

# COMMUNITY POLICING OF JAPAN AND PAKISTAN: KEY INSIGHTS & INTER-LINKAGES

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## **Abstract**

*The study focuses primarily on understanding the Koban Community Policing of Japan. Secondarily, the insights and lessons are being drawn from the Japanese model for Community Policing in Pakistan. Community Policing as an idea and reality are highly attractive besides its implementation which must focus police culture and cater community nature and needs. Although insights could be valuable but the implementation requires indigenous approaches. Community Policing could be highly successful if its basic elements, community participation and problem-solving are best engaged. The understanding and replication of Koban system in Pakistan would deliver positive outcomes. Community Policing in Pakistan has not been formally launched as a popular strategy of policing. However, there is increasing demand from educated community, criminologists and enlightened citizens to start police-community participation programs and projects. The experiments in Gujranwala, Pareetabad and others at informal level have been very positive and result-oriented. The Government must legislate on the issue of Community Policing keeping in view its need for solving problems of crime, social conflicts, violence and disorder.*

## **Introduction**

Police in Pakistan serves diverse sets of communities. Police

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traditionally has been resource-struck in dealing with crime and conflict prevailing in Pakistani society. There have been several reasons underlying the perpetual state of distrust and enmity between community and policing. The police and community are inseparable partners if crime and violence is to be seriously addressed. The success of community policing models all around the globe necessitates its introduction in important South Asian country like Pakistan. Japan provides an invaluable insight through its Koban which needs replication with some modification. Community policing involves and integrates police and community to solve community problems including crime and community disorder. Community Policing of Japan has richness of experience, expertise and success rooted in its past. The problems of crime and violence in Pakistan are community-oriented needing collaborative inputs at grass root levels. The mandate of community policing is very wide going beyond issues of criminality reaching community-well being and quality of life.

The police operates with more freedom and respect for community members gaining community trust. The study examines Koban System and its worth for Pakistani society. The study triggers proposed changes and arrangements for successful introduction of Community Policing in Pakistan. The introduction and implementation of the concept requires cool thought and critical review of police organization and nature of communities living in Pakistan. The data is based on primary and secondary sources. Interviews were conducted with community representatives and police officers. The results were also gained from a pilot study launched on community policing in district Gizer, Gilgit Baltistan.

### **Literature Review**

Community policing is an organizational strategy used by police to enhance its level of community service. This way of policing engages police and community to resolve crime, disorder and fear of

crime by participatory role adding new dimensions to orthodox policing. This style of policing involves community-oriented engagement that maintains proactive role in solving community issues & problems. This changes the organizational structure of the police achieving goals of crime prevention (Skogan, 2004). It is a participatory problem-solving approach by police and community to address crime and disorder. Police and public become partners changing culture of police, aiming problem-solving and maintaining peace in community. Community policing research shows freedom of communication, enhanced use of discretion and active contact with community. Community policing can be translated into variety of ways that caters the need of individual communities.

Community policing is highly accepted and valued idea that prevails in today's world discouraging autocratic attitude of police. The democratic and humane policing are replacing the old-patterns of policing in modern times (Jones, 2008). Community policing engages to address social disorder and crime through introducing community projects & programs. The level of community satisfaction with police is totally uneven. The firm relationship between people and police invites pre-requisite condition of understanding the negative perception of public about police. If police is professional and respectful towards individuals it can better nourish stable relations with community.

Community policing is a philosophy that combines roles of police and community fighting crime, fear of crime, disorder and other issues. It initiates collaborative efforts enhancing quality of life in community. The police reaches at the grass-root levels helping community in different ways (Reisig & Parks, 2004). It is a partnership in problem-solving. It helps in providing services and solving many social problems (Wood & Bradley, 2009). Community policing has been widely perceived as a solution to variety of social issues faced by diverse nature of world communities. It is useful to address low quality of life, social decay, police unresponsiveness

and police-public distrust. It improves police-community contacts and encourages team work (Crawford, 2007).

Koban is a place where policemen change their duty in Japan. Koban are the small police stations from where police operates in the area. Koban community policing idea goes back a hundred years when a German soldier, Mr. Hohn, advised it (H. Kaneko, 1983). About 15000 Kobans were initially established serving community population of 8000 residents. In Japan 23 percent of whole police force operates from Koban. The smaller Koban is called Hasshusho and residential is called Chuzaisho (Miller, 2010).

### **Koban Community Policing and Pakistan Case: Inter-linkages**

- Communities in Japan and Pakistan have diverse and different cultures. The Kobans in Japan are responsive to large human population. Japan Koban police is like a postman. They are always available for community service at all times. Koban police is geographically responsive keeping in view the needs of the neighborhood. The police are focused on counseling to people in need. They are highly proactive in problem-identification and its resolution. This study has primarily taken Koban as a model for Pakistan. Its rudiments have been analyzed for key implications and replication in the case for Pakistan. Police-public contacts and co-operation are valuable areas which have critical importance justifying role of community policing. It is important how mutual sharing of knowledge, experiences and learning could be insightful and beneficial relevant to the Pakistani society.
- Pakistan has large community population. Pakistan community policing must initiate its operations not from police station but from community police centers. Police stations in Pakistan are dens of terror for community. People are reluctant to visit them except in dire circumstances. Community centers must be chosen the places for community policing in Pakistani case.

