

COMMUNITY POLICING EXPERIMENTS IN INDIA

Over the last few years, CHRI's police reforms unit has been documenting experiments on community policing and outreach programmes which are mostly spirited initiatives by individual police personnel in the different parts of the country. In an attempt to bring a holistic picture of community policing initiatives the unit seeks to update this section regularly and anybody interested to share or wishing to contribute to this section, can contact Doel Mukerjee at doel@humanrightsinitiative.org.

1. Community Policing Initiative for Mumbaitees:

Crimes in India have shown a steady increase over the last couple of years and needless to say to engage with the police and to find ways of building better communications between the people and the police in order to tackle the situation, civil society groups in India have taken initiatives in building synergies between police and civil society for better governance. Maharashtra already boasts of a Mohalla Committee Movement Trust formed after the communal riots that engulfed the state in 1992-93. While these initiatives were taken up by the police, however, for the first time a unique initiative was started by a few concerned citizens.

One of the community policing initiatives is the *Public Concern for Governance Trust* (PCGT). This is an experiment which has the capability to mobilize public opinion and increase public participation and activism towards creating more transparent and efficient governance. The mandate is to ensure enactment of laws and policies, to promote honesty, transparency and accountability in governance. The movement takes up causes, which affect large segments of society, particularly the poor, and it promotes islands of integrity and excellence among government and civil society actors. As a part of its ongoing strategy on community policing, the PCGT has initiated a *Participative Policing Project*. The First Phase of Project intends to plan and implement activities at three levels i.e by building public awareness, secondly through professional backup and lastly through synergy.

Building Public Awareness involves educating the public on the role of the police force and its limitations and constraints and publishing proactive guidelines to facilitate increased understanding of rights and responsibilities of citizens vis-à-vis the police force. Professional Backup entails developing training courses on Conflict Resolution and Mediation for the police or by working at two levels i.e at the Constabulary College, Mumbai or with a mixed group of police personnel and civil

society activists. This would dovetail with identifying areas in which civil society could complement the services of the law enforcement agencies in curbing crime, communalism and corruption and initiating measures leading towards setting up Help Desks at Police Stations. The proposed activities of the project involves, *initiating values and ethics among Police Force and Civil Society*; to identify public concerns and their prioritization through sample surveys, research, focused group discussions with individuals and other groups including NGOs; to identify the specific issues/problems causing grievance to civil society and law enforcement agencies (related to the concerns mentioned above) through experiences of public and police officials; initiating dialogue between the Police and Public and thereby develop and suggest remedial measures for the identified concerns; conducting attitudinal change lectures, workshops and seminars among the Police and Civil Society and taking police to educational institutions to instruct students about civic values and lastly by increased interaction of the Police personnel with other professional groups on specific issues of ethics in governance.

Mr. J.F. Ribeiro is spear heading this experiment as he was also the pioneer of the mohalla committee movement in the city.

2. Community Policing: Friends Of Police, Tamil Nadu

The Friends Of Police is a holistic and pro-active concept that lends a psychological approach to policing. It is a true example of police public partnership where citizens have been empowered along with the police. Friends Of Police provides opportunities for ordinary citizens to effectively contribute to the prevention and detection of crime. Any member of the public, male or female who is not involved in civil or criminal case can become a member of FOP. The members of FOP can provide useful information leading to solving of crimes. FOP members can also prevent any abuse of police power because of easy accessibility to the station house officer and other senior personnel.

Role of FOP:

- Beats and night Patrols
- Assistance in traffic
- Crime prevention
- Information collection
- Assistance in Law and Order Maintenance
- Involvement in Prohibition Work.

This experiment has been able to create channels of information flow between the police and the citizens. This has often been useful while locating information and solving cases. The experiment has also helped the police to come closer to the

community. It has tried to impart fairness, transparency and impartiality in the working of system and has been effective over the last five years in Tamil Nadu.

