Community Policing Approach for Prevention of Substance Abuse

K. DIVYA
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak (M.P.) India

ABSTRACT

Community policing is a multifaceted and unique approach to crime control. It follows with three important tactical elements: positive interaction, partnerships, and problem-solving. For the first half of the 20th century, police department and police officers worked as a 'professional' model of policing and they followed strict hierarchical positions, functioned standardized operational protocols and responded only for serious crimes. Consequently, crime rates have increased in many parts of the United States social disturbances reported to police stations. Law enforcement sectors have re-examined the role and approach of police officers. It was found that there is an urgent need for public safety management effort from police officers to reduce crime and social disorders. Therefore, the police department can improve its relationship with citizens and community members. Eventually, the partnership between police and local citizens called 'community policing'. The strategy of community policing become integrated as a philosophy of law enforcement. The purpose of the paper is to explore to get an answer to this question: how do the substance abuse and related issues can be controlled through the strategy of community policing? The researcher has reviewed secondary data for analyzing the possibilities of community policing in the Indian context. The research suggests that the Police department and police officers have a significant role to reduce the harm from substance abuse.

Key Words : Community Policing, Substance Abuse, Community partnership, Community anti-drug campaign, Community involvement

INTRODUCTION

Community policing is a partnership between police and the community that helps to detect and solve the social problems in society. It works as a vigilante squad to eradicate the anti-social elements from communities. It is expected as prime aspire of community policing that police alone are no longer have the responsibility of maintaining the law and order, other than that all the members of the community or society should actively involve the policing practice to ensure the safety and security of every community. Thus, every community members become active members who associate with police to maintain the protective status as well as they works as volunteer peacekeeping community force. Moreover, police and other related forces have a significant role in nation building. Along with the community policing provide a spacious platform for villagers for active participation in the process of nation-building that provides benefit for all.

There was a time were the police officers opposed or show an unfriendly attitude towards community members. Mostly, the police personnel followed the traditional mode of law enforcement which is basically hasty and frequently repressive which represents an ineffective and alienated way of functions of the police. The wide gap between the police profession and communities were combined through the approach of community policing. The innovative thought on integrating community policing into the police department began from the late 1960s onwards. There were questions about the uncertainty of the police profession about their performance and efficiency in their duties. Throughout the 1970s, this partnership has extended from controlling anti-social behaviour to reduce the crime in societies with the help of local community residents. The foremost

attempt of community policing was initiated in San Diego[1] (Boydstun and Sherry, 1975). The community policing widely becomes a popular approach in policing in many countries like U.S.A., U.K., Canada, Japan and Singapore. The philosophy of community policing started from the 1970s and 1980 and by early 1990s it numerous countries adopted this approach.

In India, the steady increase of official crime statistics forced the police to make better synergies with community people meant for crime reduction as well as the wellbeing of every citizen through a better functioning of the nation. In the Indian context, the state Maharashtra leads the approach of community policing which starts from Mohalla Committee Movement Trust formed the communal riots that surrounded the state in 1992-93. The initial stage few concerned selected community members were taken up by the police.

The definition of Bureau of Police Research and Development (2003) referred to community policing is "normal policing of a society in consultation, cooperation and partnership with the community at large[2]". The Bureau recommends that community policing is "to prevent and detect crime, maintain order and ensure safety and security of the community in partnership with the people and to provide the community efficient, transparent and responsive law-enforcement machinery which perpetuates the rule of law[3]". Similarly, Padmanabhaiah, (2000) defines that "community policing is an active partnership between the police and the local community in identifying the basic problems which give rise to crime and in identifying solutions in preventing and controlling crime[4]".

Simon (2015) states that the growing nature of drug uses in rural areas is increasing in developing countries than in urban settings[5]. Traditional consumption of opium and Ganja is widely used in Indian societies. Rural villages are damaged with the consumption of excessive substance abuse and it can be assumed as part of a global trend. The socioeconomic disparities are highly linked to substance use, affluent societies are also impacted by increasing patterns of substance use[6] (UNODC, 2010). The police must utilize a public health approach whereby the "health" of a community is of primary concern, rather than producing numbers of arrests and citations or focusing on one dominant problem[7] (Kappeler and Gaines, 2009:270). Moreover, it is necessary that the police department needs to work with non-government agencies, resource persons from communities and other government departments to reduce drug abuse. It is urgent to find out the drug dealers and drug-dealing rural areas should be targeted for problem-solving.

Community policing is an approach follows by formal police profession based on the philosophy of law enforcement and it attempts to ensure public safety. Hence, the concept of community police has a scarcity of scientific knowledge, standardized terminology and rationalized strategies, scientific models across the world. The key components of community policing are these three broad categories includes 1) organizational transformation, 2) community partnership and 3) problem-solving.

The purpose of the paper is to explore to get an answer to this question: how do the substance abuse and related issues can be controlled through the strategy of community policing? The researcher has reviewed secondary data for analyzing the possibilities of community policing in the Indian context. The research suggests that the Police department and police officers have a significant role to reduce the harm from substance abuse.

