

Beat Policing in Bangladesh: A Conceptual Framework

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Abstract

Beat policing is a community policing strategy designed to make an individual police officer responsible for the community's policing needs in a defined geographical area or the beat. It is a philosophy and management approach that seeks the community involvement in the policing system. Community policing as one of the most widely adopted police strategy in the last several decades. Due to not getting expected result from community policing program, police professionals, community members, and policy makers are seeking an alternative model of policing that would be better for public safety and security. Because of high population and institutional limitations of police, public security has disrupted alarmingly in recent years. The beat policing is a door-to-door watching and proactive policing system which involves the beat residents with the police to work in partnership and mutual coordination. Beat officers are encouraged to take 'leadership' of their area and employ proactive strategies to identify the causes of crime and community problems within their beat. In addition to that information collection, one to one communication and increase surveillance by residents of their own neighborhoods are key strategies of beat policing system. It is a remarkable shift from the traditional model of policing to the beat area based model of policing. The main objective of this paper is to establish a conceptual framework of beat policing from the appropriate theoretical perspective and also the Bangladesh viewpoint.

Keywords: Beat¹, Policing², Partnership³.

Introduction:

Policing is one of the complementary activities vital for keeping and maintaining law and order situation of a country. Since long, it is also very old and traditional system. But this system has been reformed with the change of time. It is undeniable that the traditional policing system couldn't attain maximum level of public confidence due to various socio – political factors. Therefore, higher police professionals and policy makers have to seek for alternative policing model known as community based beat policing system (Uddin and Khadem, 2013). The system of policing driven by the collaborating efforts to both police and community in order to provide sustainable security to the society is called beat policing where the object is to remove the fear of crime by strengthening police-public relationship (Barkat et.al,2019). Beat policing has been part of the policing landscape for well over a century. In Robert Peel's model of policing, officers are regarded as citizens in uniform. By this time the traditional British police were assigned to regular foot-patrol areas, charge them with the task of preventing and suppressing crime in their assigned areas together with the consent neighborhood residents (Patterson, 1995). In America, escalating violence and skepticism about the effectiveness of emergency responses and criminal

investigation strategies have resulted in academics and practitioners considering alternative policing models (Gains & Miller, 2006), including a return to community or beat policing.

Beat policing is considered to be a very effective strategy to prevent crimes, which prefers proactive responses to reactive responses. It speeds up emergency response time, decreases criminal activity, and increases community partnerships by improving the relationship between police and the public. Also, through the beat policing, police can convey their performance to the satisfactory level and at the same time can maintain the law and order situation easily and effectively by integrating with the society.

Beat policing is a relatively new concept in Bangladesh. It is being explored by the police members, NGOs and community based organizations, as a way to bring the community and the police together in resolving problems at the community level. It is both a philosophy and an organizational strategy that allows the police and the community (beat residents) to work together in new ways to solve problems relating to crime, disorder and safety issues to secure the lives and properties of community people (SEESAC; 2006:9).

Beat policing program has gained importance in Bangladesh with the rapid decline of law and order situation in recent years. Evidence suggests that due to various socio-economic reasons, traditional policing method has been failed to prevent crimes and criminals effectively. For that reason the government has to recognize beat policing system. Though in recent time, beat policing program has gained remarkable success but still it is facing some challenges. Success of beat policing program will depend on how the philosophy of beat policing have been imbedded in to the beat police officers and how have quality of police services improved due to the implementation of beat policing. Finally, the study expects to be meaningful to researcher and academicians as it will provide a clear guideline of understanding and implementing an effective beat policing system in the society.

Objectives and Methodology:

The primary objective of this paper is to establish a conceptual overview of the beat policing system. In addition to that this paper will give the justifications of using the philosophy of community policing to explain the beat policing with appropriate theoretical framework. To be more frank this paper will give a brief description about the dimensions, approaches, components, historical background, legal framework and notion of beat policing in Bangladesh. This Paper is based on qualitative research and secondary sources of data. Scholarly books, journals, and different websites have been accessed for information.