3. Samarth Yojna Community Policing Experiment, Coimbatore City

Coimbatore, is called the Manchester of South India. The city has witnessed two communal riots, violence, and inhuman brutality. There has also been an increasing level of criminal activities etc. It was because of this appalling situation that, *Mr.K.Radhakrishnan*, IPS, decided to implement a community policing experiment to bring the situation under control. The main objectives of this experiment were to perceive and resolve the communal problem and also to win the confidence and trust of the people. To achieve the objectives, the following measures were taken:

Area Committees were formed and they were taught all aspects of community policing which helped them to trace and resolve small local issues. Regular meetings were held with the committee members and this forum helped the police to discuss and solve current problems and also provided valuable information to the police on the movement of terrorists and criminals. Several **Workshops and Seminars** were arranged to bring in Attitudinal Change in the personnel. The personnel were encouraged to interact with the community in a cordial manner.

Problems Resolving

The primary initiative was to resolve conflicts or problems by organizing consultation meetings with area committee members, government agencies, and the Municipal Corporation. Several local problems have been solved through effective intra and inter agency consultations.

City Vigilance Committees were formed to bring down the incidence of property crimes by providing regular information on the whereabouts of absconding terrorists. This effectively resulted in seizure of contrabands, explosives, detonators, lethal weapons, black money, sandalwood and drugs etc.

Interface with Pressure Groups

The police interacted with various pressure groups like Indian Chamber of Commerce and industry, lawyers, professors, students, doctors and 42 Jamaths to build good contact and establish good rapport.

Students-Police Interface

Effective student police interaction helped the police to reconstruct peace and harmony. The students were deputed when there was shortage of staff at the police station to check vehicles on the roads, check baggage at railway stations and bus stands.

Slum Adoption Scheme

This scheme was adopted to disengage slum dwellers from engaging in anti social activity in future and to facilitate the police to establish contact in the slums areas and areas with large concentrations of minority populations. The main objective of the experiment was to detect and prevent crime through proactive policing. For further information or details, Mr. Radhakrishnan may be contacted at [radhakrishnan_ips@yahoo.co.in].

4. Trichy Community Policing

Before community policing was initiated in Trichy, the crime rate was very high. There were racial and religious conflicts, rioting, murder, mayhem and other anti social activities. The police not only had to challenge forces of fundamentalism and lawlessness, but also had to instill a sense of confidence amongst the people. To achieve this, Mr. Tripathy, an IPS (contact :jkt_2001@rediffmail.com) officer introduced the following community policing strategies.

- Beat Officers. System
- Complaint/Suggestion Box System
- Wide Area Network (WAN)
- Help line for Women in Distress
- Slum Adoption Programme

Beat Officers. System

The city was divided into 57 beat zones and 4 constables were made in charge of each beat and were designated as Beat Officers. This instilled a sense of pride them and empowered them to make independent decisions, made them more responsible and responsive to public needs. Policemen were also encouraged to attend to civic problems to gain goodwill and support of the people. Through all this, the police succeeded in creating an atmosphere that was citizen friendly and was conducive for the public to share information. The people appreciated the efforts made by the police and volunteered assistance to prevent crime prevention.

Complaint Box System

Complaint Boxes were set up at different parts of the city to receive information from the public who preferred to remain unidentified and yet participate in their effort to assist the police. Such letters were collected daily and acted upon quickly to encourage the informants.

Wide Area Network (W.A.N.) was introduced in July 2000 linking all, police stations and offices with internet and email service. This facility has brought the police closer to the public, making the police more responsive, transparent and interactive.

Help Line for Distressed Women

A help line was launched on 15th August 2000 to receive distress calls round the clock by a team of police, activists and students. Besides receiving the calls, they visit the victims, provide counseling, legal help, medical support etc. The Trichy police went one step further, by promoting awareness on women's rights and legal services. It focused on rehabilitation of 144 victims, by providing accommodation, education, vocational training, and employment, along with their children, with the help of NGOs, women organizations, and social welfare departments etc.

Slum Adoption Programme

Due to poverty and a diverse socio economical profile, slums in any city become the hub for criminal activities. The laws of differential association and the environment promote this. These areas become less and less accessible to the police and over a period of time police personnel fear in visiting these areas. To make these areas more accessible, the police initiated by improving the living conditions of the people. Mass awareness programmes were conducted on hygiene, problems related to drugs/alcoholism and AIDS. Women self-help groups were formed, vocational training was imparted and assistance was given to them for manufacturing and marketing their products. In collaboration with the public and NGOs, a Community Centre was set up. Medical camps were arranged, youth activities in sports were sponsored and an initiative was taken to improve the environment of the community by tree planting. All these initiatives yielded an unbelievable result! 162 potential criminals volunteered to reform themselves and were rehabilitated with the help of NGOs, government and private agencies.

