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**COMMUNITY POLICING : A STUDY OF SURAKSHA SETU
PROGRAMME IN SURAT, GUJARAT**

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Abstract

The Suraksha Setu Safe City Project in Surat, Gujarat is one creative initiative that shows how the transformational change to community policing and incorporation of advanced surveillance systems can help enhance city security. Deployment of CCTV cameras as well as implementation of the integrated surveillance system, this project has considerably reduced levels of crime throughout the city. These have especially gone down dramatically implying an enhanced crime deterrence mechanism as well as increased efficiency within the police department among many others like burglary, theft, assault and more. For instance, the Suraksha Setu scheme has greatly improved road traffic management hence mitigating overcrowding and improving road safety within the city. Furthermore, apart from preventing crimes and managing traffic flow; Suraksha Setu project also strengthens emergency response preparedness capabilities within Surat. Unique methodologies, stakeholder cooperation - involving local businesses, government institutions, and the general public-were thus used to tackle these problems. This development in security strategies is represented by the Surat based Suraksha Setu Safe City project which exemplifies both community policing and technological advancements that may be applied in developing stronger and safer communities. The same time it has set a benchmark for efficient urban management related projects across countries through covering traffic regulation, criminal activities' prevention as well as disaster preparedness.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 History of Community Policing

A community is a group of people who live together in a certain location and have similar beliefs & Culture, Concern. A community policing term coined by John angell(1971). Also called democratic policing means 'the philosophy in which law-abiding citizens & the law enforcement force collaborate ingeniously to handle new age community challenges.

Policing in India is a State subject under the Constitution of India. So each state having their own police administrative setups under government and each state having their own ideology to developing the police department and taking their own remedial measures in the upgradation of the police department of State.

Going back to the beginning of Indian police history, the Maurya period is a pivotal point when community policing was established and the duties of prevention, investigation, and prosecution were initiated. Additionally, the "MUKADDAM" (Village Chief) or SARAPANCH is used and his job is to support the police in maintaining law and order in the community - not by official means. And we saw in the Moghal period also used 'SUBEDAR' as responsible for administration, Maintaining Law & Order. And 'SARKAR' is responsible for district supervision over suppression of Crimes and 'CHOWKIDAR' Or Village Watchman his duty is to supervise villages and same as 'KOTWAL' under cities. In British era Law & Order is under 'ZIMIDAR' And from this period uniform police force was established by Britishers and 'DAROGHA' his administration over District and responsibility to act as District JUDGE.

Community policing is a non-formal and un-official policer and main objective is to give safety and security to the women, children, old age and vulnerables in the community. Secondary is to assist in police proactive actions like prevention of crimes and Maintaining Law & Order, Beat, Patrolling, Restoring Law & Order, surveillance etc. And in the Reactive actions like detection of crimes as Witness, Victim, Bystanders and helps in police/judicial proceedings etc.¹

Crime affects victims and society at large in social, economic, health and psychological ways. It is a significant social issue. Anything directly lowers people's standard lives and that of the community. In response to this issue, communities have created the polity, an organisation that houses the recruiting, training and deployment of law enforcement officials among other agencies. Morgan supported this notion by stating that the primary objectives of law enforcement are to apprehend offenders preventing future offences. Instead of being seen as outsiders or issues whose presence suggests danger, the police are seen as collaborators of justice and excellent police work in the community.

It is policing in which the public is actively involved in their own affairs. This study demonstrates that teamwork among law enforcement, the community and municipal governments is required to successfully defend violence. As a result, the growth of security concerns in many countries worldwide has established community policing as a critical issue.

Additionally, there is a global increase in COP.

It has become known how India is now dealing with a significant issue with governance. The signs of this disaster include the widespread inefficiency, growing criminalization of society, expanding lawlessness, the developing relationship between crime, money power and political power, excessive centralization etc. The police's capacity to uphold norms and regulations, preserve peace and safety or reduce crime might represent the crisis's clearest indicator. The causes for the emergence of neighbourhood policing in the nation of India, as well as the law enforcement problem.

Maintaining peace and public order in any society is the first and most important role of the state. The approach those in law enforcement function is a sign of liberation and the supremacy of law as say as popular sovereignty The police are the agency that carries out the state's will. Any democracy must be based on the rule of law. All people should be treated similarly before the law and all laws should be applied equally, according to the definition of the doctrine of law. The way the police and criminal justice system uphold the law, safeguard the rights of the defenceless and utilise coercion to compel people to follow the law is the ultimate litmus test for the rule of law.

1.2 Keywords

The community is a collection of humans residing in a physically separate location (such as a city or the villagers), share common cultural characteristics, ideas and our standards of living and routinely communicate with others in the community. A network is a group of people who have several characteristics in common: they all have comparable characteristics cognitively, they live in a single city, they belong to the same class of society, they have the same racial and ethnic and they have the same goals in life.

Crime - According to the definition of crime, it is any criminal conduct that breaches the law and causes mental or physical destruction in civilization.

Community policing - Community policing is the process of identifying, assessing and jointly solving problems within a community by bringing together leaders of the community, government representatives and law enforcement personnel. According to Deluca and Stone, community policing is the idea of bringing law enforcement closer to the people whose safety and property they are responsible for defending.

Community partnerships - Community collaborations also require an active engagement of the citizens of the society; all of them need to be engaged and take part in programmes aimed at raising their own standard of the local security mode. citizens must cooperate with the authorities and identify offences as quickly they begin to occur in order to adhere to this. The citizens must additionally engage in programmes such youth-focused preventing criminal activity or permitted community monitors for them to be regarded as engaged. These types of activities can increase mutual confidence between law enforcement and community members. Consequently, the police are able to obtain vital community details that may be used to deter offence and increase participation in crime prevention programmes.