Conceptual Framework:

Beat and beat members

In police terminology, a beat is the territory that a police officer is assigned to patrol. Beats are used to effectively divide available officers across a law enforcement agency's jurisdiction, ensuring organized police presence across a wide area. (Wikipedia). "Beat" often refers to specifically foot patrols or bicycle patrols, though "beat" can also be used to simply describe a designated area patrolled by a police officer through any means, such as an officer in a police car or police aircraft (Practical adult Insight, 2020). "Police beat" is also used by news media to refer to reports on local crimes and police incidents, often crime reports detailing recent incidents and arrests handled by local law enforcement (Wikipedia).

A beat member is a police officer who walks, rides, cycles, or drives in a specific neighborhood, known as a "beat." Because the officer routinely patrols in the same area, he or she becomes well-known in the community, creating a positive relationship between law enforcement and the community.

Neighborhood residents will usually feel comfortable approaching the beat member to talk about issues in the beat area, and they may be more inclined to report problems when they feel like they have a personal connection with the department (Nacirema.2010).

Police and Policing

Latin word ‘Politeia’ means conditions of a state or government. Generally the term ‘police’ mean a body of officers representing the civil authority of government. In broad sense police is being considered as an executive civil force of a state, responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of public order. The term ‘police’ according to oxford dictionary mean “an official organization whose job is to make people obey the law and to prevent and solve crime.

In general, policing means the activities which police performs. According to Newburn and Neyroud note, policing refers to a number of ‘organized forms of order maintenance, peace keeping, rule or law enforcement, crime investigation and prevention and other forms of investigation and associate information brokering, which may involve the conscious exercise of coercive power (Newburn and Neyroud eds,2008:17).

Beat Policing

Beat policing is another community oriented policing system designed to make an individual police officer responsible for the community’s policing needs in a defined geographical area (the beat). Beat officers are encouraged to take ‘ownership’ of their area and employ proactive strategies to address the underlying causes of crime and community problems with in their beat. Beat officers are also assigned to their areas on a long- term basis workout of an office located in the beat (Beat Policing: A Case Study, CJRP Series, Vol-2, Num-1, 1995).

Table 1: Comparison of Conventional and Beat Policing Models

Differential Characteristics	Conventional Policing Model	Beat Policing Model
Basic Organizational Unit	The division	The “beat”
Size of Unit	Suburb or town; up to50-60,000 residents	Small enough for a single officer to patrol (around 4-5,000 residents)
Standard Patrol Method	Motorized patrols by pairs of officers	Foot or bicycle patrols by single officer
Assignment of Officers	Officers are not assigned to any particular location; they may work anywhere within the division depending on the task or shift	Officer assigned to the beat on a long-term basis, to promote sense of “ownership”.
Operating base	The divisional station	Office or residence within the beat Beat officer determines when he or

Rostering	Determined by the divisional station	she works, based on his or her perception of the needs of the area.
Policing Emphasis	Responding to calls for service: random patrolling.	Problem solving ; preventive activities, responding to calls for service; focused patrolling
Primary Information Sources	Reliance primarily on division and district level analysis of crime and police intelligence reports	Access to standard information sources, but also strong emphasis on officer’s local knowledge
Performance Measures	Response times; clearance rates	Successful problem solving ; community involvement and satisfaction

(Source: Research Notes, Criminal Justice Commission, CJRP Series, Vol-2, Num-1, 1995)

Historical Background:

The idea of policing with the public is a very old concept that has become known as ‘community’ or ‘community based’ policing and is also often referred to as partnership policing (SEESAC: 2006:9). The roots of community policing comes from the history of policing itself. Sir Robert Peel, the father of modern policing, was responsible for the centralization of police services in London with the formation of the London Metropolitan Police District in 1829. In Peel’s model of policing, officers are regarded as citizens in uniform. He assigned his officers to regular foot-patrol areas, charging them with the task of preventing and suppressing crime in their assigned geographic areas together with the consent neighborhood residents (Patterson, 1995). In the similar ways, modernization of the American police force began during the Reform Era (1930 to 1970) and the Community Policing Era began in 1970s, though most law enforcement agencies did not fully embrace the concept till 1980. Community policing places considerable emphasis on police-community relations, and actively seeks to engage citizens in partnerships with the police to build safer communities through proactive problem-solving efforts (Gaines & Miller, 2006).