The Accolades

□The initiatives were recognized by International Association Of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Washington and conferred International Community Policing Awards 2001, at Toronto.

□It was also selected for international innovations Awards Programme of CAPAM during a conference at Glasgow, Scotland, September 2002.

5. The Tuticorin Experiment

In this experiment, a number of police camps in the form of Spot Redressal of Public Grievances were organized in communally sensitive villages. The main objective of these camps were to restore the confidence of the people and to bring them closer to the police so that this would further enhance the relationship between the police and public. In these camps the police officers along with the villagers sit together to resolve petty matters, which have the potential of becoming major law and order problems in the area. Even grave crimes were settled on the spot to the satisfaction of both parties.

As a gesture of goodwill, the police attend and participated in the religious festivals and also organized sports activities to build rapport with the community.

6. PRAHARI: The Community Policing Initiative In Assam

Community Policing in Assam was started on 3/7/1996 when a meeting of the citizens under Panbazar Police Station in Guwahati was convened by the city S.P. Shri Kuladhar Saikia, to discuss the concept of neighbourhood watch scheme and promote community participation in policing. The community policing initiative was also aimed at changing the attitude of the average policeman at the police stations towards the public, to make them people friendly and to improve their living and working conditions. The goal of **PRAHARI** was to tackle social problems and bring the police and community closer. The **Project** was first launched in a remote village of Thaikarguri in Kokrajhar District where five innocent persons had been brutally murdered by the villagers. This incident occurred after several children had died due to some local diseases. Eleven persons were arrested in connection with the brutal killings. When the villagers were questioned about the deaths they tried to justify their actions by saying that the children were murdered for sacrifice to the local gods. Low levels of education and lack of medical facilities has led to belief in witchcraft in backward areas of Assam, particularly in lower Assam, covering the districts of Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon and Dhubri. Several innocent persons have become victims of this superstition in the past. Due to the tireless efforts made by the police and the *Project Prahari*, in one particular village, the persons who had been involved in witchcraft have given up the profession. Instead they visit other areas and encourage people practicing witchcraft and witch-hunt to root out this practice.

In all **PRAHARI** villages, the police have taken an initiative and formed Community Management Groups (CMG) or Community Liaison Groups. These groups are formed at the state, district and PS level where eminent and non-political persons from the society come together and meet the police on a regular basis. They voice their complaints and give their suggestions for providing better policing to the society. These groups function in close association with the local police in various unique activities that are going on in 48 villages. Community wells, canals, hand pumps etc. have been built in these villages with the joint initiative of the police and the community. There has been an effort to harness natural water resources by building reservoir and links to meet drinking water scarcity. Roads and bridges have been repaired, community centers have been built, employment generation activities have been started by promoting self-employment initiatives and modern agricultural techniques have been introduced to increase productivity. Through all these initiatives the police have tried to improve their image.

7. AASWAS. :Assam Police

Another initiative of the Assam police to combat violence and insurgency and also to extend a gesture of affection to the children and those who have undergone the trauma of facing violence. The **Project Aashwas** was launched on the 14th November 2001, coinciding with the Children's Day, by the Honorable Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Tarun Gogoi. The nodal officer is Mr. B.J. Mahanta may be contacted at: 0361-2456971. Sensitization campaigns have been undertaken in several districts of Assam. **Aashwas** has identified a cluster of seven villages in each of seven districts where there is a history of ethnic or terrorist violence and such campaigns have integrated the community with the police and have evoked a tremendous response to enable its continuity.

8. Community Policing Initiative In Himachal Pradesh

In order to mobilize public support and involve active public participation in prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of law and order, a Community Policing Scheme was introduced in Himachal Pradesh in November 2000. It was initially introduced in 22 out of 83 police stations in the State. Under this scheme a police station is divided into sectors corresponding to wards of Panchayat /NAC. Bigger wards have more sectors. All the household members in a particular sector constitute the People's Policing Committee of that sector. Each sector has an active group consisting of 6 respectable persons of that locality, one home guard, one chowkidar and one Police Constable / Head Constable as Secretary. One member of the Active Group is the convener. As a result of the positive feedback of the State, the scheme was introduced in all the police stations of the state.

