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## Efficiency of Community Policing in Bangladesh: A Socio-legal Analysis

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**Abstract:** Community policing (CP) has grown to become one of the globe's significant police approaches in the contemporary era. The law enforcement agency is constantly striving to enhance its efficiency and strategy to promote justice through ensuring security and reducing crime. In the early nineties, Bangladesh launched a pilot program to establish the effectiveness of community policing for plummeting the gap between the masses and the police, thereby establishing the rule of law and strengthening good governance. However, the output of CPs' operations has been very ambiguous since then, and it frequently fails to provide services based on its navigational orientations. This paper investigates the efficacy traits of these ambiguous pinholes that deter it from attaining its purposes and becoming a socio-legal model. Based on qualitative and quantitative secondary data by employing structure and agency theory, the study accomplished that worsening community crimes prove that community policing isn't functioning efficiently. Deficiency of collaborative efforts among different stakeholders makes it difficult to create law and order and strengthen good governance. Paucity of strategies to accommodate the stakeholders and agents within the organizational maneuvers squeezes the efficacy of CP in the socio-legal context of Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** Community policing, Socio-legal analysis, Structure and agent, Coordination gap, Bangladesh.

### Introduction

The concept of "community policing" (CP) is based on the idea that police and civilians may engage collaboratively to prevent and resolve transgressions as also fostering a sense of safety for everyone as well. In Bangladesh, community policing has espoused in the widespread parlance of the public and protocolled law enforcement agencies to accommodate all stakeholders in society. It's the most significant endeavor to reformulate policing since the early 20th century's "professional" paradigm (M. N. Islam, 2019). This socio-legal institution has an immense role to act proactively for maintaining stable social order and peace-making process. The main philosophy behind the community policing is that every citizen is a policeman without uniform and every policeman is a citizen in uniform. It is an assertive and problem-solving strategy to policing that guarantees consistent communication among police and general people and a services sector concept that is embraced by both authorities and residents. The

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security forces urge other social agencies to become engaged in resolving issues in the community when it is necessary. Community policing might improve local collaboration to combat crimes. Concerned about vehement accomplishment, community members have different perspectives on community policing and operation guidelines, better training, and national and regional institution collaboration (Biswas, 2017). In Bangladesh, community policing was introduced in the early 1990s to improve peace and order. As a model of proactive policing, town defense party (TDP) operations began in 1992. Since that, local and international measures have been initiated to modernize the Bangladeshi police and encourage community policing. Police create vigilante organizations, citizens' committees, and neighborhood watch programs besides it created 20,000 community-policing forums and "Model Thanes." This entire system is out of order when people lose faith in the cops, and the partnership concern is visible in the police and the community. But CP may strengthen public trust and improve the police's ability to enforce the law. Therefore, little research has examined how these treatments affect measures of crime and trust (Murphy, 2013). The core objective of this study is to analyze the community policing's impact on criminality detection and mitigation which involves assessing how community involvement, problem-solving, and law enforcement-community collaboration is held to reduce crime. Community policing's implications on community attitudes, trust, and contentment with police are another emphasizing focus area that entails studying how community policing efforts affect public views of policing credibility, justice, and efficacy and whether they create law enforcement-community trust and collaboration. It will also examine whether community policing improves community safety and well-being. By evaluating community challenges and public safety actions, various problem-solving methods will be evaluated for promoting community-police cooperation to improve police-community relations which has greater impact on community policing's efficiency and cost-effectiveness. It includes stakeholder mapping for resource distribution, police personnel allotment, and cost ramifications and even power and policy execution. Community policing initiatives may benefit from the study's best strategies and evidence-based policy suggestions. This embrace identifying critical elements that affect community policing projects and providing insights on successful community-police partnerships. Finally, an assessment of the overall situation of proactive policing and activities regarding the efficiency equilibrium paradigm which is seldom approached in academic parlance. On the other hand, it is a development juncture of policy initiatives of CP that will reflect upcoming initiatives for the modification to grater betterment as benchmark model in the socio-legal framework particularly from Bangladeshi context.

### **Conceptual Framework of Community Policing in Socio-legal Aspects**

Contemporary police theory emphasizes building relationships with the communities they serve. As a result, more individuals will choose to work as police officers on their own will. Community policing, then, is the practice of policing in which the policemen and the society work together to address societal issues like crime and disorder. To enforce laws, keep the order, deter and investigate crime, and apprehend those accountable for its commission are the duties of the police, who are employees of a government agency. The police are an integral part of any functional criminal justice mechanism. Every resident is a policeman without a costume, and every policeman is a civilian in uniform. Community policing is a proactive method in which police and residents work together to guarantee public safety (Singh, 2021). The term "community policing" is often used informally to refer to tactics in which law enforcement actively

integrates into a community to deter criminal activity. It empowers individuals to make positive changes to their environment. It's a win-win situation that benefits both the community and law enforcement by allowing the former to learn more about the latter's requirements.

The Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute (2013) offers the subsequent designation:

“Community policing is an organization wide philosophy and management approach that promotes community, government and police partnerships, proactive, problem solving, community engagement to address the causes of crime, fear of crime and community issues”.

O’Connor (2017) describes community policing as

“a department wide philosophy of full service, personalized and decentralized policing, where citizen feel empowered to work in proactive partnerships with the police at solving the problems of crime, fear of crime, disorder, decay and quality of life.”

McCarthy (2018), a community policing captain for the Braintree police department, pronounces,

“Community Policing is a collaborative effort between the police and the community that identifies problems of crime and disorder and involves the community in the search for solutions. It is founded on close and mutually beneficial ties between police and community members.

The nation's policing system is centralized, politicized, and unaccountable at large, consequently, the United Nations Development Program-sponsored Police Reform Program (PRP); to NGO-initiated community police forums (CPFs), alternative dispute resolution forums and legal aid support schemes (Lee & Haider, 2012). Police attempt to build relationships with residents and civic groups are central to the concept of "community policing." For social security to be successful, it is essential that police listen to community members' concerns on how they may be served most effectively and the rise of community policing was a response to criticisms of the force's historical development (Skogan & Williamson, 2008). Law and order issues began to surface nationwide governmental agendas because of pressure from different layers of society arises besides the legal entity which turns later into an agglomerated theme like socio-legal paradigm.

### **Emergence of Community Policing in Bangladesh as Socio-legal Entity**

Bangladesh was a part of British India and Pakistan and India and subject to (and still subject to) the Police Act of 1861. It became widely acknowledged in Western nations that traditional police techniques had "failed to provide the goods. Police administrators, officers, and experts all agreed that it was time for a change. These factors have their origins in the previous quarter century's worth of policing and security research, in the evolution of societies (particularly considering apparent rises in socioeconomic and ethnic differences), and in the unique features of criminality and violence experienced by each of these groups. Past police methods that showed promise now seem to have little or no impact. Critics of community policing claim that conventional police, which focuses on combatting crime after it occurred, has failed (Brogden & Nijhar, 2013). On the other hand, Bangladesh Police is a reactive force that prioritizes public control above community service (Kader, 2018). Registered criminal percentages rose regardless of the higher budgets of contemporary security services, despite

advancements in technology, organizational structures, and enforcement expertise. There are many varieties of community policing so as resident policing strength ought to be arranged equivalent to the local law-breaking delinquent (Ross & Pease, 2008).

Bangladesh was known as East Pakistan from 1947 until the Liberation War in 1971; as a result, it has a shared history with Pakistan on police reform up until that date. After gaining independence, many commissions and committees were established to investigate the problem of police reform and develop specific proposals. However, unlike other countries in the area, these have not led to any significant transformation. As a result, the police force in this country is severely disorganized and unprofessional. The soldiers in uniform have developed a reputation for using harsh methods to do their responsibilities. The UNDP-led Police Reform Program, established in 2003 in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, now dominates the field of police reform. With a focus on crime prevention, the initiative aims to "transform Bangladesh Police from an operationally reactive, command and control centered, law enforcement and public order organization." In 2010, it began its second five-year phase. With strict control, accountability, and openness, CHRI wants to lessen illegitimate intervention in policing in Bangladesh.

### **Literature Review**

The term "community policing" has been widely used to describe police work over the last couple of decades. However, there is a wide range of models available. General five propositions as the central guidelines of community policing were used to accommodate at large. The goals of community policing include bridging the gap between the public and law enforcement; educating the public; discouraging criminal behavior; increasing public trust in law enforcement agencies; rehabilitating offenders; bolstering the rule of law and establishing good governance. First, neighborhoods or local communities are police's major focus. Second, communities have specific policing challenges that conventional police haven't typically handled. Third, societal consensus and mechanisms should drive enforcement criminality and security responses. Fourth, police must be regionally responsible and transparent, and fifth, police prosecutorial discretion must be utilized to boost community trust.

The old methods of police have failed because of the ever-evolving dynamics of violence and criminality in today's environment. The status quo of law enforcement is ineffective in controlling criminal activity and keeping harmony in our community for the long haul. A growing chasm in cooperation, dialogue, and comprehension between authorities and residents has been noted. Those in law enforcement and the residents of the neighborhood together have expressed a desire to reduce the gap. When members of society and law enforcement work together, they form a community monitoring model. The transition from the old police method to the new community-oriented approach is a radical departure. But in Bangladesh, due to the mass population and institutional limitations of police, public security has deteriorated alarmingly in recent years (K. A. F. Uddin & Khadem, 2013). Community policing is now being implemented in many parts of Bangladesh, in order to effectively execute community policing in Bangladesh and secure the protection and prosperity of the people as well as the maintenance of rule and justice in society, the ideological component must be taken into account, without focusing on its philosophical underpinnings in areas like community collaboration, structural reform, and problem resolution (Khatun, Banarjee, Islam, & Alam, 2014).