The concept of community policing has gained momentum due to increase in crime and disorder in many communities across the world. Moreover, policing approaches of the past are not effective in the modern world where communities and the nature of crime are always changing. In this context, the system of policing driven by the collaborating efforts of both police and community in order to provide sustainable security to the society is known as beat policing where the object is to remove the fear of crime by strengthening police-public relationship in the beat.

Beat policing has been part of the policing landscape for well over a century. The traditional English Bobby¹ walked the beat, talked to community members and was known by everyone. The advent of car patrols and sophisticated communication technology, combined with urban sprawl, led to policing becoming, primarily, a reactive response to crime—an approach that has been criticized as treating the symptoms rather than the causes of crime (Beyley, 1998). Modern-day beat policing involves the permanent assignment of a small number of officers to a designated geographical area. Under this model, usually one or two officers are required, depending on the hours of service that the beat operates. Officers are required to take responsibility for their beat and build strong relationships within the community.

Beat Policing Around the World:

As a new form of policing, beat policing exists in many forms and shapes around the world. The available literature contents that beat policing was originated in England, however, is functioning in many other countries at present. In England, through Community Policing-oriented government legislation, the activities of beat policing started and statutory groups was set up in every local authority to include local councilors, local members of parliament, representatives of statutory agencies, the police and members of the public. After that, the Home Office of England introduced “Unit beat policing” featuring a combination of area beat officers, mobile patrol officers and local detectives working together as a team. With the recognized failure of foot patrols, unit beat policing received increased emphasis and importance (Williamson, 1967).

Unlike England, Israel and Canada, the American police are as diverse and multi-faceted as is the American governmental system. In addition to the federal police forces, there are independent state, county and city forces, state patrol and sheriff departments. Though the concept began taking root in the decades of 70, it drew global attention in 1990 when the US Department of Justice established the office of beat policing service after feeling the necessity of improving communications between the police and the community numbers.

In Canada beat policing derives from Canadian Community policing which is divided into small town, rural policing and larger urban police department. Since 1982, the large urban police forces have implemented several organizational changes associated with Community Policing. These new approaches often involve the formulation of new policing ideologies. For instance, the system of beat policing was implemented in Toronto as “Zone policing”. Zone policing offered the geographic service stability through 24 hour-policing, increased patrol autonomy and enhancement of foot patrols. Zone policing improved internal communication and offered greater crime prevention and community relations emphasis (Friedmann, 1992).

Beat policing activities is also seen in Japan. Japanese Koban System of policing is a community based police model, where Koban stands for Japanese police box. Koban, which can be found in neighborhoods around the country, are effective as contact points between police and local residents. Kobans are substations near major transportation hubs and shopping areas and in residential districts. They form the first line of police response to the public. The Koban system is composed of about 6000 police boxes (Koban) and about 7000 residential Chuzaisho² (Terrill, 2009).

¹ Nick name of British police.

² The words Koban and Chuzaisho stand for police boxes.

As a method of crime control strategy South Africa introduces Sector Policing program after 1996. The literature shows that ideology of sector policing is almost similar to beat policing. Like beat policing, sector Policing is policing in smaller more manageable geographical areas within a police station area and gives all communities the opportunity to be involved in identifying the root causes of crime. Sector officers also assume personal responsibility for a sector which will encourage personal pride in contributing to the well-being of the community. The basic approach of Sector Policing is to take policing to grassroots level and for the sector officer to give a personal touch to solve the problems of the sector community (Research Notes, CJRP Series, Vol-2, Num-1, 1995).

The structure of beat policing started in India during April, 2017 like the following structure just as a city has one police commissioner and a district one superintendent of police, each area or locality in the city will now have one constable exclusively assigned to it. Each constable will be assigned charge of a specific area for a year and will be responsible for handling crime or law-and-order problems in that locality (Yadav, 2017). The new beat policing system is aimed at reducing crimes in the cities of India specifically.