The police need to treat the public with respect and decency in order to foster confidence and a productive working relationship. People in the community will be less eager to interact with the police and give them information if they perceive them to be

haughty, arrogant or using excessive force. For community policing to be successful, building and preserving community trust is essential.²

1.3 Review of Literature

Community policing: modern viewpoints / Brian P. Schaefer, Larry K. Gaines, and Victor E. Kappeler. From a philosophical standpoint, community policing differs from the conventional professional approach by including several public-based components. A few fundamental principles of community policing are :- (1) wide police activity and public emphasis (2) communal cooperation (3) people-centeredness (4) building credibility (5) power-sharing (6) inventiveness and (7) neighbourhood variety.

A policing theory known as "community policing" is predicated upon the idea that police personnel and the general public may collaborate creatively to address current issues pertaining to criminal activity, worry about offences, the standard of lifestyle & neighbourhood concerns. The approach is based on the idea that in order to achieve these objectives, law enforcement agencies must forge new bonds with the public by becoming more involved in society at large, giving citizens the authority to determine their regional police areas for improvement and include citizens in initiatives aimed at raising the standard of living in their neighbourhoods as a whole. It causes the police department to become less focused on reacting to irregular crime reports and more on anticipating the issues and problems of the local population.³

Community policing as a philosophy in India can be traced to the traditional rural policing during ancient and mediaeval times. It was quite prevalent in rural agrarian society. In villages, some members of the community were appointed as community watchmen by the rulers for local peace and security. Being small in size, rural communities had their own way of maintaining social order through controlling and solving social deviances and conflicts.

Over the period of time, the rural agrarian communities have transformed into urban industrialised societies. It is then when the requirements of society change. The change in aspirations and their values have made it accidental upon the public institutions in particular

to facilitate the requirements of the communities in a participatory framework. The agency of police and its actions have been a great focus especially in this context when the policecommunity relations are stressed, hostile and are characterised by widespread discrimination.

This further has led to distressed interaction and limited platforms for participation of the public. Further, lack of structural arrangements for the public accountability at local level is absent. Highly centralised police force with an old archaic Police Act, 1861 is a testimony of the poor and dismal performance of police in India. Any serious introspection points towards the lack of attitude of the decision makers in the domain of law enforcement. Indian police work culture points towards the exercise of punitive power rather than a preventive strategy.⁴

Community policing has been used as a strategy for resolving gender disparities in traditional police and lowering violence among women. Community policing originated under the principle of human protection concept. It's a method for fostering collaborations between law enforcement and the general public with the primary goal of preventing and reducing violence. It takes a problem-solving approach to minimising criminal activity instead of a usual response strategy afterwards an offence has happened. It proactively targets current factors that contribute to an offence and social chaos by partnering with localities via people, NGOs, and grassroots organisations. Community policing involves police personnel being greater, fair and equal to all.⁵

Based on the broken windows theory, enhanced attitudes towards instability, raised anxiety of offences and decreased community social power pose major barriers to public involvement in combating crime, originating immediately from worries regarding individual security and a sense of ineffectiveness connected to the work that is necessary.⁶

According to Wilson & Kelling (1982), the broken windows theory postulates that any overt indication of criminal activity, including but not limited to broken windows, vandalism, loitering, public drinking, jaywalking and transportation fare evasion, fosters an urban environment that in turn encourages more crime and disorder. As a result, policing these violations will help to create a peaceful and efficient society in which everyone is feeling secure as well as incidents of violence are reduced. Broken window aims to prevent

widespread crises by focusing on minor offences. If these small offences are significantly reduced, communities will seem better kept up. It is thought that when these visible symptoms of disorder and absence vanish criminal activity will decrease broadly and improve safety for everyone.

According to a theoretical standpoint, scholars justify broken window policing by referring to multiple elements that help clarify whether the state of the urban setting could have an influence on crime rates:

- Social regulatory and indicate offence;
- Social standards and societal expectations.
- The absence of consistent observation.

In the context of cities, cultural expectations and monitoring are poorly understood. Thus, along with providing knowledge about regional social customs, persons will look for particular requirements and signs that reflect a possibility of getting caught breaching those rules. Critics of the concept of broken windows theory point to the region's overall look as a particular indicator. Putting it a different way, an ordered neighbourhood that is secure and free of violence sends an indication that it is routinely monitored and that unlawful behaviour is unacceptable.

On the contrary, an upset neighbourhood with obvious signs of lawlessness (trash, broken windows, and graffiti) conveys a message that this area is not regularly watched over, making it much more likely for someone to get away with committing a crime. People would be far more likely to participate in criminal activity, whether brutal and peaceful, under this type of atmosphere in which there will be a decreased risk of investigation.