The Bangladeshi police force plays a key role in preserving public safety and stability. However, without outside assistance, they are unable to address issues of social security. H. Uddin and Mozumder (2019) revealed that as a partnership for change, community policing has a great significance in establishing social security peace and stability, building mutual trust between police and people as well as in combating crimes whereas in rural Bangladesh, social control and communal justice are crucial. Hoque and SCIARABBA (2009) considered that Bangladesh has a heritage of self-policing in where village leaders head community justice organizations. Villages often punish offenders, so they know how to administer justice. Community justice groups typically mandate repayment and an apology for small offenses (minor assault, violence, petty theft). Due of the closeness of the community, shame serves as a deterrent. M. N. Islam (2019) exposed In a comparative study relating to community policing in Bangladesh, the author discussed the conceptual framework to ensure quality policing after a brief analysis between traditional policing and community policing with the review of certain developed and developing countries. Blair et al. (2021) preregistered meta-analysis found that these measures did not enhance citizen-police relations or decrease crime.

For police reforms like community policing to thrive, societies may require fundamental changes. S. Islam (2018) worked on the CP encounters on precluding crime and security in Bangladesh. Author argued that the Bangladesh Police have not accomplished a sufficient effort of identifying and treating the underlying determinants of violence. Police are unlikely to advise the general community on what preventive measures they may take because of it and the absence of police rules or policies on crime deterrence. In actuality, the police lack knowledge and expertise in crime avoidance and public protection. Instead of emphasizing crime prevention, the focus is on finding solutions after it has already happened. It may be mostly attributed to an absence of knowledge, and comprehension as well as a deficiency of leadership from the role of several institutions, particularly the police. Nurunnahar (2021) suggested that CP can help prevent religious extremism by providing required training and fostering trust between police and community members.

The formation of successful civic involvement and collaboration would allow police to collect relevant intelligence that might be leveraged to combat religious radicalism. The majority of the obstacles to this establishing technique, particularly trust-building challenges, are the result of poor training among social security members and resource limits. M. A. Islam (2021) shown that Bangladeshis have less faith in the police, and law enforcement initiatives are more effective with community engagement. Effective community participation relies on "quality of connections between a population and the police. There are, however, some issues with the way it is being implemented and the philosophical groundwork it is based on.

Gender-responsive CP Lee and Haider (2012) is a breakthrough in this field in Bangladesh. This study examined four pilot locations to learn more about the basis of violence mitigation and community-policing interface programs. It also examines the challenges and solutions involved in creating the police increasingly proactive and guaranteeing the safety of women and various marginalized members of Bangladeshi society. Afroze (2017) argued that last three decades of industrialization and reforms, the Bangladesh police have made organizational, professional, technical, legal, and ethical improvements, including gender equality and women 's involvement in policing.

Khan, Islam, and Alam (2012) explored the Issues and Challenges in Community Policing in Bangladesh. Compelling police beyond the means of the average citizen was a legal requirement. Therefore, in most circumstances that required verification by a legitimate organization, community policing was meant to aid in reinstating the connection via the employment of a recognizable committee.

### **Problem Statement**

Efficient violence control, crime detection, and the upkeep or settlement of other societal issues might indeed be accomplished via the implementation of a police-community cooperation model, which is what community policing entails. The police force in Bangladesh operates on a situational basis and is more concerned with popular order rather social service. However, community policing seems to be the dynamic force that addresses the issue with the community and maintains a crime-free environment. However, contemporary community police confront several challenges, including a paucity of expertise and resources, a lack of collaboration, etc., meaning it is unable to function correctly and fail to gain people's confidence and trust in enforcement in Bangladesh. So, this research investigates the missing dimensions of community policing from the point of view of a socio-legal approach as well as the issues and potential of community policing to develop working efficiency as not only the policing mechanism but also a socio-legal approach to reduce disorder and harmonize the social coherence in Bangladesh.

### **Methodology**

This study is both expository and analytical in nature, and usage of both qualitative and quantitative methods applied to complete the study. Because, quantitative and qualitative tools are used to learn more about what could happen in the future and to reduce ignorance and uncertainty (Haegeman, Marinelli, Scapolo, Ricci, & Sokolov, 2013). on the other hand, the results of qualitative research can also be used symbolically to back up a position, program, service, or policy (Jack, 2006). To clarify the central principle of community policing and to produce an assessment of community policing in Bangladesh, secondary materials such as relevant books, papers, media commentaries, and legislation have been analyzed. Hence, In-depth descriptions of conditions, individuals, interactions, observable behaviors, events, attitudes, ideas, and beliefs; and direct statements from those who have encountered the phenomena. It might comprise personal or business document excerpts (Velotti, Botti, & Vesci, 2012). Data is codified on the basis of segments and actions, along with stakeholder mapping and analysis. After that, the qualitative data analysis (QDA) method is being used collectively to get a big picture of the ongoing pinholes of the CP in Bangladesh's operation, which will reflect the overall quest for functional efficiency. Qualitative data analysis aims to summarize individual experiences and describe "what" and "how" they occur randomly whereas generates a synthesis of efficiency plaid-up (Renfro, Rome, Gatwood, & Hohmeier, 2022). Both qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods are being used collectively to get the big picture and perform cross-sectional checks and analyses. Besides this, stakeholder analysis is also employed for mapping the role of different layers in exercising power for execution of CP and bridging gaps with community people as victims as well as protective agencies.

