

# A Study on the Effectiveness of Janamaithri Suraksha Project in Peroorkada, Kerala

Aswathy B

Assistant Professor, Department of Forensic Science, S.E.A College of Science, Commerce, and Arts  
(Autonomous)

## Abstract

Janamaithri Suraksha Project is a community policing model and its effectiveness contribute to the betterment of the quality of life in the neighbourhood. The present research work attempts to study the effectiveness of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project and also tries to understand the activities carried out under JSP. The study follows a descriptive research design. The study utilized the simple random sampling for choosing participants. A total number of 50 samples which comprises of both male and female have been selected from the Peroorkada police station Jurisdiction. In order to collect data a structured interview schedule was given to the respondents. The interview schedule consists of the component's awareness, sense of security, police visibility and activities of beat officers to measure the effectiveness of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project. The study reveals that majority of the respondents (90%) have heard about Janamaithri Suraksha Project which shows the effectiveness of Project. The findings indicate that majority of the respondents were unaware about the awareness of Janamaithri beat (78%), Janamaithri Suraksha Samithi (62%) and Janamaithri Kendrams (76%) and this shows the lack of effectiveness of Janamaithri Suraksha Project. The awareness of the respondents about various activities organized under JSP indicates that awareness of night patrolling with public cooperation, fitting burglar alarm, organizing self-defense programs and disaster management is less and awareness about school-based safety, knowing new residents and preventing illicit sale of liquor and drugs are high. The study indicates that for the effective implementation of the programs under JSP, the activities need to be more intense so that public will be aware of all the programs organized by JSP.

**Keywords:** Janamaithri Beat, Janamaithri Suraksha Samithi, Janamaithri Kendrams

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Police is considered as an integral and significant component of the law enforcement agency. Community policing is a strategy that fosters a collaborative partnership between the police and the community to identify and solve local issues. Rather than focusing solely on law enforcement and crime response, this approach emphasizes proactive problem-solving and building trust with community members. The Janamaitri Suraksha Project is a community policing initiative in India launched by the Kerala police in 2008. It aims to build a strong partnership between the police and the public to ensure safety, reduce crime, and enhance mutual trust. The core idea is that effective policing is possible only through active participation of the community. Under the project, specially trained officers called Beat Officers are assigned to small geographic areas. These officers regularly interact with residents; listen to their concerns, and work collaboratively to solve local issues.

### 1.1 Components of Janamaitri Suraksha Project

Janamaitri Beat, Janamaitri Suraksha Samithi and Janamaitri Kendrams are the 3 main components of Janamaitri Suraksha Project. A Janamaitri beat unit comprises of around 500 houses in the local area. Based on the number of houses, the jurisdiction of the police station may be divided in to as many 'Janamaitri beat as required. The beat officer coordinates the serving of summons, execution of warrant, locating the address, handling the complaint box and all other duties that need to be performed by the police in the area.

In every police station Janamaitri Suraksha Samithi should be formed. The Samithi should endeavor to undertake and implement the Janamaitri Suraksha Samithi Project within the limits of the respective police station. The Samithi should have at least 10 members, and preferably not exceed 25. The Samithi is expected to hold meetings atleast once in a month on a predetermined date and at a fixed venue. The key purpose of the Janamaitri Kendrams are to act as centers for information, to promote the development of Janamaitri Yuvakendrams, and to offer facilities for sports, youth training, counseling and support services for women.

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 2.1. Statement of the Problem

Janamaitri Suraksha Project is a community policing model. There are many community policing models implemented in India or across the world. Janamaitri Suraksha Project is the one where all the components of the community policing model are included and its effectiveness contributes to the betterment of the quality of life in the neighborhood. So, the present study attempts to study the effectiveness of the Janamaitri Suraksha Project and also try to understand the various activities carried out under JSP.

### 2.2. Objectives of the Study

1. To study the effectiveness of Janamaitri Suraksha project.
2. To understand various activities carried out under JSP.

### 2.3. Significance of the Study

Police is considered as an integral and significant component of the law enforcement agencies. However, since time immemorial police force in India had been working in autocratic style. The colonial legacy and its influence could be the reason behind this style of functioning by the police. This is very true in Kerala scenario as well. Duty of the police was perceived as catching the thief and in generating fear in people's mind. But over the years, this outlook has undergone tremendous changes by realizing the fact that in its battle against crime, the police require active support and cooperation from the public. The concept of community policing then appealed as an official policy of the Government. Janamaitri Suraksha project is a path breaking project which aims to effectively bridge the gap between police and public through the participation of citizens in matters of crime prevention, intelligence sharing and identifying key policing priorities at the beat level. Since its launch a few years ago, it has become essential to assess and evaluate how effective the project has been in achieving its objectives.