Vishwas Yojna

This scheme involves the following:

- regular visit of school children to police stations to remove the fear of Police and to add in a component of transparency, to build more awareness and better understanding of the police.
- Production of educative, documentary films such as *Aap aur Hum* prepared by Mr. Zahur Zaidi IPS (who may be contacted at: 01892-222244). The film explains how police personnel function at police stations, traffic posts, the rules for police officers at various levels, and also highlights the rights and responsibilities of citizens vis-à-vis police working. A 1000 video cassettes/CD's have been distributed to schools in Himachal Pradesh free of cost.
- Village Touring by District Superintendent Of Police. On such occasions, the police personnel discuss the problems faced by the people and other law and order related issue.
- Police Assistance Centres: These centres are established at important places especially at tourists spots. Under this scheme, 116 Police Assistance Centres have

been established upto June 2003. These centres have gone a long way in instilling a sense of security and protection in the minds of the general public, especially tourists.

Suvidha Yojna:

Under this scheme, girl students of schools and colleges in the state are given training in unarmed combat by police teams in order to instill confidence in them while dealing with eve teasers and other anti social elements.

Separation Of Law and Order and Investigation at Police Stations

Detective wings have been created in 20 Police Stations of the State exclusively for investigation of crime especially of a heinous nature. The staffs posted here are not deployed for any other duty except for emergency purposes as they concentrate only on detection work.

Sanrakshan Yojna

Under this scheme police stations with the assistance of the Community Police Team prepare a list of all citizens who are above sixty-five years of age and are living alone. A policeman or a community police volunteer then goes and visits the residences of such citizens at least once a week to enquire about their welfare and render such reasonable assistance as they may require.

Women's Cell

Women cells have been established in all districts of H.P. which are manned by lady investigating officers so that woman complainants and victims are able to express themselves freely and without hesitation.

9. Community policing experiment in Punjab,

Community Policing Resource Centres (CPRCs) have been set up in Punjab, which are autonomous registered "societies" jointly managed by representatives of the community and police officials. The CPRCs are designed to make law enforcement services more friendly and accessible to ordinary citizens and more responsive to their needs and as a result, to build public confidence in the police. These units include one for victims of crime, one for nonresident Indians, and a unit set up specifically to serve women. As a result of this experiment, the reporting of domestic violence has tripled.

Ludhiana

The community policing experiment in Ludhiana was launched on October 12,2002.Thirty member community groups were set up in 400 beats and community members sit together every fortnight or once a month to discuss major problems confronting the area. Each group comprises of a beat officer who is also associated to the resource center.

Amritsar

In Amritsar, Mr G.S. Sahota, DIG, Border Range took the to provide a single-window redressal cell facility to solve various problems of the people. Since a lot of people visit police stations for passport verification, arm licenses and for grievances such centers were equipped with computers, telephones and a senior SP was appointed as in charge of the one-stop service. It was proposed that the centre would have helplines, have doctors of the Health Department to take care of the accident cases etc. The centre would also establish women and children help lines and in addition improve the police public relations. Subsequently, Community Policing Centres were opened in six police ranges in the state.

10. Community Policing Initiative in Kolkata, West Bengal

The community policing initiative in Kolkata involves the civil society and the police personnel. There are several components to the programme:

Drug Awareness Programmes:

Drug Awareness Programmes are organized throughout the year by the Detective Department in various educational institutes and slums. In partnership with the local people and leading NGOs of the city drug de-addiction camps are also organized for the drug victims. The World Anti Drug Day is observed every year on the 26th of July.

Sports Activity:

Kolkata Police organizes the *Friendship Cup Football Tournament* every year for the local clubs of Kolkata. Over 500 clubs participate in this 3-tier tournament. The Kolkata Police also organizes **Inter School Football Tournament** for school students each year, in which over 50 schools participate.

Nabadisha:

This is a programme for the street children of the city. Apart from providing health check-ups, informal literary camps are organized for them. Rotary Club, Lion Club and Vikramshila Education Resource Society work in partnership with the Kolkata police on this project.

