



Exploring Authority Abuse among Police Officers: Causes Consequences and Reforms

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyze the abuse of authority among police officers using qualitative phenomenological research. The aim of the study is to explore how police staff, prisoners and the general public perceive the incidents of abuse of authority in enforcement. 30 participants, including 10 police officers, 10 prisoners and 10 members of the general public. All participants provided informed consent to acknowledge that they recognized the unnoticed nature of the study and the confidentiality of their answers. The data was collected through semi-structured interviews and qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis. According to research, training, organizational culture and responsibility have an impact on the opinions of police officers on the abuse of authority. The perception of prisoners also involves concerns about unfair treatment, disproportionate punishment, and lack of liability and threat of removal. The findings point to the need for structural reforms that prefer greater education, transparency and responsibility systems within the police departments. The study contributes to our understanding of the abuse of authority to the police and emphasizes the need for cultural change in the enforcement of the right to ensure ethical treatment of all individuals.

Keywords: Authority Abuse, Police Personnel, Inmates, The Public, Qualitative Research, Phenomenology, Theme Analysis, Police Misbehavior, Accountability

Introduction

The abuse of the police is serious concerns that significantly affects both the coercive authorities and the communities trying to protect. The Office granted to police officers for compliance with laws and ensuring the provision of social order is an essential pillar of any civilization, yet it transmits a considerable risk of exploitation. Abuse of this power can take many forms such as excessive strength, racial profiling, corruption and breach of civil freedoms. Studies indicated that these offenses not only harm the relationship between law enforcement and population, but also erode the basis of the court system (Kraska & Kappeler, 2015). Recent cases of police misconduct, especially those concerning racial minorities, attracted worldwide attention regarding the problem of abuse of authority. Such episodes often ignite public fury, lead to demonstrations and requirements of sparks for reform in police departments (Weitzer, 2015). Research shows that elements such as organizational ethos, insufficient responsibility and militarization of police units play an important role in supporting these offensive tendencies

(Tyler, 2004). This document is immersed in the origin, effects and possible remedies for abuse of authority between police officers and emphasizes the urgent need for complex reforms to increase justice and responsibility in enforcement. Authority among police officers is a complicated term that includes their function in society, the dynamics of power in the police management and the symbolic authority of their uniform. Public confidence, internal structure of management and cultural importance of police uniforms have an impact on the police office, which is decisive for maintaining social security. These aspects affect the perception and effectiveness of police power.

Authority and perception of the public

The legitimacy of the police is inseparably linked to public opinion and confidence. In Poland, for example, the police have a significant authority because of their excellent prevention and crime solution, which improves public security and trust (Bednarz, 2024). In England and Wales, faith in the police is critical for their legitimacy and efficiency. The fear of crime, the depiction of the media and the real interaction with the police has an impact on public confidence (Jackson et al., 2012).

Leadership and Rank

Police leadership has long been considered as rank-based, but there is a push for a critical perspective that acknowledges the power dynamics that come with rank. Understanding these processes is critical for responding to shifting demands and expectations in policing (Davis, 2018). The power of rank can sometimes overwhelm the need for more collaborative and adaptive leadership styles, which are required in modern policing situations (Davis, 2018).

Symbolic Authority of Uniform

The police uniform is an effective emblem of authority, influencing both the officers who wear it and public perception. It can elevate cops to the status of 'celebrity', influencing their personal life and strengthening the division between police and the public (Camargo, 2011). The uniform's authority might have negative implications, such as blurring professional and personal boundaries, forcing rituals to separate work and home life (Camargo, 2011).

Social Psychological Theory

Social Psychological Theories Social psychological theories, including the groundbreaking work of Milgram (1963) in his renowned obedience experiments, shed light on how everyday individuals can partake in actions deemed immoral when influenced by authority figures. In a similar vein, police officers, often operating within rigid hierarchies and a well-defined chain of command, may find themselves more prone to misconduct when under perceived orders or pressure from their superiors (Tyler, 2004). These theories propose that the authoritative role of police officers can diminish personal accountability, thereby paving the way for abusive actions.