As you may have guessed, a central principle of this idea is that the landscape of an area speaks to its residents in some manner. Proponents of this argument would argue, for instance, that a broken window indicates to would-be criminals that a society is powerless to protect itself from an increase in criminal activity. The situation's symbolic significance is more troubling than the actual broken down window. It reflects an unstable and fractured population that has proven incapable of dealing with criminal activity, allowing for a wide range of unwanted behaviours. Broken windows are repaired (physically and figuratively) (Website-lexscriptamagazine.com) 9 (lexscriptamagazine@gmail.com)

in neighbourhoods where residents do have a strong sense of social cohesion, providing these places a sense of control over their communities. Unwanted people and actions are eliminated by mending these windows, making civilians feel safer (Herbert & Brown, 2006).⁷

Police begin training people for the prevention of violence towards women. The Indian Express, March 31st, 2022 . The 1,100 participants, supervised by the Head of Police Women's Wing of Gujarat. Authorities were hired within the state's administration's community policing project "Suraksha Setu".⁸

Policing not tailored to serve interests of any specific religious, cultural community: Delhi HC on plea by pardanashin woman : The Indian Express, March 1 2024. The Delhi High Court stated on Friday that policing must be governed by the values of impartiality, justice, and reasonability rather than being designed to serve the interests of a particular religious or cultural group alone. In a 64-page ruling, a single-judge bench of Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma noted that law enforcement agencies must "prioritise the common good and uphold the law without discrimination" while also respecting cultural sensitivities and religious practices. The bench stated that it cannot issue "faith-based directions" for police officers investigating criminal cases.⁹

To prevent fraudulent textile consumers and vendors Surat police released the following mobile app: The Indian Express. May the 29th, 2022. The top management of various textile markets were contacted by the Salabatpura police department in Surat in an attempt to get the contact details of all textile dealers who had submitted copies of their leasing contracts. In an attempt to counter the potential danger that fly-by-night enterprises pose to the city's textile industry, Surat police unveiled the "Textile Suraksha Setu" app on May 24. Textile traders and brokers can register by providing the necessary details on this application, which is currently only accessible to Surat police.¹⁰

Gujarat Police To Launch Reforms To Earn Your Trust : Ahmedabad Mirror Feb 23, 2023 Mirror has learnt that the police in 2023 are looking to revamp their efforts to improve their image with greater involvement of the general public in policing. DGP Anil Pratham who heads Police Reforms in the state, said, "We are looking at greater accountability of (Website-lexscriptamagazine.com) 10 (lexscriptamagazine@gmail.com)

police towards the public. To this end, we will set up joint advisory committees that will include police officers and members of the public in the jurisdiction of each police station that will work to solve local issues. We had advised SPs and commissioners of this in January and work has already begun on this.” Apart from accountability, the state police are also looking to better the environment inside police stations, at least in the major ones, and keep the investigation side and law and order duties of the police separate from each other so that police stations can become safe places for complainants and even children. DGP Pratham said, “We are working on reducing inconvenience to complainants in police stations and will instruct everyone to make sure that FIRs can be filed immediately and without hassle by people already in distress.”

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1.4 Statement of Problem

The Suraksha Setu Programme in Surat, Gujarat, has had a number of difficulties as it has been implemented. These consist of the absence of trust in law enforcement, difficulties with interaction created by various languages and cultures and shortages of resources, disputes arising from economic disparities, opinions about the police's effectiveness impacting the public's involvement, legal concerns surrounding boundary setting, and protest to alteration inside the police department. To maximise community policing activities and promote improved relationships between police and the community, it is essential that we recognise and address these issues.

1.5 Research Objective

1. Analyse the Suraksha Setu Initiative's execution procedure in Surat, Gujarat.
2. Examine its effect on Surat, Gujarat's crime rates.

1.6 Research Questions

1. How are different stakeholders affected by the installation of the monitoring system at the surat city ?

2. To what extent has the Suraksha Setu Programme influenced crime rates in Surat, Since its implementation, and what specific changes in crime trends can be attributed to the program ?

1.7 Research Methodology

The study methodology utilises a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative studies of secondary data sources. A component of quantitative analysis that assesses the impact of the Suraksha Setu Programme on crime rates is the examination of recent crime statistics and statistical methods. Assessing implementation procedures and investigating community perceptions through scholarly research, news reports, and a documentary assessment of official documents are the main objectives of qualitative assessment. The integration of these techniques yields an in-depth understanding of the initiative's implementation and its impact on criminal activities in Surat, Gujarat.

1.7.1 Research Design

- To provide an in-depth analysis into the Suraksha Setu Programme's execution procedure and its influence on the overall offence rate in Surat, Gujarat, the presented research will use a mixed-methods research design which includes a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods.

1.7.2 Data Collection Methods

- Qualitative data collection - A variety of sampling procedures are employed in this study to gather comprehensive data from reliable sources, including official websites, professional journals, trustworthy media outlets, academic journals, capable blog posts, and educational lectures. A comprehensive strategy for data gathering is ensured by the method of sampling, which makes use of a variety of platforms and media enabling a deep and thorough comprehension of the topic.

- Quantitative data collection - State crime statistics and the Surat police force are the primary sources of crime statistics for Surat, Gujarat. Before and after the Suraksha Setu Programme was put into place, statistics regarding a variety of crimes and the criminal detection rates after the implementation of these initiatives , involving violent offences, crimes against property, and other kinds of criminal activity, would be included here in the dataset.

2. COMMUNITY POLICING

2.1 Global Level

2.1.1 Police Box System and Community Police in Japan

- **An overview japanese community police -**

Most of the Japanese community police officers working at police stations have been allocated to police boxes (Koban) or residential police boxes (Chuzai-sho).

Drivers of police vehicles outfitted with radios. A police station may deploy some of its community police officers to patrol units headquartered in the station, check posts and guard posts. Every prefectural police department has a railway police team, an electronic direction centre, government ships, including authorities aviation (planes).

The primary functions of the community police are to: (i) merge within the neighbourhood and take participation in events which are effectively relevant to day-to-day living and the well-being of nearby communities; (ii) alert the neighbourhood to the availability of policemen and organise neighbourhood watch and preventative actions like patrolling; and (iii) arrive at the scene first in case of an emergency.

