

Joint Project Between
Rashtriya Raksha University
&
Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Policy Research and International Studies
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
on
ROLE OF WOMEN IN COMMUNITY POLICING IN THE
SELECT TRIBAL AREAS OF GUJARAT

Project Directors

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PROJECT SUMMARY

The tribal areas constitute about 18 percent of Gujarat's geographical space while the tribal communities make up 15 percent (about 1 crore) of the state's population. Due to a variety of reasons, the tribal areas have not kept pace with other parts of Gujarat in terms of economic, social and educational development. These areas lag behind the rest of the state on most socio-economic parameters like poverty, literacy, infant mortality, health, nutrition, etc. Women in tribal areas in Gujarat also lag far behind men with respect to socio-economic parameters. They face several challenges in the domestic, social, economic and political spheres.

Tribal women are victims of a range of social, economic, and political problems like child marriage, branding and torturing women as witches, human trafficking, high infant mortality, maternal health issues, illiteracy, malnourishment, loss of livelihood sources, lower representation in decision-making bodies, etc. Gujarat's tribal areas have a relatively high rate of gender-based crimes like rape, domestic violence, human trafficking, torture of women in the name of witch-branding, infanticide, homicide, etc.

Community policing has been applied as one of the strategies of addressing the gender gaps in conventional policing and reducing crime against women. The idea of community policing has emerged out of the human security paradigm. It is a strategy of promoting partnerships between the police force and common people with the fundamental objective of prevention and reduction of crimes. It adopts a problem-solving approach to prevent crime rather than the traditional reactive approach after the crime has occurred. It proactively addresses the immediate conditions that give rise to crime and social disorder by collaborating with the communities through individuals as well as through NGOs and civil society organizations. Community policing envisages that the police force becomes more inclusive and equity-driven. Hence, recruiting women in the police force in substantial numbers and giving them key roles

and functions within the police organization is an important component of community policing models. The role of women in community policing has gained momentum in recent decades.

This project is aimed at examining the relevance and strategies of community policing for controlling and reducing gender-based crimes in the tribal areas of Gujarat. It would adopt evidence-based analysis to formulate policy-relevant and actionable recommendations. The project is conceived both as a research-based academic study and as a practical intervention aimed at cultivating sensitization and awareness about prevention and containment of gender-based violence against women in the state's tribal areas through a set of appropriate community policing strategies. The project would consider all three components that constitute the core of community policing, i.e., organizational transformation, community participation and shared problem-solving. The data and deliberations forming a part of the project would be based on the idea of community policing more as a philosophy than as a government programme.

The key objectives of the project are:

- Collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data relating to crimes against women in the select tribal areas of Gujarat, the status of community policing in these areas and formal participation of tribal women in the police force
- Sensitization, awareness and capacity-building of different stakeholders regarding major issues relating to the role of community policing in the prevention and control of crime against women in the state's tribal areas
- Deliberation and consultation with experts, practitioners, civil society representatives, officials of the concerned state agencies, etc. on the role of community policing in the prevention and control of crime against women in the tribal areas of Gujarat and formulation of policy-relevant and actionable recommendations in this regard
- Dissemination of the data collected and analysed, outcomes of the deliberations held, and policy-relevant recommendations to the multi-stakeholder community
- Preparation of a digital app for assisting the civilian population in implementing the community policing strategies for reducing gender-based crimes in the tribal areas