**Ethical consideration:** This study is self-funded, and a maiden research work based on the unique investigative design and practice of the highest range of integrity and

transparency. Data is collected through a conventional method in which participants are assured to feel free and confident with enough comfort as assured that their credentials will be used only for research and the provided information will be kept confidential and secure, not for any other use involving potential harm or the possibility of violence. Interleaving their direct observation, comments, and any other objects will be done anonymously to secure their personal security and dignity.

### **Structure of Community Policing (CP)**

According to the modality guidance, Community Policing Forums (CPFs) at the ward tier are expected to carry out the key operations of the societal policing mechanism in Bangladesh, and the Bangladesh police force has adopted the counters of urban as well as rural local council buildings as the basic components to enforce community policing. The ward threshold has two committees: The Executive Council and the Advisory Panel. A Union Parishad coordinating body manages both the Ward Committee and the CPFs. There is a Thana (Police Station) communication and coordinating Convening Committee and a District (Police District) Coordination Committee to facilitate communication and cooperation between the two levels of law enforcement.

### **Structure and Agency in Community Policing from Socio-legal Turf**

Social configuration refers to any recurrent pattern of social activity and, more particularly, to the organized interrelationships among the many parts of society. The evolution of a society's social order is historically determined (Banglapedia, 2003). Therefore, the social system of Bangladesh must be evaluated in this framework whereas these social institutions are traded as the structure and the role player are the agent according to the theory of structuration (Giddens, 1984). The basis of the theory of Structuration involves the identification of the relationship between the individuals and the social forces that act upon us. The structure and agency cannot be separated; that they are connected to one another in what Giddens has termed the 'duality of structure'. Human actors are the elements that enable creation of our society's structure by means of invented values, norms or are reinforced through social acceptance (Lamsal, 2012). A sociological understanding of local political processes and the local power structure is a relative rarity in the Bangladesh context (Hossain, 2006). The police force in Bangladesh, having political and administrative authority as well as orientation of the public service in a crime-free society, is urged to work collaboratively. This has many problems ensuring community policing at large. Hence, existing laws, institutions and organization, social and political system are traded as the structure and operational authorities, enforcement agencies, service beneficiaries and victims are treated as agent because of having role-playing agency within this system of community policing in every sectoral involvement of Bangladesh.

### **Stakeholder Mapping of Community Policing**

Stakeholder analysis is described as a technique, tool, or combination of tools used to gather information about stakeholders (individuals and groups) to gain insight into their actions, motivations, relationships, and potential impacts throughout the planning and execution stages of a project. 'Stakeholder Mapping' has inherent constraints in addressing complex and interdependent relationships in stakeholder management (Mohan & Paila, 2013). Influence, attitude, power, interest, support, and legitimacy are used to map the stakeholder community (Slabá, 2016). Mapping aids decision-making. Matrixes, grids, and maps map stakeholders. Influence, mindset, authority, interest,

excitement, and legitimacy are employed, which requires gathering data on numerous stakeholders and stakeholder groups, including their interests, impact, position, interrelationships, and priorities. Each suite of interventions includes community policing's components, as they are the core stakeholder based on the power and interest that also influencing every compartment including police officer, foot patrols, local heads, mass-community and problem-oriented mobilizing groups. Here, different power holder and driving interest-based stakeholders are classified to portray the efficiency of CP operation in Bangladesh.