Community police officers are viewed by the majority of locals as both amiable protectors and tough criminal combatants. They address them with a certain amount of deference and fondness as "omawari-san" (Dear Patrolling Officer). This word brings up ideas of an innocent yet powerful person, such as an uncle or big brother.

● **Community policing centres upon the police box -**

The community's protection and welfare should be the police department's first priority; accordingly, surveillance as well as other tasks requiring the officers to be in close proximity to the general public should be part of their mission. This is the justification for the police box concept that the Japanese police have adopted, which includes the extensive deployment of law enforcement officers around the country. It assists the police in comprehending the degree of protection in each community along with the needs, desires, and worries of the residents.

In a perspective of controlling crime, this shows that Japanese police force works to prevent and deter crime by maintaining contact with locals, providing direction and enforcing the law for a comparatively short period of time petty offences and disruptive actions. The police community is presently discussing ways to reinforce the police box system's historical deterrence capabilities in light of Japan's increasing crime scenario.

● **How cop boxes work -**

The police boxes are set up in accordance with Community Police Activity Standards. Idea that was developed in cities and is typically used in shift work. Conversely, residential police boxes are typically found in rural or semi-rural locations that are not part of an urban area. There is just one policeman working there, and he lives in the house part connected to the work spot with relatives. Although these variations, the law enforcement unit and residential patrol unit both have benefits. Because each police box has multiple officers on duty around-the-clock, they are more beneficial for preventing crimes and accidents as well as responding to them. When it comes to a big police box, someone is constantly available, it makes it convenient for guests. On the other hand, one officer staffs each home police box, allowing for the coverage of a large region with a minimal staffing level. In rural and semirural regions with low crime and accident rates, the residential police box system works well. Officers stationed at residential cop boxes have greater access to the community because they both live and work there with the family.

● **Facilities for police boxes -**

The size of police boxes varies greatly. A police box includes an officer break room and a basic kitchen in addition to an office area. A reception area and a "community room" has just lately been included for citizens. Recently gathering rooms have been added to residential cop boxes, which were originally designed to be both offices and residences. For patrols and commuting to and from the police station, small police cars are stationed at numerous police boxes, including residential police boxes. A red lamp is located over the door of every police box, including residential police boxes. This lamp provides comfort to a lot of the community's residents, and it's become an easily identifiable emblem for a police box .

● **The responsibilities and actions of community police officers -**

❖ Service mode -

In theory, police officers assigned to police boxes operate in shifts; there are four shifts in the The Division of Police in Tokyo & three additional regions. Many police box personnel operate in a three-shift schedule, meaning that officers who are on service function nonstop, but because they take 8 hours off during the shift, their typical workday consists of 16 hours. But cops are unable to take such extended breaks in crowded police stations like those found in urban regions. A residential police box policeman is on duty 5 days a week for 8 hours per day. He must, however, attend to residents after office hours if they so want. Since a home police box has a big area, it covers every door. Patrol and visits are typically conducted concurrently.

❖ Basic duties (watch duty and patrol) -

Neighbourhood police personnel's main duty is to monitor their communities because when officials are clearly visible in their attire, it deters violence and gives residents an atmosphere of peace. Patrols should ideally be conducted by either on foot or by bicycle, as this allows officers to examine suspicious individuals and effectively understand the situation. In situations where the police box has a vast area, a motorcycle or small patrol car may be utilised.

❖ Initial reaction to mishaps & offences -

Community police officers' responsibilities in a criminal matter include acquiring evidence, maintaining the scene, apprehending suspects, and defending the public. When there is a significant incident, offences, or another occurrence, the matter is given to specialist Policemen sent out from the hq or the police station.

❖ The community police personnel clearing offences -

In order to resolve criminal cases on the street, community police personnel are essential. Asking doubtful people was the first step in around 47% of Penal Code offences that community police officers were able to resolve. This displays the significance of interrogation by police.

❖ Using e-newsletter doorstep to doorstep visits, and interaction councils to communicate with locals

Cops may better understand the condition in a neighbourhood and preserve positive relationships with residents by doing door-to-door visits. In addition to listening to the thoughts and demands of homeowners, they are intended to provide guidance on crime prevention to houses and businesses citizens. An officer will send out "the door to door visit cards" to the staff or family members and request that they fill them with their emergency phone numbers in circumstances involving a crash or crime. Police provide details regarding local incidents and offences, security tips, and other matters with people they visit from doorstep to doorstep.

❖ Accidents while on duty -

As well as traffic cops, community policing officers also frequently suffer injuries when on their duties. As a result of being attacked when interviewing suspects, some community police personnel get injured.

❖ Training, supervision, and employee evaluation -

Since community police officers operate outside of the police station, they require more supervision and guidance than officers in other agencies. Sprinkle police department officers and, if selected, the police box head provides much of the guidance and supervision for officers staffing police boxes. The duty of keeping an eye on home police boxes falls to the highest ranking officer of the police station. Along with visiting police stations, the officer in charge reviews activities to provide guidance.

❖ Crucial elements of the residential patrol boxes framework and implementation -

The effectiveness of a police box system depends on two key elements. First of all, the region it serves has to have a solid foundation of secure conditions. Police boxes are meant to increase public safety, but they work best in settings that are already secure. The police box system in Japan has been successful because of the country's favourable security environment, which is supported by stringent rules and sociological considerations. Second, the system is dependent on excellent officers who cultivate constructive connections with the community. The public's opinion of law enforcement is directly influenced by these policemen who are stationed at police boxes. Though it has had difficulties recently, Japan's history of excellence.