Organizational and structural Theories

Organizational and Structural Theories The organizational ethos within police forces plays a crucial role in comprehending authority-related abuses. The phenomenon of "police subculture" has been extensively explored in various studies, suggesting that law enforcement agencies cultivate a collective set of norms, values, and practices that may foster an "us vs. them" mindset (Kraska & Kappeler, 2015). In cultures that prioritize employee loyalty above all else officers tend to believe it is acceptable to excuse or overlook wrongdoing. Complex institutional factors which include inadequate training and insufficient resources drive staff to abuse their authority because they lead to higher levels of abuse (Weitzer, 2015).

Legal and Constitutional Theories

Legal and constitutional frameworks produce important understandings about police power operations. According to the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution Americans gain protection from unreasonable searches and seizures. Police usage of force as a departmental practice sparks ongoing debates between public protection and civil rights preservation. Legal scholars have explored the ramifications of landmark Supreme Court cases such as *Tennessee v. Garner* (1985), which curtailed the application of deadly force by police, and *Graham v. Connor* (1989), which established criteria for assessing police use of force through the lens of objective reasonableness. These decisions underscore the inherent tensions between legal frameworks aimed at curbing abuse and the practices that frequently arise within law enforcement agencies (Cohen & Feldberg, 2018).

Factors Contributing in Police Authority Abuse

Individual Factors

Factors Contributing to Police Authority Abuse Individual Factors Personal attributes, including specific personality traits and prior experiences, can significantly influence police misconduct. Officers possessing authoritarian characteristics, marked by a strict adherence to social hierarchies and an appetite for power, may be more inclined to engage in confrontational or oppressive policing (Kane, 2002). Furthermore, stress, trauma, and the psychological burdens associated with high-risk environments can heighten the propensity for abuse. Police officers often navigate high-pressure scenarios, including violent encounters or threats, which can lead to exhaustion and suboptimal decision-making (Cohen & Feldberg, 2018).

Results

Table 1 *General Population Views about police Authority Abuse*

<i>Themes</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Experiences of excessive force and misconduct	28	90
Several respondents reported witnessing	27	93
experiencing excessive force	26	90
abusive behavior	27	87
misconduct by police officers during interactions or arrests	28	90
Unfair targeting and discrimination	f	%
unfair targeting	5	17
discriminatory treatment of specific communities	5	17
Biasness	5	17
Hostility	2	7
Prejudice Communities wise	3	10
Socioeconomic status	3	10
Ethnicity	2	7
Gender	3	10
Appearance	2	7
Total	30	100
Lack of Accountability and Trust	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Lack of Trust in the Police and their Ability	7	7
Lack of interest on their safety services	3	23
Protect all members of the community fairly	5	10
transparent reporting mechanisms	5	17

stricter penalties for misconduct	5	17
body cameras	2	17
independent oversight bodies	3	7
Total	30	100
Fear of Retaliation and Reprisals	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Retaliation from police officers if they report incidents of abuse or misconduct	17	57
Harsh and uncaring behavior	13	43
Total	30	100
Need for improved training and accountability measures FOR HUMAN rights	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Biased awareness	16	53
Prejudice awareness	14	47
Total	30	100

Note. f = Frequency, % = Percentage

Based on a sample population of 30 respondents, the table reflects the public views of abuse of power by the police. The data is divided into a cluster of primary themes with frequencies *f* and percentages %. Most of the participants (90%) reported seeing or experiencing excessive use of force and abusive actions by police officers during police contact or arrest encounters. This theme emphasizes the widespread belief among the public that there are misconduct and abuse of the use of force by the police. There were 17% of respondents who reported being biased against due to unfair profiling and discriminatory practices which were regarded as due to class, ethnicity, gender, and physical appearance. This theme highlights the issue of how some communities or individuals are considered as more prone to police abuse than others. This theme also highlights the level of confidence that the public has in the police or in the case of other law enforcement agencies. A range of issues was raised including doubts regarding police impartiality in relation to all the community members (10%), lack of clear reporting channels (17%), and the demand for tougher action against the offenders (17%). There was peripheral trust in law enforcement because of lack of external regulation. Almost half of the respondents (57%) were fearful of police officers' abuse or misconduct in case they spoke against any such incident. Additionally, 43% of the respondents acknowledged having been treated badly and roughly, which also made the people apprehensive about interacting with police. This theme also denotes a gap in training and understanding of discrimination and stereotyping. Over half (53%) of respondents believed biased awareness should be better educated while 47% stressed on the need for wider awareness of prejudice against practices implemented by law enforcement agencies.