Prabaha:

This is a weekly blood donation programme organized every Saturday at a police station on rotation. Members of the Police Force as well as local residents participate in this project. Blood Group Directories are also published at the end of each year.

Bravery and Honesty Award:

The Detective Department on behalf of the Kolkata Police organizes this award ceremony each year. Citizens are selected for their acts of bravery and honesty and are felicitated so that others follow the examples set by them.

Counseling Centres:

The Detective Department of the Kolkata Police along with several leading NGOs of the city have opened counseling centres for women, juveniles, elders, drug or alcohol addicts manned by trained counselors and psychiatrists.

The Claude Martin Fund:

Financial assistance is given to deserving ex-prisoners in the State Of West Bengal through the Claude Martin Fund. The Trustee of this fund is the Honorable Auditor General and the Administrator of the fund is the Commissioner of Police who is authorized to render financial assistance to those ex-prisoners who have set an example in the community.

Poor Box:

This fund was formed in 1934 from the voluntary contribution of the public, contractors for erecting stands in the Maidan (open space in Kolkata), compounding cases of minor breaches of rationing rules and charges for keeping the unclaimed properties under Police custody by the carters for the temporary and emergency relief to the needy and distressed people of Kolkata.

11. Sahayata. :A Community Policing Initiative in Nadia District, West-Bengal

Sahayata is a Bengali word meaning assistance. It is an experiment that has been conceived as a service delivery platform to resolve, through counseling, disputes within family and also between neighbours. In this experiment the police is an active agent in resolving disputes and that too through an inexpensive and prompt system. Community involvement has been kept as its prime objective.

The main objectives of this project are:

- Involving people in the resolution of disputes.
- Ensuring speedy delivery of justice in a cost-effective manner.
- Ensuring reconciliation for aggrieved parties looking for a long term solution.
- Develop a sense of belonging with the State, with an ultimate bearing on national integrity.

Steps Taken:

In 2001, Sahayata Centres were set up at all the Police Stations. The first Centre came up at Thanarpara and the remaining centers followed in quick succession. Complaint Boxes were placed outside these centers having proper glow-sign boards to enable people to drop their complaints. Though the venue was within the police station compound, yet the Sahayata centre was located in a separate accommodation away from the Police Station building. This was helpful as people felt less inhibited and did not suffer from the apprehension of going through strict police formality in lodging their complaints.

Panels of citizen volunteers were enrolled to enlist community participation. Women and students were given adequate representation. Social functions were organized at each Police Station to inaugurate these centres. Senior police Officers and community leaders discussed issues to generate mass awareness. Police personnel with the right aptitude were selected as nodal officers to act as an interface at the centres. They provided technical assistance to citizen volunteers to resolve disputes. This experiment has proved to be a very effective, prompt and inexpensive way in rendering justice and preventing crime and it has also found widespread appeal because of its applicability among community members.

12. Community Policing in Diamond Harbour, West Bengal:

Due to an increase in criminal activities in Diamond Harbour area, the police in South 24 Parganas district along with local business community have set up local resistance groups known as **RG party** to deal with the crime in the rural areas. The main objectives are :

- to stop villagers from committing crimes when they are idle. The idea is to involve these people in guarding the villages instead of arresting them after they have committed some crimes.
- Members of RG parties have been provided with torches and caps as sponsored by local businessmen.

According to the Sub-divisional police officer, Mehmood Akhtar, the idea is based on community policing as it makes the people confident and involves them in maintenance of law and order. The initiative was also to make the people realize that policing does not mean beating up and terrorizing the public but to work with the them to solve their problems.

13. MAITHRI: In Andhra Pradesh

Maithri is an initiative which was launched in 2000, by the Andhra Pradesh Police throughout the state. The mission of Maithri was to render courteous, compassionate and caring responsive police personnel and increase public confidence in police with respect to maintenance of peace and order and build in a feeling of safety from crime. It rests on the belief that contemporary community problems require a decentralized and personalized police approach, which involves citizens who finally learn how to police themselves.

Objectives Of Maithri:

- To meet the needs of small and varied groups of people in the community by actively involving them in the process.
- To organize proactive measures to prevent and detect crime.
- To provide personalized quality service to the people at the decentralized level.