### 2.4. Scope of the Study

Janamaitri Suraksha Project is the one where all the components of the community policing model are included and its effectiveness contribute to the betterment of quality of life in the neighborhood. The study helps to determine the effectiveness of the Janamaitri Suraksha Project by measuring the components awareness, sense of security, police visibility and activities carried out by the beat officers.

## 2.5. Universe of the Study

The Universe of the present study comprises of 50 samples collected from the Peroorkada Police Station Jurisdiction.

## 2.6. Sampling Techniques

This study utilized simple random sampling as its method for selecting participants. A total number of 50 samples which comprises of both male and female. The samples have been selected from Peroorkada Police station Jurisdiction.

## 2.7. Hypotheses.

The following hypotheses have been formulated in the current research work.

- H1 - There is an association between the awareness of Janamaithri Suraksha project and the educational qualification of the respondents.
- H0 - There is no association between the awareness of Janamaithri Suraksha project and the educational qualification of the respondents.
- H1 – Gender and sense of security are significantly associated.
- H0 - There is no association between the gender and the sense of security.
- H1 - Gender and police visibility are significantly associated.
- H0 -There is no statistically significant association between the gender of the respondents and their perception of police perceptibility

## 2.8. Research Design

The study follows a descriptive research design. In descriptive studies, the researcher observes and then describes what observed. In this method the effectiveness of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project is measured using the components awareness, sense of security, police visibility and activities carried out by the beat officers. The research is done at Peroorkada police station Jurisdiction.

## 2.9. Variables of the Study

The Present study consists of 1) Independent variables: Age, Gender and Educational Qualifications. 2) Dependent Variables: Awareness, Sense of Security and Police Visibility.

## 2.10. Method and Tool of Data Collection

The present study employs one tool of data collection. In order to collect data, a structured interview schedule was given to the respondents. The samples are from the Peroorkada police station jurisdiction. The interview schedule consists of four components: Awareness, sense of security, police visibility and activities of beat officers to measure the effectiveness of the Janamaithri Suraksha Project.

### 2.10.1. Interview Schedule

**Part 1** of the interview schedule consisted of items related to the socio-economic profile of the respondents.

**Part 2** of the interview schedule consisted of items pertaining to the effectiveness of Janamaithri Suraksha Project – Awareness, sense of security and police visibility.

**Part 3** of the interview schedule consisted of Activities undertaken by JSP.

### 2.10.2. Data Processing and Analysis

The data was analyzed using SPSS software (Version 25), a widely used tool for statistical analysis in social science research. Descriptive statistical analysis such as frequency table and inferential statistical analysis such as Chi-square test have been employed and the results have been presented in the form of tables.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The data with regard to the present study was collected from 50 general public comprising of both male and female from age groups 18- 65 from the Peroorkada police station jurisdiction. The data collected have been analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences(SPSS).

#### 3.1. Table 1. Profile of the respondents

Variables	Attributes	Frequency	Percentage
Age	18-40	29	58
	41-60	18	36
	61-above	3	6
Gender	Male	25	50
	Female	25	50
Education	SSLC	3	6
	Plus Two	6	12
	Graduated	30	60
	Post Graduated	11	22

**Table 1** describes the demographic characteristics of the respondents. A majority, 58% were in the 18 – 40 age group followed by 36% were aged 41-60, and the remaining 6% were over 60. 50.0 per cent of the respondents were male and 50.0 per cent were female respondents. Also, 60.0 percent of the respondents were Under-Graduates, 22.0 per cent were Post-Graduates, 12.0 per cent passed higher secondary and 6.0 per cent of the respondents passed SSLC.

#### 3.2. Associations

This part of the chapter discusses the association between the variables of the study. The data were analyzed using the statistical technique Chi-square test and the results have been interpreted along with discussions. Using the above discussed statistical techniques, the hypotheses developed have been tested and the results have been interpreted along with discussions in the following tables.