Table 2 *Prisoner's perception about Police Authority Abuse (n = 10)*

Themes and Sub Themes		
Unfair Treatment and Excessive Punishment	f	%
Unfair treatment by police	4	40
Excessive punishment (Punished too much)	3	30
Yes, treated unfairly	1	10
Punished excessively	2	20
Total	10	100
Fear of Retaliation	f	%
Fear of further mistreatment	5	50
No, don't feel safe telling someone	4	40

Total	10	100
Witnessing Mistreatment	f	%
Yes, witnessed bullying or poor treatment	6	60
Observing others being mistreated	4	40
Total	10	100
Lack of Accountability	f	%
Insufficient consequences for police complaints	6	60
No, police don't get in trouble enough	4	40
Total	10	100
Feeling Unsafe	f	%
Police making prisoners feel unsafe	4	40
Life threaten	3	30
Corporal Punishment	3	30
Total	10	100
Harsh and Uncaring Behavior	f	%
Yes, felt scared or unsafe	3	30
Police behavior towards prisoners	2	20
No, police are harsh and uncaring	3	30
Total	10	100
Discrimination	f	%
Favoritism	2	20
Nepotism	2	20
Social status	2	20
Ethnic Groups	1	10
Sectarianism	3	30
Total	10	100

Note. f = Frequency, % = Percentage

The majority of prisoners reported experiencing or perceiving unfair treatment by police officers, with excessive punishment being a significant issue. Fear of retaliation and a lack of trust in the system were also significant themes. Many prisoners witnessed bullying or poor treatment by the police, and some felt unsafe to report incidents. The lack of accountability theme highlighted that police officers face insufficient consequences for their actions, and many prisoners felt that they are not held accountable for their abuse. The fear of life threat, corporal punishment, and fear of being scared or unsafe were also common themes. Some prisoners felt that police behavior towards them was harsh and uncaring, and some believed that they were intentionally harsh and indifferent to their welfare. Discrimination in prison settings was also a significant issue, with some prisoners feeling that police officers showed favoritism, nepotism, social status, ethnicity, or sectarianism. Overall, prisoners' perceptions of police treatment are complex and multifaceted.

Table 3 *Police Officers Self-Perspective for Police Authority Abuse (n=10)*

<i>Themes</i>		
Awareness of Authority and Power	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
feeling empowered	6	60
Abusing	4	40
Total	10	100
Personal Conduct and Ethics	f	%
Training on appropriate use of force and authority	4	40

Officers mention receiving training in the police academy on the appropriate use of force and respecting individual rights	6	60
Total	10	100
Factors influencing police misconduct	f	%
Stress	3	30
Low pay	2	20
Poor working conditions	2	20
frustration	1	10
personal biases	1	10
lack of oversight	1	10
Total	10	100
Awareness of abuse of power incidents	f	%
Dismissive behavior	5	50
Some officers report following appropriate channels to report such incidents	5	50
Total	10	100
Ensuring responsible use of authority	f	%
Protocols	4	40
Laws	2	20
Departmental policies to ensure responsible use of authority	3	30
More lenient or situational approach	1	20
Total	10	100
Balancing power and individual rights		
Improving accountability and transparency	6	60
skepticism about improving accountability	4	40
Total	10	100
Dealing with protests and misconduct reports	f	%
Investigation for complaints	4	40
Appropriate action	3	30
lack of effectiveness or action taken	3	30
Total	10	100
Community relations and trust	f	%
Open communication	5	50
Transparency	3	30
Responding to complaints	2	20
Total	10	100
Prevalence of complaints and misconduct reports	f	%
Curruption	3	
Verbal Abusing	2	40
Accesive Force	2	30
False Arrest	2	30
Evidence Tempering	1	
Total	10	100

