ANNEXURE I

REFLECTIONS ABOUT POLICE WOMEN

Through informal survey, opinions about police women have been gathered from superior male police officials (50 numbers), 25 non-police male officials, 25 male colleagues and general public.

OPINION OF SUPERIOR OFFICIALS

The superior police officials contacted are Sub-Inspectors, Inspectors, DSPs, SPs, DIGs, and Additional Director general of Police. The non-police officials are Tahsildars, Block Development Officers and others.

All police officials except ten per cent and all non-police officials except twelve per cent feel that women police wing is essential especially to deal with women and children. They support women police on the ground that absorption of women in police force has relieved men from the duty of examining women suspects. They also feel that custodial crimes such as rape will not occur when there are women police personnel in police station. They have expressed that they will encourage their daughters to become IPS officers.

(i)
Ten per cent who oppose women in police force expressed that women's wing is a waste. The cultural practice and social norms have made women mentally weak and hence they are reluctant to take up investigation at the murder or suicide sites. In such a situation men constables have to be sent to the spot. Moreover, the cost of investigation or enquiry is doubled when women are sent. It is because two women constables have to be sent to the place of enquiry for investigation to collect information whereas only one male constable is engaged for such a work if men are assigned the same work. They further argue that before the induction of women into police force, women sweepers attached to the police station have done search and escort duties and the same practice can be adopted now. They feel that men's opportunities to get job would decline when women enter into police force. These people have expressed that they will not allow their daughters to become police officials.

Twelve per cent of non-police officials conveyed that policing is not suitable for women in a culture bound society like Indian society. But they view that police women are essential to deal with women. They aspire their daughters to become IAS officers rather than police officers.
PERCEPTION OF MALE COLLEAGUES

Male constables and male head constables are of the view that policing is not a suitable job for Indian women. To them, foreign women are bold and self-dependent and they can take up any job. They feel that teaching and nursing are the suitable jobs for women. They point out that workload on men constables increases because women sometimes refuse to attend postmortem duty and men constables have to accompany women constables when they go on enquiry duty. They want to be friendly with them and want to help them. Men colleagues have expressed that they will not allow their daughters to become police constables.

REFLECTIONS OF PUBLIC

Twenty five rural women, 25 rural men, 25 urban working women, 25 urban non-working women and 25 urban men selected at random have been interviewed. Rural men and women have stated that they will respect police women. Employment of women in police force will help their families and safeguard the interest of women in custody. They have also stated that they will not stand in the way of their daughters if they wish to join police force. Urban working women have commented upon the working hours of police women and have suggested that the working hours should be fixed for them.

(iii)
The urban non-working women despise the sight of women in uniform as men. They criticise that women constables wear uniforms like men but put on jewels like bangles, ear rings, anklets and additional stud on their ears. This looks awkward. They suggest that those who are above forty years of age should not be allowed to wear uniform. They are ready to obey the commands of male constables and not women constables. They are willing to allow their daughters to become police constables if the alternative is unemployment.

Urban men feel that policing is not suitable for women. Sixty per cent of them feel that they have not been properly utilised in police force. They are of the opinion that police women are kind, less corrupted and therefore they should be asked to file First Information Report and to deal with cases involving women and adolescent. The urban uneducated men interviewed do not have respect for women constables. They have admitted that they have teased police women.

Seventy per cent of all interviewed feel that there must be at least one female Sub-Inspector and two women constables in each police station be it in rural area or urban area or outpost. All of them point out that they readily approach revenue officials for any problem without
fear but hesitate to approach police people because police people are unsympathetic and may turn the case against them.

PERCEPTION OF CRIMINALS AND ACCUSED AND BENEFICIARIES

This group praises and appreciates the police women. By means of counselling, their problems have been solved and thus has reduced their expenditure in the form of court fees, lawyer fees etc. They recognise with gratitude the services of police women in solving their personal problems through dowry cell. Women criminals or accused convey that women constables have been kind to them and even offered food to the accused and criminals by spending their own money. They have suggested that more funds should be allotted to them to meet such expenses.

PERCEPTION OF POLICE WOMEN ABOUT THEIR JOB

Only 33 per cent of police women out of 211 surveyed have expressed that policing is a suitable job for women. In the opinion of others teaching, nursing, medicine and clerical jobs are the most suitable ones for women. Seventy three per cent are not willing to work for more hours. Out of the 33 per cent, 32 per cent are willing to allow their daughters to occupy a police job; 33 per cent are not
willing and 25 per cent of them are willing to encourage their daughters to become higher officials in the department.

Forty per cent feel that public do not respect them but respect the male constables. Unmarried police women face the problem from men outside and not from their own colleagues. But 25 per cent of them have stated that they are not able to get a suitable groom as they are in police force. On the other hand, 34 per cent of married police women feel that they are able to get good grooms because of the job.

