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Policing and good governance in Rajasthan

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Abstract
This paper seeks to interrogate how technology brings excellence in the overall Governance System of Rajasthan's State Police Machinery, as per the changing needs of the society. This article also finds the essentiality of providing Good Governance by Police Organizations to improve the functioning of all other state administrative machinery, as sound policing/law and order is of primary importance for a healthy public administration.

Keywords: Good governance, police organization, administration, policing

Introduction

Policing is "the function of that branch of the administrative machinery of government which is charged with the preservation of public order and tranquillity, the promotion of the public health, safety, and morals, and the prevention, detection, and punishment of crimes." (Black's Law Dictionary)

However, in a welfare state like India, the role of the Police is not just limited to maintaining law and order and providing social justice; it also includes the idea of service to the people.

An efficient Police administration is the foundation for a transparent and accountable governance for fostering equitable growth. The Police personnel are the backbone for building solid public opinion towards a government, as peace and stability provided to the common person are of primary importance for a healthy society.

Ethical competencies, reliability, integrity, responsiveness, adherence to law, and ethical behavior are some of the must-have values a Police Organization should have. Police are the only organization that, besides executing typical responsibilities of maintaining law and order, can focus on working with society to eliminate certain social evils from the ground root. To provide Good Governance in Policing, Police Organizations should focus on developing leaders who can lead by example.

In this context, the present paper focuses on major issues that need deliberation for enhancing public services through capacity building, especially how Good Governance in Policing can help maintain the overall governance scenario in a state like Rajasthan.

Government v/s Governance v/s Good Governance!

Government: Government is one, though an essential, part of a State and a mechanism of governing it.

Governance is how all societal affairs, particularly public affairs, are conducted. So, Governance comprises the mechanism, methodology, and institutions that help the citizens and groups to protect their interests.

Good Governance: Good Governance or effective Governance are expressions of normative notions of Governance in a positive direction and have clear prescriptive connotations. So, Good Governance is a legitimate, accountable, and effective way of obtaining and using public power and resources to pursue widely accepted social goals. The Commission on Global Governance (C.G.G.) 1995 defined Good Governance as 'the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs.'

How is Governance in Policing Related to Society?

The system is a part of society and is for the society. Society desires Social Change in the right direction. The State of the society depends upon the rules and regulations framed by the

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government and, more importantly, how these rules and regulations are implemented. Police Play an Important role in executing and implementing some of these rules and regulations. Governance plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity of police organizations, and thus, it plays a considerable role in shaping society.

How good governance in police is a prerequisite for the overall governance scenario?

Every day, with increasing complexities, police organizations are gradually taking over the enforcement duties of other departments and are accountable without having an adequate mandate or legal authority. This is because the Police Administration is the most visible strong arm of the government. For example, the Police plays a significant role in conducting competitive examinations, enforcing the State Government's and Judiciary's mandate to address mining and other environmental concerns, and maintaining public order in hospitals, campuses, religious gatherings, etc.

The Issue of Illegal Sand Mining

In recent years, particularly in Rajasthan, the court's decisions on the Illegal Sand Mining issue revealed the fact that every government department expects the police department to handle the problem, which adversely impacts the overall governance scenario in the State. However, it has also come to notice that the police department itself has neither a direct mandate nor resources to meet the expectations of controlling illegal sand mining.

The Issue of Expanding Digital Space

Next-generation technologies such as A.I., Robotics, The Internet of Things, 3D/4D Printing, Genetic Editing, and Synthetic Biology will have numerous benefits but also potentially adversely affect various sectors and departments of the government. E.g., the Deep fake has recently been posing a severe challenge to the government machinery.

The Issue of Information Explosion

The world is filled with sophisticated disinformation campaigns fuelled by new digital technologies. Technology, these days, is becoming a weapon to amplify divisive messages at critical moments (e.g., after a terrorist attack, communal incident, before an election, and during a pandemic) with malicious vested intent of causing panic, disorder, unrest, and public order issues. That's why district administration, on various occasions, shuts down the internet to maintain law and order situation.

The Issue of Disaster Management

The role of the Police as a first responder and providing a variety of services to the distressed population was witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Given its active engagement with the community during regular duties, the Police are better placed than other government departments to garner community support and involvement in Disaster Management. Also, other agencies always depend on the Police's support.

Models of Good Governance Adopted by Rajasthan Police

- Community Liaison Group (C.L.G.)
- Village guard
- Police Mitra Scheme
- Police Public Participation Program

- Mahila Shakti Self-Defense Training Center
- Reception Room
- Model Police Station
- Student Police Cadet Scheme
- Community Policing Unit (C.P.U.)
- Police Apps
- Community Observer Program of Rajasthan Police

RACCAM (Rajasthan Police Cyber Crime Awareness Mission)

It is an initiative by the Rajasthan Police to join hands and partner with all the stakeholders to deal with Digital Threats and Cyber Crime (launched on April 18 2023, on the occasion of Rajasthan Police Diwas). By creating a Joint' Morcha' of Police, People and Professionals across sectors *viz* I.T. Companies, Academia, Banks, Ethical Hackers, etc., RACCAM aims at providing a secure Cyber Space. The main objective is identifying talent, innovative ideas, and technological solutions and establishing linkages with individuals, industries, start-ups, and educational institutions.

Important Helpline Numbers Issued by Rajasthan Police

Emergency Number: 112
Garima Helpline: 1090
Child Helpline: 1098
Ambulance Number: 108
Cyber Crime Helpline: 1930
Centralized Call Centre Number for the State: 181

Abhay Command Centres/Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs)

The Rajasthan government has set up Abhay command centers in Smart Cities with the help of the central government. ICCCs integrate multiple digital technologies to provide centralized monitoring, event response, and real-time decision-making capabilities. ICCCs also function as a nerve center for city administration, especially Police Administration, as they facilitate inter-departmental coordination. So, ICCCs are an effective tool to ensure the safety of all citizens in public places in the following manner:

- Effective Grievance Redressal.
- Good Governance.
- Centralized e-Governance systems.
- Effective traffic management.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, this study examines How Good Governance in Rajasthan Police Administration can change the overall governance scenario in the State of Rajasthan. Continuous reform is the key to good Governance. As the Central government has recently taken a big step towards reforming the age-old criminal justice system to ensure victim-centric justice, the Rajasthan government also needs to take timely actions to strengthen the Police Organisation from within to a next-generation criminal justice system with an effective governance system helps in building rock-solid People-Centric governance system in the State.

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