

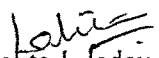
PREFACE

The general feeling was, and still is, that “police work is a men’s work.” Women are not emotionally or physically equipped to handle this men’s job of policing. But the need for policewomen was felt actually as the number of women accused, criminals, and victims increased as involved in crimes like rape, kidnapping, sexual harassment, dowry deaths, etc.

In all the countries, initially, there was resistance from different corners on the entry of women in policing. Further, every country, in the beginning, used policewomen as social workers, to deal with cases of women and juveniles. It was only in the later stages that women police were completely integrated into the police force in developed countries.

What factors motivate women to seek employment in ‘non-feminine’ occupations and what consequences the ‘adventurists’ as well as the ‘natural’ incumbents face are the questions which attract our immediate attention.

The present study is designed mainly to find out the special circumstances which forced women to opt for atypical sex role that is, policing. Moreover, no study has been conducted in Gujarat regarding policewomen. It also seeks to ascertain consequences associated with the employment of women in this ‘male occupation’ that is stigmatized additionally. We are, however, still ignorant about the problems they had faced in their attempt to be accepted in the police force. To answer this and other related questions I took up the case of policewomen, being fully aware of its hazardous nature. I hope that I have been able to do justice to the policewomen force.


Lalita J. Jadav