



A STUDY ON CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN POLICE OFFICERS IN KOVIPATTI TALUK, THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Preservation of peace and protection of life and property are the basic needs of a democratic society. The employment of women in police establishments reflects not only socio-economic advancement but also changes in the attitude towards the role of women in society. The objectives of this study are to study the challenges faced by the respondents, to study the family support and social acceptance of women police, and to study job satisfaction among women police. SPSS software was used to analyse this study. The major findings of this study are that most of the respondents are satisfied with their jobs and families. Nearly half of the respondents get time to spend with their spouse. However, most respondents face difficulties because of their dress code, and the least percentage face some difficulties from male colleagues. The researcher is confident that creating a safe and peaceful society will be greatly aided by the empowerment of women police personnel. This study concluded that though women police officers face problems in general, they are satisfied with their jobs.

Keywords: Women Police, Officers, Protection, Health, Government, Economic Condition, Harmonious.

Introduction

Women in the police force play a crucial role in maintaining law and order. Their introduction into policing has brought diverse perspectives and skills, contributing to more effective community engagement. Historically, including women in police forces has evolved, breaking traditional gender norms. Their presence addresses specific needs, such as handling cases involving women and children promoting a safer and more understanding environment for everyone. Women in policing often serve as role models, inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in law enforcement. Their resilience and dedication demonstrate that gender should not hinder professional success. Increasing the representation of women in the police force not only fosters gender equality but also contributes to the effectiveness and legitimacy of law enforcement institutions. Female officers can offer unique perspectives in handling cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and other sensitive issues. Additionally, having diverse teams ensures a better understanding of community needs and concerns.

Objectives of The Study

- To examine the challenges faced by women police officers during their service, including issues related to working hours,

infrastructure, health issues, offenders, and gender inequality.

- To investigate the reasons behind difficulties in obtaining leave approval and specific problems faced by women police officers during traffic duty.

Statement of The Study

The role of women in law enforcement is remarkable. In practice, people tend to trust women police officers, especially when it comes to sexual and gender-based matters. Numerous research studies have been conducted on different aspects of women in the police force. For instance, the growth and development of women in the police, their career aspirations, motivations, and gender discrimination. Their role in police and administration, these studies give much insight into the opportunities of female police officers but not much into the challenges they face in the community police.

Methodology of The Study

In this study, we used primary data for our analysis process. Convenience sampling was chosen for this study due to practical considerations and limitations, including time constraints, resource limitations, and the specific context of Kovilpatti police stations. After the deadline, we received nearly 51 responses from women police officers using Google



Forms. This overview schedule was used mainly because it is simple to operate, quick to complete, and easy for participants to respond to. Data analysis was conducted using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, version 20) and Excel (a spreadsheet software, version **Microsoft Excel 2013 MSO (Version 2302 Build 16.0.16130.20332) 64-bit**). These software tools were utilized to perform various statistical analyses and data manipulation tasks.

Result and Discussions

Are you interested in the Police Department?

Table No. 5.1: Are you interested in the Police Department?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	2	3.9	3.9	3.9
Valid Yes	49	96.1	96.1	100.0
Total	51	100.0	100.0	

Table No. 5.1 shows that **the majority of respondents (96.1%) are interested in the police department.**

Age:

Table No. 5.2: Age

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid 18-27	13	25.5	25.5	25.5
28-37	17	33.3	33.3	58.8
38-47	14	27.5	27.5	86.3
48 & above	7	13.7	13.7	100.0
Total	51	100.0	100.0	

From the above table, we can conclude that most respondents are in the 28–37 age group.

Findings: To compare the age range of 48 and above, women are interested in working in this field.

Have you faced any problems in your working time?

Table No. 5.3: Have you faced any problems in your working time?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	16	31.4	31.4	31.4
Valid Yes	35	68.6	68.6	100.0
Total	51	100.0	100.0	

This analysis shows that **the majority of respondents (68.6%) faced problems with working time.**

If yes, what kind of problem did you face in working time?

Table No. 5.4: If yes, what kind of problem did you face during working hours?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
caste issue	2	5.7	5.7	5.7
extra time	16	45.7	45.7	51.4
gender inequality	2	5.7	5.7	57.1
Valid infrastructure facilities (table, chair, toilet)	4	11.4	11.4	68.6
lack of family time	11	31.4	31.4	100.0
Total	35	100.0	100.0	

Hence, we can conclude that most **respondents face extra time during the working day.**

Findings: From the above table, most of them faced extra time as a working problem, so they did not spend much time with their family members, and they could not care for their children.

Did you face any problems in your work to get permission to take a leave?

