

Role of Police Women in Sri Lanka

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The term POLICE is made up of six words: Polite, Obedient, Loyal, Intelligent, Courageous and Efficient. The word comes from French, and less directly from the Greek politeia, refer to government or administration; the word police was coined in France in the 18th century.

The history of police goes back to 19th century. In the USA in 1845 police matrons were appointed on part time basis to assist women and child prisoners. In the UK police aide were appointed to record statements of female victims. During World War II women police were deployed for law enforcement. In Canada matrons were appointed in 1896.

Few women police were appointed to deal with Labor strikes in Kanpur in India in 1938, in Travancore in 1939, in Bombay 1939 and Kerala in 1943. In 1948 during partition police were employed in Gujarat and in Punjab. Very negligible percent. The history of Sri Lanka in the modern sense of the word dates back to the latter part of the Dutch era. The Dutch, who arrived in Sri Lanka in 1602, were able to bring the maritime provinces and the Jaffna Peninsula under their rule by 1658. The Dutch surrendered themselves to the British on the 16th February 1796. After the occupation of the City by the British, law and order were, for some time, maintained by the military. In 1797 the office of Fiscal, which had been abolished, was recreated.

Dowbiggin was the Inspector General from 1913 to 1937, the longest tenure of office of an Inspector General of Police. Though he had to face the riots of 1915 and the strikes which frequently broke out after the nineteen twenties, he made a lasting contribution to the Sri Lanka police and it could be said that he laid the foundation for Sri Lanka's modern police service. On the 1st June 1947 Sir Richard Aluvihare, the first Sri Lanka to hold the office of Inspector General, assumed duties. He introduced a large number of innovative measures like the women police. The objectives of this study is to find out the problems of police women, identify the role, identify the solutions for mitigating these weaknesses in Sri Lanka. The problem of this study is whether the women police perform their role for the benefit of the general public in Sri Lanka.

According to collected data it can be said that the role or service of the women police is not performed for the requirement of general public. For the women police face various problems such as low salary, problem of housing facilities, political problems, problem of education, problem of promotions, discrimination against the women police and the problem of public relations of women police. This paper makes recommendations to improve the service of the women police in Sri Lanka. All the solutions also included in the problems. If the policy making bodies and the government of Sri Lanka make necessary arrangement to solve the above problems faced by women police, it can improve the role or the service rendered by women police for the general public in Sri Lanka.

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