Process Of Maithri:

The process of Maithri can be understood by using the acronym CAMP which is:

- Consultation: where the community is consulted on a regular basis to know and enumerate all their needs and they are actively encouraged to suggest all possible legally acceptable solutions.
- Adaptation: means changing or devising new policing methods and adopting appropriate legal procedures for solving the local problems.
- Mobilization: Once the needs of the community are assessed along with the community resources (such as manpower, material and finances) these are mobilized for implementing the solution.
- Problem Solving: After the resources are mobilized, the actual work of solving the problem is launched and completed.

The programme is a great success and by August 2002 as much as 25% of the population in the state was covered by Maithri with as many as 6900 Maithri committees with a membership of about 2.7 lakh citizens.

14. Police Mee Kosam (Police for you) in Adilabad District ,Andhra Pradesh

This experiment was primarily undertaken to control left wing extremism of CPI (Maoist) group under leadership of the then Superintendent of Police of Adilabad Mr. Mahesh M. Bhagwat IPS. He may be contacted at: mmbips@yahoo.co.uk. This experiment is the recipient of 2004 Community policing finalist award of International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), USA & ITT Industries Limited

The problem:

Adilabad in North Telangana was badly-hit-by-naxalism until recently. The People's War Group of naxalites currently known as CPI (Maoist) were in control of the district and made it inaccessible, especially the remote villages to the police. The district faces extreme poverty and is one of the most backward in the country. The people in the area used to feel that the government was uninterested in their progress. This resulted in tribals becoming antagonistic towards the government. Several landmines had been detonated by the naxalites in the area since 1989.

Solution

The Andhra Pradesh government tried to tackle the issue on two fronts. Firstly through development and rehabilitation. The primary plan in this whole initiative was to make the police partners in development in remote areas while tackling extremism.

Reforms were inducted into policing and the police tried to project its human face in

while discharging their duties. In Adilabad, the police department brought about rapid reforms and took up developmental programmes in rural areas under the name Police Mee Kosam (police for you). The major reform in policing was to respect tribal customs and sentiments by the personnel through gestures like greetings like Ram Ram (like Hello) or by removing their shoes while entering the home of the tribals. The series of developmental programmes were taken up in collaboration with the district administration and the ITDA. There were results very soon.

Beginning 2001, the Adilabad police conducted grama sabhas in rural areas, mainly in extremist affected villages. Over 1,000 grama sabhas (interaction with villagers) were conducted which were attended by an estimated 1.25 lakh people. At the gram sabhas the police identified problems facing the villagers. The problems mainly discussed were poor Medicare, lack of proper supply of drinking water, irrigation, lack of roads and electricity in remote areas. The police also identified a general lack of awareness among the tribals about the world outside their immediate confines. The tribals had remained untouched by the developments taking elsewhere in the world.

Based on the findings at gram sabhas, the police and other departments concerned launched Police Mee Kosam.

1) Under this banner over 110 free medical and health camps were conducted in villages mostly in inaccessible tribal villages. Over 1 lakh villagers were estimated to have been covered by the camps. There were also eye camps, which resulted in cataract operations on over 1300 near blind persons. 10 persons including six small children of Boath area received new life because the police organized costly heart operations for them at Hyderabad.

2) The police conducted jalayagnams (watershed development programme) and executed desiltation works in many irrigation and drinking water tanks across the district. The jalayagnams resulted in bringing more acreage under irrigation.

3) In Dedra village the police constructed a drinking water over head tank besides repairing scores of bore wells and open wells used as drinking water sources in many villages in the district.

4) Road brought prosperity to Gangapur village.

Roads were constructed wherever there was a dire need for it. For example, a 12 km. long Gangapur road was laid with the help of the locals. Village Gangapur with population of 2500 is located in backwater of Kadam reservoir was cut off from mainstream due to lack of road network and extremists were exploiting them, taking advantage of their remoteness. Socially and economically also this village was

suffering as they were not getting good prices for the agricultural products and the percentage of deaths due to snake bites and other communicable diseases were on high. For over 25 days, the police and tribals worked together. This work earned the accolades of the BBC television and the former Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, sanctioned Rs. 25 lakh for other roads to be constructed in the area. This road brought prosperity to village and in turn villagers revolted against the extremists on two occasions and snatched their weapons and handed them over to police. Gangapur 's success story is a classic example of people's victory over extremist via community policing.