Table No. 5.5: Did you face any problems in your work to get permission to take a leave?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	15	29.4	29.4	29.4
Valid Yes	36	70.6	70.6	100.0
Total	51	100.0	100.0	

The above table shows that the majority of respondents (70.6%) face problems getting permission to take **leave**.

If “yes, ” why did they deny permission for the leave?

Table No. 5.6: If “yes,” why did they deny permission for the leave?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
do to a lot of work	13	36.1	36.1	36.1
insufficient squad workers	12	33.3	33.3	69.4
Valid personal retaliate	7	19.4	19.4	88.9
unforeseen circumstances	4	11.1	11.1	100.0
Total	36	100.0	100.0	

From the above analysis, we can conclude that **they had a lot of work and were denied permission to leave. They cannot attend functions in their family on time.**

Did you have any health issues while working?

Table No. 5.7: Did you have any health issues while working?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	16	31.4	31.4	31.4
Valid Yes	35	68.6	68.6	100.0
Total	51	100.0	100.0	

Table 5.7 shows that 31.4% of the respondents identify as no, and 68.6% identify as yes. From this analysis, we can conclude that **most respondents (52.9%) were affected by health issues.**

If “yes,” what type of health issue did you face?

Table No. 5.8: If yes, What type of health issue did you face?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
bladder control problem	5	14.3	14.3	14.3
lack of fitness leading to fatigue	7	20.0	20.0	34.3
Menses	1	2.9	2.9	37.1
Neck and back pain	1	2.9	2.9	40.0
Valid Nervous related problem	1	2.9	2.9	42.9
Periods pain	2	5.7	5.7	48.6
spinal cord problems	16	45.7	45.7	94.3
Stress	1	2.9	2.9	97.1
Sugar complaints	1	2.9	2.9	100.0
Total	35	100.0	100.0	

From this analysis, we can conclude that **the majority of respondents (45.7%) have a spinal cord problem.**

Did you face any problems with the offenders?

Table No. 5.8: Did you face any problems with the offenders?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	38	74.5	74.5	74.5
Valid Yes	13	25.5	25.5	100.0
Total	51	100.0	100.0	

Hence, we can conclude that **most respondents (74.5%) did not face problems with the offenders.**

If “yes,” what kind of problem did you face?

Table No. 5.9: If “yes,” what kind of problem did you face?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
abusing family members	3	23.1	23.1	23.1
Blackmail	4	30.8	30.8	53.8
Extortion	1	7.7	7.7	61.5
tit for tat	5	38.5	38.5	100.0
Total	13	100.0	100.0	

From this analysis, we can conclude that **the maximum number of respondents are facing problems “tit for tat” by the offenders.**

Association of transfer and political problems in working time:

Hypothesis:

Null Hypothesis (H₀): There is no relationship between transfer and political problems in working time.

Alternative hypothesis (H₁): There is a relationship between transfer and political problems in the working time

Chi-square Test:

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	.085 ^a	1	.771		
Continuity Correction	.000	1	.996		
Likelihood Ratio	.085	1	.771		
Fisher's Exact Test				.784	.497
Linear-by-Linear Association	.083	1	.773		
N of Valid Cases	51				

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have an expected count of less than 5. The minimum expected count is

9.49.

b. Computed only for a 2x2 table

Inference

Based on the chi-square test results, the p-value of 0.771 is larger than the significant value of 0.05. Therefore, we accept H_0 . Hence, there is no significant relationship between transfer and political problems during working time.

Conclusion

The study makes clear the nature of the work of women police officers, the occupational stress level, the attitude of the family members towards the job, and the attitude of the women police towards the work. Women police are not fully participating in their family functions. Women police officers require better support systems or provisions for childcare to facilitate a better balance between work responsibilities and parenting duties. In our survey, the maximum number of respondents face the struggles of having an extra workload during the duty period, like standing for a long time during the menstrual period, and various health issues, like physical health.

Hence, it may be concluded that, though women police officers face many problems in general, they are satisfied with their job. We have been grateful for the women's police community's vital support of the community.

Suggestion

- The government should provide the women police functionaries with adequate remuneration, the latest equipment, and quality uniforms.
- It is recommended that the government set aside a suitable budget to enable female police officers to fulfill their requirements for infrastructure (such as restrooms, accommodations, and pick-up and drop-off services) and transportation.
- The main issue that women police officers deal with is extended work hours. Women police constables must work long hours because of their unpredictable work environments. The authorities must consider female officers' needs and close the supply-demand imbalance to solve the issue.
- The police administration must consider the grievances of women police and redress them in consultation with the government.

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