**H1:**There is an association between educational qualification and awareness of Janamaithri Suraksha Project.

**H0:** There is no association between educational qualification and awareness of Janamaithri Suraksha Project

**Table 2 displays the results of the Chi-square test conducted to assess the association between the respondents' educational qualifications and their awareness level of the Janamaithri Suraksha (JSP).**

Crosstab					
			Aware of Janamaithri beat		Total
			No	Yes	
Educational	SSLC	Count	2	1	3

qualification		% Within Educational qualification	66.7%	33.3%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.0%	2.0%	6.0%
	Plus Two	Count	6	0	6
		% Within Educational qualification	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	12.0%	0.0%	12.0%
	Graduated	Count	25	5	30
		% Within Educational qualification	83.3%	16.7%	100.0%
		% of Total	50.0%	10.0%	60.0%
	Post graduated	Count	6	5	11
		% Within Educational qualification	54.5%	45.5%	100.0%
		% of Total	12.0%	10.0%	22.0%
Total		Count	39	11	50
		% Within Educational qualification	78.0%	22.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	78.0%	22.0%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.941 <sup>a</sup>	3	.115
Likelihood Ratio	6.680	3	.083
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.043	1	.153
N of Valid Cases	50		
.			

The above table (**Table 2**) illustrates the association between educational qualification of the respondents and their awareness on Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JSP). The results shows that there is no association between educational qualification of the respondents and their awareness on JSP, as the P-value is greater than 0.05. Since the p-value(0.115) is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis related to educational qualification is accepted at the 5% significance level. The findings revealed that people who are post-graduated are more aware of JSP. Thus, it is inferred from the result that people who are post graduated are more aware of JSP than people who have passed graduation, Plus two and SSLC.

**H1:** Gender and sense of security are significantly associated

**H0:** There is no association between gender of the respondents and sense of security.

**Table 3. Chi-square test for association between gender and sense of security in their locality before JSP.**

Crosstab			Sense of security in your locality before JSP				Total
			Unsafe	neither safe nor unsafe	Safe	very safe	
Gender of respondents	Male	Count	2	2	18	3	25
		% Within Gender of respondents	8.0%	8.0%	72.0%	12.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	4.0%	4.0%	36.0%	6.0%	50.0%
	Female	Count	4	7	11	3	25
		% Within Gender of respondents	16.0%	28.0%	44.0%	12.0%	100.0%
		% of Total	8.0%	14.0%	22.0%	6.0%	50.0%
Total	Count		6	9	29	6	50
	% Within Gender of respondents		12.0%	18.0%	58.0%	12.0%	100.0%
	% Of Total		12.0%	18.0%	58.0%	12.0%	100.0%

  

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	5.134 <sup>a</sup>	3	.162
Likelihood Ratio	5.328	3	.149
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.301	1	.129
N of Valid Cases	50		

**Table 3** shows the association between gender of the respondents and the perception of safety in their locality before JSP. Since P-value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis is accepted at 5% level of significance with regard to the perception of safety in the locality for religion and caste of the respondents. Hence, it is concluded that there is no association between perception of safety in the locality and gender of the respondents (P-value is 0.162)

The results show that before JSP the respondents belong to the male feel more sense of security (less fear of crime) in their locality. There is a need for the JSP for more effectiveness in the fear of crime for both female and male.

**H1:** Gender and police visibility are significantly associated.

**H0:** There is no association between the gender and the sense of security

**Table 4. Chi-square test for the association between the gender of the respondents and Beat officer visit in their area.**

<b>Crosstab</b>						
			Beat officer visit in your area			Total
			once in a fortnight	once in a month	once in a week	
Gender respondents	of Male	Count	6	17	2	25
		% Within Gender of respondents	24.0%	68.0%	8.0%	100.0%
		% Of Total	12.0%	34.0%	4.0%	50.0%
	Female	Count	6	13	6	25
		% Within Gender of respondents	24.0%	52.0%	24.0%	100.0%
		% Of Total	12.0%	26.0%	12.0%	50.0%
Total	Count		12	30	8	50
	% Within Gender of respondents		24.0%	60.0%	16.0%	100.0%
	% Of Total		24.0%	60.0%	16.0%	100.0%

  

<b>Chi-Square Tests</b>			
	Value	Df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	2.533 <sup>a</sup>	2	.282
Likelihood Ratio	2.628	2	.269
Linear-by-Linear Association	.797	1	.372
N of Valid Cases	50		

a. Two cells (33.3%) have an expected frequency of less than 5. The minimum expected count is 4.00.



