

**Summary Report of the Human Rights Training programmes by CHRI in association with
Chhattisgarh State Human rights Commission**

December 2005-March 2006

Introduction: As a part of the training program group activities between the police trainees and representatives from the civil society organization were organized in all the seven workshops across the state. The workshops were organized in **Durg**, (16-18 January, 2006) **Kawardha** (15-18, December 2005), **Rajnandgaon** (17-20 November, 2005) **Ambikapur** (14 - 15 July, 2004), **Jagdalpur** (7 - 10 July, 2004), **Bilaspur** (24 - 27 May, 2004) and **Raipur** (14 - 17th Feb, 2004). In these exercises Participants were divided into groups depending upon the size of the participants. The main objectives of the group activities were the following:

- What are people's perceptions about police?
- What are the expectations of people from the police?
- What are the problems faced by the police with regard to their working conditions, service facilities and poor infrastructure and what problems do they face in their daily public dealings?
- How do the existing gap between police and people be reduced through participation or coordination?

Findings: Following views were expressed by the participants in the workshops.

1. People's perceptions about police:

- Public fear police for repetitive interrogation and cumbersome investigative process. There is also a feeling of fear and apprehension while lodging an FIR or a fear of being manhandled due to corruption.
- People take police as a different group of people and not as one of their own member of the society. They are branded as a different set of people mainly because of their uniform, which enhances a fear of repetitive investigation and interrogation. They often fail to understand each other's problem due to their respective work pressure and so there is lack of mutual understanding.
- The colonial notion that police doesn't help the public, continues to exist as a stark reality. People fear that they won't get justice if they approach the police. But people fail to understand that police do not have the authority to take decision in the individual cases. People expect a stat result while lodging a complaint or otherwise they think that the police are bribed.
- Public fear from police uniform.
- People feel that their dignity is affected when uniformed police officers visit their home. It encourages unnecessary harassment from the neighbors.

- Media reflects a wrong picture of the police.
- Public expect police to be unbiased in spite of knowing that police often have to work under tremendous political pressure.
- The general trend of police behavior towards public is bad.
- People generally think that police personnel of lower ranks are bad and corrupt.

2. People's expectations from the police:

- People expect a friendly behavior from the police, which has to be taught during their training programme.
- People expect immediate action to every complaint that is lodged in the police station without understanding the procedural formalities.
- The foremost expectation of the people from the police is protection.
- People also expect justice when they come to the police station.

3. Problems faced by the police:

- Unlimited working hours
- Police officers are often called to the police station much before their duty hours, which reduces their efficiency during their scheduled working hours.
- Lack of support for the family of police officers.
- Lack of strength and disproportionate public expectations.
- Political and departmental pressures.
- Excess targets given to the police station, which often lead to human rights violation.
- Lack of basic facilities.
- Lack of technological equipments for performance of their duties.
- Lack of proper salary.
- Lack of proper leave.
- Political pressure on police
- Public fear and agitation
- Excess public expectation in comparison to the physical capacity.
- Lack of sufficient public legal knowledge.

4. How to bridge the existing gap:

- Public cooperation especially during the legal procedures.
- Enhance police-public friendly relations through innovative techniques.
- Arrange awareness campaigns.
- By adopt a feeling of oneness towards each other.
- Police to try their best to provide justice to the people at the earliest.
- Similar group discussions should be organized so as to provide a platform to both police and the civil society so that they come out with each others problems and try to sort it out through discussions, dialogue and by exchanging their experiences.