



Attitude of Adolesc  
Towards Police

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M Z  
K P

INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY AND FORENSIC SCIENCE  
New Delhi-110 055  
1982

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## Attitude of Adolescents Towards Police

ACQUISITION

Attitude of Adolescents Towards Police

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**Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science**

NEW DELHI  
1982

अपराध शास्त्र एवं न्याय-वैद्यक विज्ञान संस्थान  
गृह मंत्रालय  
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Dated July 16, 1980

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Director

## FOREWORD

The police are an important instrument at the disposal of the government for the enforcement of laws and maintenance of peace and tranquility in society. Nevertheless, as part of society, the police have to function in a manner which would not only bring about effective enforcement of laws but would also promote happiness and growth in different sections of the populace—generating among them perceptible regard and goodwill for them. May it be noted that regard and goodwill for the police is not a desirability—it is, indeed, a necessity.

Public goodwill for the police assumes a pointed significance in a free society. As a matter of fact, enforcement of laws is relatively a simple affair. In a democracy, the police are required to uphold the rule of law, to handle the situations of legitimate democratic dissent with understanding, and to deal both with suspects and criminals with due regard to their human rights. Viewed objectively, the role of the police in a democratic society is highly complicated.

Of course, the complexities of the police-role in recent decades have increased manifold. Economic development and modernisation have thrown up several newer forms of disturbing behaviour including juvenile delinquency, socio-economic offences, and white-collar crimes—to name a few. Accordingly, the laws which the police are required to enforce have proliferated. This apart, they undertake several sundry duties like the supervision of a variety of processions and protest-marches and security duties concerning VIP-movements and meetings. At the same time, these complex roles have to be fulfilled without circumventing the larger socio-political ideals, without abridging the constitutional and legal rights of the citizens. On the whole, the police are called upon to function in a way which is little different from tight-rope walking.

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Many divergent views are expressed as to how the police in modern times can successfully handle their complex, often opposing, roles. There is, however, a good deal of unanimity that the police would hardly be able to accomplish what they are supposed to accomplish unless they are backed up by public goodwill and cooperation. Have these been forthcoming? As a matter of fact, the quality of police-public relations leaves much to be desired.

Of late, the area of police-public relations has been a subject of much debate. There are to hand a good many journalistic accounts and impressionistic studies on the subject. Nevertheless, few attempts so far have been made to study it systematically. This raises no small hurdle in getting at the root of the problem and in envisaging viable correctives. The present work represents a modest effort by the Institute to study scientifically adolescents' attitudes towards the police.

I might mention that the Faculty of Criminology of the Institute has carried out this work without any additional resources—along with their normal duties. The strain the faculty-members must have undergone in completing the work is appreciated.

Whether the present work has been able to delineate adolescents' attitude towards the police, properly and comprehensively, would be best judged by others—publicmen, administrators, and those from the academic community. Germane to the issue, however, is the fact that the problem of police-public relations is of vital concern and should attract more scientific attention than has been hitherto possible. Perhaps many more such studies need to be conducted before we can piece together a national profile on the form and quality of police-public relations.

V N Rajan

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The present work owes much to many individuals and organisations. Without their understanding and cooperation, the work would not have been able to see the light of the day. The debt of gratitude is due particularly to : the school authorities and teachers of Saraswati Bal Mandir, New Delhi, who rendered ungrudging and invaluable help during the data collection ; to a large number of police officers, students and citizens who provided valuable assistance at various stages of the work ; and to Shri V N Rajan, Director, ICFS, who has been a constant source of inspiration and who has contributed a foreword to the report.

While we are beholden to all of them for their share in the work, the responsibility for the shortcomings in the work is that of ours alone.

M Z K  
K P K

## RESEARCH TEAM

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## Chapter 1

### Introduction

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Insofar as the crime is a social phenomenon, the responsibility of crime prevention is that of the entire society. In the best of circumstances, the ability of the police or of the criminal justice system as a whole is limited. More often than not, the police appear on the scene, well-past the prevention stage, when a crisis has fully developed. In tiding over the crisis they deal with the crime-doers and, thereby, may contribute to crime prevention. Nonetheless, the major share of the responsibility for the crime prevention has to be and is shouldered by the police. By undertaking beat patrolling, managing road traffic, guarding road-rail transport and by apprehending the offenders and bringing them to book, the police try to keep the incidence of crime under control. Even in this, the police do not operate in a social vacuum.

In fact, in all of their functional areas, the police heavily depend upon the goodwill and cooperation of the public. In the early identification of wrong-doers, in the apprehension of the offenders, in securing their conviction, in supervising group agitations and so forth—in all these situations the police would be able to make little headway if citizens do not come forward and assist them. As a matter of fact, in most situations the effectiveness of the police would directly hinge upon the measure of public goodwill and cooperation they enjoy.

In relation to the police organisation and its functioning, public predisposition assumes a critical importance in yet another way. The police are a part of the criminal justice system which, in turn, is a part of the government. In a democratic set-up, the government is influenced and its upper echelon is manned by publicmen. For augmenting their organisational resources, the police have to approach the government for necessary allocations. This would be readily forthcoming when citizens are favourably disposed towards the police.

It may, however, be noted that the public attitude towards police, almost every where, has been somewhat a mixed one due to several historical, sociological and psychological reasons. India is no exception to this rule. The police symbolise authority; and resentment to a 'father figure' or to authority is almost innate to human nature. This apart, the social scene in India has a backdrop of the colonial rule, the freedom struggle and all that which goes with it. In the pre-Independence days, the role of the police in suppressing the freedom struggle earned them an image which was far from being bright. It would not be surprising if in public's mind that kind of colonial image of the police lingers on. In the post-Independence era, economic, political and social institutions and practices have been more or less in state of flux. Many sections of society as also of government have been somewhat unclear about their role and place. This kind of confusion has been yet another stumbling block in smoothening the relation between the police and the public. Taken together, it has been often observed that the police-public cooperation has been far from being spontaneous and public attitudes towards police somewhat ambivalent, if not, antagonistic.

#### **Concept of Attitude :**

There is no denying the fact that the concept of attitude is central to police-public relations. Ever since 1910, the concept of attitude has been much in use in social and organisational psychology. It has been 'probably the most distinctive and indispensable concept in contemporary psychology' (Allport, 1963, p. 59). Attitudes have a "key role in directing and channelling social behaviour" (Lindgren, 1974, p. 90). The underlying assumptions behind the concept have been that the human behaviour cannot be interpreted on the basis of a single fundamental process, rather it is a dynamic resultant of motivational, emotional, perceptual and learning processes operating concurrently. It is a function not only of the immediately present stimuli and their momentary perceptions but of more enduring dispositions or attitudes.

As a psychological entity the concept of attitude has attracted much attention. Thurstone (1931) refers to them as 'the effect for or against a psychological object'; Campbell (1950) regards them as a syndrome of response consistency; and Tedeschi and Lindskold (1976) regard it as a belief combined with a relevant value. Many psychologists have made a pointed reference to attitudinal components, such as feelings, desires, fears, convictions, prejudices, and other tendencies (Chave, 1928; Sherif and Sherif, 1969). Others have underlined the functional aspects of attitudes including the tendency to act for or against some psychological objects (Bogardus, 1931; Warren, 1934; Sarnoff, 1960) and a mental state of readiness to act in a characteristic way (Cantril, 1934; Allport, 1967; Osgood,

Suci and Tannenbaum, 1957). That it is a consistent as well as durable psychological entity, has been emphasized by many authors (English and English, 1958; Krech, Crutchfield and Ballachey, 1962; Secord and Backman, 1964, Shaw and Wright, 1967). In recent times, attitudes have been thought of as multidimensional constructs which may be grouped into cognitive, affective and conative types (see for example, Triandis, 1971).

The foregoing account brings out that an attitude is a predisposition to respond and that they are durable and consistent. Stated differently, on the basis of experiences, personal or otherwise, perception, interaction, and the like, citizens develop attitudes towards the police which determine their image of the police and their behaviour towards them. While the police attitude towards the public is as important in police-public relations as public attitude towards the police, it is the latter which has been a subject of much discussion and research. Indeed the theoretical and operational aspects of attitude are so vastly researched (Sherif and Sherif, 1969; McGuire, 1969) that it is difficult to provide even a cursory listing. Nevertheless, a few relevant studies may be brought under focus. Concerning attitude change, several empirical aspects have been outlined by Lazarsfeld, et. al. (1944). They have estimated that during election campaign only about five per cent of voters change their attitudes towards candidates mainly through personal influence. However, subsequent studies (Campbell, et. al. 1953; Simon and Stern, 1955; Bogart, 1958) have highlighted the influencing role of newspapers, magazines, radio, and television. The significance of personal influence as exerted by the word-of-mouth or through personal interaction remains undiluted. Berelson, et. al. (1954) and many others have been emphatic in this direction.

It may be added that in several western countries, public attitude towards police has attracted much research attention. Cohn and Viano (1976), Mayhall and Geary (1979) and many others have studied police-community relations. Many studies have also been conducted delineating public attitude towards law enforcement authorities including police (see for example, Chapman, 1960). Relating to the Indian social context, a study has been conducted to assess police attitude towards public (Krishna, et. al. 1980). Besides, many impressionistic accounts dealing either with the problems of police-community relations (Ghosh, 1973) or public attitude towards police (see for example, Mullik, 1969) are available. It would be readily seen that this area, namely, public attitude towards police, particularly in the Indian sociocultural context remains largely unexplored.

#### **PRESENT WORK**

Considering that in crime prevention, in particular, and in the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in society, in general, public has a crucial

role and that this hinges upon the kind of police image the public has. The present work attempts to study the public attitude towards the police. In this, attention has been focused on the adolescents. They are the citizens who are less involved in the stresses and strains generated by modern complex society and, therefore, they are in a position to provide relatively an objective assessment of the police image. They are in an impressionable age and the images they form and the attitudes they develop would persist affecting their future behaviour. Lastly, they are future citizens who as participatory citizens would determine the form and complexion of police-community relations in days to come.

Apart from assessing the attitudes of adolescents, the attempt is also to study the mechanics of attitude change. Many researchers have brought out that persuasions have a bearing on attitude change (Janis, et. al. 1959 ; Janis and Field, 1959 a, b ; Linton and Graham, 1959 ; Katz, 1960). The persuasive properties of various means of communications have also been studied (Hovland and Weiss, 1951 ; Tannenbaum, 1956). The critical role played by the mass media and the word-of-mouth in changing public opinion and attitude is generally accepted (see McLuhan, 1964). Having much in common, mass media and word-of-mouth appear to be important factors in attitude change.

Keeping the above in view, the present study addresses itself to the following objectives :

- (1) to assess the attitude of adolescents towards the police ;
- (2) to examine the influence of the background of the subjects on their attitudes ; and
- (3) to look into the dynamics of attitudinal change.

It may be reiterated that attitudes are assumed to be a critical factor in determining the police image the adolescents have and their behaviour towards police. While attitudes have a degree of consistency as well as durability, they are also subject to change. This is what several researchers suggest : 'attitude formation and modification are interlinked' (Krech, et. al, 1962). In this, the mass media and the word-of-mouth play an important role. It follows that a favourable depiction or verbal communication is likely to bring about a larger amount of change than an unfavourable one. Often this has been described through the processes of congruent and incongruent change (see also, Krech, et. al., 1962). Keeping in view the above, the present work proceeds to examine two specific hypotheses, one descriptive and the other experimental :

- (i) The attitude of the adolescents towards police tends to vary with their social background ;

- (ii) Other conditions being equal, congruent change in the attitudes of adolescents towards the police is easier to produce than incongruent change.