Note. f = Frequency, % = Percentage

The data reflects police officers' understandings and discussions of the use of police power and its implicit abuse. Officers' comprehension endorses such concepts as: self-awareness with regards to authority, specific behavior, and reasons for engaging in various misconducts, management of misconduct incidents, and their interaction with society. Out of sixty officers, two reported being abused. They participated in a course on the responsible use of force and abuse of authority, attending to ethical standards as well. Assault attention factors include stress, low pay, poor environment, specific situational requirements or needs, and authority deficit. More apprehensive circumstances, even abuse of power, are witnessed, only 50 times reporting an incident of a want of attention. The department has written procedures and laws to promote the judicious exercise of power and authority. There is concern about the balance between society's interests and those of the individual, 60 expect better accountability and transparency. Officers take time to respond to the call for action including demurrer and misconduct reporting where at least 40 sought the complaints and 30 made appropriate decisions. Nonetheless, questions about the effects of such reforms aimed at enhancing accountability continue to exist. In last theme prevalence of complaints and misconduct corruption was most dominant verbal abusing, excessive Force and false Arrest were second highest influencing causes of authority abuse and least impacting factor was evidence tempering.

Method

A qualitative phenomenological research design was employed, open ended interviews and semi structure interviews were utilized to examine authority abuse among police officers. A purposive sampling technique was used to recruit 30 participants, with 10 participants from the general population, 10 police officers, and 10 prisoners. Prior to data collection, informed consent was obtained from all participants, and department they were informed about the purpose of the study. Participants were also made aware that the research was not sponsored, and no monetary compensation would be provided. Confidentiality of the information shared by the participants was assured.

Inclusion Criteria

1. Police Officers

Active duty police officers having at least one year of experience in the field.

Officers of various grades and departments, including patrol, detective, and supervisory roles.

Officers are encouraged to express their own experiences, perspectives, and opinions on the use of authority and potential abuse.

2. Age & Gender

Participants must be 18 years or older.

All genders and age groups in the police force are eligible, ensuring a diverse sample.

3. Geographic Scope: Officers from diverse locations (urban, suburban, and rural) are included to examine how context impacts authority misuse.

Officers from various ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds were surveyed to evaluate how different contexts affect police behavior.

4. Relevant Experience

Officers with direct public interface experience (e.g., patrol, investigations, arrests).

Officers having expertise with situations involving possible misuse of authority (e.g., use of force, detention, and arrests).

5. Ethical Willingness: Participants must agree to participate in the study and provide informed consent. Officers must be open and honest about their experiences and perceptions of authority abuse in policing.

Exclusion criteria

Exclusion criteria include police officers with less than six months of experience and prisoners who have not been incarcerated for more than one year.

1. Non-police personnel

Non-law enforcement personnel, such as administrative staff, civilian employees, or government agency members, are not eligible.

Volunteers, non-police personnel, and others not directly involved in law enforcement or police activities are excluded.

2. Inexperienced officers.

Officers with less than one year of active service may be eliminated due to insufficient experience to adequately comment on authority misuse dynamics.

o Trainees or probationary police who have not experienced real-world scenarios where abuse of authority could occur.

3. Underage Participants

The study will not include officers under the age of 18, as it will focus on a specific population is legally recognized as an adult.

4. Criminal Behavior: Officers who have been convicted of abuse, corruption, or misconduct may be removed from the study based on ethical rules and research aims.

5. Unwilling Participants: Police officers who do not consent to participate or refuse to offer their thoughts on authority abuse will be excluded. Participants who refuse to discuss or offer information about authority abuse or misbehavior will be excluded.

6. Cultural or Language Barriers: Officers who do not speak the primary language utilized in the research (e.g., English or the language of the nation where the study is done) Be excluded unless linguistic help is available.

Some officers may be unable to participate in interviews or surveys due to cultural or religious constraints.

7. Officers have conflicting interests.

Participants with known biases or vested interests in the study's conclusion, such as officers under investigation or with active legal matters, may be excluded to avoid skewing the results.