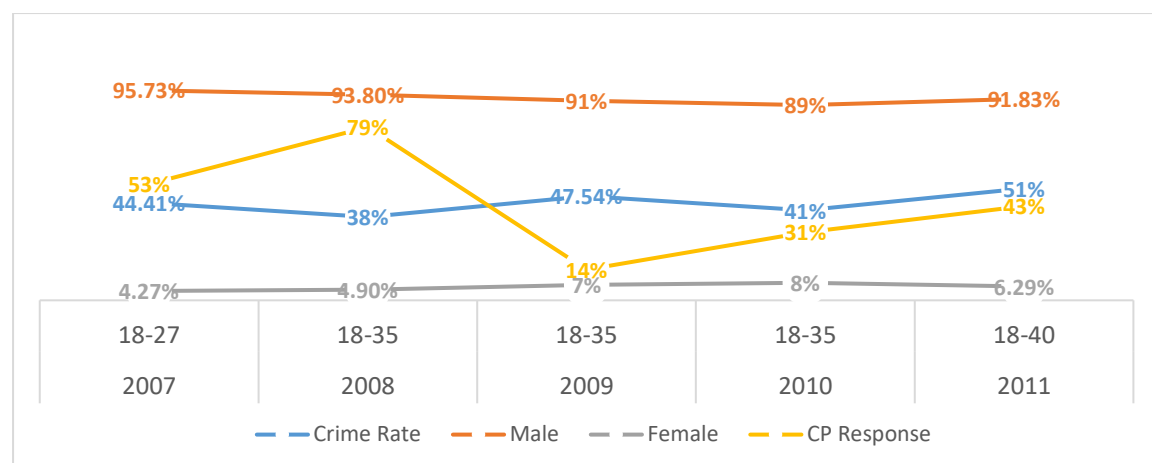
**Table-1: Stakeholder Mapping**

Power	Low	<b>LH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public institutions.</li> <li>Press and media.</li> <li>Marginal class of community.</li> <li>Local determining (<i>Shalis-Panchayat</i>) groups.</li> </ul>	<b>HH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bangladesh police.</li> <li>Local law enforcement agencies.</li> <li>Resident political patrons.</li> <li>Homegrown cultural influential groups.</li> <li>Religious clergyman and <i>IMAM</i>.</li> </ul>
	High	<b>LL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service users.</li> <li>Criminals and gangs.</li> <li>Research community.</li> <li>Environmental Groups</li> </ul>	<b>LH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Victim and manipulated clusters.</li> <li>Secondary investigators.</li> <li>Lawyer and advocacy circle.</li> </ul>
		Interest	
		Low	

### Social Aspects of Community Policing in Bangladesh

In large cities, the idea of having police officers in the neighborhood has already been implemented. In many towns around the nation, police presence in the neighborhood has become standard. A society's basic system comprises its many families, religious, financial, political, and other organizations, as well as its individuals' rules, values, and power dynamics. However, many others have questioned the necessity of having an officer patrol the neighborhood. Therefore, it might be appropriate to weigh the benefits and drawbacks of community policing before making a choice (B. Miller, 2016). There are many factors to consider before deciding whether to engage in community policing. These might be founded on constitutional rights or something much more significant. The benefits and negatives listed here should thus, at the very least, provide you with a quick knowledge of the subject of community policing (B. Miller, 2016). In large cities, the idea of having police officers in the neighborhood has already been implemented. In many towns around the nation, police presence in the neighborhood has become standard. However, many others have questioned the necessity of having an officer patrol the neighborhood. Therefore, it might be appropriate to weigh the benefits and drawbacks of community policing before making a choice (2016).



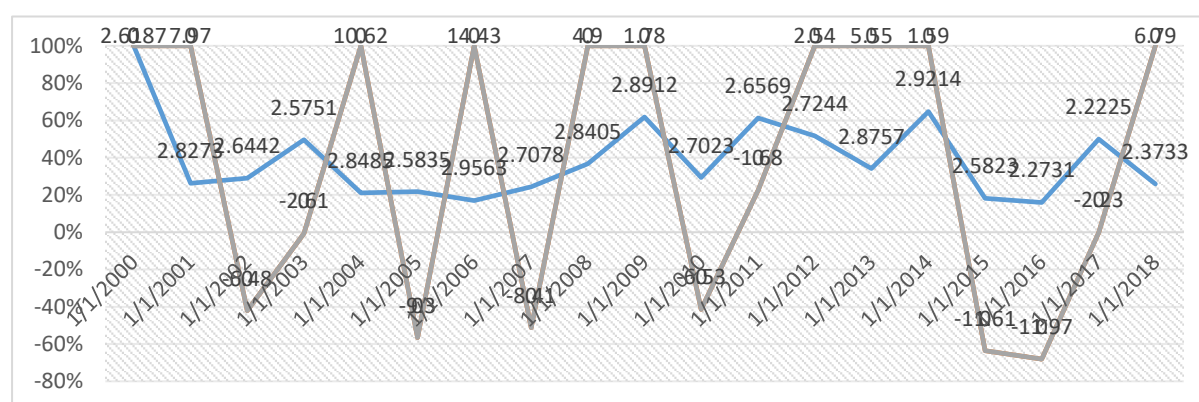


**Figure-1: Crime Record and CP Response (2007-2011)**

In Bangladesh, Crimes are influenced by societal variables as property crimes are tied to economic opportunities, whereas violent crimes rely on the availability of weapons or social causes fueling conflict. Changes in demographic, economic, social, political, and criminal justice structures mirror crime patterns that are liable for occurrence of crime. The demographic makeup affects crime, since various age, sex, and ethnic groups have distinct crime rates. Teenagers and young adults commit most crimes whereas young and elderly criminals are rare.

### Legal Aspects of Community Policing in Bangladesh

The capacity of the state to provide public goods and services is constrained by low legitimacy and lack of confidence. Forming a competent, representative, responsive, and responsible agency that collaborates with the public is the ultimate objective of the community policing ideology. Strong legal protection, adaptable operational guidelines, and impartial action are all things that may be better created because of excellent social contributions. Community policing is regarded as one of the best police tactics or philosophies in Bangladesh and around the world, despite occasional flaws and political interference the legal adjustment with the reactivation of the proposition CP dependent on crime record from 2000 to 2020 and frequency of occurrence in Bangladesh (Bnak, 2022).