For the present purposes, the definition of attitude provided by Krech, et. al. has been relied upon : It has been taken to mean "an enduring system of positive or negative evaluations, emotional feelings, prop or con action tendencies with respect to a social object" (1962, p. 177). The term 'adolescent', it may be restated, intends to cover those young persons who are between 12 to 16 years of age. Likewise, attitudinal change among those having an unfavourable attitude towards police with the help of an unfavourable stimulus or among those having a favourable attitude with the help of a favourable stimulus, is termed as congruent change. Conversely, attitudinal change among those having an unfavourable attitude towards police with the help of an favourable stimulus has been termed as incongruent change.

#### Research Design :

As a plan, structure and strategy of investigation (Kerlinger, 1973), the importance of research design is even larger in the case of a study of the present nature. It has not only to visualise and control variables which are likely to bring the evidence to bear upon the descriptive hypothesis but also to collect sequential evidence to examine the experimental hypothesis. Consequently, information has to be collected relating to the social background of the adolescents and also to assess their attitudes towards the police. The latter involves the use of a suitable measurement technique. It may be added that, subsequently, the latter may be analysed in terms of the background factors of the adolescents.

On the basis of the assessment of the attitude of the adolescents towards the police, they may be divided into four groups in terms of their attitudes towards police. The extreme high group and the extreme low group may be taken up for experimental manipulation, as they can be assumed to be sharply defined groups. Following randomization and matching, these extreme high and low groups may be further divided into two subgroups each. Eventually, one high group and one low group may be given stimulus favourable to police ; and one high group and one low group, may be given a stimulus unfavourable to police. Immediately following the administration of the stimuli all the four groups may be reassessed in terms of their attitudes towards police with the help of the technique used in the first instance. This may yield changes in their attitudes relevant to the examination of the second hypothesis. (Diagrams 1.01 and 1.02).

#### Sampling :

Exploratory in character the study has focused itself on Delhi. As such the Saraswati Bal Mandir, New Delhi, has been selected for study. This school

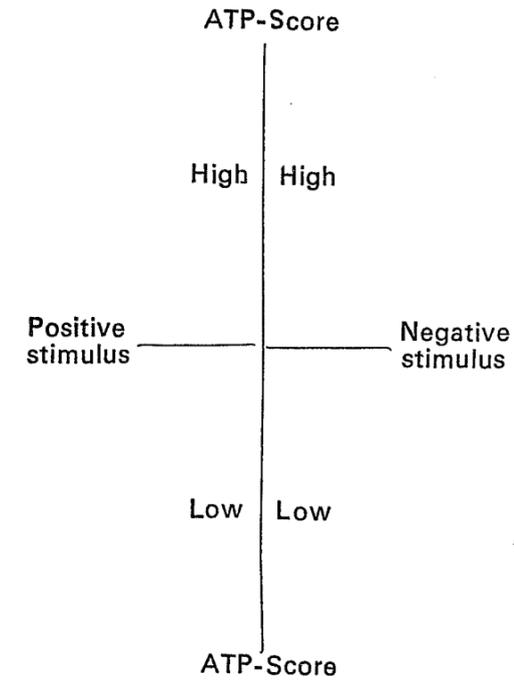
Diagram 1.01 : Research Design.

Sample	Before measurement	Setting up of Groups		Before measurement (From Step 2)	Exposure to Experimental variable		After measurement	Change	
					Positive	Negative			
Adolescents	Yes	Middle Scorers	Matching	Group H <sub>1</sub>	Y <sup>1</sup> 1	Yes	No	Y <sup>11</sup> 1	d <sub>1</sub> =Y <sup>11</sup> 1 - Y <sup>1</sup> 1
			and	Group H <sub>2</sub>	Y <sup>1</sup> 2	No	Yes	Y <sup>11</sup> 2	d <sub>2</sub> =Y <sup>11</sup> 2 - Y <sup>1</sup> 2
		dropped	Randomi-	Group L <sub>1</sub>	Y <sup>1</sup> 3	Yes	No	Y <sup>11</sup> 3	d <sub>3</sub> =Y <sup>11</sup> 3 - Y <sup>1</sup> 3
			zation	Group L <sub>2</sub>	Y <sup>1</sup> 4	No	Yes	Y <sup>11</sup> 4	d <sub>4</sub> =Y <sup>11</sup> 4 - Y <sup>1</sup> 4

Diagram 1.01 : Research Design.

Sample	Before measurement	Setting up of Groups	Before measurement (From Step 2)	Exposure to Experimental variable		After measurement	Change	
				Positive	Negative			
Adolescents	Yes	Middle Matching Scorers and dropped Randomization	Group H <sub>1</sub>	Y <sup>1</sup> 1	Yes	No	Y <sup>11</sup> 1	d <sub>1</sub> = Y <sup>11</sup> 1 - Y <sup>1</sup> 1
			Group H <sub>2</sub>	Y <sup>1</sup> 2	No	Yes	Y <sup>11</sup> 2	d <sub>2</sub> = Y <sup>11</sup> 2 - Y <sup>1</sup> 2
			Group L <sub>1</sub>	Y <sup>1</sup> 3	Yes	No	Y <sup>11</sup> 3	d <sub>3</sub> = Y <sup>11</sup> 3 - Y <sup>1</sup> 3
			Group L <sub>2</sub>	Y <sup>1</sup> 4	No	Yes	Y <sup>11</sup> 4	d <sub>4</sub> = Y <sup>11</sup> 4 - Y <sup>1</sup> 4

Diagram 1.02 : Showing the procedures involved in the assessment of the attitudinal change.



has three campuses located in different areas of the metropolis. Out of these two campuses located at Harinagar and Jhandewalan have been selected for the purposes of the study. Likewise, attention has been paid to the pupils studying in 8th, 9th and 10th standards. As the total population of the pupils, all male, on the two campuses has been found to be 197 and therefore within manageable limits, sampling has posed no further problem. All of them have been included in the sample (Table 1.01).

Table 1.01 : Study sample.

Location	Class	Total number of students	Completed sample	Sampling fraction
Jhandewalan, New Delhi.	VIII	26	25	96.15
	IX	26	25	96.15
	X	Nil	Nil	—
Harinagar, New Delhi.	VIII	58	49	84.48
	IX	67	60	89.55
	X	20	16	80.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>197</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>88.83</b>

*Tests and materials* : In the light of the objectives and hypotheses of the study suitable tests and materials have been developed. As the study aims to ascertain the police image among those who have had some formal education, the choice of the questionnaire method for the collecting of information on the social background of the subjects has been obvious. Next, care has been taken to select a test which is not only reliable and valid but which can also be conveniently administered in small groups, perhaps, in a class-room situation, within a small duration of time. With this in view the following tests and materials have been developed :

- (i) *Personal Data Blank (PDB)* : In order to explore the variables which directly or indirectly influence attitudes towards the police, a Personal Data Blank has been prepared which incorporates such dimensions as
  - (a) demographic variables,
  - (b) curricular details, and
  - (c) information about the police-adolescent contact.
- (ii) *Attitude towards Police Scale (ATP-Scale)* : For measuring adolescent's attitude towards police, a Summated Rating Scale in keeping with the format given by Likert (see Edwards, 1969) has been developed. After referring to a number of newspapers, periodicals, text-books, reference books, research reports and covering major dimensions of police-public relations, 104 items, to begin with, have been selected. These items have been assigned 5-point response-categories—'Strongly agree', 'Agree', 'Undecided', 'Disagree' and 'Strongly disagree'—and passed on to two language and five subject-experts with the request to examine the language and the contents of the items. In the light of their observations and comments, a few items have been modified and 29 others have been dropped. The remaining 75 items have been tried out on 12 junior police officers partaking training programmes at the Institute of Criminology and Forensic Science, New Delhi. Subsequently, another 15 items have been dropped, leaving only 60 items (29 positive and 31 negative) which have finally gone into the item analysis.

For item analysis and eventually item selection, the set of 60 items has been administered on 240 subjects representing different sections of society including engineers, physicians, teachers, public servants, privately employed people and those engaged in studies and business. On the basis of the total scores of the respondents, two extreme groups—high (N=60) and low (N=60)—have been formed. Following the application of the t-test, chi-square and contingency coefficient as item analysis statistics, 21 items (10 positive and 11 negative) having a maximum discriminational power have gone into the final scale. (See Appendix-I.)

In order to ascertain internal consistency the scale comprising 21 items has been further administered on 100 students drawn from the University of Delhi. The internal consistency of the half-test ( $r=.550$ ,  $df=98$ ,  $p<.001$ ) and that of the full-test after applying Spearman-Brown formula ( $r_{tt}=.710$ ,  $df=98$ ,  $p<.001$ ) are sufficiently large. This indicates that the scale is consistent and reliable.

The validity of the scale has been estimated in two ways :

- (i) extreme group comparison, and
- (ii) comparison of the mean scores of normal population (students, businessmen, professionals, public servants, etc.) with a criterion group (police-men, as in the present case, since their responses are a good deal predictable). For extreme group comparison, the scale has been administered on 160 persons drawn from general public. The responses so collected have been scored and 25th and 75th percentiles have been computed and two extreme groups consisting of 40 persons in each group have been formed. Their mean scores on the ATP-Scale have been compared by applying the t-test. Expectedly, the high group ( $\bar{x}=67.825$ ) and low group ( $\bar{x}=35.725$ ) differed significantly ( $t=26.10$ ,  $df=78$ ,  $p<.001$ ). This shows that the test is capable of measuring what it intends to measure. To compare the mean scores of normal population with a criterion group, the scale has been administered on 160 subjects drawn from general population (the same population as in extreme-group comparison) and 54 police officers. The responses so obtained have been scored and compared. The mean scores for the normal group and the criterion group are found to be 49.50 and 53.389, respectively. That the two groups significantly differ from each other is confirmed by the t-test ( $t=1.79$ ,  $df=212$ ,  $p<.10$ ). The method of normal-criterion groups comparison also emphatically brings out that test is valid for the purpose and the setting for which it has been constructed (the development of this scale has already been reported, see Khan and Krishna, 1980).

The ATP-Scale has been rendered into Hindi. While translating it the emphasis has been on simplicity, intelligibility, and directedness. For this, the Hindi version of the scale along with the original scale has been passed on to two language and five subject experts for checking whether or not the items in the Hindi form are in conformity with the English version. To assess temporal stability and internal consistency, the Hindi version of the ATP-Scale has been administered on a sample of 175 adolescents. After three weeks, the procedure has been repeated on 100 adolescents, the others being unavailable. Eventually, test-retest and split-half reliabilities have been com-

puted. Both the temporal stability of the scale ( $r=.792$ ) and the internal consistency of the half-scale ( $r=.690$ ) and that of the full-scale after applying Spearman-Brown formula ( $r_{tt}=.817$ ) are significantly high. These approximate very well with the internal consistency of the English-version ( $r_{tt}=.710$ ,  $df=98$ ,  $p<.001$ ) reported earlier (Khan and Krishna, 1980).

The Hindi-version of the ATP-Scale has been validated against the original scale. For this, both the versions of the scale have been in class-room situation administered on 60 students, drawn from the University of Delhi, extending over a period of two sessions. In the first session, the English version of the scale, and in the second session, after a gap of one day, the Hindi-version have been administered. After applying product-moment coefficient of correlation between two sets of scores, an  $r$ -value of  $+.987$  ( $df=58$ ,  $p<.001$ ) has been obtained, which indicates that the Hindi-version of the scale is valid.