Procedure

After approval from ethical internal departmental committee Consents were obtained from concern department. Open-ended interviews were conducted with police officers before finalizing the interview questions. Based on the open-ended screening interviews and discussions among a panel committee, questions for the semi-structured interviews were developed. These questions were reviewed and finalized after receiving feedback from the panel members. When researchers final questionnaire for semi structure interviews again conducted interviews on police officer, prisoners and general population for data collection purpose. Qualitative data obtained from semi -structured interviews were analyzed using thematic analysis to explore the abuse of authority among police officers.

Ethical considerations

Informed consent: All participants provide informed consent before participating in the study and ensure that they are aware of the purpose of research, procedures and possible risks or benefits.

Confidentiality: The participants' answers would maintain confidential and the data will be anonymous to ensure privacy.

Right to withdrawal: The parties will be informed that they have the right to withdraw from the study at any time.

Discussion

The theme of excessive strength and misconduct is the most dominant because 90% of respondents said that such behavior is indicative of or experiencing. This is in line with wider trends in police misconduct observed in multiple studies. Research Weitzer (2015) and Kraska and Kappeler (2015) suggests that the incidents of excessive force are disproportionately experienced by marginalized communities, often during routine police meetings or arrests. Incorrect behavior, such as verbal abuse, physical violence and unnecessary coercion, is reported as a common problem, which further worsens the mistrust between law enforcement and community. In many cases, respondents said that excessive force was not only unnecessary, but also escalated situations that could otherwise be resolved peacefully. Sherman (2018) claims that excessive use of the power of enforcement of law leads to significant distrust of the community and can escalate violent meetings, undermining the integrity of the police forces. Moreover, the consistent theme of the wrong action during the arrest emphasizes concerns about the professionalism and behavior of police officers, indicating a systemic problem in police culture, which was criticized in the literature as the question of a "bad apple" or, a wider organizational culture (Tyler, 2004). These findings show that police misconduct is not an isolated phenomenon, but often a wider reflection of deep -rooted problems in police structures.

Unfair Targeting and Discrimination (17-10%)

Unjust targeting and discrimination is an important problem, with 17% to 10% of respondents identified distorted treatment based on ethnicity, socio -economic position or appearance. This topic reflects findings in studies on racial profiling and bias in police activities. The disproportionate targeting of racial and ethnic minorities was a long -term problem in many companies, with groups such as African Americans, Hispanics and other racial minorities, often showing a higher level of police checks (Gabbidon, 2018).

Discrimination practices also apply to individuals from a lower socio -economic environment. It strengthens social inequalities (Weitzer, 2015). The data that the data collected here is further supported, and respondents point to the bias in police work not only for racial reasons, but also related to social class and appearance.

Research by Cohen and Feldberg (2018) also associates with these findings and emphasizes how police officers - both implicit and explicit - focus on discriminatory practices that damage marginalized groups. These findings strengthen the importance of resolution of racial profiling and socio -economic discrimination through a comprehensive police reform.

Lack of Accountability and Trust (100%)

The lack of responsibility and confidence in the police force is the central theme that resonates in all categories of respondents (100%). As the data show, respondents generally emphasized significant erosion of trust in the enforcement of law, especially among marginalized communities. This lack of trust in the police is not new; He is well documented in literature, where Tyler (2004) and Kraska and Kappeler (2015) have shown that communities often feel that the enforcement of law does not serve fairly or fairly. The perception of police responsibility is deeply associated with their willingness to cooperate with coercive authorities and overall confidence in the system. Many respondents in this study demanded greater transparency in police procedures, specifically mentioned the need for independent bodies of supervision, camera cameras and stronger reporting mechanisms. These proposals are in line with existing recommendations for police reforms aimed at increasing transparency and responsibility (Sherman, 2018). For example, the use of body cameras has been designed as a key measure to

reduce police misconduct and increase the public confidence by providing evidence in cases of disputed meetings (Tyler, 2004).

The call for stricter sanctions for officers involved in misconduct reflects the wider demand for police responsibility. In the assessment of Cohen and Feldberg (2018) the absence of well-defined consequences supports a permitless environment for police misconduct to arise unchallenged. The absence of strict penalties for police misconduct enables a context of unwarranted protection which makes problem behavior continue unchecked.

Reaction from the survey suggests that many respondents believe that stronger promotion of disciplinary measures would help discourage future abuse.