The reflections about police women can be summed up in the following way:

To sum up, majority of persons interviewed have (more than 50 percent) recognised the services of police women. Unemployed urban women do not approve this job. Similarly nearly 50 per cent are willing to allow their daughters to become high officials in police force as they will be in commanding position and will have authoritative power in hand and also enjoy non-monetary benefits such as furnished quarters, vehicles and attenders. They also feel that police women will raise the image of police-force.

The reflections about police women can be summed up in the following way.

(vi)
Table 1 Reflections About Police Women

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<td>Non-Police Officials</td>
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<td>Public a. Rural Women</td>
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<td>b. Rural Men</td>
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<td>c. Urban Working Women</td>
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<td>d. Urban Men i. Educated</td>
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<td>e. Urban Working Women</td>
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Source: Primary data.
ANNEXURE II

CASE STUDIES

The conversation with the police women and the matters inferred are given below as case studies.

CASE I

My father was a police driver. I am a graduate. When I saw the advertisement in the newspaper, I applied and attended the interview and got through. I prefer this job because it gives me handsome salary and job security. I like it because I am able to serve women and children. I am able to purchase durable consumer goods such as grinder, TV, etc. as I am earning a substantial salary.

CASE II

My father is an agriculturist. The income from land as you know is not adequate and regular. There are seven members in my family. One of my friends told me about the job and I applied and got it after passing through all tests. I had sports certificates to add to my merit. I could not enjoy it because my father was against my entry into police force. I had to impress upon him every now and then to get his permission. In the beginning he refused to
accept my salary. Due to scarcity of water in river Cauvery he faced the problem of low production and heavy expenses. Now he accepts my salary. I am happy that I am in a position to help women and children.

CASE III

My father had sufficient income and made me a graduate. He gave me full freedom to select any subject and to select any job. I availed the opportunity and I am in the job. As my parental family is economically sound, I have freedom to spend my salary. I wonder whether economic independence would help women's progress. I regret that we are not in a position to save girls from dowry deaths.

CASE IV

I am a fatherless woman. My maternal uncle educated me upto X standard. I am in the job to help my mother and uncle. I have married my uncle's son. My mother is staying with me because I have got a girl below 5 years. My husband is working in a private company and I am in a position to concentrate on the welfare of the accused or criminals mostly women. We have been dealing with women and their problems. One of the interesting cases I have come across is this: a college girl has married her classmate a few
months back. Now she wants separation. She accuses her husband for his inability to take her to films and buy her certain cosmetics. Her mother is backing her. Her father is a deaf man and the mother is the decision maker in the family as she manages the family business. I understand that the younger ones mistake infatuation for love and without having a long term perception they immediately want to settle their marriage. The case is still pending and I am not able to give a conclusive remark on it.

CASE V

I have studied upto SSLC. I have only one brother. I live with my mother. My father died even before I finished my SSLC. Mine is a love marriage. I married a man of my cadre. My husband has a suspicion that I am giving money to my mother. My brother is not having any contact with me. He does not come to my house nor do I go to his house. Now, my husband is suspicious of my character itself. I cannot tolerate it. For the sake of my daughter I stay with him even though he illtreats me. My mother and my daughter are the source of comfort to me. I never reveal my feelings to my colleagues for the fear that it would reach my husband in some form and result in further harassment. If I give my daughter in marriage, I will leave him and get separation from him. On the pay day he collects all my salary and 

(x)
gives me just 100 rupees to meet the expenses. But he buys the groceries and other basic needs for the house for the month. I find it difficult to give even a cup of coffee for any visitor or to entertain any of my relatives or friends.

CASE VI

I am a graduate. I have three sisters and three brothers. Two sisters are married and I am the youngest daughter. I have one elder brother and two younger brothers. Elder brother looks after the family farm. Younger ones are studying. Though my father was not in favour of my job, my brothers encouraged me. I am keeping my younger brother and two female cousins with me. My cousin sisters have lost their parents in accident. So they are staying with our family. Though I am unmarried I have the responsibility of looking after them. I find it difficult to go to the station early in the morning. I don’t find time to take them to a movie. I wish I should marry only after arranging the marriage of my cousins. I am 33 now and I feel I will become older by the time I fulfill my aim. Every day we come across interesting cases. If I were a writer I could have written umpteen number of stories on the basis of the cases. I feel that there is something in the social set up which affects women. In some cases men
are cheated by women but in many cases women are the losers. What is interesting to me is that of two young children who have escaped from their mother. From what they have narrated, we have understood that their mother is a prostitute. Now, the two girls have been taken care off by a service organisation.

This case study reveals the family background of police women which has influenced their motivation for taking up job and the nature of job and nature of problems they face.