It may be noted that the possible range of scores on the ATP-Scale is 21 to 105. Higher scores are indicative of favourable attitude towards the police and lower scores, of unfavourable attitude.

- (iii) *Preludes* : Towards assessing respondents' congruent and incongruent attitude change, two preludes have been developed (see Appendix-II). One emphasising the positive role of the police and the other the negative role, both the preludes are in the main based on the themes underlying the items in the ATP-Scale.

#### Data Collection :

In the light of the objectives of the study, and the sample, the choice for a method for collecting primary data has been clearly for the questionnaire method. At times, it is observed that the method suffers from several limitations. It is comparatively inflexible, in capable of bringing out in-depth information, and more open to respondents' bias (Selltiz et al, 1976). Nevertheless, its advantages in the present context apparently outweigh its disadvantages. It is economical in terms of both time and money. It allows for a large coverage and for a 'comparatively unhibited flow of information' (Mott, 1976).

The collection of primary data has extended over a period of two sessions. After formal contact with the school authorities, students in VIII, IX and X classes have been approached in class-room situation. In the first session, the 'Attitude towards Police Scale' (ATP-Scale) and the 'Personal Data Blank' (PDB) have been administered on the entire population of students present in the aforesaid classes. However, only 88.83 per cent of the targeted sample could be completed ( $N=175$ ) largely due to the absenteeism. In order to ensure cooperation of the respondents, workable rapport has been established

by a short prelude prior to the commencement of testing session. Sufficient time has been allowed to ensure completion of the ATP-Scale as well the PDB, but in no case students have been allowed to go beyond one scheduled period (40 minutes). Subjects have been instructed on the basis of printed directions, changing nothing and adding nothing. Mutual consultation among them has been checked by seating them wide apart and by invigilating the testing room.

In the second session, after a gap of ten days, two groups—one high and one low in terms of their attitudes towards police—have been instructed to sit in a separate room and they have been given the positive prelude. Similarly, the other two groups—one high and one low—have been seated in a separate room and given the negative prelude. After an interval of fifteen minutes, again, the ATP-Scale has been administered on the respondents of all the groups.

#### Analysis of Data :

The analysis of data mainly concerns with the estimation of reliabilities and validity of the Attitude towards Police Scale as outlined earlier. Besides, the comparison of attitude scores of the adolescents with such demographic factors as age, class, and sibling position ; with their family background, such as size of the family, younger/older family, education of parents, occupation of the household, and family income ; and with factors related to police-adolescent contact, such as relation in police, knowledge of police station, visit to police station, and police visiting neighbourhood is called for. Likewise, congruent and incongruent measures of attitude change need to be compared. Thus, statistical techniques utilised are as follows :

- (a) Product-moment coefficient of correlation has been employed for estimating reliability and validity of the scale.
- (b) One-way analysis of variance and  $t$ -test have been used in order to compare attitude scores of the adolescents with demographic factors.
- (c) Chi-square has been employed in order to compare high and low scorers on attitude scale with factors related to family background and police-adolescent contact.
- (d) Two-way analysis of variance has been used so as to compare high and low scoring groups in order to bring out the effect of positive and negative preludes.
- (e) The  $t$ -test and chi-square have been used also to compare the effectiveness of congruent and incongruent measures of attitude change in respect of high-low groups and positive-negative preludes.

Apart from the present chapter, Introduction, the report has four other chapters. Chapter II provides background information concerning the police and the adolescents as well as the opportunities of contact and interaction between the two. Causal in approach, Chapter III dwells on personal factors and family background of the adolescents and the interaction between them and the police—all being analysed in terms of their attitude towards the police. That attitudes are subject to change, though the nature and extent varies with the pre-existing attitudinal patterns as well as with the direction of the stimuli, is outlined in Chapter IV. The last chapter is in the nature of overview and general conclusions.

## Chapter 2

### Police and Adolescent

---

The police have existed in one form or the other throughout the recorded history of mankind. To maintain law and order in society and to control misdirected forces, a police organisation is doubtless indispensable. In India, the formal police organisation has been in existence for centuries. But in keeping with the changing social needs, their organisation and functioning have also been changing. After Independence, when the sovereignty of the country passed into the hands of the people, the police have been called upon to perform much larger duties. Apart from their traditional duties of maintaining law and order, prevention and detection of crimes and the like, they were required to enforce social legislation, to protect the weaker sections from the oppression of the high and mighty, to uphold the civil rights of the citizens and, above all, to maintain the rule of law. This is not to say that the enlargement of the range of police duties is unique to Indian social scene. The changed socio-political ideology has brought about similar changes in the police organisation almost round the globe. The emergent roles of the police have been of 'a philosopher', a guide and a friend' (Cumming, et. al., 1977).

#### Organisation and Functioning

The constitutional position in the country is that the maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the state governments and union territory administrations ; and hence for all practical purposes police organisations are under their control. At the state level, the police are organised into several functional groups : District Executive Force, Special Armed Force, Criminal Investigation Department, Government Railway Police and so forth. Of late, several para-police organisations like Home Guards have also come up. From the lowest functionaries, the Police Constables to the highest, the Inspectors General of Police, the total police strength in the country is estimated to be around 7.5 lakhs. The current police strength in the union territory of Delhi is estimated to be around 15,000. This apart, there are several Central Police

Organisations as well. These include the Central Reserve Police Force, the Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Central Industrial Security Force and the like. Totalling five lakhs approximately, these C.P.Os also undertake at the request of state governments policing jobs from time to time. It may be, however, remarked that it is the police in the state and territories which shoulders the major responsibilities of enforcement of laws and maintenance of law and order and which is in constant contact with public.

By the very nature of their functioning the police rub shoulders with public day in and day out. One of their prime responsibilities is crime prevention so as to protect life, limb and property. Towards this they undertake patrolling and have to be prepared to respond as quickly as possible to calls of alarm as well as to reports of actual incidence. They have to register and investigate the offences which are reported to them. In urban areas they regulate traffic so as to minimise accidents and promote orderly movement. While dissent in a democratic society is inevitable this further adds to the responsibilities of the police. More often than not, they are required to supervise a variety of processions and protest marches. The role of the police in crisis situation—both natural and man-made—is no less important. They have to ensure the safety of life and property to provide relief to the affected and to discourage the unscrupulous anti-social elements from taking advantage of the unsettled conditions. Thus, the police roles in contemporary times are as multifarious as they invariably involve public contact.

#### Attitude Formation

At this stage a word about adolescents would be in order. An adolescent is neither a child who is loved and pampered nor is he an adult who enjoys status in the family and a right to participate in social activities. Further, the period of adolescence is characterised by a variety of stresses and strains. During this the adolescents try to find a meaning in social norms, values and situations, and try to strike a workable equation between themselves and the surrounding social reality. Consequently, the period of adolescence is usually fraught with confusions, dilemmas, chaos and a host of problems. Indeed, not all adolescents suffer from problems of adjustment. The majority of them squarely face this turbulent period and manage to pass on to adulthood. At the same time there are many adolescents who may not be so lucky. Needless to add, in bringing about an adjustment between an adolescent and the social reality a wide range of familial, demographic and social factors play a crucial role. Further, the period of adolescence is important from yet another standpoint. The attitudes which are formed during this period tend to persist throughout the life.

Adolescents are likely to form attitudes towards police as they perceive them. Technically within the short span of their life, they come across several motivational, emotional and perceptual situations involving them and the police and thereby develop attitudes towards police (Kretch, et al., 1962) with varying cognitive, affective and conative components. In this connection, a mention of various sources of attitude formation would not be out of place.

- (a) *Visibility* : The police as an organisation, not only among different sectors of criminal justice system but also among all the government departments, are most visible. As outlined earlier, from beat-patrolling to the supervision of processions, from the arrest of offenders to the investigation of crimes, from regulating the traffic to conducting the V.I.Ps, from relief work in flood-affected areas to maintenance of peace in riot-stricken areas and so on and so forth, the police whether they like it or not are always in the very forefront. What they do and what they do not do is always in the public view. Besides, this is no better than the irony of the situation that they are criticised more for the dereliction of their duties than they are appreciated for their competence and efficiency. In any case, adolescents as the members of the community see the police functioning in different situations and accordingly form their attitudes.
- (b) *Verbal Communication* : There is no denying the fact that in attitude formation printed or oral accounts relating to a psychological object play a crucial part. The individual interprets such oral and printed messages in his or her subjective light and forms an opinion and attitude towards the given psychological object. In relation to the adolescents and their attitudes towards police the 'word-of-mouth' is extremely important. Doubtless, books, articles and media, in contemporary times have been turning up much information on police organisation, its efficiency or inefficiency. However, the adolescents in view of their age would seldom be expected to be wholly conversant with them. On the other hand, in day to day living they are likely to hear much about the police. On occasions, the family members as well as the peer groups discuss the police and their working. At the same time, adolescents with their receptive minds receive these messages and store them away in their minds leading to the formation of enduring predispositions towards the police.
- (c) *Interaction* : Adolescents may also have an opportunity to interact directly with the police. In this the way the police dress and carry themselves and the manner in which they function is likely to create a

lasting impression upon the minds of the adolescents. The adolescent police interaction may take place in the main in four different ways.

- (i) *Relations in Police* : With nearly a million and a quarter policemen in the country, it is not wholly unexpected that many adolescent would be having a near or distant relation who would also be a policeman. The accounts relating to his police career, his occupational comforts and discomforts and his problems and prosperity are likely to influence the perception of the adolescent of the police in general. In the present sample, one out of every eight adolescents has reported as having a relation in the police (see Diagram 2.01). As to what extent this fact has influenced their attitudes towards the police would be examined later.
- (ii) *Knowledge of police-station* : To be in a position to fulfil the role of 'a philosopher, a friend, and a guide', the policemen are required to be accessible. It follows that the citizens need to be fully aware as to from where they can really secure the police assistance when they need it. In keeping with this, it becomes important that adolescents to be in the know of the location of the police-station concerned. It may be added that the knowledge of the adolescents of the police-station is likely to vary in accordance with their perception of the importance of the police. It is satisfying to note that more than four-fifths of the adolescent in the present sample know as to where their concerned police station is located (see Diagram 2.02).
- (iii) *Visit of police-station* : May it be for sight-seeing (which indeed would be very rare), for lodging a complaint or for visiting a friend—in all these situations a visit to a police-station is likely to be always educative for every body, particularly for adolescents. The physical setting of the police-station, the way police officials conduct themselves and the manner in which they deal with the public are likely to leave a deep impression upon adolescents. In the present case, about 28 per cent of the adolescents have paid a visit to a police-station on one account or another (see Diagram 2.03).
- (iv) *Police visiting neighbourhood* : Crime being a social fact, there would be few neighbourhoods which the police would not have been called to. It may be just a verbal complaint or a formal report relating to an offence on account of which the police functionaries may visit a village or neighbourhood. Notwithstanding, the

DIAGRAM 2.01  
Ss RELATION IN POLICE.

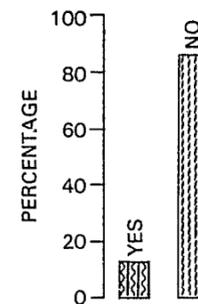


DIAGRAM 2.02  
Ss' KNOWLEDGE OF POLICE-STATION.

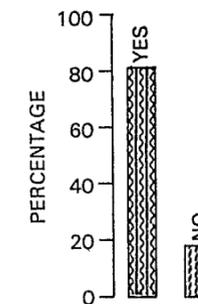


DIAGRAM 2.03  
Ss VISITING POLICE-STATION.

