CHAPTER 9: PREVENTING RAPE OF GIRL-CHILDREN

Crimes can be classified into preventable and non-preventable. Pre-planned acts, especially those which are repetitive and patterned, are certainly preventable. However, if it is an act of omission or commission which occurs on the spur of the moment or heat of passion, it may not be possible for a policeman to anticipate the mental framework of the perpetrator and prevent the crime. No doubt, most of the crimes against women are of preventable nature. Prevention involves several factors that act in unison. It requires integration of (a) the stakeholders, viz. the policeman, the community including the family etc., with, (b) the institutional mechanisms, viz., the laws, rules and, (c) more than everything, the attitudinal orientation. This study of child rape cases in three states located in the three regions of India shows that in 75 per cent of the cases, the accused were persons known to the victim, which includes guardians, relatives, friends, tutors, domestic help etc. Only in 25 per cent of crimes the accused were totally unknown to the victim, this includes infants who were not mature enough to recognize people. The fact that the vast majority of abusers and exploiters are known persons shows that the community and family has a larger role in preventing such crimes. How does one go about? Proactive policing, involvement of family and public at large in law enforcement, increasing public awareness, inculcating awareness of rights, especially at an young age and, thereby, promoting zero tolerance, involvement of media on crime prevention, etc., are the major areas where attention is required for preventing crimes.

9.1 Proactive Policing

Proactivity means action before the event. It amounts to anticipation and consequent action-reaction. Anticipation involves alertness and intelligence. Intelligence should be reliable and actionable by the law enforcing agent. Proactivity in preventing crimes against women requires an additional input of attitudes. Even when actionable intelligence is apprehended, appropriate and available at the doorstep, the same is often ignored or rejected due to the lack of orientation. Information with respect to a few anti-socials planning a dastardly act is usually acted upon without delay. Similarly a trivial strife or affray between two groups of persons is immediately put down. But the information about teenage girls being lured for casual sex
or being trafficked into prostitution does not evoke the required attention. While preparing for proactive policing, one has to keep in mind the fact that such attitudinal issues need to be addressed beforehand. Police leaders and administrators need to take the initiative. The study shows that wherever senior officials are involved and engaged in law enforcement and co-partner themselves with junior officials, the delivery systems and achievements are faster and better.

Proactive policing can bring about several achievements. Crimes against women can be controlled and prevented. Public should be made aware of the mechanisms of prevention. Public participation in law enforcement can be augmented. Retributive justice could be accorded its due place. Unlike a crime against property, say like robbery, in crimes against women, conviction of the criminal carries no sense without adequate retribution. Proactive policing would generate adequate ground and interest in ensuring retribution. This entails effective crime control. The natural corollary is advancement in gender equations and gender justice. The sanctum sanctorum of proactive policing is that the rights of women (and girl-child) would be appreciated, accepted and institutionalized as an integral aspect of human rights. Reactivity in policing has several dimensions and manifestations as discussed below.

9.1.1 Public police interface

An effective policeman is the one who has the best public appeal. It is often said that if a policeman starts functioning effectively and seriously, he is bound to antagonize lot of people. His activities may invite displeasure of the eves-teasers, the organised gangsters, the traffickers etc. However, public will appreciate the good work when the results start coming in and when they are made aware that it is the efforts by the policeman that are yielding results. Therefore appropriate activity has to be coupled with public awareness of what is being done and what has been achieved. This can take place only with the help of proper mechanisms of police-public interface. Besides the traditional methods, many police agencies have devised ingenious mechanisms to maintain best liaison with the public. Some known systems are:

- Police-public cooperation meetings
- 'Friends of police' system
- Community policing
Community watch
- Social defence groups
- Police NGO interface
- Police participation in community welfare/action programmes.

Appropriate police-public interface enhances public co-operation in preventing crimes, facilitates timely feedback from the public not only about the activities of police but also provides criminal intelligence. Senior officers of police need to take the initiative in organizing police-public interface. The NGOs of the locality, academicians, lawyers and social activists working on women's issues do necessarily form part of the police-public interface.