**Figure-2: Yearly litigation and resolve record**

Early in the 1990s, Bangladesh launched a trial program for community policing. In a sincere effort to include the community and the police in resolving issues prevalent at

the community level to ensure social peace and stability. According to the Bangladesh Community Policing Strategy, which has designated the wards of urban and rural local government structures as the basic units to implement community policing.

**Table-2: Four-layer operational structure**

BCPs & CPFs	<b>District Coordination Committee</b>	<i>Higher Execution</i>
	<b>Thana Coordination Committee</b>	<i>Convener support</i>
	<b>Union Coordination Committee</b>	<i>Teamwork and coordination</i>
	<b>Ward Execution Committee</b>	<i>Vigilant patrolling and Field-work</i>

At the ward level, there are two committees: The Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee. A coordinating committee at the Union Parishad level is in-charge of overseeing the Ward Committee and CPFs. There is a District Coordination Committee and a Thana (Police Station) Coordination Convening Committee at the police station.



**Figures 3-4: Response in urban and rural areas**

Results show that, in urban areas, 88% of respondents agreed that the concept should be adopted nationwide, while just 12% disagreed. A further 84 percent of respondents in the general population agreed that the concept of community policing should be implemented across Bangladesh, while just 16 percent disagreed in rural areas.

An appropriate institutional structure is required for a community police response that is enlarged and successful. Increasing strategic relationships and participation with regional civil society groups can improve the quality and broaden the breadth of community police initiatives at the grassroots level to achieve dynamic community policing. Establishing a community-level committee comprised of committed and honorable people of the community, as well as ongoing communication between the community and public policy, is essential. For community policing to be successful, it needs equipment, a regular training program, and the involvement of non-political, qualified, and honest people with a good reputation at all levels. Therefore, the idea of

community policing should be expanded and better coordinated. Additionally, community policing functions should be supported and monitored.

### **Socio-legal Input in Deterring Crimes and Human Security**

When we talk about "law enforcement," we refer to the departments and personnel who oversee upholding the law, keeping the peace, and overseeing public safety. Investigating, apprehending, and detaining people on suspicion of criminal activity are the core functions of law enforcement. Community policing plays an important role in the detention of those convicted of criminal acts and in maintaining social peace by providing a safe community and ensuring law and order. Creating a professional, representative, responsive, and accountable institution that collaborates with the public is the ultimate objective of the community policing philosophy. But implementing the idea of community policing across Bangladesh, according to the Community Policing survey (UNDP, 2011)

### **Dacoity and Armed Robbery**

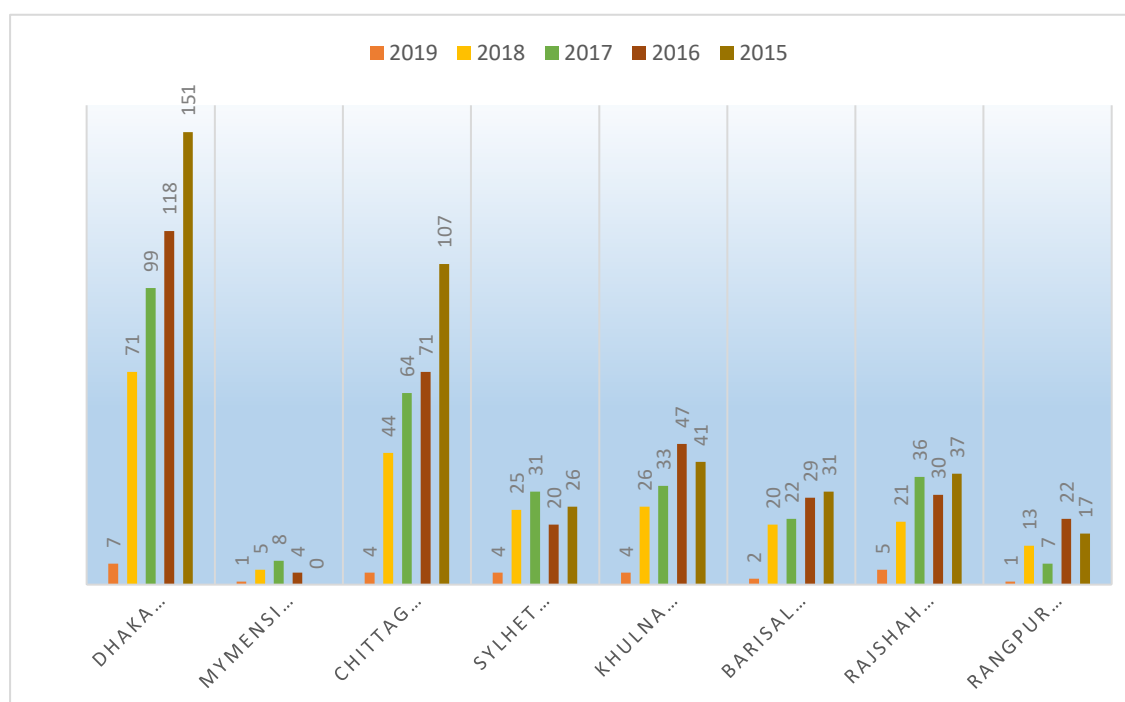
The term "dacoity" refers to the violent robbery committed by a gang that is armed. The British felt some classes were prone to dacoity. Dacoits were typically considered 'dangerous castes'

