

Problems of Armed Police During Strike – A Study in Thiruvananthapuram

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Introduction

Strike is a work stoppage caused by the mass refusal of employees to work. Strikes are sometimes used to pressure governments to change the policies. Strike destabilizes the rule of particular political party or ruler in such cases; strikes are often part of a broader social movement taking the form of a campaign of civil resistance.

Kerala police has eight battalions so called armed force functioning under the Director General Police. Each Battalion is functioning under the Commandant. The total strength 6,755 is located different places. It does not mean that the district police. Special Armed Police Battalion is the second armed police of the state.

The eight battalions are:

1. Special Armed Police (Trivandrum)
2. Malabar Armed Police (Malappuram)
3. Kerala Armed Police-I (Thrissur)
4. Kerala Armed Police-II (Palakkad)
5. Kerala Armed Police-III (Adoor)
6. Kerala Armed Police-IV (Kannur)
7. Kerala Armed Police (Pathanamthita)
8. State Rabid Action (Malappuram)

Functionally, the armed police battalions serve as reserve force to be deployed whenever & whatever the district police fall short manpower in maintenance of law & order. They are not permitted to undertake to crime investigation work. When so deployed they functions under the control of district police officer and are return to their camp as soon as requirements over. Armed police battalions are formed to assist the local police in emergency situation like communal clashes, general elections, natural calamities and law & order problems. It is origin even at the evolutionary stage of Kerala police. In case of emergency the Force is also deployed outside the state.

Armed Battalions & Riot Force

The riot control wing of the state police are predominantly manned in Armed Police Battalions. The riot control unit use water dispensing unit called VARUN to dispense the Mob. They also use grenades like smoke grenade, stinger grenade, and tear gas.

All states have different title for their armed police units. In addition to the term “Armed Police”, other titles in different states include Special Armed Police, Armed Constabulary, Provincial Armed Constabulary, Pradeshik and State Military Police. Although the titles are different, their organization, weapons, equipment and tasks are nearly the same. The central government of India now refers to these forces nationwide. As the State Armed Police Forces and discourages use of the term “Paramilitary”. However, this terminology does not necessarily coincide with the existing terminology of the States of India; For example, the state of Bihar calls its state armed police force “Military Police”, which clashes with central government definitions of “military” and “paramilitary”. It is not yet clear whether such discrepancies will be resolved.

Need of the study

In Kerala, every year number of strikes is happening comparing with other states, especially in major districts like Trivandrum, Kannur, and Kozhikode. Kerala has three main Political parties and they conduct strike for their needs. And also student unions like SFI, ABVP they are also conduct strike. Sometimes the strike continues for hours. During the time these police personnel suffered a lot. Mainly they can't commit their primary needs. And they want to safeguard premises from the striking party under the political involvements.

Review of Literature

David H. Bayley (1983), the police throughout the country are organized according to a single piece of national legislation. At the same time operational command is decentralized being the prerogative of India's states. Thus the bulk of police are state police. But are similar to one another in organization, training command and rank hierarchy. The national governments police consist only of the small central bureau of investigation. Bela Bhatia (2006), the case for armed struggle has to be arrested not only on theoretical grounds (The necessity of violence for the purpose of capturing state power). Since the Naxalites movement claims to be a people's movement it has to be the accountable to the people and thus open to the public scrutiny. It is with this motivation that I drawn attention below to some of the troubling aspects of revolutionary violence.

B. P. Rath & B. B. Das (2005), the industrial conflict emerged as major problem during the post industrialization period. The most visible symptom/manifestation of this conflict is the strike. But instance of strike were found even during the pre-industrialization era. Hence strike is considered as old as work itself.

Thomas. C. Schelling (1996), the strategy of an international armed agency is not just its military techniques. It is also its "foreign policy". The problems are not only one of the equipping & training an efficient force that can conquer a country or halt some hastily mobilized army. It includes whom to invade, when on what provocation with what "war aim" or whom to defend against what. It involves who the "enemy" would be in a world in which it may be politically awkward to talk about enemies may not always be nations but governments or civil war factions within nations.

Thomas. J. Mckee (1970), The investigation and prosecution of organized crime 15 complex & difficult. To meet the challenge the federal government has organized "strike forces", units that brings together and co-ordinate that skills and activities of many agencies, act near the first fully operational strike forces in Detroit obtained its first convictions.