2.1.2 The Chicago Initiative

In April 1993, Chicago launched its "Community Alternative Policing Strategy" (CAPS). It calls for the official participation of the public and the police at three levels: beat level, at the head office and district levels. Through established committees, public engagement has been made required at all these levels. Monitoring is placed at the district level and although problem resolution is the main focus of beat meetings. It is anticipated that committees at the head office level would formulate policy. Every aspect of the community has to be represented in the previously mentioned spots. Because it involves other city agencies as well, its scope is greater than that of many prior community policing initiatives. The programme was expanded throughout the entire city after being tested in five police districts.

Chicago's police force implemented community policing in response to the city's serious drug-related crime and disturbance issues, as well as the need to address the serious concerns expressed by the public. public opinions towards the police and its. In Chicago, the working class had vanished and gangs were now viewed as the dominating group.¹²

2.1.3 In the United Kingdom, Neighbourhood Watch

In the United States, neighbourhood watch (NW) originated from a movement that promoted more community involvement in crime prevention. Another term for its surveillance programmes for homes, flats, residents, and communities is block watch. This was evaluated and implemented in the Seattle area in 1973, and it turned out to be one of the first neighbourhood watch programmes in the United States. The Homes Watching initiative was an initial evaluation of the UK's "neighbourhood watch programme" that was implemented in "Cheshire" in 1982.

In the United Kingdom, the quantity of neighbourhood watch programs has increased significantly since the 1980s. Approximately 6 million households, or according to the British The offence Survey data of 2000, nearly a quarter (27%) of all homes in England were expected to be engaged.. Wales and others belonged to a neighbourhood watch program. There were more than 155,000 active schemes as a result. In the USA, there has been a comparable growth. According to the 2000 National Crime Prevention Survey report (National Crime Prevention Council, 2001), 41% of Americans were expected to reside in neighbourhoods.

Through the numerous social control techniques, neighbourhood surveillance may also contribute to a decrease in crime. Publicity materials for these projects do not list informal social control as one of the strategies for decreasing crime. However, they could help communities become more cohesive and more equipped to manage crime in an indirect manners. By establishing societal norms for suitable conduct and allowing citizens to intervene directly, informal social rule can have an impact on local crime.

There is variation in the scope of coverage among neighbourhood watch programs. Certain regions that only included a small number of families formed the basis for some of the older US and UK programs. Thousands of families may occasionally be covered by more recent programs. Just one among them single residence and its nearby neighbours were covered by the "cocoon" neighbourhood watch initiative in Rochdale, England, one of the smallest programs reviewed. Among the biggest was the "Los Angeles neighbourhood watch program" in Manhattan Beach, which supervised more than 30,000 people. Plans for neighbourhood watches might be started by the police or the general population. Early-stage programs in the UK were typically started by the police (such as the initial London neighbourhood watch programs). Plans for neighbourhood watches have just been implemented, largely in fulfilment of demands from the public. Some police agencies even go so far as to start their own programs after they are completely formed. For instance, a Detroit program created a segment of policeinitiated programs to encourage neighbourhood watch in places where requests from the public were unlikely to come in.

● **The objectives of neighbourhood watch programs are as follows -**

- A. Lowering the "local opportunities" for criminal activity against people and property.
- B. Fostering a sense of community by encouraging relations and collaboration among all members, who then all work together to defend the property.
- C. Promoting improved ties among the public and police; and
- D. Informing fellow homeowners and police officers about suspicious activity and other occurrences that occur in surrounding areas.

● **United kingdom police consultative committees -**

Consultation committees provide a formal approach for people in the United Kingdom to voice issues with local policing and provide input on police goals. need to be. The regional representatives, the police department members and members of legally binding, voluntary, and community groups comprise these committees. Members of Parliament, known as MP are typically granted membership immediately in certain areas. In addition, the police have made arrangements for those from advice groups to be present (Website-lexscriptamagazine.com) 19 (lexscriptamagazine@gmail.com)

during significant police missions, like drug raids, so they can observe directly how the police carry out community requests.

One of the main objectives of local law enforcement organisations recommended in the The Format Review regarding the Ireland police reform is to encourage a change beyond reacting to addressing issues. To do this, community alliances and liaison committees were to be established locally. Monthly public discussion meetings with the community's police officer and the District Policing Partnership Boards (DPPB) were also intended to achieve openness. Regional committees would additionally be allowed to acquire extra officers to deal with their specific local problems. The intention was to take a step towards public control over police operations while also giving less fortunate places the capacity to manage their own special policing concerns.¹³

2.2 In India

2.2.1 Friend of Police (Tamil Nadu)

The Friends of Police program is a Jointly Government Organization (JGO) and community policing project that aims to improve public-police relations. In the year 1993, while holding the position of Superintendent of Police, The project was started in the Ramanathapuram (Ramnad) district of Tamil Nadu by Mr. Prateep V. Philip I.P.S.

People who volunteer can meet the fundamental conditions that don't involve holding previous convictions or political involvement. The younger generations from economically disadvantaged rural backgrounds make up the majority of registrants.

Police buddy tasks and duties

- FOP makes the public more aware of violent acts and helps to prevent assaults.
- It provides equity, transparency, and objectivity in the area of police work.
- The FOP helps law enforcement regain the public's misguided faith.

- The proactive, all-encompassing idea serves as a tool to improve public perception of law enforcement, fortify the force, and alter public and officer attitudes.
- The FOP movement expands on the current push to humanise and socialise the police force, which shares authority with common people in the preamble of our Constitution, or "We the People."