Activities of beat policing:

- To collect intelligence about crime and criminals;
- To increase the activities of prevention of crime by patrol and identifying the habitual offenders
- To maintain law & order, preventing labor discontent and preventing political insurgencies
- To increase the trust and mutual understanding between police and citizen through regular contact and interactions
- To ensure regular contact between police and the members of the community
- To do regular activities of police such as investigation of cases, arresting criminals, executing the warrant, regular patrols etc.
- To prevent riot, labor insurgencies, political unrest etc rapidly.
- To reduce the fear of police among the general people who are not criminals and helping to establish a bridge of friendship between police and the community members
- To maintain personal and social communication among the community people
- To increase public awareness programs
- To collect information about house servants, driver, gatekeeper
- To encourage to use CCTV cameras
- To build public awareness to prevent eve teasing
- To promote anti-narcotics program.
- To provide training to gatekeeper, security guard
- To conduct training on firefight and security of factories
- To solve the social problems through community policing activities
- To engage police in necessary points on behalf of community
- To encourage community to appoint community police at necessary points
- To encourage community to appoint night guards

- To collect information about NGOs, college, community centers, student hostels, mosques, madrashas³, garments and other social and business organizations etc.

Components of Beat Policing:

The key components of beat policing are:

1. Partnership
2. Organizational Change
3. Problem Solving

Partnership

The philosophical aspect/ethos of community policing focuses in establishing mutual trust between police and community and in this point community partnership acts as a major component which is also a major goal of beat policing. Community partnership means adopting a policing technique that exceeds the standard law enforcement emphasis. Partnership establishes and maintains mutual trust between citizens and the police. It means both people and police have distinct roles and responsibilities. In community policing, along with the police, people have the authority to apprehend, search and seizure, use force to make arrest, patrol, responds to incidents, etc. Citizens also have a role to report crimes, help to solve the problems and be real witnesses (Uddin and Khadem, 2013). Community partnership also depends on consultation and mobilization. Through consultation the situation of crime control and prevention of crime can better be improved if community and police consult each other on different issues, identify the problems and solve accordingly (Bayley, 1994). In case of Mobilization, despite having limitation of police in preventing crime and disorder, community policing has mobilized the community for support. Forms of mobilization can be programs like neighborhood watch, operation id, and crime stoppers. Mobilization also includes collaboration of different agencies with police in preventing crime and disorder (Walker & Katz, 2002). The above mentioned ideas of community policing directly links with the construction of beat policing. In beat policing, the police officers regularly patrol their own community area and have regular contact with a community and are able to identify problems and seek appropriate solutions in conjunction with the sector's community. Beat Policing encourages constant and continuous contact with members of the community (Smith, 2008). Moreover, beat Policing emphasizes stronger police-community cooperation at grassroots level.

Organizational Change

To successfully implement community policing structure, culture and management aspect of organizational changes are needed. Structurally community policing organization is decentralized. Culturally, it focused organizational reforms such as training, promotional standard, evaluation standard etc. In managing perspective, it is told that community policing organizations are characterized by having more managers and fewer supervisors. (Trojanowicz & Bucqueroux, 1992). Similarly, there is no centralized system in beat policing. The police officers work in different beats and the beat officers take organizational training to work in beats.

³ The Arabic word madrasa is an educational institution offering instruction in Islamic subjects including, but not limit to, the Quran sayings. According to Oxford English 'madrasha' means establishment of learning where the Islamic sciences are taught.

Problem Solving

Problem solving is a broad term that implies more than simply the elimination and prevention of crimes. Problem solving is based on the assumption that “crime and disorder can be reduced in small geographic areas by carefully studying the characteristics of problems in the area, and then applying the appropriate resources.” and on the assumption that “Individuals make choices based on the opportunities presented by the immediate physical and the police and the community must be collaborators in the quest to encourage and preserve peace and prosperity (Gaffigan, 1994). The main philosophy of beat policing is to solve the problem of the community in a proactive basis. For example, regarding the functions of beat policing, the beat policing unit provides a number of facilities to citizens in Dhaka Metropolitan Area of Bangladesh. Every beat in-charge uses a government’s authorized mobile number and the number is available to general public. For quick response to the crime spot, the patrol car of that beat area are used to reach that spot (DMP, 2018). Every beat police arranges “Uthan baithak” regularly at various places of his own beat area; and the purpose of arranging such meeting is to develop friendly relations with people and understands their problems. Besides, the main activities of beat police includes collecting intelligence about crime and criminals, increase the activities of prevention of crime by patrol and identifying the habitual offenders, maintaining law & order.