9.1.2 Field Intelligence

No doubt, actionable intelligence at the appropriate time forms the core element in prevention. It facilitates timely action. Information is strength. Intelligence is double strength. The mechanisms involved in intelligence collection, dissemination and consequent action do form part of the training curriculum of policemen. This should be dovetailed with gender sensitization so that intelligence collection does not suffer from gender bias.

9.1.3 Visits to Prospective Crime Scenes

It is well said, than done, that police officers should anticipate and visit the prospective crimes scenes. Identification of such spots are to be carefully made by an intelligent study of the trends, coupled with field intelligence. Visiting the spots by police officers will notify the miscreants and even the fence sitters who are likely to fall into the other side of the fence and join the bandwagon of the trouble-shooters. The visits by police officers will be meaningful and purposeful if it sends the right message to all concerned. It is essential that such visits are noticed by the target groups. The prospective crime spots cannot always be the same. However geographical mapping of the crime spots for a substantial period of time would give out trends of the affected area and likely areas. It is a fact that no place could be said to be fully sanitized against sexual exploitation of women. Therefore the 'prospective crime spots' is a concept which is dynamic, depending on the proclivity, tendency and opportunity to commit crimes. Once these negatives disappear, it would be better to delete the concerned place from the watch-list. The benefits that accrue from spot-lighting on the
prospective crime areas are many. It will facilitate proactive policing, improve police-public cooperation and help in preventing crimes. Case study below will illustrate the point.

When eve teasing in the college campus in Chennai was not attended to with the seriousness it deserved, the eve teasers got emboldened and the issue grew into a menace. Several fence sitters were attracted to the crime. For them it was fun and pleasure. Nobody took pain to appreciate the fact that the human rights of the victim girls are being jeopardized and violated. The issue snowballed into a serious crisis when one of the victim girls, while being eve-teased was pulled down from a running vehicle, by the offender. The event led to her tragic death. No doubt, it caused embarrassment to the administrative and the law enforcement machinery. It is unfortunate that an innocent life had to be lost, at the prime of her youth, to make all concerned aware of the grave violations of human rights and therupon initiate serious action against the law breakers. Eventually a new stringent legislation was brought in to deal with eve teasers.

This case study drives home the essentiality and inevitability of policemen visiting prospective crime scenes as an important aspect of proactive policing. Bus stations, railway stations, college campus, cinema houses and such other places of public gathering/collection are likely to have miscreants easily indulging in crimes against women. If such areas are identified, regular visits made and vigilance maintained, much of the crimes against women can be prevented.

9.1.4 Public Awareness Campaigns

Awareness connotes information and knowledge about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, challenges and limitations. It is a sensitive and prospective act of making one conscious and cognizant of the pros and cons, the rights and duties, the benefits and liabilities. Proactive policing on crimes against women cannot be done without public participation, which, in turn, is a necessary concomitant of public awareness. Making the public aware has certain manifest and latent benefits as listed below.

- Public awareness campaign notifies the public as to what constitutes a crime, what are the ingredients of the crime, how one perceives a crime, etc.
- It helps distinguish between the normal perception and the legal perception as to whether an act is offence or not. For example a pat on the back of a girl child by a male tutor can amount to sexual abuse, depending on the intent and as to how
the girl perceives it to be. Unless the girl is made aware of the content and manifestation of sexual harassment, she may not even realize that she is being violated.

- In the Indian context certain crimes are not cognizable and, therefore, police cannot, suo motu, initiate proceedings. Only courts can direct proceedings in such situations. However there is no restriction on police to take all steps to prevent crimes, including non-cognizable crimes. Public need to know these basics of law enforcement, which agency to be contacted, how to go about etc.

- Awareness facilitates the public to identify the beginning trends in crimes. Incidents start with instances which follow one after another and thereby set trends. Therefore these instances do carry messages for future. Awareness campaigns would alert the public to be watchful about such trends. It is a question of the famous "broken window approach". The broken windows in USA were taken seriously by the cop as it was indicative of violence, though on a small measure and yet considered as the precursor for large scale violence. Nipping in the bud, attending to incidents which are normally perceived as 'petty' or 'minor' did make tremendous impact in controlling and preventing crimes of all types.