Leolouis & Charles A. Forman (1973), whether or not, a strike is imminent a water utility should train its personnel for the possible advent of one when a strike does loom on the horizon management should make definitive arrangement to cope with it. The authors present some variable experience gained by Gary-Hobart corp.

Tomlangford (1994), Marxist have asserted that the action of a self conscious working class will be an essential element in any successful anticapitalist movement. The proletariat has revolutionary potential by virtue of its numerical mass & communication, strategic economics role, common experience of exploitation, injustice & collective resistance. To study the ebb and flow of class consciousness during strike a struggle is to take this assertion seriously.

David Arnold (1977), the strike is not a materialize. Threat to uninterrupted public utility service are not common hence the propriety of discussion of some of the legal problem incident to the employment of the state executive emergency powers as method of quelling similar threats of work stoppage. The Cromwellian interlude had nurtured a distrust of standing armies and after the intense public reaction against the use of troops in civil disturbances in Hanoverian England especially their part in Peterloo massacre the British ruling classes placed their faith in an unarmed constabulary as the primary peace-keeping force in contrast with the gendarmeries of the continent.

R. K. Raghavan (2003), the organization of the Indian police reflects the country's centralized federalism. It is federal in that it is organized by the status which manage large police force and constitutionally responsible for law & order. It is also centralized in the sense

that senior police officers are recruited nationally as members of the IPS, IAS, IFA of the three all Indian services. In addition to national organizations are numerous there are paramilitary forces CRPF, BSF.

Lachaise, Norman A. Wolfgang, Joan Rodman (1968), The report Consists of four case studies on the organization and operations of police and police-type- Type security organizations. The countries selected for study are India, Thailand, Bolivia, and Guatemala. The report also deals with a vast array of problems facing the internal Security forces such as recruitment, the collection of intelligence, and the security of border and coastal access points as well as the nature of insurgent operations, the public's Confidence in the incumbent government, and the cleavages in the cleavages in the Population and the civil disturbances arising from them. Discussion includes the Political parameters of the conflict, the social and economic dimensions that contributed to Its intensification, and the influences within the community that tended to ameliorate the Conflict and lighten the government' efforts. NDTV (2014), a majority of the petrol pump Owners in Kerala joined 24 hours strike call given by All Kerala Federation of petroleum Trades to press for their demands including hike in commission causing hard ship to Vehicle users. More than 15,000 petrol bunks remained closed since last night.

Research Methodology

Research is defined "systematic efforts to gain knowledge" by Redman & Mory. This chapter deals with the various methods adopted to conduct the present study. The various methods include;

1. Objectives
2. Sample
3. Sampling techniques
4. Sampling design
5. Research tool
6. Data collection
7. Statistical techniques

Objectives

- To assess the reason for joining in armed police.
- To identify the mental impact of armed police during strike.
- To identify the Physical impact of armed police during strike.

Universe of the Study

The universe for my present study was conducted in Special Armed Police Battalion, Peroorkada, Trivandrum district.

Sample Size

The sample taken for the present study was 60 samples from Special Armed police Battalion, Peroorkada Trivandrum.

Sampling Techniques

The simple random sampling technique was adopted by the researcher for the study.

Data Collection

Primary data were collected for the present study. The primary data were collected by using interview scheduled method.

Research Tool

Personal Distribution Questionnaire was used to collect the data for the study.

Data Analysis

The data analysis has done using percentage analysis.

TABLE 1: AGE OF RESPONDENTS		
Age	Frequency	Percent
25	2	3.2
26	11	17.7
27	9	14.5
28	6	9.7
29	4	6.5
30	10	16.1
31	3	4.8
32	3	4.8
33	4	6.5
34	2	3.2
35	3	4.8
36	1	1.6
39	1	1.6
42	1	1.6
45	2	3.2

Total	62	100
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Table number 1 shows the age of respondent. 17.7 per cent of the respondents are 26 years old. 16.1 per cent of the respondents are 30 years old. 14.35 per cent of the respondents are 27 years old.

Table no. 2 - Are you joined in armed police with your wishes?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	57	91.9
No	5	8.1
Total	62	100

Table number 2 shows 91.9 per cent of the respondents are joined armed police willingly. 8.1 per cent of the respondents are joined armed forces by the opportunity.

Table no.3 - Do you give any important to strike?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	34	54.8
No	28	45.2
Total	62	100

Table number 3 shows 54.8 per cent of the respondents are given importance to strike. 45.2 per cent of the doesn't give importance to strike.