Theoretical approaches of Beat Policing:

Policing as an activity and service, are vital elements in system of social control .Its protect the society against challenges by crime, subversion, or riotous disorder. However, theory of policing, is largely comparative in nature, and seeks to explain why policing system differ widely in their organization. This point of view, theories of the police and policing re-conceptualize the concepts and patterns of policing frequently. on the theoretical roots of community policing as they both originated from the same fundamental concept where active presence of law enforcement officer is must in their community Understanding beat policing practice lies (Lortz,2017). However, following theoretical approaches can be considered in planning beat policing program.

Broken Window Theory

The most popular and well discussed theory regarding beat policing is Broken Windows Theory explained by Wilson and Kellings in 1982. The name “broken windows” is based on a metaphor that the Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy describes below:

The model focuses on the importance of disorder (e.g., broken windows) in generating and sustaining more serious crime. Disorder is not directly linked to serious crime; instead, disorder leads to increased fear and withdrawal from residents, which then allows more serious crime to move in because of decreased levels of informal social control.” (Lortz, 2017).

Based on this theory social psychologist and police officers tend to agree that if a window in a building is broken and is left unrepaired; all the rest of the windows will soon be broken, the sign of one broken and unrepaired window send an indication that nobody cares so another window can also be broken and nothing will happen (Oliver, 2000). According to Pollard in Braton et.al (1998), Kellings and Wilson’s preposition is that the moment deliberate discourtesy such as drunkenness, begging, vandalism, disorderly behaviour, graffiti, litter are not controlled, an atmosphere is created in which more serious crimes will be committed. Till today, any discussion on community policing always go hand in hand with the broken windows theory (Allender, 2004).

Social Resource Theory

From a radically different dimension, Wong (2008) offered a different view point called the Social Resource Theory. Wong explained the theory as-

The social resource theory begins from observing that crime represents illegality but not only from the state point of view. However, for the people crime represents one of the experiences of life, the theory represent a radical shift in theorizing community policing because it completely gave people the power in effect influence a social resource, made visible by the state by choosing within the citizens to address societal ills (Wong 2008).

The social resource theory attempts to address three main prepositions, (a) what is the role and function of the police? (b) What is the relationship of the police with the people, and (c) why do people call the police? The social resource theory re-conceived the idea of crime and policing from the angle of the people and not that of the state. From the people's view points, crime is a personal problem resulting from people's unmet expectations, scarcity of resources and police inefficiency. The police in effect are social resources which are supposed to solve the problems of the people. Likewise, the ultimate purpose of beat policing is to ensure better, responsive and responsible efficient and effective police service.

The above mentioned theories did not discuss the policing system in a wider perspective. As a result, the philosophy of community policing can assess the scope and potential of beat policing in effective deployment of manpower, prevention of crime and enhancing community involvement in Dhaka Metropolitan Police area of Bangladesh. This theoretical perspective also assists to facilitate how beat policing enhances spontaneous community involvement in crime prevention.

Theoretical roots of Community Policing in Explaining Beat Policing:

Community policing has always been premised on theoretical construct, a number of theories have been advanced by scholars in an attempt to offer explanation in principle, and pave the way for a point of research in academic discussion as well as a point of departure towards implementation initiatives of community policing. According to broken windows hypothesis, if necessary steps aren't taken to prevent crime in the root level of the society, the rate of crime will increase gradually. So to prevent crime and disorder, it is necessary to take action before occurring crime and when it is in preliminarily stage. The philosophy of community policing also fits with this proposition as the main objective of community policing is to prevent crime from the root corner of the society from initial stage. Therefore, it is proved that, beat policing practice lies in the same intellectual roots of community policing where territorial problems are being solved with the collaboration of police and the community people.

Implementation Strategies of Beat policing:

Announcement

The concept of beat policing should be announced intensively through posturing miking, national/local newspaper and print media and other possible means and every citizen in the beat should be engaged in this process.

Preparing Map

In a beat, the Beat Officer will usually perform is to prepare a map with the important places by mentioning the names of the Para/Village/Mahalla under the coverage of the Beat. On receiving the

news of serious crime, especially murder, robbery, banditry, rape, etc., reach the scene as soon as possible and secure the crime scene and take necessary legal action.