- Awareness campaigns facilitate the public to appreciate the effect and impact of the crimes on society by the process of deduction and the impact on oneself by the process of induction. The feeling of empathy is a great catalyst in ensuring proper and prompt response.

- It stimulates and enhances the sensitivity of the public towards the need for prevention. The 'culture of silence' gets replaced by a culture of 'zero' tolerance.

- It permits public involvement in preventing crimes and, as a corollary, promotes self-involvement in public activity.

- It enhances public understanding, respect and regard for the rights of women.

- It facilitates the public to change their mind-set and view things from a different perspective, the perception of the victim herself. Therefore, it creates re-orientation of perception.

- An aware public would start seeing crimes against women as a larger issue of violations of human rights individuals and the community, and not just another
instance of crime. The 'crime perspective' gets substituted by a 'human rights perspective'.

- Awareness facilitates public to appreciate the fact that a crime today against one person could be a crime against many tomorrow. It, therefore, promotes the need for public involvement in preventing crimes.

- The public will get educated as to what is to be done when a crime takes place which agency to be approached and as to what is the distinct role of different agencies in crime control. This, in turn, will bring in accountability and responsibility in the agencies concerned. An aware public can take them to task and keep them on their toes.

- The role of NGOs, CBOs, activists and public representatives in preventing crimes and violations as well as their role in law enforcement, especially on sexual abuse, trafficking, juvenile justice etc. will also be made known to all. Role identification is a precursor to their participation.

- It enhances public awareness regarding the various steps and procedures to be taken once a crime takes place. For example they become aware that a victim of rape should not wash her body till her medical examination is taken, that she should not discard her undergarment, that the scene of crime should not be disturbed that the public should be on guard about any trails being left behind by the criminal, (viz., noting down the vehicle number in which the accused was travelling etc.), that they should keep a mental note of the physical peculiarities of the accused so that police portrait could be developed by the law enforcement agency in due course, that the victim is entitled to legal representation and several other rights which occur to her from the laws and rules in existence.

The question is how to campaign for public awareness. Several strategies have been adopted by various law enforcement officials to involve the public in proactive policing. Some of the known strategies are described below:

- Police public cooperation meetings: These meetings facilitate free exchange of views and criticism and increase response and responsibility of the law enforcement agencies.

- By involving academicians and intellectuals in discussions, workshops, action research etc. The intellectual class give a new orientation and meaning to the
thought process and action system. They are able to render independent and objective assessment.

Target Audience Approach: In this method the law enforcement agencies identify the specific targets that should be the focus of the awareness campaigns, and thereafter approach them and involve them. For example, interactive sessions in schools and colleges can make the students, both female and male understand as to what constitutes sexual abuse, work place harassment etc. Adolescents need to be addressed on the issues of sexuality, women's rights, child rights, HIV, AIDS etc.

Police awareness can be brought in by soliciting public assistance and cooperation for dealing with specific issues of crime like, for example, involving auto rickshaw drivers for preventing eve-teasing in bus stand, railway station, market etc.

By involving NGOs not only for statute assigned duties like being part of the anti-trafficking team u/s 13 of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act etc but also utilising them for collection of intelligence, studying the emerging trends and soliciting advise for improving the system. NGOs can also mobilise public as and when required. They may be of immense help in certain situations, for example identification of the dead body of an unknown female victim who have been raped and killed and whose dead body is lying unattended to.

An important strategy of public awareness campaign is the interface with media. Media can play an extremely important role in combating crimes against women. Media exposure of the violations of human rights creates public opinion and anger, which can deter the abuser from committing crimes. It may force an otherwise insensitive state machinery to pay heed and respond with action and redressal. Media reports may alert an activist judiciary or the Commission on Human Rights/Women Rights to take suo-moto cognizance of the problem, and thereby extend judicial protection and compensation to the victims as well as initiate penal action against perpetrators. Media has been rightly described as the agency that can take on the role of the conscience keeper of the public.

