Public Perception of Police Work: A Case study of Ishwarganj Upazila, Mymensingh

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 Abstract:- The purpose of the study is to analyse people's perception about police work at Ishwarganj Upazila of Mymensingh. Police force is responsible for crime control and mass media plays vital role to control police activities for ensuring social justice. The researcher follows deductive research approach, quantitative research method, archival and survey research strategies for testing public perception on police service. The researcher collects primary data through 40 questionnaire survey from Ishwarganj Upazila by utilising purposive sampling technique. Major problems of police department are corruption and political influence those are marked by 85 percent respondents. The evidence of data collection and proper documentation of criminal records are vital tasks of police where public have low satisfaction on police works in Ishwarganj. Almost all the respondents agreed that documented law is not sufficient to guide police in modern time. The study represents the public consciousness about police works is increasing that is positive sign of social change and it can help police to be successful at crime investigation and prevention.

Keywords - *Crime Investigation, Crime Prevention, Police Work, Public Perception, Transparency*

I.   INTRODUCTION

The understanding of police activities in society is core view of public (Islam and Mahmud, 2015). Police interaction and cooperation with people is important for social justice (Hawdon, 2008). Modern police services support the community to prevent crimes (O'Connor, 2008; Houdmont, 2012). The effectiveness of police force ensures to maintain the law and order situation of the society (Uddin, 2009). However, public perception about police works has to measure from primary data finding, which can explore the policing services in the community (Khondaker et al., 2013). Public cooperation helps the police to prevent criminal activities from the society (Renauer and Covelli, 2011). The printed studies on World Value Survey examine the buoyancy of police service in various countries. USA respondents as greater confidence on police service by comparing to Japanese people (Norton, 2007; Nix et al., 2015). German people have mostly lower level of confidence on police work and Chinese people have high confidence in police service (Zhang et al., 2014). The age, educational level and gender are significant predictions for collecting primary data from people at various nations for analysing public perception on police work (Maguire and Johnson, 2010). Police force is doing great job to control crime varied across 30 nations where European nation's public have positive perception about police work rather than non-European countries (Kaariainen, 2012). The problem statement indicates the understanding of police service diverse across nations where crime control gets support from public information and cooperation. When public has good relation with police and have confidence on police work then social crimes lessen through collaborative workforces of public and police (Merry et al., 2012). The measurement of perceived civility represents the trustworthy police works has good and moral support of people where community feels safe (Donnelly et al., 2006). The prospective manner of focusing police works are also analysing from various contexts of Bangladesh. The researcher focuses Ishwarganj Upazila of Mymensingh district of Bangladesh for representing primary data of public perception on police work. The study has significance to understand public confidence on police works at Ishwarganj for reducing social crimes and ensure safety for people. The general objective of the study is to find out people's perception about police work at Ishwarganj Upazila of Mymensingh. The specific objectives of the study are: (a) Public perception about police work at crime prevention functions in Ishwarganj; (b) Public perception of police work as the role of fare investigation and (c) Public perception about transparency of Police work.

II.   LITERATURE REVIEW

The contemporary structure of police force of Bangladesh has long antiquity and its history started from the days of past of the Indian sub-continent (Madan and Nalla, 2015). The ancient concepts are not discussing at literature study but police administration was strong at Muslim rulers of Mughals in $15^{th} – 16^{th}$ century (Islam and Ali, 2008). Bangladesh is a sovereign country in South Asia that has huge population and beautiful landmass. The national functions maintenance and social security maintaining view requires police service