Collecting Information and Investigation

In a beat, if any crime is committed, beat officer start collecting information about the said crime and cooperate with the Officer-in-Charge/Investigating Officer. Cases lodged in the beat area will normally be investigated by the beat Officer. However, the officer-in-charge of the police station can assign the responsibility of investigation to any officer. Prepare a list of all GR/CR/Saja⁴ Warrants in the area covered by beat and make the warrant Tamil.

Preparing list

Another responsibility of a beat officer is to Prepare a list of top criminals in the beat area. Beat officer will prepare different type of list such as list of traders, financiers, retailers and transporters. It will also prepare a list of various habitual criminals including smugglers, identified terrorists and criminals, extortionists, human traffickers, illegal land grabbers, harassers of women, persons associated with and suspected of militancy, thieves, robbers, robbers and their accomplices. Identify their residences and places of crime and monitor them. A beat officer will prepare a list of tenants, expatriates of the areas covered by the beat. Beat officer will also prepare a list of all educational institutions, mosques, temples and their heads and visit schools, colleges and madrasas in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Bit. Also business organizations, financial institutions, NGOs, Collect information about foreign companies etc. In doing so a beat officer should maintain prescribed registers for preparing list.

Patrolling

Patrolling in the beat area is another routine duty of beat officer. While a crime is happened beat officer have to give quick response to the crime spot, the patrol car of that beat area are used to reach that spot.

Arrange Public Meeting

Public meeting, seminar, symposium, workshop and Uthan Baithak⁵ (yard meeting) should be make for the proper implementation of the beat policing.

One to one communication

The beat officers are maintaining personal and collective communication with the people of their respective beat areas. For this the gap between police and public is getting narrower day by day. It also works for reducing the fear of crime.

Evaluation and Feedback

The beat police officer will have to communicate with the citizens, receive advice regularly-will increase the level of communication of the citizen encourages them to participate in the policing. Beat policing is door-to-door policing services where people need not go to the police always rather Police members meet the needs of the people.

Beat Policing in Bangladesh:

Bangladesh police is the main law enforcement agency of the People Republic Bangladesh under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) of the government. The major duty of police is law and order

⁴ Saja is a Bengali word which means Sentence or Penalty or punishment.

⁵ Locally `Uthan Baithak` means yard meeting. These are the meetings in small scale to reach more closer to Natore district people. Along with the officer in charge of the police station the inspectors, zonal ACs , ADCs, DC also are being present at these uthan baithak. This activity increases the police-public relationship which enhances the reliability and accountability of police.

maintenance and assures security of public life and property. Now a day, criminals are likely to use very latest technology and approaches as a result the pattern of crime is gradually changing. In this situation, traditional policing approaches are not always capable of combating crime from our society. This reality deeply influences the police officials to seek for an alternative policing model that ensure the community involvement and partnership relationship in policing. The establishment of beat policing provides a more community oriented policing method.

In Bangladesh, the concept of ‘beat policing’ is relatively new and first citizen –police endeavor began in 1992 in Mymensing as ‘Town Defense party’ and closely followed at with the ‘Stick’ and ‘Whistle party. Like many developed countries, the matter of policing activity after dividing the beats regionally has been included in PRB(Police Regulations of Bengal). In this continuation, beat policing program is first introduced in this country in 2010 but its activities was confined to districts including Sylhet, Mymensing, Rongpur, Barishal and some other units. After that, Dhaka Metropolitan Police ((DMP) has started the practice of beat policing in 2016 officially.

Dhaka metropolitan police area is comprised of eight Crime Divisions having fifty Police Stations where 302 beats are active. Here every police station area is divided into 3 to 9 beats and in every beat more than one sub-inspector, assistant sub-inspector and constables are assigned to work. Again one inspector is assigned to monitor or inspect the beat activities. So far it is known from DMP source, presently 480 beats are active in the area of DMP jurisdiction (Alam, 2021).

Beat officer also send the report to the District Superintendent of Police/DC (Crime Division) within the first week of every month incorporating the information sent by the Beat Officers. A copy of the report will be forwarded to the Circle/Zonal Officer. On the other hand, Circle/Zonal Officer in-charge of Circle/Zone will attend the exchange meeting with the Officer-in-Charge of Police Station and Beat Officers held at Police Station. Take necessary measures to evaluate the Beat Officers on the qualitative and quantitative quality of work performed. If any Beat Officers are found neglecting their duty or any other deviation, issue necessary instructions to him for correction. Outlying bit areas should be prioritized for inspection. Finally, the District Superintendent of Police/DC (Crime Division) will send the report regarding the beat policing activities to the Police Headquarters and concerned Range/Metropolitan Office in the prescribed format.