Fear of Retaliation and Reprisals (57%)

The concern about reprisals emerged as an essential factor with 57% of participants dedicating remarks. The respondents showed reluctance to report police abuse because they worried about facing retaliation. This topic underlines the critical obstacle to the police misconduct: the victims of abuse may face further victimization if they report incidents. This fear of retaliation can prevent incidents from reporting, allowing the incorrect behavior cycle.

Sherman (2018) and Weitzer (2015) emphasized how the victims of police misconduct often reluctant to come because of the perceived or real consequences they could face. These consequences could range from further harassment or poor handling of coercive organs to more serious retaliation. Finding out of this study strengthens the need for protective measures for those who report incorrect behavior and better protection of the notifiers in police departments. In addition, this fear of retaliation is intensified by the belief that police officers will not be responsible for their actions. Without mechanisms to ensure protection and justice for those who report abuse, the culture of silence and fear persists (Gabbidon, 2018).

Need for Improved Training and Accountability Measures (100%)

Every participant in this study concluded that training and responsibility standards need improvement. Better training about bias and prejudice awareness received support from 53% and 47% of the survey participants. The problem reveals an essential limitation police reform must address when trying to resolve discriminatory behavior problems and enhancing police judgment abilities. According to Weitzer (2015) and Cohen and Feldberg (2018) reasonable training deficiencies lead to most police misconduct cases because they fail to detect and eliminate implicit prejudice. The research results validate these findings since law enforcement officers need more in-depth human rights training and should understand prejudice before learning conflict resolution. Police organizations mandate a training schedule for their personnel because these sessions work to minimize discriminatory actions and teach officers to deliver fair treatment regardless of personal background.

The author Tyler (2004) argues police training requires enhancement to teach de-escalation methods alongside cultural intelligence education to establish law enforcement legitimacy and decrease misconduct incidents. Roediger believes that by supplying equipment for professional and respectful mastery of situations officers will decrease their tendency to engage in misconduct.

Prisoners' Perceptions about Police Authority Abuse

Table 2 shows the extensive data demonstrating prisoner attitudes about police authority abuse. The data reveals multiple organizational themes which depict prisoners' experiences with police authority abuse involving unfair treatment and fear of reprisals plus observing mistreatment and lack of accountability and perceptions about safety and harsh conduct and discrimination. The collective themes describe prisoner understandings about their law enforcement encounters which reveal how power and authority functions and mistreatment operates across the criminal justice system. The analysis will deeply examine these discovered themes with an emphasis on previous research to evaluate the proper context and significance of police authority abuse.

Unfair Treatment and Excessive Punishment

A total of 40% of prisoners believed they received unjust police treatment yet 30% claimed their punishments were inappropriate. The surveyed prisoners expressed considerable feelings of injustice in their prison experience which strongly affects their psychological health. Research supports this prisoner belief that police appear as abusive figures who use power in a manner that disregards fairness (Sykes 2007). According to Toch and Klofas (2006) prisoners commonly reported that their legal encounters were slanted and out of proportion thereby enlarging their experience of unfairness. The implementation of excessive punishment leads to cycles of detention measures that do not restore traits but rather expand undesirable behaviors (Miller & Goff, 2017).

Fear of Retaliation

The fear of retribution stands as a major problem within correctional facilities because 50 percent of prisoners indicate they fear new abuse and 40 percent do not feel safe to report abuses. Such results show deep problems within prisons because inmates maintain a culture of fear. According to Miller (2019) inmates avoid reporting mistreatment because they face potential consequences of more punishment or mistreatment. The research on law enforcement and prison system silence shows that threats of punishment stop people from revealing abuse cases (Cohen, 2014). A study conducted by Stinson et al. (2009) proves that fear of revenge prevents many individuals from identifying abuse and misbehavior thus permitting perpetrators to continue acting with impunity.