5) Many villages were connected with power supply. Like in Dedra, Koutegaon and Chorpally villages. New transformers were installed and power lines rigged to provide electricity to the villages.

6) To open channels of communication and development RTC bus services were initiated even in remote villages. For example, bus services were started in naxal infested villages of Agarguda from Bejjur. The villagers had seen an RTC bus plying on this route for the first time.

7) The police also organized mass marriages for 106 Gond tribal couples as at a function at Ichoda after several months of negotiations. The mass marriages helped the tribals in saving money and time as the traditional weddings extremely costly.

8) Under its Parivartana sadassu programmes (removal of attendance sheet of extremists and sympathizers) the police released from bondage the fringe extremists and militants. In order to win them over, 1000 militants and sympathizers of the People's War Group freed from their regular reporting to police station.

9) The tribal youths were taken on trips to Hyderabad and nearby places under the Vignyana Vihara Yatras (excursion tours). These excursions helped the youth to see the world outside their own and get back new ideas for their community.

10) The police organized sports and games for the youth. The idea was to keep the youth engaged in some productive activity and prevent them from joining the extremist movement.

11) 27 tribal organizations/associations were brought under one umbrella called Adivasi Mahasabha by the police. This ensured unified efforts for tribal development.

12) Through programmes like Jayam Manade (victory is ours) new avenues opened to tribal youth for higher education and employment.

Evaluation

The Police Mee Kosam initiative buttressed the point of view that extremism prospered wherever there was lack of development. Invariably, the areas of naxal influence remained poor. But by reaching out to the poor and earning their confidence certainly yielded the desired results.

One of the tangible results is that in the last three years naxalism has reduced by 80 per cent in the district. Of the 215 naxalites cadre strength at the beginning of 2001, only 25 odd remained active as on June, 2004. The rest were either surrendered or availed rehabilitation. The naxal units have come down in number from 17 to only three units or dalams and to only half a platoon from 2 platoons. A reverse revolutionary trend has begun in villages. In over 26 villages people have openly opposed the PWG.

The improvement of relations between tribals and police department in the district could be gauged by the fact that villagers approach police often to discuss their problems.

The Andhra Pradesh government conducted a survey, which found that the Adilabad police was the least corrupt in the state and was also found to be the least partisan towards the public. It scored a high of 74 marks for police public relations in that survey. The Adilabad police was also found to be more transparent and accountable. The Hon'ble President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam has also appreciated the efforts of the Adilabad community policing for preventing extremism/ terrorism.

15. Project Aasara in Nalgonda district in Andhra Pradesh in the Southern part of India is the brain child of another spirited police officer, Mr. Mahesh Bhagwat mmbips@yahoo.co.uk OR mmbips@gmail.com.

The objectives of the Project are to prevent organised human trafficking & immoral trafficking. This project is based on a two prong strategy: to prevent the crime and to rehabilitate the children of the sex workers and the sex workers who have been rescued or those looking for an alternate career. In this case the police are directly involved in the social and economic rehabilitation of the sex workers. For further details, please visit http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/new/project_aasara.pdf

16. Mohalla Committee Movement Trust, Mumbai

Citizen-police committees were set up after 1992-93 Hindu-Muslim riots that paralyzed Mumbai (Bombay) and killed around 1000 people. The Mohalla Committee

was formed under the initiative, of former Mumbai Commissioner, J.F. Ribiero. The chairman of the Mohalla Committee Movement Trust was Mr. Deshmukh.

After the 1992 riots, people from all walks of life who were survivors, came together and along with the police worked out a simple workable idea that became a reality. The Mohalla Committee which is also known as the Peace Committee, has now become a part of the civil society structure in the city that usually has little time or space. The concept works on the simple principle that gives people some power and makes them responsible for it. Every Mohalla Committee and there are 24 in the city- has a sizeable number of people from the area who are regarded as elders or who have a standing of their own, or have the charisma to make others listen to them. The primary task of the committee members is to maintain more than cordial relations between the two communities, largely Hindus and Muslims. The members intervene in disputes, even personal or domestic quarrels if need be, organize little meetings or a variety of programmes and liaison with the nearest police station in their efforts to maintain peace. If trouble breaks out they broker peace too. If rumours go around they defuse them before it can cause any harm.