Table no. 4 - When you heard strike, what you feel?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Anxiety	19	30.6
Able to face the mob	12	19.4
Other	31	50
Total	62	100

Table no. 4 shows 30.6 per cent of the respondents felt anxiety while heard the word strike, 19.4 per cent of the respondents are able to face the mob.

Table no. 5 - On strike time do you take any psychological preparation?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	37	59.7

No	25	40.3
Total	62	100

Table number 5 shows that 59.7 percent of the respondents said that they will get prepared mentally during strike and 40.3 percent of the respondents said that they will not take any mental preparation.

Table no. 6 - During strike time any quarrel happened with mob?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	45	72.6
No	17	27.4
Total	62	100

Table number 6 shows that 72.6 per cent of the respondents participated in quarrel with mob during strike and 27.4 respondents said didn't participated in quarrel with mob during strike.

Table no 7 -During strike time any quarrel happened between your colleagues?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	6	9.7
No	56	90.3
Total	62	100

Table number 7 shows 90.3 per cent of the respondents said that quarrel didn't happen between colleagues during their strike time, and 9.7 per cent of the respondents said quarrel happened between colleagues during their strike time.

Table no 8 -During strike time, what you feel when you see the violent mob?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Fear	4	6.5
Anger	50	80.6
Proceed to attack	8	12.9
Total	62	100

Table number 8 shows that 80.6 per cent of the respondents felt anger, 6.5 per cent of the respondents felt fear, 12.9 per cent of the respondents proceeds to attack the mob.

Table no. 9 -Whether politician interfere your loyal commission of duty?		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	25	40.3
No	37	59.7
Total	62	100

Table number 9 shows that, 40.3 percent of the respondents said that politicians interfere on their loyal commission of duty.

Major Findings & Discussion

- 91.9 percent of the respondents joined armed police willingly.
- 75.8 percent of the respondents chose uniform service due to the love and respect on uniform service. 9.7 percent of the respondents chose because of salary they can earn. 8.1 percent of the respondents chose the uniform service for other reasons.
- 30.6 percent of the respondents felt anxiety while heard the word strike.
- 19.4 percent of the respondents are able to face the mob without any type of feelings.
- 82.3 percent of the respondents think that they don't want to go to strike.
- 59.7 percent of the respondents said that they will get prepared mentally during strike and 40.3 percent of the respondents said that they will not take any mental preparation.
- 29.4 percent of respondents had injuries during strike time.
- 91.9 percent of respondents said that they can follow their superior command during strike.
- 90.3 percent of the respondents said that quarrel didn't happen between colleagues during their strike time, and 9.7 percent of the respondents said quarrel happened between colleagues during the strike time.
- 62.9 percent of the respondents are not satisfied with their defensive equipments which they use during strike.
- 80.6 percent of the respondents felt anger, 6.5 percent of the respondents felt fear, 12.9 percent of the respondents proceeds to attack the mob.
- 87.1 percent of the respondents said that they are not able to commit their primary needs during the strike. 12.9 percent of the respondents said that they are able to commit their primary needs during strike.
- 51.6 percent of the respondents said they can be a loyal to family.

Suggestions & Conclusion

There are following some valid suggestions given by the researcher;

- Continuous and regular proper training must provided to the armed police forces.
- Training in modern combat methods to the armed police forces.
- Mobile toilet Facilities should be made especially for armed police in strike area.
- Modern and appropriate anti strike equipments should be provided by the government to the armed police force.
- Separate safety place for armed police in the area.
- Police must allow taking decision independently without any influence of politicians.
- Adequate armed police should be present in striking area.
- Public should help or support to armed police force to without any hesitation during any conflict situation or panic area.

These police units are facing many problems which include mental problems and physical problems during strike. The political pressure also affects them badly. And mainly this study concentrates on individual problems during strike.

Armed police rank is the entry level of police in Kerala Police recruitment. So that most of them joined in armed force by their willingness. Majority of them chose that recruit because of their interest on uniform service. Many of them felt anxiety about media focusing police during strike because sometimes media interpret police activities in different way or badly. They had injuries while controlling the mob, clash and violent area when obeying superiors command. And many times may chances to quarrel with strikers moreover most of the persons can't commit their primary need when the strike goes on hours. In addition to the defensive equipment doesn't protect the individual very well.

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