Public awareness campaigns can also be carried out by networking with other agencies/individuals who are involved in crime prevention. Networking increases the strength of the law enforcement agencies and also kindles.
instigates, and sustains activity which otherwise would have been monotonous. For example, the direct link with police agencies of Nepal would facilitate the BSF officials on the border to work better for the prevention of international trafficking of girl children for sexual abuse.

9.1.5 Unreported crimes

Proactive policing is possible only with foresight, forethought, and foreaction. The interviewed police officials have stated that more than half of the crimes are not reported to police. A good part of the reported crimes are not registered nor investigated. The reasons have already been discussed in the Chapter-4. However, the following aspects stand out as the major sociological factors:

- Gender insensitivity of officials concerned
- Patriarchal mindset among the officials and the society in general
- Non-recognition of the rights of women by all concerned
- Pressure and lobbying of the culprits
- Illiteracy among the masses
- Lack of awareness of rights by women in general
- High level of tolerance by the victims
- Social stigma on the victim
- Dependency of the victims on others for help
- Culture of silence that precludes in the community

There is no denying the fact that despite reports of crimes being received in the police stations, many of them go unreported. Therefore, the number of unreported and unregistered crimes would be much larger than one can comprehend. Accordingly, the figures reflected in the publication “Crime in India” by NCRB, refers to only a minor part of the story. While studying the role and relevance of unreported crimes in proactive policing, the following points emerge:

1. Proactivity should start where action has not commenced.
2. Proactivity presupposes the essentiality to have information about all crimes, whether unreported or suppressed or buried or minimized. It is necessary to have information about these crimes where investigation was either refused, or
not properly investigated and those which end in malafide closure or malafide prosecution.

The advantages of knowing and appreciating the unreported crimes are many, as discussed below:

- It gives a clear picture of the total crime situation, which is essential for any proactive, preventive and even reactive work.
- Suppression of crimes emboldens the criminals. Hence, digging out such crimes can demoralize and reign in on them.
- Digging out suppressed crimes will explain as to why the victims are shy or wary of reporting the crimes against them. The analysis of these negatives will help the police managers to plan out proper strategies for effective crime control, crime reporting and, thereby, proper public relations.
- Unearthing the suppressed crimes, getting them registered, and ensuring logical conclusion in all such incidents is not only a legal and moral responsibility of the law enforcement agency towards victims of such crimes, but also an essential requirement under the constitutional mandate to protect Human Rights.

Question arises as to how to get information on unreported and suppressed crimes. The following strategies can be through off:

- Police-public meeting and interface
- NGO interface
- Media interface
- Visits to villages, municipal wards, hotspots, public meeting round etc.
- During investigative/preventive work on crimes, the police officers should collect intelligence on previous crimes.
- Victim survey and action research, if carried out with the help of NGOs, can reveal a lot about earlier incidents. For example, a selected part of the municipal ward or a village could be taken up as the field study. Thereafter, extensive research, probably door-to-door survey, be carried out regarding the crimes that have taken place during a short 'check' period. This data should be compared with the police records and the discrepancies should be analysed. The study is bound to reveal many chinks in the armoury. Another area of action research would be to study the trends in fluctuations when crimes have either gone up
Phenomenally or come down drastically. The reasons need to be analysed in detail, which would throw light on unreported crimes.

Proactive policing calls for speedy follow up actions. Once it is known that there are unreported crimes, it is essential that the law enforcement officials meet the victim, seek her views, and honour them. However, if a cognizable crime has been committed, and even if the victim is reluctant to report the crime, it becomes the duty of the police officer to institute a case on his own statement or anybody else's statement and carry out investigation. Any crime against an individual is perceived as an offence against the State and therefore the State owes a responsibility to the victim to redress her grievances and prevent such crimes. The law enforcement official has to necessarily study and understand as to why the crime went unreported, what are the fault lines, bottlenecks, and impediments so that they could be plugged. Training to police officers to improve response and responsiveness, and to make them proactive is another requirement, which arise from the study of unreported crimes. Public awareness campaigns need to be organized to alert them to the need of reporting the crimes. If proper action follows reporting, public confidence will naturally flow in.