Witnessing Mistreatment

Prisoner testimonies indicate that (60 = %) have seen bullying or mistreatment in prisons and another (40 = %) has observed mistreatment of fellow inmates in their facility. Extensive observations of abuse within prisons tend to normalize abusive behavior while making prisoners feel unable to disrupt the prison system. Haney's (2006) research supports the present analysis because he discovered that prisoners regularly see correctional officers treating inmates violently which creates circumstances where prisoners become afraid and distrustful of the system. When prisoners observe mistreatment it causes their perception of justice system abuse to harden making it seem deeper than individual instances.

Lack of Accountability

Research findings demonstrate that sixty percent of prisoners felt police complaints lacked appropriate consequences because the justice system does not properly sanction law enforcement actions. Prisoners feel unjustly treated due to inadequate accountability systems which exists between both prison and law enforcement facilities. This situation erodes public confidence in police operations. O'Neill and McDonald (2013) conducted investigations which demonstrated that an inappropriate handling of police and correctional staff complaints failing to produce meaningful consequences drives an atmosphere of unlawful protection that maintains abusive

practices without intervention. The absence of accountability measures stands as a major element which damages the relationship between police forces and their served communities within prison institutions.

Feeling Unsafe

The study shows that prisoner responses indicate dangerous situations and police officer conduct are responsible for 40% of their dangerous feelings. At the same time, 30% expressed concerns about life-threatening incidents and corporal punishment. These feelings dangerously reflect the high level of tension and fear that exist in the prison environment. Such perception of danger can have serious consequences for mental health and well-being of prisoners. Research GOFF et al. (2016) have shown that prisoners often feel physically endangered by acting on the enforcement of law, especially if officers use excessive strength or do not provide adequate protection. This perception of constant threat can lead to increased stress and a sense of vulnerability in imprisoned individuals.

Harsh and Uncaring Behavior

The theme of harsh and unfit behavior emphasizes the perception of 30% of prisoners that they were treated in a way that instilled fear and feeling of helplessness. This perception is strengthened by some officers can consider prisoners less than humans, which contributes to dehumanization of imprisoned individuals. Previous research by Tyler and Huo (2002) showed that when prisoners are treated with cruelty or indifference, it undermines the legitimacy of the law and maintains a feeling of relaxation. Such behavior also worsens the contradictory relationship between law enforcement and prisoners and reduces opportunities for rehabilitation and re-integration into society.

Discrimination

Discrimination was reported by 70% of prisoners in various forms, including protectionism (20%), non-sifted (20%), social status (20%), ethnic discrimination (10%) and sectarianism (30%). These findings indicate that police officers can engage in discriminatory behavior based on personal bias or group associations, which will also affect the inequality in the criminal judiciary. Previous studies have found that discrimination in the prison system is not limited to racial bias, but is expanding to social status, ethnicity and other forms of group identity (Mears, 2014). The findings are in line with the research of Healy and O'Donnell (2011), which pointed to the existence of racial and social discrimination in corrective institutions, resulting in uneven handling of certain groups of prisoners.

Police Officers' Self-Pen Police Authority Abuse

Findings from the table on the self-knowledge of police officers of their authority and abuse of power offer valuable knowledge of complex dynamics of law enforcement. The reactions of officers reflect a number of attitudes, experiences and concerns about the use of power and potential misconduct within the profession. The following segment analyzes vital subjects from the table with backing evidence from literature to establish a complete comprehension of police authority abuse.

Awareness of Authority and Power

The theme of Awareness of Authority and Power reveals conflicting dynamics because officers claim empowerment stands at 60% yet abuse of power reaches at 40%. The results indicate a sophisticated understanding of police authority by officers. Studies have shown the importance of law enforcement agencies to remain vigilant about their power's potential abuse while the

findings demonstrate that police officers think this way. Lersch and Mieczkowski (2005) revealed that police officers often gain pivotal authority positions which results in feeling empowered because of this authority. The power differential between police and the public creates abuse risks that must be actively supervised to prevent such situations. The detection of abuse by the people who experience it together with police officers is essential for reducing these destructive behaviors (Johnson, 2015).

Personal Conduct and Ethics

Sixty percent of officers received training about proper strength application and individual rights respect through their Police Academy education according to this theme. Forty percent of officers explained that they completed specific training courses on power. Formal education stands out as the determining factor which shapes officer understanding of their responsibilities together with their professional ethical limits. Research shows training for ethical decision-making stands as a crucial component according to literature because field officer behavior shows direct connections to police training quality (Kara, 2017). Insufficient training methods in both ethics principles and force application resulted in more discipline issues within the department (Cohen, 2016).