However, these organizations' violence was a reaction to colonialism and the British's harsh regulations on society, especially on vulnerable people (Atkinson-Sheppard, 2019). Some of

India's marginalized populations still feel the repercussions of stigmatization and although Bangladesh is not explicitly mentioned, the same is likely true there. "Gangs" and "dacoits"

commonly occur together in subcontinental history. Bangladesh still uses "dacoity" Bangladesh's police department compiles crime statistics and says that dacoity is growing.

We can see that the overall number of occurrences of dacoity has reduced throughout the course of time. The number of cases of dacoity has fluctuated over the course of time (Police, 2020).



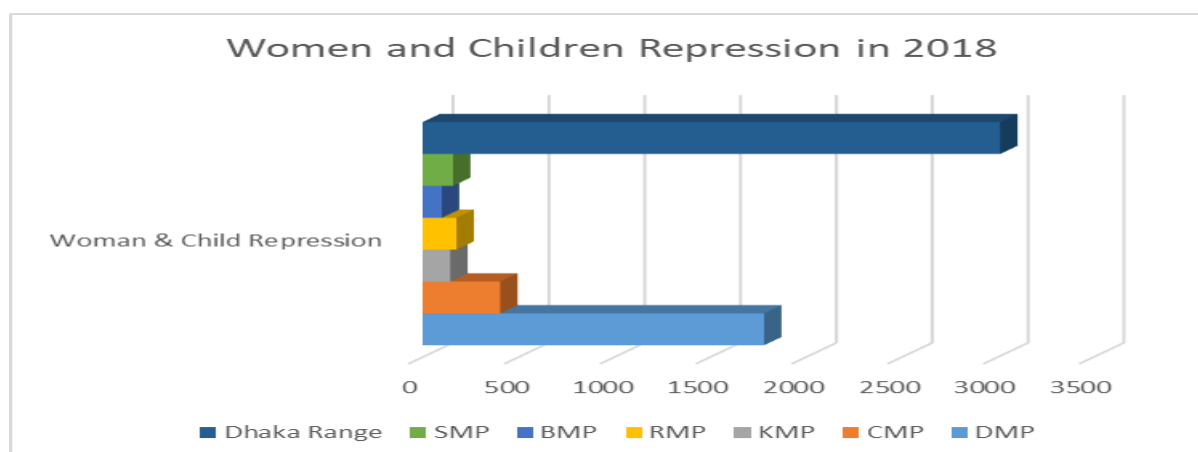
**Figure-5: Dacoity and robbery in Divisional metros (2015-2019)**

### Theft and Burglary

Theft (larceny) was one of the first common law offenses developed by English courts to identify taking another's property and it is the unauthorized taking of another's property. Theft is the trespassing and stealing of another's property. Section 378 of the Penal Code, 1860 states, "Whoever intends to steal dishonestly any movable property from another without that person's agreement, commits theft. The disparity between the protection of crime victims and perpetrators does not imply that crime victims have minimal rights; national laws regulate their rights. Corruption may result from any social, political, and economic activity (Syaf & Suparno, 2021). Both urban and rural Bangladesh are plagued by theft. After independence, law and order were poor due to a shortage of police and administrative staff. A stalled war economy and hunger caused a food catastrophe that afflicted the whole nation (Donnermeyer & Barclay, 2005). People couldn't meet their requirements. In times of famine and necessity, stealing occurred. Theft was rampant throughout 1972-1977, according to police data. From 1978 to 1989, theft incidents dropped due to improved technology, farming techniques, and strong military administrative bureaucracy.

### Women's Repression and Silent Domestic Violence

Since the community policing is in a prime position to lead the charge in fostering a safe space for families and preventing violence against women and children. Existing laws on prevention can work smoothly with help of CP to mitigate and resolve repression of women and children in modern society (Police, 2022).