What are the requirements to become a FOP?

Any member of the public who is not engaged in a legal dispute may turn into a FOP. He or she must write a letter to the Superintendent of Police vowing friendship and providing his or her name, age, and residence in order to be considered as a participant. The designated branch and the regional police stations will verify the applicant's backgrounds before the police chief admits them as First Officers.

- Only candidates ages more than 18 must be accepted for FOP.
- Under FOP, he or she should have completed their eleventh standard.
- He or she should avoid politics for the benefit of the FOP.
- There cannot be any past criminal activity for FOP.
- He or she must be willing to schedule volunteering hours in order to qualify for FOP.

It should be within FOP's power to keep a positive rapport with both the public and police officers. It is recommended that FOP establish communication with the nodal officials within their police area. The FOP should be aware that this is a volunteer movement and that they shouldn't anticipate payment from the public or the police for their work. They ought to be able to pinpoint the issues that affect women, children, the elderly and other community members. They should also be able to inform the general public of the FOP movement's existence.

• DO'S -

- Community Engagement
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- Observe traffic and safety regulations.
- Offer assistance. to help the police avoid crime,
- Uphold the values of honesty, punctuality, and devotion.
- Help the police uphold law and order Help the police with traffic regulations
- Make helpful recommendations to address local issues → Guard your personal belongings.
- Assist in bringing awareness
- Help people in need
- Understand your responsibilities and rights.
- Be there to help as needed.
-

• **DON'TS -**

- Avoid going to the police station with a recommendation.
- Avoid taking part in any unlawful activities.
- Refrain from engaging in any conflicts.
- Don't disparage any one police officer in particular.
- Avoid confronting anti-social elements head-on.
- Avoid adopting any negative behaviours.
- Avoid engaging in any political action.
- Don't abuse your FOP status.
- Avoid participating in the requesting of contributions or money.
- Don't be passive as FOP; instead, uphold the principles and beliefs of FOP.¹⁴

2.2.2 Mohalla Committee (Maharashtra)

An era where socioeconomic circumstances are shifting rapidly, policing becomes challenging. It is common knowledge that policing in democratic societies will not be done in the absence of public engagement. This is especially important in a republic like ours, wherein a variety of factors, including class, religion, and the huge number of participants,

apply both pulling and pushing forces.. An essential component of the community policing program is the Mohalla Committee.

Mohalla Committees, as the name implies, are made up of representatives from a variety of social groups and are established at the local level. The Mohalla Committees are formed and run with assistance from the local police station. The primary responsibility is to support the local police in upholding law and order and preventing crime. The members of the Mohalla Committees serve as the community's eyes and ears, providing pertinent information on matters relating to social, legal, and communal matters to the neighbourhood beat officer, with whom they maintain continuous communication. In addition, they are crucial in managing and preventing problems involving law and order. The Mohalla Committees gather on a regular basis all year round.

Mohalla Committee nominations are made with great care to ensure that the society's legitimate and appropriate individuals are nominated. Through its members, the community is informed of the actions and choices made at the meetings. The Police Station gives participants' recommendations for preventing crime adequate consideration when deciding which ones to adopt.

The Mohalla Committee movement has garnered widespread recognition for its democratic approach and widespread engagement among the populace. The Maharashtra Police efforts now heavily rely on Mohalla Committees, since they have consistently demonstrated their value.¹⁵

2.2.3 Prahari: Assam's Community Policing Program

On July 3, 1996, the S.P. of city Shri Kuladhar Saikia called a conference of the people under the Panbazar Police Station in Guwahati, which marked the beginning of community policing in Assam.

Kuladhar Saikia will talk about the idea and introduction of the "neighbourhood watch scheme," which aims to encourage community involvement in police. The goal of the community policing effort was also to enhance living and working circumstances for police officers and to alter the general perception of the public held by them at the police stations. (Website-lexscriptamagazine.com) 23 (lexscriptamagazine@gmail.com)

PRAHARI's mission was to address social issues and improve relations between the community and the police.

Group for community liaison (CLG) -

Assam police have formed Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) at the state, district, and PS levels. Prominent citizens who do not belong to politicians are encouraged to attend these meetings to voice complaints and provide suggestions for enhancing community policing. Prominent individuals such as newspaper editors, retired high court judges, writers, educators, social workers, and women's organisations attend these meetings. They provide insightful suggestions that help enhance the services that the police can offer to the public, and when people feel comfortable sharing their thoughts, they come forward to assist the police.

The UNDP and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) launched a project titled "Improvement of Organization and Management of Law Enforcement Agencies in India" that sought to altering the typical police officer's perspective on the public in the P.S. to make them more approachable and to enhance their living and working circumstances.

Assam police, - "AASWAS" -

The Assam police took this effort as a show of support for traumatised youngsters and to counteract violence and insurgency. On November 14, 2001, the honoured head of state Assam, Shri Tarun Gogoi, on Children's Day, launched Aashwas. These efforts have brought the community and the police together and have sparked a great reaction. Project Aashwas has chosen a region of a group of seven into each of these seven regions whereas there is a past of racist or terrorist violence.¹⁶

3. SURAKSHA SETU PROGRAMME

3.1 Gujarat

The Suraksha Setu Societies may be constituted as distinct organisations under the Gujarat Societies Act. By making a commitment and acting quickly, the Suraksha Setu Society aims to improve public-law administration cooperation and connect the dots in public assurance. Our efforts are focused on protecting from internet crime, handling crises and combating offences with ensuring the protection of women and children.