Implementation of community policing:
The firm, authoritative and restricted idiosyncratic mannerism of police profession restricted the freedom of common people in the society. The formal police

1. Boydstun, John and Sherry, Michael. (1975) San Diego Community Profile: Final Report. Washington, D.C.: Police Foundation.

2. Government of India. (2003) Bureau of Police Research and Development.

3. Ibid.

4. Padmanabhaiah, K. (2000). Report of the Committee on Police Reforms, Submitted to Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. pp. 157-176.

5. Simon, M. (2015) "The Drug Trade in Afghanistan: Understanding Motives Behind Farmers' Decisions to Cultivate Opium", *Foreign Policy Journal*. November 15: p-1-13

6. UNODC. (2010)World Drug Report: 2. Drug Statistics and Trends. Vienna: UNODC.

7. Kappeler, Victor E. and Gaines, Larry K. (2009) Community Policing: A Contemporary Perspective. 5th Ed. Newark: LexisNexis. P-270.

approach towards community members often creates resentment. In India, Punjab is the first state be ginned Community Policing Resource from 2003 onwards. Making the policing profession as more visible community participation is incorporated for crime prevention programmes. Before the detailed discussion on crime prevention and community policing, it needs to be examined, how does community policing can be implemented?

There were a few discussions ongoing about how does the community policing can be implemented. Kappeler and Gaines (2009:141) discussed the best way to implement community policing. Kappeler and Larry categorized eight scientific steps for implementing community policing include 1) performance gap, 2) recognizing a need for change, 3) creating a proper climate for change, 4) diagnosing the problem, 5) identifying alternative strategies, 6) selecting the strategy, 7) determining and operationalizing implementation strategy, 8) evaluating and modifying the strategy etc.

The credibility of police personnel was questioned from the beginning stage of the police department. The police professionals are often facing the pressures and influences from politicians, government agencies, media and news agencies and members of civil societies. Mostly, they may carry the blame against police personnel doesn't effectively address the problem and need of the public. Thus, a significant gap exists in the performance of the formal police system. Therefore, bridge the performance gap of police professionals with the support of the community can possibly bring an egalitarian platform to perform for police professionals. Thus the first stage of performance gap can be filled by both police and community members through identification and prevention of drug abuse from society. Community members can provide more details exclusively about existing social issues.

Police managers often realize that their agencies' performance falls short of optimal expectations or even minimum requirements, but they may still fail to act. Police administrators might rely on traditional, reactive responses to problems rather than attempting community policing[8] Kappeler and Gaines (2009:142). The second stage is recognizing a need for change that attempts the administrators always follows the conventional method. Community policing is an alternative method to think and act differently and effectively deals with the problem. Radical interventions are necessary. It is not absolutely expected that a radical intervention with community policing can bring a drastic improvement in society. However, the conventional mod of operands of police personnel's in social issues needs to be improvised exclusively in the cases related to substance abuse.

The third step explains about creating a proper climate for change. Prepare a proper space and situation relates to actions that can be articulated in departmental constituents. Follows of value system maintains through the principles of law enforcement and law enforcement has been the core police role for decades[9] (Van Maanen, 2006; Sykes, 2006). Hence, it is difficult to make changes in the traditional values and working culture, perceptions and commitments of police profession. The fourth step of community policing is diagnosing the problem. Sensing the problem is one of the most significant stages of community policing. Therefore, merging of community policing with formal police profession should be in the form of a template of activities, rather than drastic change.

The fifth stage of community policing is identifying alternative strategies. Both piecemeal and comprehensive strategies are the two strategies for implementing community policing. The comprehensive model attempts to introduce community policing concepts and techniques throughout the department, while the piecemeal approach introduces it to a specialized unit charged with community policing throughout the community or a geographical area where it supplants traditional policing[10]. The sixth stage is selecting the strategy explains the piecemeal strategy will be implemented in a geographical area or will it be confined to a specialized unit that will apply its precepts throughout the community. There are a number of

8. Kappeler, Victor E. and Gaines, Larry K. (2009) Community Policing: A Contemporary Perspective. 5th Ed. Newark: LexisNexis. P-142.

9. Van Maanen, J. (2006). "The Asshole." In V.E. Kappeler (ed.) *The Police & Society: Touch Stone Readings*, Third Edition. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.

Sykes, G. (2006). "Street Justice: A Moral Defense of Order Maintenance Policing." In V.E. Kappeler (ed.) *The Police & Society: Touch Stone Readings*, Third Edition. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.

10. Kappeler, Victor E. and Gaines, Larry K. (2009) Community Policing: A Contemporary Perspective. 5th Ed. Newark: LexisNexis. P-146.

implications for each of these strategies, and the executive must carefully consider the ramifications of each before selecting.

The seventh stage is determining and operationalizing implementation strategy, which should be flexible, the realistic implementation strategy for moral policing. It is always better to maintain a flexible framework in community-policing rather than highly structure to confront the problems related to substance abuse. The last step of evaluating and modifying the strategy follows the assessment of the need to determine the community policing programmes impact of problem, group of people, or geographical area. Very often, there is a need to make adjustments or fine-tuning in a new program.