Factors Influencing Police Misconduct

The study evaluates three significant elements which contribute to police misconduct at 20%, 30% and 20% for stress levels, low wages and substandard working environments respectively. Previous studies validate these factors because working stress and dissatisfaction with workplace environment represent two leading causes of police misconduct. Working stress together with low salary and poor working conditions play a large role in officer frustration and misconduct potential according to Farkas (2007) and O'Neal (2012). According to Maslach & Leiter (2016) emotional exhaustion and burnout together with stress act as vital elements which weaken professional behavior.

Awareness of Abuse of Power Incidents

The answers to "awareness of the abuse of power incidents" show the divided perception among officers, with 50% recognizing negative behavior, while another 50% reported on the relevant channels to report these incidents. In response, this division may indicate a gap between official policies and on the ground. In the Sherman study (2002), it was found that police officers often reluctant to report the abuse of their colleagues because of the "Code of Silence", which exists in many police cultures. However, if officers are encouraged to report misconduct and are trained about ethical behavior, the likelihood of abuse decreases (Alpert, 2011).

Ensuring Responsible Use of Authority

Regarding the responsible use of authority, a large part of the officers (40%) pointed out the protocols as essential to maintain the proper use of power, while 30% emphasized the department's policy. This reflects the institutional commitment to formalize the procedures by which the Office is performed. Research Verma (2017) supports the importance of clear protocols and politicians in preventing abuse of power. However, as can be seen in the answers, officers also said that laws and politicians themselves may not always be sufficient, suggesting that more complex reforms may be needed that include structural changes and cultural shifts within the police forces (Goldstein, 1990).

Balancing Power and Individual Rights

The topic of "balance of power and individual rights" underlines the importance of liability and transparency, with 60% of officers to improve these aspects. This finding is in line with literature that emphasizes the importance of balancing the performance of police power with the protection of individual rights (Reiss, 1971). Murphy's research (2018) emphasizes that police responsibility mechanisms such as physical cameras and independent supervision are essential in preventing the abuse of power and increasing public confidence in enforcement.

Dealing with Protests and Misconduct Reports

Officers' reactions to protest solving and reports have revealed the division among those who believe that complaints are properly explored (40%) and those who are skeptical about the effectiveness of the measures taken (30%). This disparity points to a challenge within police organizations regarding the processing of complaints. Walker's studies (2006) have shown that if the complaints are not correctly shared, this can lead to public frustration and officers, undermining confidence in the police. The results of Tuch and Weitzer (2006) show that ineffectual investigation processes allow improper behavior and abuse to persist more strongly.

Community Relations and Trust

Open communication ranked first as the essential method for maintaining community relations according to 50 percent of officers. Transparency also received 30 percent of the votes from surveyed officers. These reactions are in line with the concept of the community police, which emphasizes the need for strong relationships between the police and the communities they serve. Research has constantly showed that open communication and transparency are necessary to improve the perception of the public (Skogan & Hartnett, 1997). The findings also support the idea that support for confidence through transparency can reduce cases of police abuse (Tyler, 2004).

Prevalence of Complaints and Misconduct Reports

The table shows the prevalence of complaints and reports of misconduct, with 40% of officers encounter four reports, while 30% came across three, suggesting that the reports of misconduct are relatively common. The collection of complaints demonstrates the continuous difficulties police organizations face in recovering misconduct rights. A high number of complaints about police misconduct happens because police departments lack effective accountability systems and show poor administrative management practices according to Klockars et al. (2000) and Skolnick (2008).

Conclusion

The study examines the perception of the abuse of the power of police officers and the elements that contribute to misconduct. It emphasizes the importance of training, defined protocols and strict liability mechanisms. The study also emphasizes the importance of cultural reforms within the police departments to maintain ethical standards and respect for individual rights. It also examines the perception of convictions of the police abuse of power and emphasizes structural problems within the criminal judiciary system. The solution of these difficulties requires structural reforms and collective initiatives.

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