Mohalla Committees in Pune

In Pune Community policing initiative was taken up by the police after the 1992 riots which killed thousands of people and destroyed the confidence of the people in their policing system. To prevent future communal flare-ups and to restore the public confidence Mohalla committees were set up throughout Pune. There are 30 odd Mohalla committees in Pune where committee members work with the police to maintain peace and order. Mohalla committee meetings are held before any festival to maintain peace and communal harmony in the locality. The Mohallas or beats have a designated constable who is the beat officer and is charge of organizing meetings once a month. Likewise the Senior Inspector of Police of the concerned police station holds a meetings at least once in every three months which is attended by the Assistant Commissioner of Police.

17. Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh:

Over the last four years or so, there has been several attempts at community policing in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The initiatives include :

- Gram Raksha Samiti
- Nagar Raksha Samiti
- Balmitra Thanas
- Childline
- Medical Relief to Injured
- Police Help to the Visually Challenged
- De-addiction Camps
- Centre for Social Justice and Empowerment

- Operation Vishwas
- Operation Hamdard

Madhya Pradesh Police is also the pioneer in running several experiments in the area of **impact assessment** to these initiatives. For more details Mr. Swaraj Puri IPS ; Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau may be contacted at: swarajpuri@rediffmail.com.

18. The Parivar Paramarsh Kendras in Raigarh District

A unique effort in community policing where the Kendra focuses on resolving family conflicts by identifying the causes that contribute to family discord. Here the Kendra takes up a social decision making role and tries to save a family from breaking. It mainly acts as a center for counseling family problems. The idea behind such a venture is to improve the social environment in a city by solving family disputes. By solving personal problems at an early stage, the police personnel have found that this often prevents criminal tendencies within an individual to further violate the law.

The Kendra was formed under the umbrella of the District Police, Raigarh and was initiated on 26th October 1996. Though the programme lacks statutory backing, the Kendra has been functioning successfully over the last seven years. By satisfying the community by involving them in performing such an important service as saving families from breaking, the police has also effectively improved their image from being authoritarian towards being more people- friendly.

19. Gram/Nagar Raksha Samiti, Rajnandgaon, Chattisgarh

In this Community Policing experiment, Core Groups or CLGs are formed at the S.D.O.P level, Police Station level, Beat level and Village level. At each of these levels the Core Group comprises of 15/20 members, 4/5 members, 2/3 members and 5/15 members respectively. The main coordinator in this system is the S.D.O.P. At the village level, the Head Rakshak coordinates the core group, which is called the Raksha Samiti.

It was felt that it was imperative that the police are sensitized about their need to interact with the public and to cater to the expectations of the public. Likewise it was considered necessary that the public be educated about certain aspects of law such as Cognizable and Non-cognizable offences, Bailable and Non-bailable Offences, basic laws, rights of general public and the conditions under which the police work.

In this experiment, the community's support was sought,

- To help police in any type of crime prevention
- Giving information to police about any anti social or criminal activity in the area.
- Taking care of villagers and properties of every villager
- Helping police in arrest of proclaimed offenders

- Disaster Management
- Maintaining general law and order.

Apart from that the police the public also took initiative in organizing:

- Nasha Mukti Abhiyan (Drug de-addiction Programme)
- Parivar Paramarsh Kendra (Family Counselling Centre)
- Blood Donation Camps
- Tree Plantation
- Jan Jagran Abhiyan (Mass Awareness Programmes)
- Chalit Thana (Mobile Police Stations)
- Meetings and Conferences

Together with the community the police has been able to prevention and detect crime. The community has helped the police in solving several cases, apprehending criminals and recovering stolen goods. Involving the community and educating the them about the origin and purpose of the Naxalism effectively addressed the Naxalite menace in this area. Drinking water huts were opened and village patrolling was initiated in the villages. To assist the police in their work, the Village Rakshaks were given whistle, lathis and torches by the up-sarpanchs. 42 members have also been given awards by the honourable minister of the district on the occasion of Independence Day 2002, for putting forward their honest efforts in assisting the police in crime control.