9.1.6 Data Surveillance

Indepth study and analysis of data by using statistical and sociological tools, follow-up of the same by carrying out macro and micro action research, deduction of the trends, and thereby combating crimes are the essential parameters of data surveillance. In fact, the entire process involved could be summarized in an acronym of DARE, where the letters stand for Data Analysis, Research, and Execution of findings.

9.1.7 The scope of DARE: The methodology involves study of data, analysis of trends, mapping them on a geographical map with all parameters of time and space in focus. Learning from the trends, deductions thereon, carrying out intensive research on selected issues, evaluating the actions initiated, and, finally developing specific integrated methodology for prevention, detection and prosecution of crimes as well as care, protection and rehabilitation of the victims, including redressal of grievances.

Crime data, as of today, is mostly being utilized for academic discussions and for political purposes. At times, the law enforcement officials may use it for crime control. Generally speaking, one wakes up when a serious crime takes place. Policemen are deputed, intensive actions are planned and executed but soon, everything subsides and settles down.
Everybody forgets about the incident till something serious happens ——
whereupon the same rigmarole starts. This is the usual, common, strategy of firefighting,
which is undoubtedly adhocist, since it sans perspective planning and recognition of human
rights.

The mapping of data, in the context of time and place, would provide a good substratum for
effective managers to plan their operations and activities. Data surveillance provides
appropriate indicators of the trends. It enhances the scope and reliability of prediction.
However it calls for careful and analytical understanding through a discerning eye.

9.1.8 The methodology in DARES: The professional method of practical proactive
policing to combat crimes against women, involves the following essential steps.

- **Data collection**: Besides the formal channels of data collection, offbeat
mechanisms are also to be utilised. Data is not to be confined to the number
of persons arrested, convicted, etc. but should also focus on the origin and
background of the accused, the sociological situations of the victim etc. Much
data could be collected through intelligence sources, channels of police public
interface, village police, news reports, etc. There is a large role of PRI’s
(Panchayat Ray Institutions).

- **Analysis of Data**: The data collected are analysed by statistical, sociological,
and criminological principles and research methodologies. For example if eve-
nearing is rampant in a college, but is not being reported to the police, the data
analysis should focus on the cases reported earlier, if any, the
models therein, the men who indulged in this activity, the steps taken against
them etc. The study should extend to informal data also. The files of the college
authorities need to be studied regarding the complaints that they had received,
the action taken by the University authorities against the miscreants etc. Data
should also be collected from the newspapers and media reports of those periods.

**Research**: Based on the data analysis specific points for research have to be
pulled out. For example in the case of eve-teasing not being acted upon by
police, the points of research could be the reasons for the crimes not being
reported to police, the awareness of female students about their rights and
violations of rights, the level of parental control on their wards, etc. One should also focus on the tolerance level among female students, as to how their tolerance emboldens criminals and makes the latter commit more crimes, enhance their criminal activity and embellish their span of activity etc. Research will help identify the methods to ensure zero tolerance among girls and methods to enforce protection of their rights, steps to prevent crimes and nip them in the bud. Accordingly, one should develop action plans incorporating interactive sessions and discussions with not only female students, but also male students. It should include sensitisation programmes and rights campaigns. The faculty will also need to be sensitised to see that the crimes are not suppressed and that they learn to accept and appreciate that the violations of women's rights are matters of serious concern for the community and also individuals concerned.

Executing and implementing the action plan would be last leg of data surveillance. Target audience approach by campaigns and interactive methods would be an effective methodology. Role of media and NGOs are to be appreciated and utilised in executing the plans in the process. It is essential to involve both men and woman in the process.

As an outcome of DARE, the law enforcement officials should be able to have more control over prevention of crimes, develop 'Good Practices' and publicise them. They will also be able to develop their own 'Dos and Don'ts' in preventing crimes.