The idea has succeeded in lowering crimes in the area and providing Human beings face to the government. The Suraksha Setu Societies' capacity to create a coordinated strategy for preventing crime and public security has made everyone's life much more secure and safer.

The Suraksha Setu Societies are dedicated to stopping criminal conduct before it starts. The societies strive to manage catastrophes, prevent cybercrime, ensure the protection of women and children, and raise public knowledge of safety precautions. The societies also aim to instil in the populace a sense of accountability and ownership for their personal protection and safety. This is accomplished by enticing the public to report any unusual actions and collaborating with law enforcement to stop crimes from happening.

It is the public's perception of the police force that the Suraksha Setu Societies have been effective in fostering. The authorities now play greater involvement in guaranteeing safeguarding or protection of the general population, going beyond their conventional function of investigating crimes. The reduction of criminal activity in the community has also been a success for the societies. The cooperation between law enforcement and the general people is what makes Suraksha Setu successful. The people's sense of accountability and control over their personal security and well-being has been cultivated by human society. As a result of that, everyone lives in an environment that makes them feel safe and protected.¹⁷

3.2 Surat

In this study, I focus especially on the Suraksha Setu Safe City Project in Surat. One of the most famous towns in Gujarat, is the hub of significant commerce in commodities

including petroleum products, textiles and gemstones. Traffic control, security services, tracking, finding and avoidance of illegal activities, post-event forensic examinations, reducing pollution and crisis help were among the many purposes for which the Bureau of Police Research and Development cameras were installed around the city. The concept was created to instil an awareness about safety in citizens and preventing criminal activity. Under the direction of the Surat City Commissioner of Police, the project intends to establish a state-of-the-art surveillance system that provides services as follows across the whole city:

1. Traffic Management
2. Observing
3. Post Incident Forensic Exam
4. Emergency Preparedness

Concerning safe city - suraksha setu project

- Massive Number of Vehicle Traffic as Initiative Cause
 - Risk of Terrorism
 - Growing population resulting in a low number of citizens to police ●
- Activities for road safety & traffic management Understanding¹⁸

Project goals

- Monitoring
- Preventing and identifying crimes
- Forensic investigation following the incident
- Control of traffic and enforcement
- Supplying assistance for disaster management¹⁹

Project elements

- A specialised subterranean dark optical fibre network was used to deploy CCTV cameras and link them to the Command and Control Center.
- To issue electronic challans including traffic violators' photographs, an enforcement automation centre was established.²⁰

Implementing projects

- To carry out the project, the public-private-people partnership (4P) model has been employed.
- The effort was executed applying public funding following the Gujarat government's requisite consent.
- Actual inputs for evaluation were transferred via van which had links to the Command & Control Centre and merged into the Intellectual Information Management System.¹⁹

Effects of the project

- Since CCTV cameras were installed, there has been a significant decrease in crime.
- The operational effectiveness of the police administration has significantly improved thanks to surveillance systems.
- It has been successful to monitor traffic volume and enforce traffic laws to manage traffic at intersections.
- During natural catastrophes and disasters, the efforts of different agencies for rescue, relief, and recovery are being better coordinated.¹⁹

Year	Dacoity			Robbery			House Breaking			Theft		
	Report ed	Detect ed	%	Report ed	Detect ed	%	Report ed	Detect ed	%	Report ed	Detect ed	%
2015	22	21	95%	33	29	88%	219	102	47%	1168	537	46%
2016	7	7	100%	64	54	84%	201	110	55%	511	511	44%
2017	21	18	86%	161	111	69%	325	139	43%	1906	703	37%
2018	30	28	93%	189	113	62%	378	158	42%	2086	833	40%
2019	18	16	89%	163	122	75%	407	181	44%	3221	1278	40%
2020	6	6	100%	43	41	95%	221	160	72%	1342	786	59%
2021	13	13	100%	40	40	100%	205	164	80%	1589	1082	68%
2022	5	4	80%	62	61	98%	278	200	72%	1778	1107	62%
2023	8	8	100%	37	37	100%	281	227	81%	2305	1508	65%

Table 3.2.1 [Crime Rates of Surat City, Gujarat from 2015 - 2023]²¹

Interpretation -

Crime data indicates significant improvements in the detection rate of robbery, theft, dacoity, and house breaking , despite a significant increase in the number of theft and housebreaking incidents reported between 2015 and 2023. Detection rates have increased extremely, especially for robberies and house breaks, which may be attributable to efficient prosecution and the advantages of community policing strategies. Community policing, that focuses proactive measures and built links between residents and the police, had likely aided in these changes. The increase in incidents reported to date defines the need for ongoing improvements to community involvement and crime prevention programmes.

Year	MURDER			ATTEMPT TO MURDER			HURT		
	Reported	Detected	%	Reported	Detected	%	Reported	Detected	%
2015	101	96	95%	17	17	100%	341	331	97%
2016	102	91	89%	44	41	93%	406	389	96%
2017	88	84	95%	102	100	98%	507	482	95%
2018	108	100	93%	131	131	100%	531	510	96%
2019	97	90	93%	111	111	100%	544	527	97%
2020	116	111	96%	82	82	100%	359	352	98%
2021	123	118	96%	73	72	99%	407	399	98%
2022	99	96	97%	59	58	98%	427	418	98%
2023	89	87	98%	51	51	100%	368	359	98%