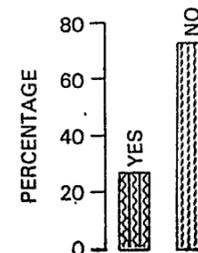
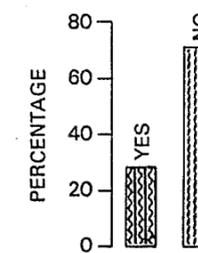


DIAGRAM 2.04  
POLICE VISITING Ss' NEIGHBOURHOOD.



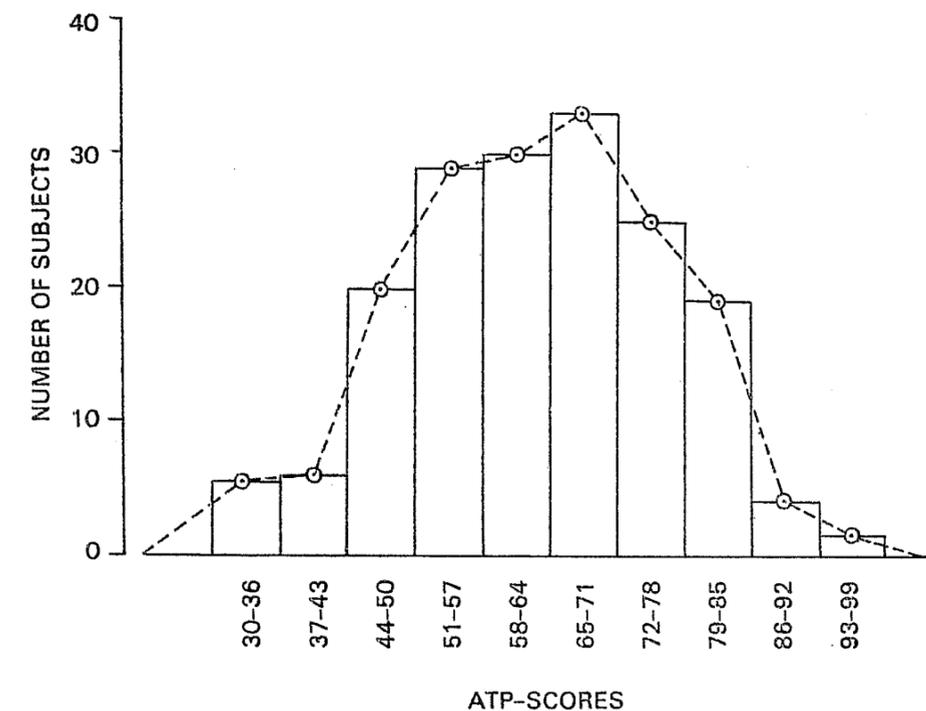
reasons for such a visit, their presence as well as their style of functioning is bound to influence every one and most of all the adolescents in the locality. Again, the turn out of the police, their approach to law and order problems and their handling of the situation are likely to create an enduring impact. In the present sample, more than 28 per cent of the adolescents report the police visiting their neighbourhood (see Diagram 2.04).

The above analysis is based on the questionnaire item, "During the last two years did any serious crime take place in your neighbourhood? If yes, please give details relating to police proceedings." A reference to the last mentioned sub-question would not be without interest. As would be expected only a little more than one-fourth of the adolescents have responded in this regard while several of them have offered glowing account of police proceedings in the event of an offence taking place in their neighbourhood, there are many who have come out with rather discouraging accounts. The police successfully investigating a theft case, arresting the criminal and recovering the stolen property; intervening in time and bringing about amity between feuding groups; bringing about reconciliation between the striking workers and employer; and adopting appropriate preventive measures to control a situation which would have otherwise become violent group strife—are the instances reported by the adolescents which present the police and their working in a favourable light. On the other hand, the police neglecting their duties, conniving with the criminals, reaching the scene of crime after considerable lapse of time, harassing the victim instead of the criminal and handling crime cases clumsily—are some of the negative instances mentioned by the adolescents.

#### Attitude Towards Police

Keeping the above scenario in view, attention may now be turned to the attitudes the adolescents have towards the Police. It may be recalled that the ATP-Scale has been administered on 175 adolescents (Diagram 2.05). The scores in the scale have the theoretical maxima and minima of 105 and 21, respectively; and a median of 63. Table 2.01 presents the distribution of the scores. It would be seen that the distribution of the scores is nearly normally distributed (skewness=-0,081). To a great extent, this indicates the sensitiveness of the ATP-Scale and the suitability of the distribution pattern for further analysis. This apart, the data show that there are as many adolescents who are favourably disposed towards police as there are those who are unfavourably disposed. Nonetheless, the former are seen to outnumber the latter (Median=63.45). On the whole, the adolescents appear to view police with favour (Average score=63.08; Standard deviation=13.70). This is

DIAGRAM 2.05  
ATP-SCORES OF THE SUBJECTS



**Table 2.01 : Distribution of the subjects on the ATP-Scale**

Class interval	Frequency (f)
93—99	2
86—92	4
79—85	19
72—78	25
65—71	33
58—64	30
51—57	29
44—50	20
37—43	7
30—36	6
N=175	

further supported by the fact that the sample median, although marginally, is higher than the theoretical median. While there is little in the data to suggest that the adolescents view the police as the paragon of qualities, there are seen great many possibilities to modify and improve their attitudes towards police.

## Chapter 3

### Factors Influencing Attitude

It may be reiterated that attitudes develop in group situations. Further, while they are enduring in character, they are also subject to modification and even change. This apart, the pattern of attitudes differs, of course, from individual to individual. This may be traced to the very nature of the 'individual'. As individuals differ from each other in terms of their family background, personality characteristics and the like, so do their attitudes. This is what has been amply shown in the preceding section : the attitude of the adolescents towards the police has ranged from highly positive to highly negative (see Table 2.01). These variations in attitudes may be the result of a number of factors. For the present, attention may be paid, however, only on three broad groups : personal characteristics, family background and adolescent-police interaction.

#### Personal Characteristics

It can hardly be gainsaid that personal characteristics are "highly important in the development of individual reactive tendencies, motivational structure, life aspirations and, as a matter of fact, the entire personality" (Khan, 1978, p. 239). For the present purposes, age, sibling position and the class of study of the adolescents have been brought under analysis.

*Age* : The significance of the factor of age in securing an insight into the personal characteristics of the individual or his attitudes can hardly be denied. (Barber and Calverley, 1964). In view of the sampling design, the age of the subjects has been somewhat controlled : The sample comprises adolescents studying in VIII, IX and X standards. Thus, the age of the subjects is unlikely to vary much. Table 3.01 shows that an overwhelming majority of the respondents are of 13 and 14 years of age. However, the age of the subjects ranges from 12 to 15 years with a mean of 13.69 years.

**Table 3.01 : Age of the subjects.**

	Age				Total
	12 yrs.	13 yrs.	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	
Frequency	19	54	64	38	175
Percentage	10.86	30.86	36.57	21.71	100.00

In order to examine whether subjects of different age groups differ in terms of their attitudes towards police, the four age groups have been compared on the basis of their scores on the ATP-Scale. Towards this, *t*-statistic has been employed and the results have been summarised in Table 3.02.

**Table 3.02 : Comparison of the subjects of different age groups in terms of their attitudes towards police.**

Age Group	Sub-sample N	Mean $\bar{x}$	Standard Deviation SD	t-matrix		
				b	c	d
a 12 yrs.	19	62.63	13.84	.837	.147	.575
b 13 yrs.	54	65.81	14.38		1.064	1.911*
c 14 yrs.	64	63.16	12.36			1.074
d 15 yrs.	38	60.42	12.52			—

\* $p < .10$

A perusal of Table 3.02 makes it clear that although subjects of 12 years age ( $\bar{x}=62.63$ ) have scored greater than those of 15 years age ( $\bar{x}=60.42$ ) and less than those of 13 years ( $\bar{x}=65.81$ ) and 14 years age ( $\bar{x}=63.16$ ), the mean differences have been found to be statistically insignificant in all the cases, similarly, the *t*-values range from 0.147 to 0.837 only. Next, the comparison of the subjects of 13 years with those of 14 years and of 14 years with those of 15 years have yielded insignificant *t*-values (1.064, and 1.074, respectively). However, the subjects of 13 years and 15 years of age differ statistically in terms of their attitude towards police ( $t=1.911, df=90, p < .10$ ). Surprisingly enough, the subjects younger in age have scored significantly higher than the older ones.

Further, one-way ANOVA has been computed (Table 3.03). Since attitudes are learned or acquired through the process of socialization, it is expected that the subjects older in age would differ in their attitudes towards the police from those younger in age. However, the findings do not match this expectation: the subjects belonging to the four age-groups are more or less similar in their attitudes towards the police ( $F=1.24, df=3/171, p > .05$ ).

**Table 3.03 : Analysis of variance of age of the subjects and their attitude towards police.**

Source	Degree of freedom df	Sum of Squares SS	Mean Squares MS	Probability	
				F	P
Between	3	666.16	222.05	1.24	n.s.
Within	171	30540.27	178.60		
Total	174	31206.43			

Thus, the analysis of age of the subjects in terms of their attitudes towards the police does not bring out any consistent trend. However, in essence, it is suggestive that the adolescent have more or less similar attitudes and the slight variations in their age do not contribute substantially to the positivity or negativity of their attitudes towards the police.

*Sibling position* : Sibling position or birth-order has aroused much interest among sociologists, psychologists and other behavioural scientists. A number of investigators in India and abroad have studied the effect of birth-order on the life-style of an individual. Adler (1927), Freud (1953) and several others have studied the effect of birth-order on differing patterns of interaction in the family, particularly during early childhood. It has been found that the 'first born' child seeks more attention, approval and support in stress situation in social interaction than others. Highly culture-bound, birth-order of an individual has traditionally been regarded as having a bearing on his personality development. An attempt has also been made by some investigators to explore the relationship between birth order, on the one hand, and drug abuse (Khan, 1978), juvenile delinquency (Rosen, 1969; Altus, 1970), adjustment (George and Abraham, 1967; Patel, 1970; Mukherji, 1972, Krishna and Kumar, 1975), risk-taking (Ansari and Ahmad, 1977; Krishna, 1980), motivation (Atkinson and Miller, 1956; McClelland, 1961; Sampson, 1962), reading ability (Krishna and Agrawal, 1980) and several other factors. Thus, sibling position has been found to exert an enduring impact on the growth of personality and its behavioural manifestation. It would be, therefore, relevant to look into the sibling position of the subjects in relation to their attitude towards the police. Since the first-born child is generally maladjusted (George and Abraham, 1967; Mukherji, 1972), less motivated (McClelland, 1961) and more dependent on others (Alder, 1927; Freud, 1953), he is likely to have a lesser opportunity to interact with the police and consequently a less favourable attitude towards police than those who are second-born or later born. Table 3.04 brings out

the sibling position of the respondents. It would be noticed that more than one-third of the respondents are the first-born and over forty per cent of them occupy the middle position. These are the sibling groups which should attract attention in the present context.