The Officer-in-Charge of the thana (Police Station) as the Supervising Officer shall provide necessary briefing and guidance to the officers in charge of the Beat regarding their duties and responsibilities. He will regularly take the feedback of the servicemen and evaluate the work of the Beat Officers. Recommend their reward and punishment considering the qualitative and quantitative quality of work.

Every beat in-charge uses a government’s authorized mobile number and the number is available to general public. For quick response to the crime spot, the patrol car of that beat area are used to reach that spot. Every beat police conducts “‘Uthan baithak” regularly at various places of his own beat area. That’s why he becomes acquainted with everyone and people feel free to seek help from him.

Objectives of Beat Policing:

- increasing the effectiveness of police service
- ensuring quick service provided by police
- increasing the police-public relationship
- identifying the crime pattern and criminals as well as preventing crimes

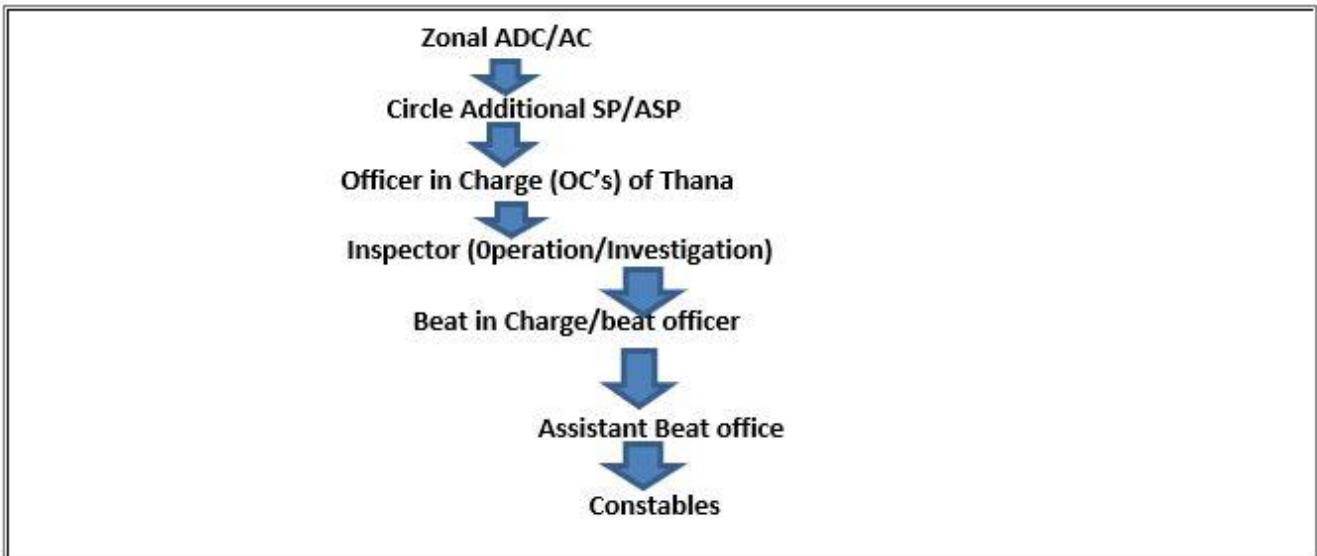
- enhancing the ability of police to detect the mystery of cases
- removing the existing fear of people regarding crime and police

Organizational Set up of Beat Policing in Bangladesh:

In beat policing system, the formation of a beat unit is not that complicated. According to DMP source formation and distribution of Beats shall be - one beat in each union of thana (Police Station) area under the district, in case of municipality a beat area will be formed with three wards generally. A beat will generally consist of one ward in a metropolitan or city corporation area. However, multiple beats may be constituted considering the size and population of the ward concerned, type and nature of crime.

