CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Occurrence of crime is normal with any existing society. Such events, on the other hand, lead to the destruction of the law and order situation. Maintenance of law and order and regulation of crimes, therefore, have become essential function of a state. The states, in turn, have generally developed a well-trained police organization for the aforesaid purpose. So far India is concerned, the police system is controlled by the Home Department in general and Director General of Police in particular. A state is divided in to certain number of police districts having sub-divisional and Tahasil organizations spread over to various police stations. A police district is ordinarily placed under the control of a Superintendent of Police (S.P) who is designated as the head of the police district.

The Superintendent of Police is entrusted with the primary power and functions to control law and order, as well as to detect and prevent the crimes. He is held responsible for any act of omission or commission in regard to police administration within the area placed under his jurisdiction. Hence, a systematic and scientific study of the role of the S.P. has gained importance in recent times.

Brief Review of Literature

The problems of police administration have gradually received increasing attention of different writers and scholars interested in this field of research. Their earnest efforts have produced a considerable volume of literature from out of which a few important once deserve to be briefly reviewed here.

M.Banton of U.K. in "Social Integration and Police Authority1 (1963) viewed the police man as a professional citizen, who is supposed to administer society's moral standards with good judgement, founded on his awareness of the public point of view.

A.F. Brandsletten and L.A. Radelet, in their book "Police Community Relations" (1968) have given an idea about the police community relations, as a concept involving community projects and community participation.

In post-independence period, the famous empirical study of David H. Bayley, who in his work, "The police and political development in India" (1969) thoroughly exposed the development and drawbacks of police administration in the country for the first time. He also discussed the constraints or pressure and problems faced by the force on the face of the political change and industrial development.

J.Q. Wilson in his book "The police in the Ghetto" (1972) maintains that the most useful method for "easing of tension" is an active partnership between the citizen and the Police.

Discussing the "Historical roots of the police behaviour" (1975) M.H. Haller mentions that many negative traits like violence, Sub-culture, politicization and the like are due to "the historically entrenched police orientations". He also observes, the police were involved in taking injured person to the hospital, family disputes, recovering lost children and in innumerable services that have always characterized most police work.

5. M.H. Haller, Historical Roots of Political Behaviours: Chicago, 1890-1925, Law and Society Review, 10(1), 1975
H. Goldstein in his book "policing a free society" ⁶ (1977) suggests that sensitivity to "citizen complaints" can provide the police with useful means of improvement. He also advocates that ultimate objective of all efforts to improve police is to increase their capacity to deliver high quality services to the citizens.

J.C. Curry in his book, "The Indian Police" ⁷ (1977) has made an evolutionary approach to the police functioning in India. He has established that the Indian Police know no politics. They maintain, in loyal support of the Government, peace and order without which no political structure can sustain.

R.K. Bharadwaz in his treatise, "Indian Police administration" ⁸ (1978) has made a comparative estimate of police system and police functioning between pre-independence and post-independence period. While analysing the powers, functions and role of Indian police, Mr. Bharadwaz has made an objective study on the programme. He has suggested that the police personnel should behave as friends and guides of the people, counsel them towards a better and responsible civic life.

J.C. Madan, in his book "Indian Police" ⁹ (1980) has focussed on the history of police administration from ancient time to the year 1905. He has made a systematic study of the police system in ancient, medieval and British India. The work is, however, a study of evolution and development of police organization chiefly during the period between 1860-1905. The author has also attempted to explain the cultural and traditional influences leading to the present relationship between the police and village officials and also between the police and Magistracy. He has established that the essentials of police-public relations were deliberately ignored by the British administration.

7. J.C. Cuttry, The Indian Police, Manu Publication, New Delhi, 1977
8. R.K. Bharadwaz, Indian Police Administration, New Delhi, 1978
9. J.C. Madan, Indian Police, Uppal Publishing House, New Delhi, 1980
In his book, "Power - police and Public" \(^{10}\) (1983) Sultan Akbar Khan has elaborately discussed the police organization in relation to the recruitment process, training of personnel, their image and other functionaries' relationship with the public.

"Police and criminal justice administration in India"\(^{11}\) (1985) written by P.D. Sharma, chiefly deals with the evaluation of working of institutional and procedural adjustment in the field of criminal justice administration in India at different levels. The author has highlighted the contradictions that are found between the philosophical liberalism and institutional colonialism being woven together in shaping the present criminal law and the police organization. He has also offered certain viable propositions for getting rid of such contradictions and also for reforming the police administrative system.

B.R. Das in his research work (Ph.D. Thesis)\(^{12}\), "Organisation of police Administration and Economic offences in Orissa" (1989) has hinted an idea about the control of the Economic crimes by the police organization in Orissa. He has also highlighted the problems faced by the police organization in detection, prosecution and finally in arresting the expanding empire of the Economic offenders.

Rasmi Mishra in her research work (Ph. D. Thesis) "Police and Social change in India" \(^{13}\) (1992) has made a careful study about the attitude of police towards the public and vice-versa. She has also highlighted on the job attitudes of the police personnel and the socio-psychological factors influencing different categories of police personnel in their role performance.