9.1.9 Action Research: Proactivity cannot be achieved by a post-mortem of the event, as it will only tell us what went wrong and how. One needs to know as to what can go wrong and as to what should be done so that things do not go wrong. It, therefore, calls for research on what has not been reported and documented. If one wants to prevent crime by contributing to an exploitation-free society, where women's rights are not only respected and honoured but are accepted as integral aspect of human rights, it is essential to go into the origins, the extend and the intensity of violations of rights of any kind. This can be done only through intense research of not only the micro cosms (which was dealt with in data surveillance and DARE) but also the macro cosms with focus on the community at large. Action research in police parlance is, therefore, professional research to be undertaken by a
multi-disciplinary agency involving social scientists, academicians, research-oriented police officers and NGOs. Involvement of victims would be advisable to give more depth to research.

The methodology of action research should include the following:

1. Study of trends of reported and unreported crimes even which are not considered crimes, status of women in society and its impact on crimes. Rights of women, awareness of rights and its impact on preventing crimes, etc. The inter-play of rights and development of women is another attribute to be studied. These issues will open up the frontiers of awareness of rights and practice of rights. This will enhance appreciation of the variety of openings available to the law enforcement official to ensure crime prevention. The methodology should involve interaction with the maximum number of women from the target group and detailed discussions with them. Perhaps door to door, and individual to individual surveys and interface through questionnaire: schedules would be required.

2. The second step of the methodology of action research is mapping of the various elements in a proper paradigm. The elements required to be mapped are details regarding victims, accused, and witnesses. The details include sources, supply-demand factors, push and pull out factors, the economics involved, the nexus, the links, etc.

An important aspect of action research is case study. It is essential to identify model cases, which can be taken up for intensive and focused research. It would be appropriate if reported cases are also taken up for case studies, because formal data would be available which can be embellished or put to text during field research. However, there are certain difficulties in conducting research on reported cases. Law requires that the victim's details not be published. Even the details of the accused be not publicised till the disposal of the case from trial. Trials of cases go on for decades, by which time the seriousness and even the significance of the crime would have died down. Therefore the case studies in the action-research should focus on specific themes, issues and concepts.

9.1.10 Follow-up of studies and reports of workshops and conferences

Proactive policing demands that the police officer should necessarily be aware and be concerned about the public perception. He should initiate steps according to public
requirements, keeping in view their best interests. Lack of money, time, energy and resources of government, UN agencies, NGOs, private societies or persons devoted to the cause, philanthropists, professional police officers and several others are being utilised for carrying out workshops, conferences, seminars at various form. There is a lot of repetition in the work and activity being carried out by these agencies. Unfortunately most of the recommendations are lying idle, confined to voluminous reports and publications. It would be advisable to collect a copy of all such recommendations, collate them, identify specific actionable and doable points and incorporate them in the scheme of things. The law enforcement officials would do well if they could discuss the implementation with some of the agencies who recommended those actions and, thereafter, identify the micro issues distinct from the macro ones, so that the same could be implemented at different periods of time. However, it is the law enforcement official who has to take initiative to implement them at the grass roots level and, therefore, he needs to take initiative in their implementation. The implementation of the appropriate recommendations of such intellectual exercises can make radical impact in preventing crimes against women.

9.2 Role of Media in Preventing Rape Crimes against Children

The Fourth Estate, in all its denominations, is a powerful and potent tool in law enforcement. It is a fact that electronic media has more impact and more influence than the printing media. However the fast spread and the vast expanse of the print media, makes it more popular than other media. There is no denial that in the remote areas and villages in India, it is the radio which still yields the maximum influence. Television and print media may or may not there, but the radio is very common at every doorstep even in the remote villagers. Radio knock in far flung areas attracts lot of people, especially in the evening hours. They hear the radio, they listen to the public discussion and debates on the news and thereafter form opinions, images impression, views etc. Therefore the importance of none of the sections of the media can be underestimated. The accompanying factors are several:

- Media has tremendous reach into masses, even in far-flung areas.
- The impact of the media, both print and electronic, is very high and lasting in not only for conveying messages, but also informing public opinions, generating public awareness, sensitising the public to their rights, violations of rights, and providing them inputs as to how law is enforced in such situations.
Media has the advantage of disseminating information at the appropriate time may be ahead of time. The programs being mostly structured, it is for sure that the information and the message intended to be conveyed will reach the target audience well in time.

