It is quite natural that wherever human beings live they will develop relationship with one another. No doubt, the nature and extent of relationship will vary from individual to individual.

When we talk about the nature of work of policewomen at work place we know that they have to come in contact with different types of people, like peace loving people, criminals, their male counterparts, and so on. In such circumstances there is a possibility that they maintain relationship with some people while they may not like some others. Their relationship will also differ from individual to individual.

Here efforts have been made to find out the illicit relationship of policewomen, its consequences, their attitude towards various aspects of their job, and so on.

VI.1. It is generally heard that policewomen have illicit relationship with their male counterparts. What is your opinion?

Sixty-seven per cent said that there was no such relationship. However, 33% of the respondents believed
that some of the policewomen have illicit relationship with their male counterparts.

VI.2. Whether your relatives have ever doubted your character (about illicit relationship) ?

All the respondents said that their relatives had never doubted their character.

A vast variation in the number of respondents can be observed in this and the above answers. Since the former one was a general type, about one third of the respondents did not hesitate to speak freely. However, since this question was a pointed one towards the respondents, we can see that nobody preferred to raise suspicion on her character. Obviously, nobody would like to exhibit the bad side of his/her personality to another individual.
VI.3. Has there been quarrel in your house over the issue of illicit relationship?

All the respondents replied that quarrel had never taken place in their house over the issue of illicit relationship. As in the above case, here also we can mention that nobody would like to let others know about a quarrel, if at all it occurred, in their house on such an issue.

VI.4. Do you know any policewoman who was divorced due to doubts cast on her character?

Chart 6.2
Divorce due to doubt

Ninety-five per cent of the respondents said that they did not know any policewoman who was divorced due to doubts cast on her character. However, 5% of the respondents said that they knew policewomen who were divorced due to doubts of illicit relationship.
VI. 5. Chart showing the respondents' preference for residential place.

Chart 6.3

Preference for residential place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%age of respondents</th>
<th>Police line</th>
<th>Outside police line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Twenty-nine per cent of the respondents preferred to reside in police line, whereas 71% of the respondents said that they preferred to live outside police line.

VI. 6. Chart showing whether the respondents like to take their children/relatives to their work place.

Chart 6.4

Taking children/relatives to workplace

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Like</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not like</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sixty-nine per cent replied that they did not like to take their children/relatives to their workplace. However, 31% of them said that they liked to take their children/relatives to their workplace.

VI.7. Chart showing whether anybody ever persuaded the respondents to resign their police job.

Chart 6.5
Persuasion to resign police job

While 94% replied in the negative, 6% of the respondents said that they were persuaded by their relatives/friends to resign their police job, but they did not yield to such persuasions.

VI.8. Chart showing whether the respondents faced any difficulty in getting their children married as they were working in police.

Twenty-five per cent of the respondents replied in the negative, while 1% said that she had faced difficulty in getting her child married since she was working in police.
Seventy-four per cent of the respondents said that this query was not applicable to them as they did not have children or did not have children of marriageable age.

VI.9. Whom would you prefer as life partners for your children, civilian or policeman/woman?

It is clear from the chart that a majority of the respondents preferred civilians as life partners for their children.

Nineteen per cent of the respondents fall in the category of 'not applicable' as they either do not have
children or children have already got married.

VI.10. Chart showing the respondents' very close friends.

A majority of the respondents have other police man/woman as their close friend. Is that birds of same feather flock together?

VI.11. Chart showing whether the respondents would like their son/daughter enrolled in the police.
A sizeable number of the respondents did not like their son/daughter getting enrolled in the police. The question is ‘not applicable’ to a few respondents as they do not have children.

VI.12. Chart showing the type of respect the relatives give to the respondents.

Here three categories have been made, viz. good, medium and low for analysing the level of respect the respondents got. This has been made considering two persons who have equal relationship (blood relation or
friendship) with a third person. However, of the first two persons, one is working in police, the other is a civilian. In such a case the level of respect they got from the third person was taken into account.

If a policewoman believed that she got respect from the third person more than the respect given to the civilian, such case was put into the category 'good'. If the policewoman believed that she got equal respect, the such case was put in the category 'medium', and if she felt that she got less respect, then the case was categorised as 'low'.

According to the above chart more than three-fourth of the respondents believed that they got 'medium' respect from their relatives.

About a quarter of the respondents believed that they got 'good' respect from their relatives.

Nobody believed that they got 'low' respect from their relatives.

VI.13. Chart showing the type of respect the male police have for policewomen (relating to moral character).

This question was asked of the respondents (i.e. policewomen) to know their perception of the respect they got from male police. No question was put to the.
male police to know their views. A similar general question was asked to the respondents earlier (chapter III). However, here, the type of respect they command has been given the break-up of 'low', 'medium', and 'good'.

A majority of the respondents perceived that they were being looked upon with 'low' respect by male police which was added by another 39% who commanded 'medium' respect.

Mahajan's (1982: 149) study too says: "Almost one half of the male officers were of the opinion that the incumbents of the policewomen force are of easy morals. Surprisingly, more than one-third of the police-women themselves admitted that their male counterparts were of the opinion that they were of bad character. It is difficult to know what the reality is. It is very common in all the organizations where women work along with men that some whispering campaign goes on
about the moral character of a few young girls or women and it can be overlooked as a product of frustration on the part of the rumour-mongers. But it cannot be ignored if almost fifty per cent of the police officers hold this view".