where the position of the Police Act (1861) was conceded for ordering the police force in Bangladesh (Uddin, 2009; Khondaker et al., 2013). Bangladesh police branch has range police, special service, crime investigation, railway police, armed police battalion, metropolitan police, highway police and rapid action battalion (RAB) services (Lambert et al., 2010). Bangladesh police acts as friends or partners of community people at all the districts of the nation (Safer World, 2012). The Lawlessness is a common problem for Bangladesh where many cases are assumed to be ineffective to deal with social crimes and chaos (Islam and Mahmud, 2015). Police has complicit ruling efforts in the society for crime prevention activities. Islam and Ali (2008) represents the police are openly used by the ruling parties at different times after the independence of Bangladesh. People have perception that police force is using by ruling party's efforts to suppress political oppositions by the study of Lambert et al., (2010). Few research finding represents the police personnel are being corrupt and they do not support people to get justice (Uddin, 2009; Maguire and Johnson, 2010; Barton and Beynon, 2011; Safer World, 2012; Madan and Nalla, 2015; Aviv and Weisburd, 2016). The study of Khondaker et al., (2013) represents 5,000 Bangladeshi households survey where 97 percent of the households have contact with law enforcement and they are experiencing corruption at police department. People and media are highlighting the weak points of police force but they less highlight the success of police at crime prevention (Islam and Ali, 2008). Police force is responsible for crime control and mass media plays vital role to control police activities for ensuring social justice (Islam and Mahmud, 2015). The public perception about police remains silent and people think Police are accused to use excessive force of ruling party (Safer World, 2012). The RAB is formed in 2003 to deal with serious crime and terrorism but has accused to being engagement with over 600 extra-judicial killing (Lambert et al., 2010). The study of Uddin (2009) represents RAB is accused to widespread human rights violations and torture. Therefore, the public perception about police work in Bangladesh is not good where ethical justice requires developing within police activities.

1.1 Public Perception of Police Work in USA

The positive shift towards the public perception based police work in USA has found from last hundred years (Renauer and Covelli, 2011). The level of satisfaction of people about police function has increased a lot in recent fifty years (Hawdon, 2008). Public experiences different supports from police to ensure social justice in USA (Maguire and Johnson, 2010). African Americans particularly less extent, Hispanic and Asian Americans has found to have less favourable views of police than whites (Nix et al., 2015). The complex racism view is minor at USA now because the principles of USA police service are maintaining effectively through equality, justice, fairness and minimal government intrusion (Renauer and Covelli, 2011). The police atrocity, misconduct and other types of haziness also found in America but the cases of injustice become low (Nix et al., 2015). Therefore, American people tend to be in favour of their police force and they rely on police functions for ensuring social justice.

1.2 Public Perception of Police Work in Canada

Police service is consistent with the perspectives of serving public interests in Canada where public have strong faith on police service (O'Connor, 2008). Canadian public has high rating of approval of police works and they think police work is fair and visible in the community (Nickels and Verma, 2008). The Canadian police officers are conducing usual functions such as directing traffic for preventing accident and to reduce the level of traffic jam. Planned city control measurements have high performance of Canadian police and that brings high satisfaction level of public about police work (Aviv and Weisburd, 2016). Canadian police is highly respected by public because of their fairness and trustworthy behaviour. Local police works with direct partnership with local community represents strong bondage between public and police (O'Connor, 2008). The interesting view of youth about police work is negative because youth has tendency to break the law. When they become mature then their reliability on police becomes high (Nickels and Verma, 2008). The study of Aviv and Weisburd (2016) represents young people from well educated and high income family has more respect for police and young people with less educated and low income family has low respect for police in Canada.

1.3 Public Perception of Police Work in India

India is the largest country of South Asian sub-continent with a population of twelve hundred million where two types of police found (Nickels and Verma, 2008). One is the police of the individual state and other is the national police which work under the command of central authority (Madan and Nalla, 2015). There have high level of corruption in the police officials in India but the national police officers have shown their dedication to work (Kumar, 2014). Research findings represent the failure of police force at many cases to detect the crime and failed at crime prevention strategy (Madan and Nalla, 2015). Crime prevention is getting top priority rather than crime detection in India (Kumar, 2014).

1.4   Public Perception of Police Work in Japan

Japan is a peace loving country and is one of the most developed countries in the world (Nickels and Verma, 2008). Japan is considered as the paradise of peace (Norton, 2007). The connection between the public and police is high where police get best support from public to maintain law and order justice. The morality of police officers is high in Japan where many western countries fail to ensure police officers moral activities (Nickels and Verma, 2008). The Japanese police maintain non-authoritarian manner and highly responsive to public opinion. Japanese police is friendly with public and they restrain constitutional rights and become highly accountable to local communities. The Japanese younger are less religious and conservative and less happy those have low confidence on police (Norton, 2007). However, married, more religious, more conservative and happier people have high confidence on Japanese police.