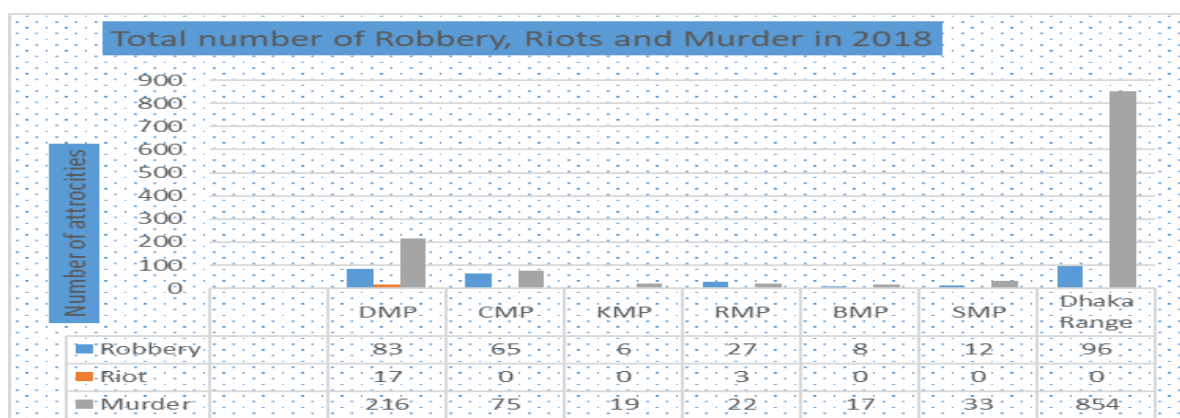


**Figure-6: Women and child-repression-2018**

In line to the above-mentioned data the highest rate of women and Community policing efforts are particularly well-suited to tackling these two pressing problems in Dhaka range. In addition, community policing committees help establish initiatives to raise awareness and inspire action, with the goal of decreasing the incidence of hate crimes and increasing safety for marginalized communities. Women's repression and silent domestic abuse rose along with economic development, and there was strong evidence that women feared their husbands or male partners.

### Community Policing to Prevent Eve-teasing, Riots, Robbery, and Murder

Awareness building is the most effective tool to combat expansion of riots, robbery, drug addiction and political murders besides enforcement of law (Haque, 2014). Fear of crime, social disgrace and legal punishment can deter eve-teasing, rioting, robbery and murder. Community policing will raise awareness against eve teasing, drug addiction, rioting, and murder (Police, 2022). It can instill fear of punishment, collect criminal information, and motivate locals to give information to authorities. Community policing can focus on schools, colleges, universities, ward, union, upazila, and zilla units to prevent rioting, eve-teasing, robbery, and political murder. Here is relevant data whereas the CP can play a prominent role to tackle it prudently.



**Figure 7: Crime-record in metropolitans**

### **Community Policing for Preventing Child Marriage and Other Social Injustices**

Community policing is a concept and management strategy that assists communities in addressing crime causes, crime fear, and community challenges. Community policing is a method of policing that is community-driven. In other words, community policing is an organization that identifies the problems within a certain area or community. "Community policing can be a very effective tool preventing social curse like child marriage. Awareness building activities centering around primary schools, high schools, girls' school and poorer section of people can be launched through community policing committee (Haque, 2014). In addition, the CP can help towards confirming caring of age-old parents, vagabonds and other vulnerable peoples of the community.

The fundamental duties of Bangladesh's community police system have been carried out by the Community Policing Forums (CPFs) established at the ward level. At the ward level, there are two committees: the executive and advisory committees. The respective jurisdictions of MPs, the federal government, and local governments must be urgently defined in a clear and specific manner to free the UP from political interference and enable an effective Union Parishad to deliver complimentary services for the promotion of community policing. Unfortunately, the ongoing political and administrative intervention has rendered the Union Parishad ineffectual, especially concerning preserving peace and order in rural Bangladesh.

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

The rising trend of community crimes in Bangladesh demonstrates the insufficiency of community policing, while a coordination gap among the stakeholders is obvious and imprecise the issue of establishing the rule of law and strengthening good governance. In the past, only police enforced the law and prevented crime. As time passes, individuals work to improve police as part of the community's development. Community policing in Bangladesh should address stakeholders for resolving the existing problems and boost efficiency by considering the patterns in the rule of law, developing a crime-free society, reducing narcotics use, preventing anti-social activities, improving public knowledge and involvement, and promoting good relations between the policeman and community. Community policing needs impartial administrative assistance and government misuse in political power to be successful. All these difficulties may be addressed with strong government political will and police personnel's steadfast devotion and psychological change. Its success relies on all parts of society, and the police department shouldn't be left alone. Let the adage "police are people; people are the police" come to pass.

Competent and widespread community policing requires a solid institutional foundation. Community policing at the municipal and state level may be strengthened and expanded through developing strategic collaborations and interaction with relevant stakeholders and civil society groups, which is an important aspect of the larger endeavor to achieve proactive community policing. A community-level committee made up of sincere and committed individuals of society is essential, as is consistent communication between policymakers and citizens. For community police to be effective, it is crucial to have a dedicated material facility, a consistent training system, and the involvement of individuals who are not political, who are well-qualified, and who have an excellent reputation among all sectors of society. Therefore, members of

the public should step up and advocate for the expansion of the community policing model, in addition to giving resources to and overseeing the model's operations.

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