It facilitates views and counter views and, therefore, enables a person to have a fair assessment of any situation. It can be said that media has a three-dimensional impact. It projects the view of the press, the counterview and finally the third view of the reader. All the three views/counterviews are available before the reader to see, read, study, assimilate and accept or reject.

The persuasiveness of the media is an important weapon in controlling and regulating the systems especially with respect to the role of law enforcement agencies. The human rights issues get adversely published, criticized, debated, and reviewed and, therefore the law enforcement agencies will be under constant compulsion to conform to the principles of human rights.

Print media has wide acceptance and impact among the masses. In a typical Indian rural setting, it is a commonly popular sight that a literate person reads and the illiterate love to hear him read. 'Community reading' facilitates public participation, discussions, and views and counters views and, thereby, promotes public awareness. Therefore, media can and does play an important role in awakening women to their rights, promoting and enhancing their tolerance level as well as facilitating in zero-tolerance to violations, the ultimate situation where gender justice will become a reality.

How to make the best use of the media in crime prevention? It is a fact that judicial officers do not like to be interviewed or quoted. The Judicial decorum demands maintaining neutrality and anonymity to the extent possible. As regards the police interface with media, there are two distinct schools of thought. The first one is the media-savvy group of police officials, who are too happy to appear in the media programmes and presentations with their views and co-interviews. Sometimes they assume the role of media rapporteurs or even that of a journalist. The second group is the media-shy police officers. Their shyness could be due to various reasons. They would either like to avoid all publicity, remain shy of appearance in public glare or leave it to the media to do what they want. However then it comes to effective utilization of the media in preventing crimes against women, a lot of
proactive intervention is called for which requires that the law enforcement officials have to forge a working relation with the media personnel. The PGRD with police officers described in the chapter explains the view of police officers of all the three states, where the research was carried out, that the absence of Public Relations officials or a mouth piece for media management is a serious impediment in police-public relations. A situation exists wherein good news is no news and bad news is the good news. This certainly calls for effective media management. There should be regular exchange of information and views, subject to the restrictions of the code of conduct, services rules, and legal requirements. Media should have specific programmes on crimes against women. Before they decide to broadcast or publish something on crimes against women, it would be advisable to have the same vetted by an expert committee which includes police officers, journalists, NGO’s, academicians etc. Therefore setting up of such an expert advisory committee/resource committee would be ideal. It is also advisable that media carry out interviews and interactive programmes with interesting anecdotes, so that the programmes make adequate and lasting impact on public mind. Adequate publicity should be made about the crimes which have been prevented and the efforts undertaken in this direction.

There are several effects of involving media in law enforcement on crimes against women:

- It is an important source of information to law enforcement officials
- It provides intelligence on crimes, reported and unreported and suppressed. Intelligence will also come up with respect to the criminal tendencies and trends which indicate the steps and strategies that needs to be adopted for proactive law enforcement. For example information regarding the traffickers of children across the Border would be the most important tool in preventing trafficking in children.
- Media involvement in law enforcement facilitates dissemination of the awareness of rights of girl children. Therefore it is the most potent weapon to promote zero tolerance in women.
- Media promotes legal awareness and rights awareness among the public in general, facilitating public participation in law enforcement.
- Media enhances the expectations of the public on the performance of the law enforcement agencies. Consequently the law enforcement agencies have to
necessarily raise their level of performance and competence. This would bring in systemic improvements.

The individuals who perform the best and develop ingenious good practices will be recognised. This would give impetus for effective delivery and best performance in others. This would enhance proper public scrutiny of the police functioning and thereby enhance the accountability of police. Simultaneously media will also be put to public pressure and public glare demanding that things be projected in proper perspective. On the whole, strategic media interface can go a long way in promoting women's rights as well as in preventing crimes against women and violation of their rights.

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