1.5   Public Perception of Police Work in UK

The British police force is popularly known as imperial police because of long tradition of policing in United Kingdom (UK). The colonial time based police force has momentum to carry legacy at Indian sub-continent (Houdmont, 2012). Therefore, British police has undergone a revolutionary change after the decentralisation process at UK society (Merry et al., 2012). Most important finding of British Crime Survey (BCS) in 2009-10 represents the public confidence on police work has increased a lot (Barton and Beynon, 2011). BCS shows the growing tendency of community to work and co-operate with police to reduce crime from society. The community people inform police about community issues to detect crimes and to protect the crime to ensure social justice (Houdmont, 2012). British police works with local council that matters for crime reducing operation (Barton and Beynon, 2011). British people have high level of positive perception about police works and elder persons more than 35 years old have strong confidence on police works (Merry et al., 2012).

III.   METHODOLOGY

The researcher follows deductive research approach for analysing public perception about police works at root level of Bangladeshi local community. Public perception based police service analysis is old concept but theory testing at Ishwarganj justify deductive research approach appropriately. The researcher follows quantitative research method by analysing questionnaire data finding those are collected from Ishwarganj's local people. The researcher follows mixed research strategy by analysing public perception of police works through multi-dimensional view of police functions. The research strategy uses archival research strategy, survey technique by applying questionnaire survey and case study to analyse local level public opinion about police performance at Ishwarganj. The researcher follows purposive sampling technique to select 40 samples from Ishwarganj Upazila of Mymensingh District to collect public perception data on police works. The sample size is too low because of maintaining the timeline of the research and the researcher faced problem to collect secondary data. Time consuming secondary data collection reduces primary data collection time and that compel the researcher to choose 40 samples from Ishwarganj Upazila. Time limitation and complex secondary data nature based secondary data collection techniques are considerable limitation of the methodology of the study. The researcher collected data with high ethical standard and provide option of the respondents by eliminating biased information. The researcher also does not provide biased information for ensuring high ethical practice to conduct the scientific study.

IV.   FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The researcher allows people to be respondent of the study those are 20 or more years old and have the police work based ideas. The researcher asked the age of respondents where four options are tick marked by local people of Ishwarganj. The finding represents total 52.5 percent respondents of the study are young those are from 20 to 30 years old. Total 30 to 40 years old based age group has 20 percent respondents and similar figure also represents 40-50 years old age group. The researcher got 7.5 percent highly experienced persons response as public perception based police work ideas those are more than 50 years old. The primary data finding of age structure of respondents are representing by a table below:

Table 1: Age of Respondents

Age of the Respondents	Number	Percentage (%)
20-30 Years Old	21	52.5
30-40 Years Old	8	20
40-50 Years Old	8	20
50 or More Years Old	3	7.5
Total	40	100

The researcher asked the respondents about their religion where the finding represents 82.5 percent respondents religion is Islam, 12.5 percent are from Hinduism and 5 percent are from Buddhism. The researcher think, the respondents must have at least SSC pass educational level that can help to get prior data about police work

because the respondents can judge overall situation more deeply. Total 17.5 percent respondents are SSC passed and 15 percent respondents are HSC passed that represents the respondents have at least SSC passed people. The educational status is important for getting experienced and valuable data about public perception on police works at Ishwarganj. The finding of religious status of respondents are representing below:

Table 2: Religion of Respondents

Religion	Number	Percentage (%)
Islam	33	82.5
Hinduism	5	12.5
Christianity	0	0
Buddhism	2	5
Total	40	100

The figure of questionnaire data finding about educational level of respondents is illustrating below:

Table 3: Educational Status

Educational Level	Number	Percentage (%)
SSC	07	17.5
HSC	06	15
Hons./pass course	21	52.5
Masters	03	7.5
Other	03	7.5
Total	40	100

Total 52.5 percent respondents are Honours or pass course passed persons and 7.5 percent respondents are Masters passed persons those are highly knowledgeable persons of Ishwarganj. Only 7.5 percent respondents provide other option where Diploma degree on engineering is playing major role. The educational status of respondents is highly effective for getting good judgement based public opinion about police works.

Table 4: Occupational Status

Occupation	Number	Percentage (%)
Government Service	04	10
Teachers	12	30
Student	17	42.5
Banker	3	7.5
Others	4	10
Total	40	100

The majority of young respondents of the study are student that represent from 42.5 percent respondents occupation is student. Total 10 percent respondents are government service providers and 7.5 percent respondents are bankers. Total 30 percent respondents are teachers at different educational institutions such as schools, colleges and universities. Total 10 percent respondents provide others option of occupation and they all are businessman. The ideal occupational status of respondents of the study represents the researcher is getting valuable public judgement of police works.