Community policing and prevention of substance abuse:

Community policing focuses on prevention of crime and social disorder through the delivery of community police services and formal police service that includes different aspects of traditional law enforcement, as well as prevention, problem-solving, community engagement, and partnerships. There are tremendous changes occur in rural and urban communities which are closely linked from the transition from tradition to modernity. The changing trend of communities was not studied well by researchers or social scientists. Accordingly, the expectation of civil societies regarding their thoughts on crime and prevention is changing depends upon the period and functions of police system keep changes in their working nature regarding crime control and peacekeeping. The gap of knowledge about the transitions of communities and its members are still remaining in social science. However, the community members will get a peacekeeping orientation through their participation in community policing. Concisely, community policing is a mutual help, partnership, preventive approach of crime in communities with police profession.

Community policing programs, transplanted from the West, have been introduced in some Indian urban communities in recent times under the auspices and authority of the official police stations, and some have been tried in rural areas as well[11] (Mukerjee, 2008; Brogden, 2005; Karpurthala Police, 2008). The root of community policing was hidden remains the villages of rural areas of Indian society. Before the implementation of Panjaytiraj, community councils with five elder members handled the administration of community-oriented laws and village affairs. These community councils representatives involve while the crimes arose in the community. Hence, the marginalised communities like women, Dalit and marginalized members were socially excluded and socio-culturally disabled to represent them to this community council or the modernized, decentralized and democratic form of Panchayati Raj.

Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala are the prominent states to lead the approach of community policing. Some regions of Tamil Nadu, a Friends of the Police programme has been instituted by the police with a primary focus on improving perceptions of the police and gaining help from citizens in solving crimes[12] (Prateep, 1996). In Andhra Pradesh, the police select citizens to form Maithri Committees to help maintain law and order, and even to settle disputes[13] (Andhra Pradesh Police, 2008).

Substance abuse in the Indian Context:

Every country have a different pattern of substance abuse which differentiates from region to region and country to country. Drug addiction has become a serious problem worldwide including India with about 190 million people all over the world consuming one drug or the another[14]. The nation is having a significant degree of

11. Mukerjee, D. (2008). Community policing experiments/outreach programmes in India. Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, http://www.humanrightsinitiative. org/new/community_policing_experiments_in_india.pdf (accessed October 15, 2008).

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12. Prateep, P.V. (1996). Friends of police movement. Cited in M. Pagon (Ed.), Policing in central and eastern Europe. Ljubljana, Slovenia: College of Police and Security Studies.

13. Andhra Pradesh Police (2008). Andhra Pradesh Police Manual, Chap. 35. http://www. apstatepolice.org/html/appm/manch/ c35.htm (accessed October 15, 2018).

14. Mahi, R.K., Sharma, A., Sharma, K.C. and Sidhu, B.S. (2012) Epidemiological survey on alcohol and drug dependence. *Delhi Psychiatric Journal*.

licit and illicit drug abuse as well as cultivation. India is popular to have a transit route for channelizing the illegal drugs and have a high level of the consumer market. The country carries the past history of cannabis[15] and opium use for spiritual, medicinal and recreational purposes in India. Since the colonial era, there were legal restrictions to control the cultivation and consume of cannabis and British rulers implemented an act titled Opium Acts of 1857 and 1878[16]. In addition, the Government of India appointed a Royal Commission with the purpose of production and sale of Indian opium in 1893.

The underlying consequences make vulnerable the life of both addicted and their associated members of society. Their life will be under risk and they suffer from hazardous physical and mental health issues. Mostly, their life will be filled with multiple issues like family violence, economic pressure, social alienation, neglected from all spheres of social institutions, social, sexual exploitation, loss of faith etc. Prevention of widespread illegal substance abuse is task-oriented work. Because, the substance abuse and its effects are well established in personal behaviour, attitude, perspectives, create poisonous social environment and lifestyles.

Government rules and regulations may bring gradual social change within an expected period. Community policing ensure to implant the possibility of making a responsible citizen from very community members who prevent against all forms of crimes and exploitation. It is essential to be alert by themselves and their communities to protect from social harm. Moreover, it encourages the community members to adopt and follow a healthy behaviour and ensure the wellbeing of every community members.

Conclusion:
The implementation of community policing with a

formal police profession brings a measurable reduction in crime and social issues that improve the quality of community life. However, it is difficult to achieve standardized acceptance and community support. The challenging notion of community policing is ensuring the mobilization and involvement of community members. The concept of community policing contradicts with the traditional informal panchayat system that neglected the voice of voiceless. Presently, community policing altered the traditional practices and modernized the policing system and filled with democratic values and principles. The culture of community policing will enrich the activities of the department of police and maintain its pride. The practical elements of community policing and substance abuse need to be sensitized and articulated among the communities for further intensive functions.

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15. Cannabis are plant; resin or charas and its concentrated variant is named Hashish. The dried flowering or fruiting tops of the plant, that is, called ganja and any mixture of charas or ganja. Importantly, bhang or the cannabis leaf is excluded (in accordance with the 1961 Convention) and regulated through the state excise laws.

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