**Table 3.04 :** Distribution of the subjects according to their birth-order.

	First-born	Second-born	Others	Total	NR
Frequency	64	38	69	171	4
Percentage	37.43	22.22	40.35	100.00	2.34

In order to examine whether the adolescents of different birth-order differ among themselves in terms of their attitude towards police, a univariate statistics, t-test, has been employed (Table 3.05). It is found that the first-

**Table 3.5 :** Comparison of the subjects' sibling positions in terms of their attitude towards police.

Groups	N	$\bar{x}$	SD	t-matrix	
				b	c
a 1st Born	64	63.06	12.31	.231	.259
b 2nd Born	38	63.71	14.49		.021
c Others	69	63.65	13.94		—

**Note :** All t-values are statistically insignificant.

born adolescents have scored slightly less on the ATP-Scale ( $\bar{x}=63.06$ ) as compared with the second-born ( $\bar{x}=63.71$ ) and others ( $\bar{x}=63.65$ ). The statistical comparison of first-born with second-born, first-born with others, and second-born with others have yielded insignificant t-values, ranging between 0.021 and 0.259 only. This line of analysis has been further pursued and one-way ANOVA has been computed (Table 3.06). It reveals that the birth-order of the adolescents does not influence their attitude towards the police in any significant manner ( $F=.04$ ,  $df=168/2$ ,  $p>.05$ ).

**Table 3.6 :** Analysis of variance of the sibling position of the subjects and their attitude towards police.

Source	df	SS	MS	F	p-value
Between	2	15.00	7.5		
Within	168	31043.22	184.78	.04	n.s.
Total	170	31058.22			

Thus, in the light of above statistical analysis, it may be inferred that the two variables, namely, birth-order and attitude towards the police are independent of each other.

**Class of study :** A large number of studies are available indicating that formal education contributes substantially to attitude-formation and attitudinal manifestation (Abrams, 1964). Generally speaking, the findings show that the highly educated persons have more sharply defined attitudes on different issues than those who are less educated. Perhaps, the educated are more objective and are not much given to be influenced by one-sided information. This in view, it is thought proper to assume that the class of study the adolescents are being schooled in would influence their attitudes towards the police. Table 3.07 shows the class of study of the respondents. It would be seen that

**Table 3.07 :** Distribution of the subjects according to their class of study.

	VIII	IX	X	Total
Frequency	74	85	16	175
Percentage	42.29	48.57	9.14	100.00

a little less than half of the respondents are studying in IX standard, forty-two per cent in VIII standard, and nine per cent in X standard. Has the class of study of the respondents any relation to their predisposition? Table 3.08 embodies the findings.

**Table 3.08 :** Comparison of class of study of the subjects in terms of their attitude towards police.

Groups	N	$\bar{x}$	SD	t-matrix	
				b	c
a VIII	74	67.96	13.81	3.429**	3.854**
b IX	85	61.02	11.45		2.018*
c X	16	54.00	12.61		—

\* $p < .05$       \*\* $p < .001$ .

It is evident from the table that the respondents of VIII standard have scored significantly higher on the ATP-Scale ( $\bar{x}=67.96$ ) as compared with those in IX ( $\bar{x}=61.02$ ) and X ( $\bar{x}=54.00$ ) standards. The statistical comparison of VIII verse IX, VIII versus X as well as IX versus X has yielded significant t-values. Apparently, class of study has something to do with the adolescents' attitude towards the police. Further, a trend is in evidence that the higher the class of study of an adolescent, the less favourable his attitude towards the police would be.

The above trend has further examined by using one-way ANOVA. The statistics thus obtained (see Table 3.09) reveal that the class of study of the adolescents is a significantly contributory factor in their attitude towards the police ( $F=10.62$ ,  $df=2/172$ ,  $p<.01$ ).

**Table 3.09** : Analysis of variance of the class of study of the subjects and their attitude towards police.

Source	df	SS	MS	F	p-value
Between	2	3430.88	1715.44	10.62	.01
Within	172	27776.83	161.49		
Total	174				

The position that the adolescents studying in VIII standard have a more favourable attitude towards the police than others may be elaborated a little. It appears that the affective and cognitive processes concerning the police are less favourable. Hence, as the adolescents scholastically move up their perception of the police tends to be dim.

#### Family Background

Family is regarded as the crucible in which an individual forms his attitudes and builds his life scheme. At the same time, it is family which acts as a carrier for transferring cultural norms and traditions. It follows that in inculcating human values including a respect for law among children, the institution of family plays an important role. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that studies dealing both with individuals and groups have devoted much attention to familial factors. With this in view the present study has attempted to bring under focus such factors like family composition, education and economic condition.

*Size of the Family* : The size of the family is likely to affect the individual in several ways. Nuclear or smaller family groups may be in a position to afford individual attention and to provide better growth opportunities to members. At the same time, they may also promote among the members, relatively, a greater degree of independence or individualism. On the other hand, joint or large family groups may provide scope for larger interaction between the members and may exercise, relatively, a better social control. Thus, it is expected that the adolescents coming from large family groups would have more favourable attitude towards police as compared to those coming from smaller family groups. Table 3.10 presents the size of the family groups the respondents come from. It would be seen from the table that approximately sixty per cent of the respondents are from smaller family groups, consisting of 3 to 5 members.

**Table 3.10** : Size of the family of the subjects.

	3-4 members	5 members	6 members	7-9 members	Total
Frequency	40	62	40	33	175
Percentage	22.86	35.43	22.86	18.86	100.00

The expectation that the size of the family would be associated with the attitude of the adolescents towards the police may now be examined. On the basis of their scores on the ATP-Scale, the adolescents have been subdivided (median being the cutting line) into two : High scorers and low scorers. The data have been subjected to chi-square analysis (Table 3.11). Should we examine the proportions, there is evident a mild trend that the adolescents from smaller families are favourably disposed towards the police, and, conversely, those from larger family do not have much favourable perception of the guardians of law. However, the distribution of the data is not very significant and the value of the contingency coefficient does not precisely support the above contention ( $\chi^2=2.48$ ,  $df=3$ ,  $p<.50$ ,  $r_c=0.118$ ). Apparently, the size of the family of the adolescents and their view of the police are unrelated.

**Table 3.11** : Comparison of the size of the family of the subjects and their attitude towards the police

Groups	Family size				$\chi^2$	df=3	$r_c$	p
	3-4 members	5 members	6 members	7-9 members				
High Group	24	29	18	18	2.4812		.118	.50
Low Group	16	33	22	15				

*Younger/older family* : It is often presumed that younger people are liberal and judicious in their outlook. Also, this outlook on life and society may influence the offspring in the family. With this in view, an attempt may be made to examine whether adolescents coming from younger family groups have more favourable attitude towards the police than those coming from older ones. To achieve this end, the family groups of the respondents have been categorized into three: younger, balanced, and older. A family group with the majority of the members having an age of 18 years or below has been coded as younger family. Similarly, those having a majority of members with 18 years of age or more have been coded as older families. If the proportion

of younger and older members in a family has been equal, it has been regarded as a balanced family. The distribution of the family groups, thus obtained, is presented in table 3.12. It is apparent that more than fifty per cent of the respondents belong to younger families.

**Table 3.12 :** Family composition of the subjects.

	Younger	Balanced	Older	Total
Frequency	95	39	41	175
Percentage	54.29	22.29	23.43	100.00

To examine the association between the two variables, the chi-square test has been used (Table 3.13). On going through the table it would be seen that the adolescents coming from younger family groups tend to have

**Table 3.13 :** Comparison of the family composition of the subjects and their attitude towards the police.

	Family composition			$X^2$ (df=2)	$r_c$	P
	Young	Balanced	Older			
High Groups	47	19	23	5.9406	.181	.10
Low Group	48	20	18			

relatively a more unfavourable attitude towards the police than those from older ones. However, the distribution of the data is not significant ( $X^2=5.94$ ,  $df=2$   $p < .10$ ) nor is there seen any significant association between the two variables ( $r_c=0.181$ ). It may, thus, be inferred that the presence of younger/older members in the family has little or no influence on the attitude of the youngsters towards the police.

*Father's education :* Towards gaining a perspective on the adaptive capacity of the institution of family and towards ascertaining its role in the process of socialisation and attitude formation, an attempt has been made to assess the educational status of the respondents' family. In this connection, attention has been paid on the formal education of father. Accordingly, the subjects have been divided into two groups :

- (i) those whose father (or guardian) is below matric (less educated) and
- (ii) those whose father (or guardian) is matriculate and above (educated). Distribution as shown in Table 3.14 reveals that an overwhelming majority of the respondents (83.69%) have educated parents. Perhaps, the literacy rate in Delhi is high.

**Table 3.14 :** Educational status of the father of the subjects.

	Less educated	Educated	Total	NR
Frequency	23	118	141	34
Percentage	16.31	83.69	100.00	24.11

In order to examine the strength of association between father's educational level and high and low attitude scores of the subjects, chi-square test has been applied (Table 3.15).

**Table 3.15 :** Comparison of the educational status of the father of the subjects and their attitude towards the police.

Groups	Frequencies		$X^2$ (df=1)	$r_c$	P
	Less educated	Educated			
High Group	11	52	1.0896	.088	.30
Low Group	12	66			

The distribution of the data would show that the adolescents whose fathers are less educated have proportionately a brighter perception of the police than those whose fathers are educated. Nevertheless, as the distribution of the data is statistically insignificant ( $X^2=1.09$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p < .30$ ,  $r_c=.088$ ) it is difficult to draw any valid conclusion.

*Father's occupation :* The way one earns his living is often seen to affect his outlook as well as of those who are dependent on him. This in view, the occupational status of the adolescents' household has been looked into. The sample has been divided into five groups—those whose father (or guardian) is in :

- (i) business,
- (ii) government service,
- (iii) private service,
- (iv) teaching, and
- (v) other types of occupation.

Table 3.16 presents the relevant data, It would be seen that most of the adolescents have their father either in business or government service.

**Table 3.16 : Family occupation of the subjects.**

	Business	Govt. service	Private service	Teaching	Others	Total	NR
Frequency	58	60	21	19	11	169	6
Percentage	34.32	35.50	12.43	11.24	6.51	100.00	3.55

Next, the dichotomized attitude scores of the adolescents have been cross-tabulated with the occupation of their fathers (Table 3.17). From the distribution of the data, no clear trend is discernible. The values of chi-square and the contingency coefficient are also insignificant. It appears that the occupational status of the household has no bearing on the attitude of the youngsters towards the police.

**Table 3.17 : Comparison of the family occupation of the subjects and their attitude towards the police.**

Groups	Business	Family occupation				X <sup>2</sup> (df=4)	r <sub>c</sub>	P
		Govt. service	Private service	Teaching	Others			
High Group	30	29	10	11	4	1.4743	.093	.90
Low Group	28	31	11	8	7			

*Household income* : The household income, doubtless, affects the environment and the members in the family in ways more than one. It determines the pattern of need-gratification and the overall standard of living. Should the income be commensurate with the needs and aspirations of the family members, the likelihood of harmonious relations and the prevalence of congenial atmosphere the family would be larger. Contrariwise, a meagre household income is likely to affect the family adversely. Economic deprivation may lead to a variety of tensions and problems. In any case affluence or deprivation in the household may have a good deal of relevance inasmuch as the attitudes of the family members are concerned. It is from this angle that the household income of the adolescents has been examined. The information provided by the subjects has been categorized and presented in Table 3.18. It would be found that the majority of the adolescents come from the households whose monthly income is between Rs. 1000 and 1500. It may be further noted that more than one-fourth of the respondents come from families which have a monthly income of more than Rs. 1500. That the respondents from relatively well-to-do families to underlined by the high mean value (Rs. 1232.30).