M.B. Chande in his book "The Police in India" (1997) has focussed on the intimate relationship of the police and the society and its sustained well-being. He has made a comparative analysis of the role of the police in the pre-independence and post-independence period. The most important point that Mr. Chande has dealt with is regarding the discipline in the police department, which is the cardinal principle of the entire police force. He has also highlighted on the nature of offences and punishment system for the criminals. In the end he has emphasized on the political interference with the day-to-day police administration that affects adversely in the working of the police administration.

The review of literature, as presented in the aforesaid paragraphs, clearly show that no scholars have yet made any attempt to evaluate the role of the S.P. in police administration. This has therefore, prompted the scholar to make a scientific study of the role of the S.P., precisely in Cuttack district of the State of Orissa.

Scope of Study

The present study, in the context of the general pattern of police administration, deals with the functioning of the S.P. in police administration with special reference to Cuttack district, during 1981-90. We have taken 'Cuttack Sadar' as the focus of micro study as Cuttack is one of the oldest cities of Orissa and also because of its geographical, political, social, industrial and cultural importance in the life of the state.

The location of Cuttack at the apex of one of the richest deltas of the state, created by the river Mahanadi and its branches has given it a vantage position in respect of transport, trade, and commerce between the sea-board on the East and the high lands of the West. Till 1948, Cuttack was also the Capital of Orissa. It's importance as a seat of higher learning in humanities, sciences, commerce and medicine has been consistently on the ascendance. Its hold on the flow of economic and commercial activities in the state is conspicuous. Its role in public life of Orissa as the centre of media of mass communication such as the press, radio, and television is unique. Because of Cuttack's importance, as highlighted above, varieties of mankind have come to stay in Cuttack, resulting in a heterogeneous population structure. Such nature of population has led to mal-adjustment in respect of social, economic, political and cultural life of the region. Consequently, the area is experiencing a constant increase in crimes of different nature ultimately affecting the law and order condition. These situations have called upon the S.P. to take effective measures to maintain normalcy in the area.
Objective of Study

The chief objective of the study is to attempt a close, systematic and scientific analysis of the role of the S.P. in Cuttack district. Since the Police Act. 1861 was enforced and the police administration of the state came to be regulated under it, special care has been taken to re-organise the police system and to make it a more efficient instrument for the prevention and detection of crime. The S.P., being entrusted with a vast police power, is expected to regulate the criminal laws effectively. An evaluation of the extent to which the S.P. of Cuttack district is successful in performing his duties, forms the chief concern of the scholar. For this we have taken a span of ten years since 1981-1990 to make a scientific evaluation of the role of the S.P. In this context we have tried to highlight a global picture of police system, nature of the office of the S.P., the area under our survey, working of the S.P. in Cuttack district, the citizens’ and police officials’ perception of the role of the S.P.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses have been constructed to guide us in our study.

(1) S.P. of Cuttack district has been very much effective in regulating the police administration.

(2) The Citizens’ and officials’ are satisfied in the functioning of the S.P.

Methods of Study

We have adopted empirical as well as evaluating method for the purpose of our study. References have been made to study the official records, documents, available published and unpublished literature. Use of survey method, circulation of questionnaire, conduct of personal interviews and field studies have been adopted as far as practicable, for collection of data and verification of hypotheses.
Sample and Coverage

The survey was undertaken among the residence of undivided Cuttack Sadar Police Station area (both from Urban as well as Rural). We have divided the whole respondents into two groups- (I) Citizen group and (ii) Official group. So we have made two sets of separate questionnaires to be served for the purpose. From the Citizen's group we had selected 300 citizens as our sample respondents. But as all the above citizens are not aware of the office of the Superintendent of Police, we have therefore selected 150 citizens out of 300 citizens as our sample respondents who actually know the office of the S.P.

The other questionnaire was served to the official respondents of Cuttack Sadar Police Stations. Here, instead of adopting any sampling method, we have tried to locate 50 persons serving in the above police stations at present or those who served in the past. For this purpose we had gone through the Disposition Register of the respective police station and collected the names of the officials. We had moved from persons to persons and, when any body was found reluctant to furnish answer to our questions, we had to move to the next person. Thus no method of sampling could be adopted and we tried to collect 50 respondents who were available and prepared to answer our questions. We have collected more than 100 names, but some of them were not available, some had already expired, and some hesitated to give answers. So with great difficulty we got 50 official respondents for our purpose.

Respondents Structure

We have taken age, sex, caste religion, educational qualification, occupation, monthly family income, place of residence, mass media exposure as variables to be studied in the respondent structure. (See for details in chapter no. VI)
Techniques of Data Collection

In order to collect the data, we personally met every sample respondent both citizen and official, filled up the questionnaire with the answer given by the respondent and also interviewed him/her. Where we could not get any answer, we had to move to the other person. With one respondent, we had to give at least half an hour for the questionnaire and interview as a whole. So no questionnaire was discarded as incomplete. The schedule consisted of both structured and open ended questions. Before finalizing the schedule, we had made a pilot study and also pre-coded the responses.

Data Analysis

When the data were collected, an elaborate code book was prepared and the data was posted in the code sheet. Then the data were tabulated and analyzed. Because of the heterogeneity of the answer pattern to open ended questions, only those respondents' whose answers could be coded in a particular category was used as a basis for computing percentages. We have not tested the findings with the test of statistical significance, nor have we found out co-relation co-efficient, but only deduced the percentage distributions in interpreting the findings.