A serious factor that can be observed here was that a substantial number of policewomen (92%) believed that they had no 'good' respect in the eyes of their male counterparts.

VI.14. In your opinion, who command higher respect in the society: civilian working women or policewomen?

![Chart 6.12
Respect to working women in society](image)

The above finding has been established here again since almost all the respondents believed that it was the civilian working women who commanded higher respect in the society.

VI.15. Chart showing the view of the respondents about their future prospects.
Thirty-five per cent of the respondents believed that they would not get promotion and did not expect a bright future. 65% of the respondents were hopeful of getting promotion.

VI.16. Chart showing whether the respondents would resign their police job if they get a civilian job with the same salary that they are presently getting.

While 82% of the respondents replied in the negative, 18% of the respondents replied that they would quit police job, provided they got a civilian job.

One of the respondents said, "Before entering the police department I was unaware about the bad things
going on inside. At that time I was really enthusiastic to enter this department as I was in NCC during my school days. Since my financial background is not so good, and as there is no alternative, I am continuing with this job. If I get a civilian job, I will definitely leave the present one".

VI.17. If you had had a chance of joining a civilian job when you entered the police, which job you would have preferred?

Thirty-two per cent of the respondents said that their choice of entering the police was right, whereas 68% of the respondents said that they would have gone for a civilian job had there been an opportunity at the time of their entering the police.
VI.18. Give your preference to the following jobs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preference of job</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Clerk</th>
<th>Police</th>
<th>Nurse</th>
<th>Telephone Operator</th>
<th>Computer</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>NIL</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ist pref.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIInd pref.</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IIIrd pref.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IVth pref.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vth pref.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This question was put to the respondents to know their preference of various jobs. It was clear from the chart that a significant equal number of respondents' first preference was the job of teacher and clerk (38%, 37%). However, only 9% of the respondents said that their first preference was the job of the police. Similarly, the last (fifth) preference of one-fifth of the respondents were the job of the police, whereas nobody preferred to be a teacher or being a computer professional, and only a meagre (3%) preferred the job of clerk.

SUMMARY

This chapter dealt with the relationship/attitude of policewomen with their relatives/male counterparts, the respect they commanded, so on.

It is interesting to note that though one-third of
the respondents believed that some of the policewomen had illicit relationship with their male counterparts, none reported any accusing finger being pointed at her by relatives.

While all of them reported peace/no-quarrel at their homes, a few (5%) said they knew of divorce cases among policewomen on this count (illicit relationship). A natural question that arises is 'where are those divorce cases?' or 'where are the cases which 5% of the respondents say have illicit relationships with their male counterparts?' It could be possible that these cases could not find representation in the sample or given the sensitivity of the question they preferred not to disclose the cause of their divorce. Indeed, in our society there could be few women who would overtly accept having illicit relationship.

It is surprising that two-third of the respondents prefer to keep their children/relatives at a distance from their work place. They want their children/relatives to be ignorant or at least do not have first hand knowledge of the behaviour of their colleagues, their way of talk, and so on.

A few respondents (6%) said that they were persuaded by their relatives/friends to resign their police job. A subsequent question that could come up here was that why they were persuaded to resign their
job. Nature of job, problems they faced at the workplace, reputation of policewoman in general, etc. could be the reasons for this.

It would not be an overstatement if we say that the policewomen do not like their own lifestyle and profession. Why else would a large majority of them (78%) prefer to have their children married outside their profession? May be, they do not like the rigours of the police life to visit on their children's spouse. Besides, a civilian's life is not fraught with dangers that a policewoman's day to day life confronts.

But things are not as simple as they appear when the question of taking up the job of police by their son/daughter arises. As we have seen later, a majority of the respondents were not really averse to their children joining the police. Socio-economic factor plays a key role in one's preference or dislike of a profession. To make it more clear, we have seen that more than three-fourth of the respondents would not like policemen/women for their children's life-partner. But, only 35% are averse to the idea of enrolling their children in the police. The large difference could be attributed to the fact that when unemployed, getting a job, any job, is the first priority of the person concerned. A total of 52% of the respondents would like their children to join the police but significantly nearly half of them (24%) would like them to join in
It is indeed strange that no policewoman feels being looked down upon by her relative, but as many as 53% of them feel they get 'low' respect from their male counterpart. Normally co-workers understand each other better, for they more or less share the same environment and understand the nature of the job well. It is a sad commentary on the status accorded to policewomen by their male counterparts. Certainly policewomen deserve a better deal. If their own colleagues do not accord them due respect, it will be too much to expect the same from the rest of the society. Does the scant respect with which the police men view their female counterparts contribute to the bad name the policewomen have come to acquire for themselves?

Regarding the respondents' opinion on the respect to the working women, almost all of them believed that it was the civilian working women who commanded more respect in the society. This is not surprising. If their own male colleagues view them with scant respect what about the rest of the society?

While more than two-third (68%) of the respondents would have got into a civilian job had there been an opportunity at the beginning of their career, as of today only 18% say that they would like to switch over to a civilian job. That 82% preferred to stick to their
present profession could be due to the fact that after spending varying number of years in the profession they have adapted or reconciled themselves to the present circumstances.

While checking the policewomen's preference towards various jobs, it was found that the job of 'teacher' and 'clerk' were the first preference of 38% and 37% of respondents, respectively. Pity, only 9% of the respondents showed their first preference towards the job of police. From this we can understand the pride and interest of respondents have in their own job.