**Table 3.18 : Family income of the subjects.**

	Rs. 1000-	Rs. 1000-1499	Rs. 1500+	Total	NR
Frequency	34	49	30	113	62
Percentage	30.09	43.36	26.55	100.00	54.87

In order to examine the impact of family income on adolescents' attitude towards the police, the chi-square test has been run (Table 3.19). The statistics so obtained reveal that family income has little relation to the attitude of the adolescents towards the police ( $X^2=2.83$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $P < .30$ ;  $r_c=0.156$ ). Apparently, the public view of police transcends their economic condition, or alternatively, household income being reported by the youngsters has been somewhat distorted.

**Table 3.19 : Comparison of the family income of subjects and their attitude towards the police.**

Groups	Family income			X <sup>2</sup> (df=2)	r <sub>c</sub>	P
	Rs. 1000-	Rs. 1000-1499	Rs. 1500+			
High Group	14	29	14	2.8332	.156	.30
Low Group	20	20	16			

#### ADOLESCENT-POLICE INTERACTION

It may be reiterated that the interaction that the adolescents have had with the police is of direct relevance to the present context. The quality of this kind of interaction is likely to determine the direction, salience and intensity of their attitudes towards the police. Different forms of adolescent-police interaction have already been outlined in Chapter II. These include one or more relations of the adolescents working in the police, their knowledge of the police-station concerned, their visit to the police-station, and the police visiting their neighbourhood. Now an attempt is made to examine as to what extent these dimensions are related to the attitude of the adolescents towards the police.

*Relation in Police* : It would be recalled that there is only one adolescent out of every eight who has a relation in the police (see Diagram 1). Further, the variable 'relation in the police' has been cross-tabulated with the scores of the adolescents on the ATP-Scale (Table 3.20). On going through the table, it would not take one long to see that the high scorers and the low

scorers are almost evenly matched. As it would be expected the values of chi-square and contingency coefficient are insignificant. It may thus be inferred that attitudes of the adolescents towards the police remain uninfluenced whether or not some of their relations are in the police.

**Table 3.20 :** Comparison of the students having relation in the police and their attitude towards police.

Groups	Relation in police		X <sup>2</sup> (df=1)	r <sub>c</sub>	P
	Yes	No			
High Group	12	75	3.7088	.145	.10
Low Group	11	75			

*Knowledge of Police-Station :* The police being a critical component of social organisation, their organisation and functioning is known by almost everybody in society. This is what has been shown earlier ; more than four-fifths of the adolescents know as to where their concerned police-station is located (see Diagram 2). This may now be analysed in terms of their scores on the ATP-Scale. The data presented in Table 3.21 are revealing. It appears that the attitude of those who know their concerned police-station differs from

**Table 3.21 :** Knowledge of the subjects of the local police station and their attitude towards police.

Groups	Knowledge of police station		X <sup>2</sup> (df=1)	r <sub>c</sub>	P
	Yes	No			
High Group	68	19	6.7001	.195	.01
Low Group	69	14			

those who do not. The distribution of the data is found to be highly significant (X<sup>2</sup>=6.70, df=1, P<.01). Besides the two variables also show a high degree of association (r<sub>c</sub>=0.195). Nonetheless, the association between the two variables is in the reverse direction. The adolescents having a more favourable attitude towards the police do not have proportionately the knowledge of their local police-station. Why is it that the knowledge of or familiarity with the police-station tends to have a negative influence on the view of the adolescents of the police ?

*Visit to Police-Station :* As has been outlined earlier, a visit to police-station may be occasioned because of several plausible and not-so plausible reasons. Those who do so would return with a somewhat lasting impression of the police. Adolescents visiting a police-station is not very common and

this is what has been found earlier : a little more than one-fourth of the adolescents have visited a police-station (see Diagram 3). Has such a visit had an influence on their attitudes towards the police ? Table 3.22 may be referred to. The distribution of the data appears to be only marginally significant (X<sup>2</sup>=4.81, df=1, p<.05). Also there is seen a mild association between the two variables (r<sub>c</sub>=0.165). However, it would not be without interest to look into the direction of this kind of association. The distribution of the data tends to show that the adolescents who have not visited the police-station have a more favourable attitude towards the police than those

**Table 3.22 :** Subjects' visit to police-station and their attitude towards police.

Groups	Visit to police-station		X <sup>2</sup> (df=1)	r <sub>c</sub>	P
	Yes	No			
High Group	23	63	4.8074	.165	.05
Low Group	24	61			

who have. This draws attention to the seeming inadequacy of physical and interactional features of our police-stations.

*Police visiting neighbourhood :* The working of the police becomes much visible to citizens when they come to their neighbourhood to discharge their duties. This is also likely to have a profound influence on the public perception. A reference to Diagram 4 shows that nearly three adolescents out of ten state that in the recent past the police had visited their neighbourhood. Here an attempt may be made to assess whether this (police visiting the neighbourhood) has a linkage with the attitude of the adolescents towards the police. The two variables have been cross-tabulated (Table 3.23).

**Table 3.23 :** Police visiting neighbourhood of the subjects and their attitude towards police.

Group	Police visiting neighbourhood		X <sup>2</sup> (df=1)	r <sub>c</sub>	P
	Yes	No			
High Group	15	70	9.4057	.229	.01
Low Group	33	52			

The distribution of the data is as interesting as it is revealing. The attitude pattern of the adolescents who report police visiting their neighbourhood significantly differs from those who report in the negative ( $X^2=9.41$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $P<.01$ ). There is also seen a strong association between the two variables ( $r_c=0.229$ ). However, the trend of data should attract our attention. The image of the police following their visit to the neighbourhood does not appear to gain—the data brings out a trend to the contrary. The proportion of the respondents who have had the police in their neighbourhood and score high on the ATP-Scale is clearly smaller (31 per cent) than those who have not had the police in their neighbourhood (57 per cent). Is it that police functionaries while in field disregard public-relation angle?

## Chapter 4

### Attitude Change

It may bear repetition to state that while attitudes are enduring in character, they are also subject to modification or even to change. The particular attitudes of an individual are jointly determined by the information available to him, his various group affiliation, and the structure of his personality (Krech, et al., 1962). As such with the change in the accumulated body of information through group affiliation or interaction, his attitudes also change. However, the direction and intensity of this kind of attitudinal change would be dependent on many factors. The personality structure of the individual and the characteristics of his pre-existing attitudes and above all the nature and quality of new information being internalized by him are likely to play a determining role.

There are identified often two types of attitude change (Osgood and Tannenbaum, 1955):

- (i) Congruent attitude change—Krech, et al. define congruent attitude change as "a change in the valence of an existing attitude change in the direction of its original sign" (1962). Stated differently, an individual having a favourable attitude towards a given psychological object may develop, following certain enabling circumstances, even more favourable attitudes. Conversely, an individual having an unfavourable attitude may develop even more unfavourable attitudes. Both of these changes on the attitudinal plane are termed as congruent attitude change.
- (ii) Incongruent attitude change—"A change in the valence of an existing attitude in a direction opposite to its original sign" (Krech, et al., 1962), is termed incongruent attitude change. For example, an individual having a favourable attitude towards a given psychological object may develop an unfavourable attitude; and, similarly, an individual having an unfavourable attitude may change his position and develop favourable attitudes.

It may be reiterated that several studies have dealt with the processes involved in attitude change (see, for example, Katz and Lazarsfeld, 1955; Hovland, 1959; Janis and Field, 1959 a,b). Also, quite a few studies bring out that congruent attitude change is easier to produce than incongruent attitude change, other things being equal (Krech, et al., 1962; Secord and Backman, 1964; Triandis, 1971). It would be recalled that it is this theme which informs the second hypothesis of the present work and is proposed to be examined in the present section.

In keeping with the research design, 'Attitude towards Police Scale' has been developed which has been found to be fairly reliable and dependable (see Chapter I). Similarly, the distribution of the subjects in terms of their scores on the ATP-Scale has been found to be fairly normal (see Chapter II). It may be restated that on the basis of scores on the ATP-Scale, two high and two low groups of the subjects have been formed. Subsequently, one high and one low groups have been given a positive stimulus and one high and one low group, a negative stimulus. Before proceeding further the adequacy of the stimuli used in the experimental manipulation may be looked into.

#### Verbal Communication

While the relevance of verbal communication in attitudinal modification is generally accepted it is dependent on two major factors. A verbal communication would be able to bring out a change in the attitudes of individuals who are exposed to it, to the extent it has been endowed with a persuasive quality. A glance at the Appendix II would readily show that the verbal communication or the negative and positive preludes to which the subjects have been subsequently exposed are contextually plausible. As anywhere else the police in the country are both admired and criticized. This is what has been encompassed in the two preludes, indeed, they are one-sided or slightly exaggerated in view of the study-requirements.

Secondly, communicator's credibility in attitudinal modification plays a decisive role. In the present case, the investigators had approached the subjects as researchers and as averagely informed persons. This may have some influence on the experimental process, but it is likely to be negligible. Besides, the message (positive and negative preludes) itself has been delivered in the printed form which the subjects were requested to carefully go through. It may be added that this has been done on purpose. In recent decade much has been made of the role of news-media in making or marring the police image in the country. Therefore, the overriding consideration has been that the experimental exposure should resemble news-media as much as possible. As such the subjects have been required to go through the printed message.

Nonetheless, the moot question remains to be answered: Are the positive and negative preludes able to do what they are supposed to do? In other words, are they dependable for the present purposes? In this connection, the method of sign-test (see Siegal, 1956) has been used. The movement of the subjects in the four groups has been traced and reflected in Table 4.01 (see also Diagrams 4.01 to 4.04).

**Table 4.01** : Comparison of positive and negative preludes in terms of discrepancy sign values.

Prelude	Plus	Minus	Equal	X <sup>2</sup> (df=2)	P
Positive	35	16	6	18.9260	.001
Negative	14	38	3		

It would be seen that barely 28 per cent of the subjects who were exposed to positive prelude have slid back in terms of their attitude towards the police; likewise, 25 per cent of the subjects who were given the negative prelude have moved up in their appreciation of the police. This indicates the dependability of the preludes. Using chi-square analysis this contention has been further verified. The statistical values thus obtained, are highly significant ( $X^2=18.93$ ,  $df=2$ ,  $p<.001$ ). As the subjects exposed to the positive prelude are fairly differentiated from those exposed to the negative prelude, it is justifiable to assume that the two preludes are able to achieve the purpose for which they have been designed.

#### Congruent and Incongruent Attitude Change

Having looked into various conceptual aspects of attitude change as well as the operational tools and techniques employed, we may now turn to examine as to what extent the verbal communication has been able to bring about a change in the attitude of the adolescents towards the police. Table 4.02 presents the relevant statistics.

A perusal of the table would show that the subjects in the group H<sub>1</sub> have been exposed to the positive prelude and those in L<sub>2</sub>, to negative prelude—Implicit in either situation is congruent attitude change. Both the groups, taken together, have shown differences in the expected direction. In both the cases, before and after—measurement differences within the group are statistically significant at two per cent level. Similarly, the values of product-moment correlation between before and after—measurement scores are sizeable and statistically highly significant. However, the amount of difference in the case of L<sub>2</sub> is more (mean difference=4.66) than in the case of H<sub>1</sub> (mean difference=3.97).