Police need to change its attitude and working culture to deem fit to think for working together with community. Pakistan must need to intervene and address the issues of corruption within police organization.

- Koban police became a success due to higher interest of government behind it. Community policing must be established and reinforced through constitutional cover. Community policing in study area being the infancy stage it requires continuous policy frame work through trainings for police, it operates on authoritative modes like conventional police in Pakistan. In order to create an impact it has to forgo that mode through involving communities and allowing people through participation strategies.
- The socio-economic fabric in Japan is different to that of study area for instance the crime rate including violent crime and tribal dispute are very low where as in the study area there has been rise especially after nine eleven. The New Police Order, 2002 clearly indicates to responsibility of police to assist the poor, disabled, children, elderly sections of our society which is a sign towards sensitizing police to community problems and needs.
- Literacy rate and employment trends are indifferent to that of Japan, Pakistan has to double its efforts in terms of providing sustainability in the socio-economic indicators so that it can match with Japan.
- Community policing in Japan is a unique model for Pakistan to replicate. Citizens leave their problems/ queries/ complaints/ requests and calls for help. The problems are sorted out for abrupt & swift action/solution. The role of police in Japan is community-friendly assisting citizens to solve their day-to-day problems. However, Policing and community in study area have to develop friendly relationship to resolve issues relating

to deviant behaviors and participation in social issues on partnership basis.

- The Police and community work together in a creative way to provide for genuine understanding and solution of concerning communal issues. Thus participation is encouraged so that multiple talents could be utilized for community betterment. The participation provides expressions of inner feeling of people about their day to day life. They are listened and steps are taken to provide intervention. The motivation of people is aroused so that they could be doing self-help where required. The changed relationship between Police and people will be learning as well as development.
- Independent working of Police will make them able to focus on community people. The committed people of community will be in the forefront of providing back ground of issues and help farming tackling strategies. The issue will be given proper time so that its understanding can be developed. This requires expanded role of both Police and community.
- Police and people can be very strong, against criminals, by being partners in these efforts. By practical way, Police provides protection to all people. Expanded Police role provides reason why people will be safe. The crime will be checked by active community involvement. The Police will win public trust and it will have an easy access to information. In modern times Police will be problem solving agency in reducing crime and disorders.
- It has been learnt through inquiry analysis that idea of Community Policing can be implemented and replicated. The key lessons learnt were that for success of the idea of Community Policing it is necessary that proper feasible plan should be made with requisite planning. The interest of Govt. is very crucial if this plan is to be made really successful. There is

an important role of dedicated Police managers to supervise the growth of the idea. The co-operation of the people is vital for success of this new but important idea of community policing.

- Concept of *Koban* Community policing is system of wide range of basic police services ending at dealing with heinous crimes like murder and robbery. *Koban* Model can be implemented here with some adjustments keeping in view our local needs and nature of community based system of policing in Pakistan.

### Key Results

- The community leaders, representatives and police personnel were interviewed regarding introduction of Community Policing in Gilgit. The views and role of community and police was assessed regarding traditional policing. The piloting with traditional policing was done for six months in District Gizer. Later on, the community and police representatives were observed on community policing role. The results were amazing. The traditional policing was found less resourceful and more limited. The traditional policing was bureaucratic and committed only to routine police work. The traditional police was close to new ideas and role of community in it. The results and fruit of traditional police were very restricted. The community policing was totally the opposite. It encouraged inclusion of community representatives. It increased resources to fight crime and other issues with renewed energy and confidence. It showed that community policing implementation would yield better results.

### Conclusion

The study explored conceptual dimensions of the Community Policing. The relevant literature was reviewed keeping in view the study objectives. The *Koban* Community Policing was reviewed and its comparative analysis was done. *Koban* provides key insights for

community policing implementation in case of Pakistan. This requires more contacts and trainings to be provided by the Japanese police to Pakistani police. The law-making and change of police and community cultures are must before introducing the idea. Besides, some other models must also be studied.

### **Recommendations**

- Koban Model is very attractive and beneficial if it is introduced in Pakistan with some modifications keeping in view police and community dynamics and cultures.
- Community policing as a test case must be introduced in some cities and rural areas of Pakistan.
- Community policing introduction must be formalized merging the role of all stakeholders including the professionals.
- A Community Police Officer would facilitate in understanding of the concept of Community Policing and develop community environment where community policing can be implemented.
- Criminologists must be primarily engaged as professional resource persons to implement the idea.
- Criminologists are key professionals who may be appointed as Community Police Officers (CPO) who execute the idea and monitor its success.
- A separate cadre of Community police may be created to work on the proposed project.
- A Community Police Officer would develop a bridge between Police and the Community in locality at sub-division or at district level.
- Community Police Trainers & Instructors must be recruited catering the needs of curriculum development and training.



This would develop capacity and ensure sustainability of the proposed community policing.

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