Table 5: Major Problems of Police Department

Major Problems in Police Department	Number	Percentage (%)
Corruption	17	42.5
Political Influence	17	42.5
Institutional hierarchy	04	10
Others	02	05
Total	40	100

Major problems of police department are considering by public opinion from Ishwarganj where the finding represents 85 percent problems occur due to corruption and political influence. Both corruption and political influence as 42.5 percent public opinion from Ishwarganj that represents people has low confidence on police works. Total 10 percent respondents think institutional hierarchy problem is another issue for successive crime investigation and prevention. Total 5 percent respondents provide other option where lack of data and crime trace records play vital role to ensure social justice by police works at Ishwraganj.

Table 6: Reasons of Police Failure at Investigation

Reasons of Police Failure at Investigation	Number	Percentage (%)
Political influence	18	45
Corruption	15	37.5
Others	3	7.5
No Response	4	10
Total	40	100

The public of Ishwarganj thinks most important reason of police failure at investigation is political influence on police works that has 45 percent response. Total 37.5 percent respondents think corruption is another important issue for the reasons of police failure at investigation. Total 7.5 percent respondents provide others option where inadequate infrastructure of crime investigation is considering for police failure at investigation. Total 10 percent respondents do not provide comment about this issue.

The evidence of data collection and proper documentation of criminal records are vital tasks of police where public have low satisfaction on police works in Ishwarganj. The respondents are asked about their thinking on police fabrication of documents then the answers represents yes because of corruption and political influence. Police fabrication of documents before submitting the court is lessening the public support on police work but this situation can occur in some cases. Total 92.5 percent respondents believe that police does fabrication of documents and most of the respondents are not sure about evidence collection technique of police. The transparency issue of police data collection is low because the public is not concerned about evidence collection system of police. Only 15 percent respondents think police collects evidence effectively. Police hesitates to collect the evidence in most of the cases because they do not get real information. Police also hesitates to collect data when they are not sure about real situation and that creates from public unwillingness to provide real data. Total 87.5 percent respondents think police gets the confession about their activities. Almost all the respondents agreed that documented law is not sufficient to guide police in modern time that hampers police works not only in Ishwarganj but also in Bangladesh. Police behaviour at custody is analysed from primary data finding where 47.5 percent respondents think police do not behave properly at custody where 30 percent respondents provide data on police favour. Total 22.5 percent respondents provide not sure response about police behaviour at custody. Total 47.5 percent respondents think police influences over court where 30 percent respondents provide not sure response. Therefore, the transparency of police works and crime investigation process has still question marked at Ishwarganj where police transparency has to ensure. Transparency at proper investigation and no document fabrication is expected by Ishwarganj people for improving confidence on police works.

V. CONCLUSION

Public perception about police work has to develop through people's own experience and observation of maintaining police responsibility to develop law and order situation of the nation. Police is the only security agency that always remains visible as an administrative part of government to prevent the crime from society. Bangladesh police trying hard to ensure justice at society but few system errors and few police officers unethical issues become the reason of the failure of proper investigation. Bangladesh police has contrastive nature and Indian police has slight better police from public support. Bangladesh police seems to work with better transparency where corruption level at police department can reduce only through high transparency of police works. Policemen are working hard at traffic, crime investigation and they take risk of life when the conduct risky operation. Public perception about police is negative at Ishwarganj but police is working very hard to improve crime detection, prevention and investigation process. Public expects crime investigation process has to be transparency but it has demerits too. When crime investigation becomes transparent then the probability of operations failure will increase that can hamper whole crime investigation system. Police investigation, evidence collection, documentation, security of common people is still remaining under question marked. Ishwarganj's internal public perception about police work is overall negative but Bangladesh police has positive impression due to its grandeur achievements at UN missions. The study represents the public consciousness about police works is increasing that is positive sign of social change and it can help police to develop working framework to be successful at crime investigation. Transparency is most important issue where the researcher recommends further improvement at police department to gain public support and satisfaction at crime prevention activities.

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