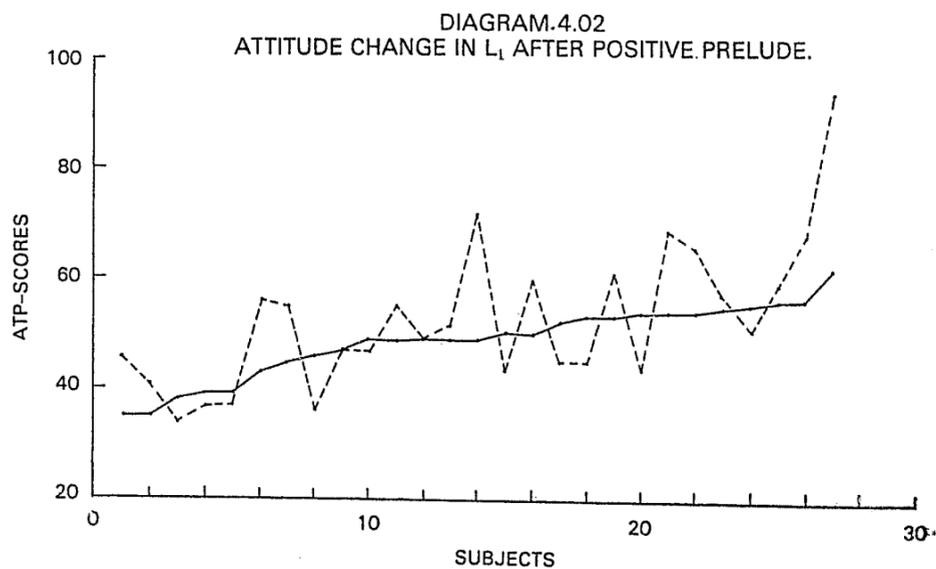
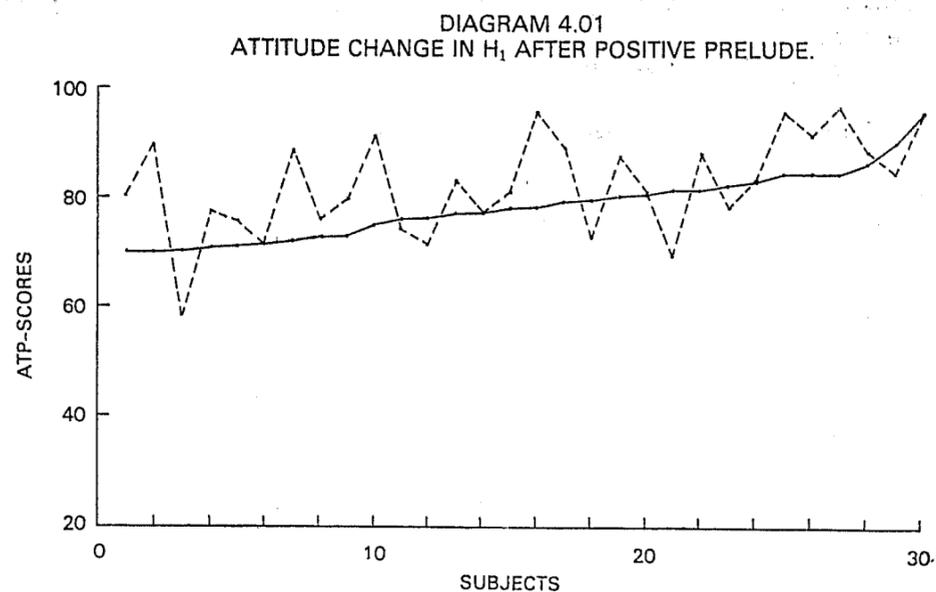


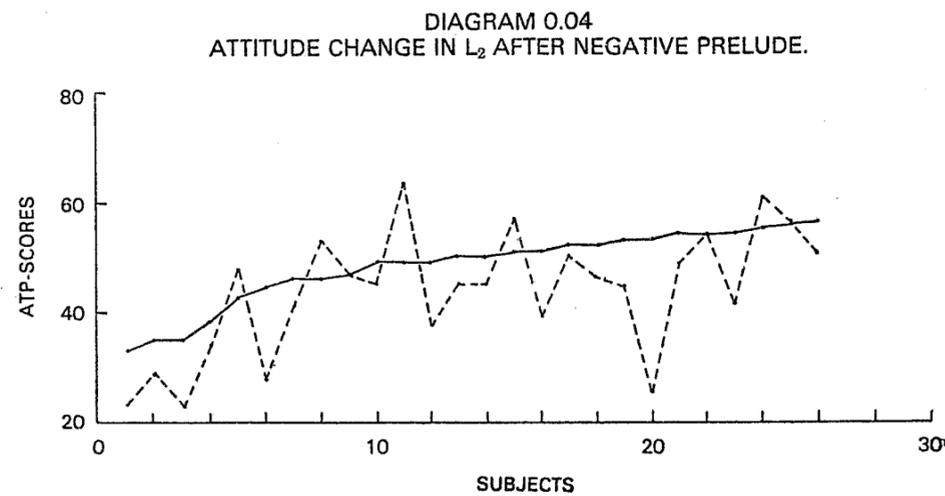
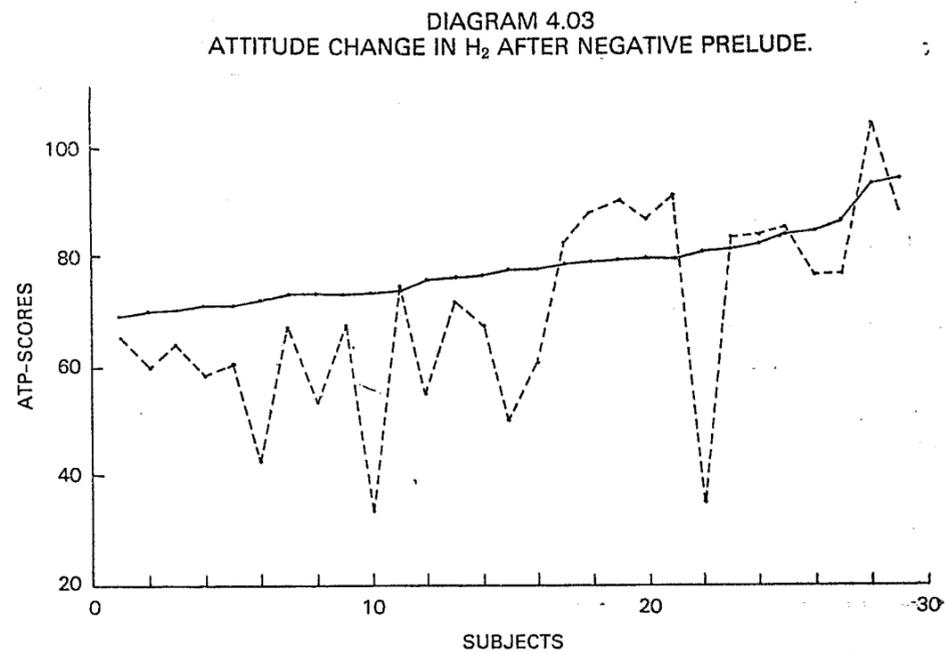
Table 4.02 : Comparison of before-and-after-measurement scores on the ATP-Scale.

Stimulus Group	Positive Prelude		Negative Prelude		
	High (H <sub>1</sub> )	Low (L <sub>1</sub> )	High (H <sub>2</sub> )	Low (L <sub>2</sub> )	
N	30	27	29	26	
Before measurement	Mean	78.20	48.74	77.38	48.31
	SD	6.09	6.76	6.05	6.48
After measurement	Mean	82.17	52.78	69.28	43.65
	SD	9.04	13.11	16.78	11.23
Difference t-test :	value	3.97	4.04	8.10	4.66
	p	2.664	2.061	3.068	2.709
Correlation :	r	.02	.05	.01	.02
	p	.476	.664	.606	.646
		.01	.001	.001	.001

In order to examine the nature and extent of incongruent attitude change attention may now be focused on groups L<sub>1</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>—the former being exposed to the positive prelude and the latter, to negative prelude. Both the groups have moved in the expected direction : The subjects in the group L<sub>1</sub> in after-measurement phase have shown a more favourable attitude towards the police, and the subjects in H<sub>2</sub>, a more unfavourable attitude. Are the differences between before-and after-measurements real? The *t*-values, thus computed, are found to be significant at five per cent level or better. Likewise, there is seen a high correlation between the two measurements. Again, the gain following the exposure of the experimental variable in the two groups (L<sub>1</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>) differs—somewhat widely.

From Table 4.02, yet another observation is possible to make. Although, the experimental variable has been able to bring about both congruent and incongruent attitude changes, it is not the former but the latter which appears to be large, quantitatively. Obviously, this is not wholly anticipated. Why is it so?

In view of the unexpected trend of data as outlined above, a re-examination of the linkage between the prelude and the groups appears to be in order. Towards this, the sign-test has been applied. Table 4.03 presents the relevant information.



**Table 4.03 :** Comparison of the effectiveness of congruent and incongruent measures of attitude change.

Attitude change	Prelude	Plus	Minus	Equal	X <sup>2</sup> (df=2)	P
Congruent	Positive (+to+)	20	6	4	16.2269	.001
	Negative (-to-)	5	19	2		
Incongruent	Negative (+to-)	9	19	1	4.5548	.20
	Positive (-to+)	15	10	2		

It would be found that, in the case of congruent measure, the changes in the attitude of the subjects in the unexpected direction are fewer than those observed in the case of incongruent measure. To be precise, such changes are about twenty per cent in the case of congruent measure as against about thirty-four per cent in the case of incongruent measure. This trend is further reinforced when the chi-square test is applied. In relation to congruent measure, the difference, between H<sub>1</sub> (+ to +) and L<sub>2</sub> (- to -) are sizeable and highly significant (X<sup>2</sup>=16.23, df=2, p<.001). On the other hand, the difference between H<sub>2</sub> (+ to -) and L<sub>1</sub> (- to +) is found to be small and insignificant (X<sup>2</sup>=4.55, df=2, p<.20). Apparently, while incongruent attitudes change outstrips congruent attitude change, it is not equally consistent.

The above line of thinking has been further investigated. Do the differences in before-and after-measurements arise because of the contents of the prelude and the characteristics of the groups, or else because of the interaction between the two? To grapple with these issues, a two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) has been carried out (Table 4.04). On going through the table, it would be seen that the main effect of preludes (positive versus

**Table 4.04 :** Analysis of variance of the preludes and groups.

Source	df	SS	MS	F	P
Prelude (A)	1	3437.59	3437.59	19.99	.01
Groups (B)	1	21158.20	21158.20	123.05	.01
Interaction (A & B)	1	115.37	115.37	.67	n.s.
Residual	108	18570.52	171.95		
Total	111	43281.68			

negative) is highly significant ( $F=19.99$ ,  $df=1/108$ ,  $p<.01$ ). It can thus safely be inferred that the differences between positive and negative preludes are real and not due to sampling variations. Similar is found to be the case in relation to the subgroups set up for the present purposes. The differences between the high scoring groups of the subjects and the low scoring groups are highly significant beyond chance ( $F=123.05$ ,  $df=1/108$ ,  $P<.01$ ). At the same time, the interaction effect between the preludes and the groups is not found to be significant ( $F=0.67$ ,  $df=108/1$ ,  $P<.05$ ). This strongly indicates that the contribution of the preludes and that of the groups to the variations in the attitude scores of the subjects is not mutually dependent.

Taken together, verbal communication has been able to bring about a change in the attitudes of the adolescents towards the police. The amount of change, however, has greatly varied with the thematic content of the messages they have been exposed to.

## Chapter 5

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### Conclusions

#### I

The police are not only the most important sector of the criminal justice system but also the pillar on which rests most of the superstructure of society. Label, organisation and structure may vary but the police are a prerequisite for maintaining social equilibrium and order. Of late, the responsibilities of the police have undergone a change, both vertically and horizontally. This is particularly true for India. There are certain writers who regard the police and their functioning as an important factor in the political stability and continuity the country has had since Independence (Bayley, 1969). Notwithstanding the role and the significance of the police, the public attitude towards the police has been at best ambivalent. Why is it so?

