental health.



(Figure 5)

This figure 5 shows that 85.87 percent of the respondents said that there is a discrimination in the police department, 14.13 percent of the respondents said that there is no discrimination in the police department.



(Figure 6)

This figure 6 shows that 84.78 percent of the respondents said that the government fund is not enough for maintaining accused person or suspect, 15.22 percent of the respondents said that the government fund is enough for maintaining accused person or suspect.

### Major findings of the research study

- 37.01 percent of the respondents are living in nuclear family and they can't spend time with family.
- 45.05 percent of the respondents are joining in this police job with their personnel interest.
- 90 percent of the respondents did not aware of victim of abuse.
- 18.34 percent of the respondents threatened by offenders and they were mostly threatened by petty criminals, criminal gang, sand mafia and political criminals.
- 67.39 percent of the respondents say Trivandrum police not have enough strength.
- 88.92 percent of the respondents they feel their work was more.
- 71.09 percent of the respondents were not satisfied with their current salary.
- 63.45 percent of the respondents were did not get permission for leave as required.

- 67.3 percent of the respondents were did not get proper food, accommodation, toilet facilities during bandobust.
- 27.84 percent of the respondents are responding police higher officials don't give respect.
- 84.78 percent of the respondents say government fund is not enough for maintaining accused.
- They give their own money for buying food to maintain accused or suspect.
- 49.92 percent of the respondents feel they not have self-equipment to protect them.
- 55.75 percent of the respondents say people not cooperating when arresting suspect.
- 67.32 percent of the respondents felt not safe when catching or chasing the accused. They feel it is difficult to lives.
- 55.02 percent of the respondents are injured during duty time.
- 58.84 percent of the respondents felt they have trouble while taking offenders to the court.
- 55.63 percent of the respondents felt night rounds are not safe.
- 56.12 percent of the respondents are ever complaint to higher officials as a victim of profession.
- 67.79 percent of the respondents were responding lack of modern facilities in the police force delay in apprehending criminals.
- 17.85 percent of the respondents are injured on protection work during a riot period due to lack of protection equipment.
- 85.87 percent of the respondents say discrimination exist in police department.
- 18.92 percent of respondent say scheduled and backward castes are underrepresented in police department.
- 15.77 percent of the respondents say religious discrimination exist in police department.
- 93.48 percent of the respondents says work stress affect their mental health.
- 34.45 percent of the respondents have political pressure in their duties.
- 38.86 percent of the respondents say image of police is not good among the police.
- 51.11 percent of the respondents says they are not able to manage their family responsibilities due to their workload.
- 63.53 percent of the respondents show their work stress to their family. They are unable to manage their work pressure.

## **Suggestions & Conclusion**

It is to conclude that police are affected by work stress which is very high and it may lead to mental and physical problems among them. Most of the police professionals are affected by stress. There is need to impose a stress management program and counseling session for police which may rebuild their mind peacefully and maintain their physical health. Police should mentally fit in their duty then only they could help the society. The government should provide adequate facilities for the police professionals. Mostly police are mentally disturbed by the problems faced in workplace. Increasing their salary also helps to relief from their stress. In every police station modern equipment should be brought which will help them in investigation. Developing Cyber Cells may help to prevent cyber crime. In this present scenario caste and religious discrimination are having roots in police department. This issue must be eradicated from the police system. Discrimination is the major issue to be demolished in the police department then only they will work for people without discrimination.

## **References**

- Janaki M C, Anil Kumar S, and Manikanta T (2015), "An explorative study of stress among the Police". Retrieved on. April 2021, from The Indian journal of criminology. 2015 volume 43 (1&2) 131-140.
- Devyani Srivastava (March 18, 2020), "We need more policewomen", published in The Hindu newspaper.
- Shashwat Tiwari (May, 2018). Critical analysis of problems faced by police system of India and their solutions. Retrieved on April 2021, <https://www.latestlaws.com>.
- Rajkumar V (March 25, 2021). "Suspended Sub inspector seeks permission to form police union", published in the DT Next newspaper. Retrieved on April 2021, [http:// www.dtnext.in](http://www.dtnext.in)
- Ravichandran S (2008) "The kaval system in colonial Tamil Nadu". Retrieved on April 2021, <https://www.scribd.com/doc/268339625/The-Kaval-System-in-Colonial-Tamil-Nadu>.

- Venkadesan (October 7, 2020) "238 state police personnel die till oct, covid, suicides, accidents, health major causes". Published in the DT Next newspaper. Retrieved on April 2021, <http://www.dtnext.in>
- Stephen Alkus, Christine Padesky (June 1, 1983). "Special problems of police officers: stress-related issues and intervention". Retrieved on April 2021, from Sage journals counseling psychologist. 1983 volume 11 issue 2 (55-64).
- Jena Hilliard (sep, 2019). "New study shows at highest risk for suicide of any profession". Retrieved on April 2021, <https://www.addictioncenter.com/news/2019/09/police-at-highest-risk-for-suicide-than-any-profession/>
- Pandey M & Veer G (2015, December). Women policing in India: problems, challenges & need to change. Retrieved on April 2021, from International journal of trends in Human Resource Management. <http://www.researchgate.net/publication/>
- Special sub inspector shot dead at check post. Retrieved on April 2021, published in the Hindu newspaper. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/special-sub-inspector-shot-dead-at-check-post-kanniyakumari/article30517176.ece>
- Anviti Chaturvedi (June, 2017) police reforms in India. Retrieved on April 2021, from Prs legislative research. <https://prsindia.org/policy/analytical-reports/police-reforms-india>