--

**Table 4** show the association between the gender of the respondents and beat officer visit in your area. The result indicates that there is no association between Gender of the respondents and beat officer visit in their area, as the P-value is greater than 0.05 and the null hypothesis is retained at 5% significance level. From the above table, it is evident that there is no association between gender and beat visit in their locality (P-value is 0.282).

The above table shows that 60 per cent of the respondents said that Beat officer visit once in a month. For the effective implementation of JSP the beat officer should visit once in a week for the active cooperation of public with the police for the reduction of crime.

#### 4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

##### 4.1. Major findings of the study

The key findings and conclusions drawn based on the findings of the present study have been presented here under sub-heads

##### 4.1.1. Profile of the General Public

- More than half of the respondents (58.0%) belonged to the age group 18-40 (youth)
- 50.0% of the respondents were male and 50.0% of the respondents were female respondents.
- 60.0% of the respondents were undergraduates, 22.0% were post-graduates, 12.0% passed higher secondary and 6.0% of the respondents passed SSLC.

##### 4.2. Associations

- There is no association between educational qualification of the respondents and awareness on JSP. (P-value is 0.115). The findings concluded that awareness is more among the post-graduated people.
- There is no association between perception of safety in their locality before JSP and gender of the respondents (P-value is 0.162). The result concluded that there is a need for the implementation of JSP for reducing the fear of crime.
- There is no association between perception of safety in their locality after JSP and gender of the respondents (P-value is 0.674). The result concluded that male and female are very safe in their locality. There has been an improvement in the public's feeling of safety after the JSP was



implemented.

#### 4.3. Conclusions

- Majority of the respondents were heard about JSP. Hence it is concluded that the efforts taken by the police about the awareness of JSP is effective.
- The implementation of Janamaithri Suraksha Project has enhanced the sense of security among general public. It is concluded from the study that fear of crime among public has reduced when alone at home, in their locality and when they walk around dark in their locality.
- Significant percent of the respondents stated that Beat Officers had visited their locality once in a month. Hence it is concluded from the study that Beat Duty is not implemented according to the guideline issued by the police department while implemented JSP and it is not effective in this regard of the study.

#### REFERENCES

1. Bayley, D. H. (1994). Police for the future. Oxford University Press.
2. Skogan, W. G., & Hartnett, S. M. (1997). Community policing, Chicago style. Oxford University Press.
3. Trojanowicz, R. C., & Bucqueroux, B. (1990). Community policing: A contemporary perspective. Anderson Publishing.
4. Greene, J. R. (2000). Community policing in America: Changing the nature, structure, and function of the police. Policies, Processes, and Decisions of the Criminal Justice System, 3, 299–370.
5. Rosenbaum, D. P. (1994). The challenge of community policing: Testing the promises. Sage Publications.
6. Brogden, M., & Nijhar, P. (2005). Community policing: National and international models and approaches. Routledge.
7. Skolnick, J. H., & Bayley, D. H. (1988). Community policing: Issues and practices around the world. National Institute of Justice.
8. Weisburd, D., & Eck, J. E. (2004). What can police do to reduce crime, disorder, and fear? The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 593(1), 42–65. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716203262548>
9. Cordner, G. (1997). Community policing: Elements and effects. In W. Geller & H. Toch (Eds.), Police violence: Understanding and controlling police abuse of force (pp. 235–250). Yale University Press.
10. Kelling, G. L., & Coles, C. M. (1996). Fixing broken windows: Restoring order and reducing crime in our communities. Free Press.
11. Fielding, N. (2005). Concepts and theory in community policing. The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice, 44(5), 460–472. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2311.2005.00391.x>
12. Kumar, T. K. V. (2012). Impact of community policing on public satisfaction and perception of police: Findings from India. International Criminal Justice Review, 22(4), 397–415.
13. Kannan, B. (2019). Janamaithri Suraksha Project in Kerala: An Evaluative study on the community policing initiatives among public and beat officers. University of Madras, Chennai- 600005.