There are a number of historical, social, psychological and political reasons which are brought up to explain the hiatus between the police and the public. Apparently, the police view their relations with the public in a distorted manner; and public tend to regard the police as belonging to some different genre. Needless to add, society pays the price—perhaps heavily—for this kind of gulf between the police and the public. On the other hand, the reasons underlying the unsatisfactory state of police-public relation, though much discussed, have seldom been systematically analysed.

It would be justifiable to assume that the nature of police-public relations may be best explained in psychological terms. Among these, the concept of attitude holds much promise. As overt or covert response tendencies, attitudes affect and shape the individual as well as group behaviour and thereby the relations between individuals and groups. It is from this angle that an analysis of public attitude towards police assumes a pointed relevance.

Motivated by the foregoing consideration, the present work has attempted to look into the attitude of adolescents ( $N=175$ ) towards the police. In

doing so the background of the adolescents has also been explored so as to get at any linkages between their background and their attitudes towards the police. Efforts have also been made to enquire into the dynamics of attitude change. In view of the growing awareness of the importance of news-media, an attempt has been made to assess the changes of verbal communication is able to make in the attitude of the adolescents towards the police. Adhering to a before-and after-test design, an attempt has been made to compare congruent and incongruent attitudinal changes.

## II

As is well known the maintenance of law and order in India is primarily a state jurisdiction. The state governments and union territory administrations exercise administrative and functional control over a diverse range of police organisations. Besides, the duties and responsibilities of the police in recent decades have expanded noticeably. A good many of these duties and responsibilities preeminently call for public cooperation. On the other hand, in contemporary times, the adolescents are found surrounded with a plethora of dilemmas. Even otherwise, the period of adolescence is characterised by countless problems of development and maturation. In modern times rapid economic, political and social changes have added sizeably to the set of problems generally confronting the adolescents. Eager, enthusiastic and curious, the adolescents try to relate themselves to the social reality. In the light of their perception and experiences, they form attitudes towards various psychological objects, including police, which may outlast their adolescence.

The attitude of the adolescents towards the police may be mainly determined by three factors : Visibility, verbal communication, and interaction with the police. The last mentioned has been empirically verified in the present work. More than thirteen per cent of the adolescents have a relation serving one police organisation or another. As alert youngsters living in a metropolitan area, most of the adolescents (80.6%) have an idea as to where their local police station is. Quite a few of them (27.5%) have also paid a visit. Likewise, three out of every ten adolescents have also had the police handling different crime situations in their neighbourhood. It may be noted that the police-working has left a sort of mixed impression on the minds of the adolescents. Some of them report instances which bring out the police and their working in a favourable light. Side by side, there are others who cite instances showing the police in an unfavourable light.

That among the adolescents there are many who think of the police highly as also those who do otherwise, is amply reflected in their scores on the ATP-Scale (Table 2.01). It is possible to draw two inferences from the

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data : the overall distribution of the adolescents in terms of their attitudes towards the police appears to be balanced, indicating the adequacy of the method used for measuring their attitudes as well as the adequacy of the data for further analysis. Secondly, the adolescents, taken together, view the police favourably. This is demonstrated by sample mean (63.08) which is marginally higher than the theoretical median (63.00).

In an attempt to get at the antecedents of the attitudes of the adolescents towards the police, several personal, familial and interactional factors have been enquired into. Among age, sibling position and the class of the adolescents, only the latter appears to be related to their perception of the police—in an interesting manner. A trend is evident that higher the class of study, the more they would tend to view the police unfavourably. Since the factor of age is found to be insignificant, attention has to turn to increased awareness and perception the scholastic pursuits bring in their wake. Evidently, these do not aid in building up a favourable image of the police. This underlines the need for conscious efforts directed towards intensified police-adolescent contacts, and for streamlining police-public relations.

In this connection, family composition, education, and economic condition have been looked into. The attitude of the adolescents towards the police have shown variations but none of them are significant. It may be safely concluded that the perception of the adolescents of the police has little to do with the family background they come from.

Next, attention has been paid on adolescent-police interaction. Although, a sizeable section of the adolescents have one or another relation as a policeman, this fact is unrelated to their attitudes towards the police. On the other hand, factors like knowledge of the local police-station, visit to the police-station and the police visiting the neighbourhood appear to have a direct bearing on the attitude of the adolescents towards the police. The position that all these factors show significant variations is not so much worthy of note as the fact that all these bring out a negative trend. Stated differently, the adolescents who are familiar with the local police-station, who have paid a visit to a police-station, and who have had the police in their neighbourhood, tend to show an unfavourable predisposition towards the police. Apparently, the police functionaries, particularly, in the lower rungs have not been much mindful about the public-relations in their day-to-day working.

The fact that public attitudes towards police are subject to modification and change is reaffirmed by the experimental manipulation carried out in the study. The adolescents have been exposed to positive and negative verbal communications. It would be recalled that one 'high' and one 'low' groups of the adolescents has been given a 'positive prelude' and one high and one low

group. a negative prelude. Subsequently, their attitudes towards the police have been reassessed. In all the cases, the extent of attitude has been sizeable and significant. Also, indications are that the contents of the preludes and the characteristics of the groups have independently contributed to the changes in the attitudes. Should we pay attention to the congruency and incongruency in the attitude changes, it is difficult to make out any clear-cut trend. If at all, the incongruent change, quantitatively speaking, has been larger than the congruent change. Yet another observation which is possible to make is that the changes in the attitudes of the adolescents when exposed to the negative prelude are larger than when they are exposed to the positive prelude. In a way, this cuts across the assumption underlying the consistency theory of attitude, and, at the same time, this does not substantiate that the congruent attitude change is easier to produce. Simultaneously, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the adolescents have attitudes towards the police which are;

- (i) strong in salience and intensity, and
- (ii) much amenable to changes in the negative direction. In other words, a word against the police is likely to be more effective than a word for the police—inasmuch as the adolescents (the public ? ) are concerned.

### III

That healthy police-public relations have implications for the police organisation and working, can hardly be denied. From this stems the necessity that all the sectors of population may be educated on the role and significance of the police and that a conscious effort may be made to cultivate them. This becomes, futurologically speaking, more so imperative in relation to adolescents. The present study brings out that the adolescents are not overwhelmingly favourable to the police—but they are also not overwhelmingly unfavourable. Collectively, they seem to be like a clean slate : with a little effort much can be written on their minds. There is little in their personal characteristics or family background which may be a stumbling block in having cordial police-adolescent relations. If a section of the adolescents have an unfavourable perception of the police, this could be traced to two factors, one contingent and the other contributory. A trend is evident that as the adolescents scholastically move up, they grow more antagonistic towards the police. Then the form and content of police-adolescent interaction is inversely linked with the latter's perception of the former. This is both discouraging and encouraging. It is discouraging, for it does not speak well of the police-working. And it is encouraging, for it is something which can be helped.

It is more so encouraging in view of the fact that the present study brings to the fore the amenability to change of the attitudes of the adolescents towards the police. By bringing about a change in the style of the working of the police and by making efforts to promote healthy relations, the attitudes of the adolescents can be moulded and made more favourable towards the police. Towards this conscious and concerted programmes need to be conceived and implemented, particularly in view of the fact that anti-police words tend to travel faster than pro-police words.

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# APPENDIX I

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## Attitude towards Police

### INSTRUCTIONS

Listed below are some statements showing views regarding the police and their role in society. Against each statement you will find written five alternatives, namely, 'Strongly agree', 'Agree', 'Undecided', 'Disagree' and 'Strongly Disagree'. Please read each statement carefully. If you feel that you strongly agree with the statement, encircle the alternative, 'Strongly agree'. Similarly, any *one* of the five categories of responses to a statement would be encircled depending upon to what extent you agree or disagree with it. There is no right or wrong answer. We are interested in having *your personal opinion* on these issues. Remember you have to encircle any *one* of the five alternatives for all the statements.

1. The police is more disciplined than other Government employees of similar status.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY DISAGREE
2. The conduct and behaviour of the police are annoying.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY DISAGREE
3. If you complain against police, they cook up false cases against you.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY DISAGREE
4. The police are always kind-hearted and helping.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY DISAGREE
5. The police does a lot of good work in floods, fires and natural calamities.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY DISAGREE
6. Police do not beat up people at police station.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY DISAGREE

7. The police respect ladies, whether rich or poor.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
8. It is because of the police that women are able to move about fearlessly  
on the roads.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
9. Police are generally rude and abusive.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
10. Police cook up cases against innocents.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
11. Crime persists as police get mixed up with the criminals.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
12. In general policemen are dutiful persons to deal with.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
13. The police has a share in the earnings of the criminals.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
14. Police oppress the poor.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
15. Policeman does not act on any information unless there is some personal  
benefit to him.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
16. Police work hard so that people may be safe and comfortable.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
17. The police causes more harassment to the innocent than it does to the  
criminals.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE

18. Police side with poor people in the community.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
19. Police harass innocent people to exact money from them.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
20. The policemen are a set of law-breakers in *Khaki* uniform.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE
21. The police is going to protect you against the displeasure of the crimi-  
nals if you report against the criminals.  
STRONGLY AGREE AGREE UNDECIDED DISAGREE STRONGLY  
DISAGREE

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Qualification \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You.

## APPENDIX II

### Positive Prelude

"Police are an inseparable part of society. They are, by nature, kind-hearted, noble and helping. Police help the public in general, and weaker sections of the community, in particular. Harijans, refugees, women and children are the main components of the weaker sections. Police make all possible efforts to provide them safety and comfort. They respect ladies, irrespective of their social status, and provide proper guidance to adolescent boys and girls. Indeed, it is because of the police that women feel protected on roads, in markets, buses and trains. Besides police protect us against the displeasure of the criminals.

Whenever, there occurs any natural calamity like famine, fires, floods, drought, etc. in the country, the police play an active role in helping the public. Similarly, police at the cost of his health, serve helpless persons in the community when any infectious disease breaks out. When publicmen take rest in their homes during chilly nights of the winter season, the police protects our life and property by his patrolling.

When we compare the policemen with other government employees, we find that the former are more disciplined than the latter. Although they have to perform their duties full of risks and they get comparatively less salary ; and yet they are more dutiful as compared with other government employees".

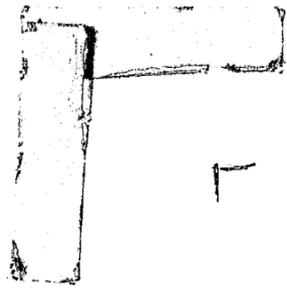
### Negative Prelude

"The policemen are a set of law-breakers in *khaki* uniform. Hardly an individual is unaware of their annoying behaviour. They are in the habit of using abusing language. They consider every individual who visits police station a criminal. Police oppress the poor in the community by several means. They never pay attention to complaints made by poor people.

Since the policemen have a share in the earnings of the criminals, they hardly care to find out real criminals. They cook up false cases against innocents and beat them up at police station just to finish their jobs and to save their skin, They neither investigate crimes nor arrest criminals unless they are bribed.

Policemen, by nature have the motive to exact money from public. If you complain against police to the higher authorities, you would not be comfortable. They will cook up false cases against you and you will be in trouble.

Whenever you call the policemen during an emergency hour, they never care to help you in time. They come after hours of the occurrence and try to finish anyhow their job. The police is more inactive and less dutiful as compared with other government employees of similar status".



**END**