Table 3.2.2 [Lowest Total Body Offences and Best Detection Since 2015]²¹

Interpretation -

The statistics on murder, attempted murder, and injuries from 2015 to 2023 shows how community policing has a major influence on crime detection and resolution. Murder reports have been comparatively steady, and 89% to 98% of incidents have been detected on a regular basis. Although published figures for cases of attempted murder vary, they are known for having incredibly high detection rates—100% of cases are regularly detected every year. Even if they are increasingly common, injured instances still have great detection rates—between 95% and 98%. These high detection rates in every category point to the success of community policing, which aims to foster mutual respect and collaboration between the police and the public. The adoption of proactive policing strategies by community policing, solid partnerships with the community, and public involvement in security concerns are likely the root cause of these high detection rates. These elements illustrate how community policing may increase the effectiveness of detecting crimes and response.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Findings

- **Impact on crime data and increase detection in total crime data**

After the implementation of Suraksha Setu , the security authority has irrigated the rate of criminal activity in Surat. This sign is the result of an investigation monitoring system that discourages potential criminals. Installation of CCTV cameras was easy for quick identification and clarification of crime statements and interaction. Police The overall effectiveness of the police force has grown.

- **Enhanced rates of prosecution and investigation**

A statistical review of crime data from 2015 to 2023 shows that a number of crimes, including theft, robbery, housebreaking and robbery, have seen significant increases in investigation rates. The effectiveness of the tracking system and policing in operation is indicated by the significant increase in detection rates of robberies and burglaries.

- **Increase in reported cases**

The number of reported burglaries and burglaries has increased without much reduction in criminal activity. This suggests that people have more confidence in law enforcement and are more likely to file crime reports, an upward trend.

- **Improve public safety awareness**

One of the reasons people in Surat feel safer is the availability of CCTV cameras and effective response procedures. Every person has become more secure and gets greater faith in the ability of authorities to deter and prevent crime. Several safety activities have contributed to the current cooperative climate between the police and people everywhere, therefore bridging the previously perceived trust gap.

- **Traffic management and preventing crime.**

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The project has improved Surat's traffic management significantly. The amount of traffic accidents and collisions has decreased as a consequence of improved implementation of traffic laws facilitated by the installation of technologically controlled challans as well as live cameras. Traffic awareness projects have raised the population's understanding of road risks and promoted improved flow of traffic within the city via the use of surveillance equipment.

- **Language and cultural barriers**

Effective interpersonal interaction and community participation in Surat suffers from cultural and linguistic diversity. These disparities need to be addressed through customization of initiatives to increase public enthusiasm and engagement in community policing.

- **Resource limitations**

Despite achievements, problems of resource accessibility and utilisation persist. Generating adequate financing and support for the surveillance system's continuous upkeep and administration are essential for its sustained effectiveness.

- **Views and participation of citizens**

Differing opinions on the effectiveness as well as productivity of the police continued to impact citizens' engagement. Long-term initiatives are needed to improve the overall image of the law, police accountability and increase involvement in society while also enhancing safety.

- **Social and ethical difficulties**

The extensive and pervasive use of surveillance raises legal and ethical issues regarding privacy and the limits of police power. To maintain public trust regulations and an impartial judiciary addressing these matters are required.

4.2 Recommendations

● **Increase community engagement and outreach**

Developing communication strategies in different languages to effectively engage with different communities. Increase police presence and involvement in local neighbourhoods to promote community policing. Educating people about the benefits of the project through continuous awareness campaigns.

● **Handling resources and financing limitations**

Investigating collaborations between the public and private sectors to find long-term financing options. guaranteeing effective resource management to ensure the appropriate distribution and upkeep of surveillance resources. funding educational initiatives for the appropriate stakeholders and policymakers.

● **Enhancing ethical and legal structures**

Putting policies in place to safeguard citizens' privacy when conducting monitoring. transparently communicating the efficiency of the system to the general public on a regular basis. building legal systems to morally justify monitoring technologies.

● **Improving development and technology linkage**

Using statistics and AI to enhance crime detection and prevention. enhancing partnership among agencies through increased organisational integration. upgrading the camera system on a regular basis in response to input.

● **Measuring and evaluating impact**

Examining the project often to determine its effectiveness. gathering input from populations and law enforcement, among other parties involved, in order to implement improvements.
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Compared with similar projects elsewhere will help you efficiently utilise ideal procedures.

- **Building connections between public and private sectors**

Working together with digital businesses to engage the private sector to discover creative solutions. forming security panels and surrounding area watch organisations to promote community involvement. using cooperative decision-making techniques to involve citizens in choices pertaining to safety.

4.3 Conclusions

The Surat Urban Development Authority has made substantial progress in terms of raising public safety, reducing the rate of criminal activities and enhancing police-citizen relationships through the Suraksha Setu Safe City Project. The project requires wide application of CCTV cameras and other parts of an integrated surveillance system to reduce crime, enhance traffic management and promote preparedness for emergencies.

Figures reveal that there was a significant reduction in overall incidence rates as well as improved detection rate for most serious offences such as assault, theft, or burglary. These enhancements show how well the monitoring system works and how innovative police methods are used.

The community has also responded to this initiative positively, with local populations now feeling safer and more comfortable with their services. However, these challenges include cultural and linguistic barriers they face, lack of resources, ethical issues or legal dilemmas. Such needs must be addressed using tailored engagement strategies, sustainable financial models, strong privacy processes and continuing technological advances.

Surat Suraksha Setu has been able to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the Safe City project by applying the above proposed recommendations. The initiative will also ensure that there is a safe environment for all residents through its inter-disciplinary partnerships, easy processes and ability to respond to dynamic needs through continuous
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community involvement. This initiative's success demonstrates the significance of community policing and fusing CCTV cameras into modern urban security strategies, acting as a model for other places around.

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