Each beat will have a sub-inspector as beat in-charge, who will be known as beat officer. One ASI (Assistant sub-inspector) will serve as Assistant Beat Officer in each beat. He is usually accompanied by two constables on the beat. The Officer-in-Charge of the Police Station will deploy and distribute the duties of the Beat Officers/Assistant Beat Officers in the beats of the area under his jurisdiction, with the Inspector (Investigation/Operations) of the Police Station as the Assistant Co-ordinating Officer. The Circle Additional SP/ASP or Zonal ADC/AC will supervise the activities of all bits in the area under his/her jurisdiction (Alam, 2020).

Table-2: Organizational Structure of a Beat



Analysis:

In Bangladesh the police are mainly responsible for law and order maintenance. Though the objectives are to maintain law and order situation but in reality police force are used to restrict the rights of the people or to establish the authority of state. Beat policing is a very broader, proactive and an integrated approach to establish a consensus among the beat residents and the police. Beat policing can work more effectively comparing to traditional policing system. Community policing is introduced in Bangladesh to strengthen the policing activity. Due to not getting expected result from COP program beat policing has been introduced. The main reasons for not getting expected out come from COP are - Lack of logistics and monitoring support, Political interference, lack of multidimensional training, Administrative and procedural challenges, Social challenges etc.(Uddin,2009).

Beat policing is a community policing strategy designed to make an individual police officer responsible for the community's policing needs in a defined geographical area (the beat). Beat officers are encouraged to take 'leadership' of their area and employ proactive strategies to address the underlying causes of crime and community problems within their beat. In beat policing program strategies include increasing the flow of information from the community to the police through uthan baiththak, beat meetings, officers walking the "beat" and talking to residents, and providing crime information to the public through the Internet, crime maps, letters, and "reverse 911" phone calls so they can protect themselves (Sherman, et al., n.d.). One of the key strategies of beat policing is to increase surveillance by residents of their own neighborhoods.

The success of beat policing program mostly depends on how efficiently overcome its barriers and challenges. In Bangladesh Baraket et.al.:(2019) identified the key barriers of effective beat policing activities. In order to assess the adequacy of organizational support three categories of supports were measured such as manpower support, material support and financial support. To be more specific, since inception, beat policing activities in Bangladesh have been suffering from several constraints and barriers, such as-Lack of access to proper training, on beat policing ; Inadequate of resources(equipment, vehicles, weapons etc.) ;Workload of beat in-charges etc.

If we want to establish an effective beat policing system we have to consider beat policing as a part of total policing system. Therefore, understanding the concept of component, dimension and approaches of beat policing is must. The main components of beat policing are partnership with the beat residents and decentralization. In reality the beat policing of Bangladesh don't have proper partnership with the beat residents. On the other hand, beat residents are not always report their problem to the beat. The philosophy of beat policing is to provide service and assist the community (The Beat) people but the beat policing activity is not still spread out all over the country. Despite some limitations if we can established a successful and promising beat policing system it will obviously contribute to maintain law and order situation of the country. It is to be noted that with the start of beat policing in DMPs in 2015, due to its central crime control policy property crime continually declined since to date.

Conclusion:

Beat policing program has been started in Bangladesh since 2015. In recent years, beat policing has emerged as the dominant law enforcement philosophy and has gained remarkable expansion in our country. It is beyond question that public involvement in policing service makes the police more effective, efficient and accountable. It increases the level of quality of police service reportedly. On the other hand routine works of traditional policing like neighborhood watch, community meetings, storefront offices and newsletters cannot reduce crime significantly. In beat policing program, door-to-door visits by the police have been found effective to reduce crime. This gives an opportunity to introduce beat officers to local residents to obtain information about local crimes. It also builds trust among citizens regarding the police activities and strengthens the level of communication between public and police. Presently, police public ratio is 1: 1400 in Bangladesh. So it is very difficult for police to ensure security for everywhere and every time. Due to the mass population and institutional limitations of police, public security has deteriorated alarmingly in recent years. Therefore, the traditional way of policing has been ineffective as the nature of crime and criminals has been changing rapidly in the fast changing world. In order to combat crime and criminals and to maintain sustainable peace in our society an efficient and effective policing system is must. By considering the present socio-

economic condition beat policing is an appropriate initiative for us as conventional police has lost their images and has been suffering with a lot of crisis

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