



# " Living Conditions Of Police Personnel In Assam: A Study In The Nagaon District Of Assam "

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## ARTICLE INFO

## ABSTRACT

Police personnel in Assam play an important role in preserving peace and order. They encounter a variety of problems, including insufficient resources, bad working conditions, and hazards to their personal safety. Efforts to improve their welfare, training, and equipment are critical for ensuring effective police and increasing public safety in the area. This research looks at the living circumstances of police officers in Assam's Nagaon District, with a particular emphasis on measuring the success of police reforms after independence and investigating officer quality of life. Data was obtained using a mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies to answer particular study topics. The study examines the evolution of police reforms in Assam since independence, evaluating their quantitative effects on law enforcement effectiveness, accountability, and public confidence. Furthermore, the research looks at the important aspects that influence the quality of life for police officers in Assam, such as working conditions, salary, housing, and access to necessary services and support networks. The study's findings reflect a varied degree of public confidence in police officers, emphasizing the need of taking proactive actions to address attitudes and enhance trust. While most respondents recognize the supply of living amenities, differences in satisfaction with government-provided pay highlight areas for future improvement in compensation systems. Demands for changes within the police force stress structural concerns that must be addressed in order to increase credibility and effectiveness. Although weekly vacations improve work-life balance, concerns regarding health difficulties caused by working hours highlight the need for regulatory changes. Furthermore, confessions of misconduct and corruption inside the department highlight the critical need for internal reforms to maintain integrity. Overall, this research offers useful insights into the problems encountered by police personnel in Assam, laying the framework for informed policy choices targeted at resolving concerns, improving the efficacy of law enforcement operations, and encouraging a healthy work environment for officers.

**Keywords:** Police personnel, Nagaon District, Job satisfaction, Police force, Living conditions.

## INTRODUCTION

The living conditions of police personnel play a pivotal role in shaping not only the well-being of the individuals themselves but also the effectiveness of law enforcement in a given region. This study delves into the specific context of Assam, with a focus on the Nagaon district, to comprehensively analyze and understand the challenges and opportunities that the police force faces in their daily lives. Assam, situated in the northeastern part of India, is known for its diverse cultural heritage and geographical complexities (Savarimalai et al., 2023). The police force in Assam shoulders the responsibility of maintaining law and order in a region marked by various socio-political issues, making their living conditions a matter of critical importance. The Nagaon district, selected as the focal point for this study, represents a microcosm of the larger challenges faced by police personnel in the state. The introduction of this study aims to provide a contextual backdrop by discussing the broader significance of understanding the living conditions of police personnel. It explores the intrinsic link between the well-being of law

enforcement officers and the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system. Additionally, it sets the stage for a detailed examination of the specific challenges that police personnel in Assam, particularly in the Nagaon district, encounter in their day-to-day lives. As we embark on this exploration, it is imperative to recognize the multidimensional nature of living conditions (Srivastava et al., 2023). Beyond the physical aspects such as housing and amenities, the study will also delve into the psychological and social dimensions, acknowledging the impact of these factors on the mental health and job satisfaction of police personnel. By shedding light on these intricacies, the study aspires to contribute valuable insights that can inform policy decisions and interventions aimed at improving the living conditions of police personnel in Assam, ultimately fostering a more resilient and efficient law enforcement apparatus.

Like any other growing nation, India has a variety of difficulties as a result of its large geographic area, multilingual population, diversified culture, and multiethnic makeup. Nearly every religion in the world is practiced in India, and in the current environment, where religious fanaticism is on the rise and making administration more difficult, this presents difficulties for the institutions tasked with upholding law and order. An essential part of maintaining society's law and order is the police force. The concept of a police force was first developed centuries ago, at a time when criminal activity was rampant worldwide (Thomas, 2012). However, it wasn't until the 1800s that efforts were made to establish robust police forces in almost all nations. On the other hand, the formation of the police force has altered societal conditions. Since promoting the welfare of society is the police force's primary goal, it works nonstop to provide the circumstances necessary for people to live their own lives and pursue their own interests free from the menacing intervention of others (Phukan, 2015). All law-abiding individuals may find inspiration and hope in the fact that the police force serves as an agent of the courts, protecting the rights of every member of society. Police officers are committed to serving society and are willing to operate in any environment to protect people, sometimes even at the risk of their own life.

### **Living Conditions of Police Personnel**

The living conditions of police personnel are a critical aspect that significantly influences their overall well-being and job performance. These conditions encompass various factors, including housing, working hours, job-related stress, and access to essential amenities. Police officers often face demanding and challenging situations in the line of duty, and the quality of their living conditions can impact their mental and physical health, job satisfaction, and overall effectiveness in maintaining law and order.

Understanding the nuances of these living conditions is essential for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and the community at large. It allows for the identification of areas that require improvement, ensuring that police personnel are adequately supported and equipped to carry out their duties effectively. By addressing issues related to living conditions, society can contribute to the overall well-being of its police force, fostering a healthier and more productive working environment that, in turn, positively influences public safety and the delivery of justice. So many authors discussed about Living Conditions of Police Personnel in Assam: A Study in the Nagaon District of Assam by using various methods they are follows below

The courts and police defend everyone's rights. Police are dedicated to serving society and will sacrifice their lives to defend others. We must promote diversity, inclusivity, and equal opportunity in police agencies. Despite making up over half of India's population, most states have few women police officers. Understanding women in Assam policing is possible with this research. This article examines the participation of women in Assam police forces, namely in Nagaon and Golgotha districts, and their obstacles (*Women Police : Employment Status and Issues of Concern in Nagaon and Golaghat District of Assam .*, n.d.). People in the dangerous and conflict-ridden areas of Assam look for work elsewhere, even if the offers originate from dubious sources, which puts them at risk of being victims of human trafficking. This research will examine the covert factors that lead to human trafficking as well as how victims fall prey to traffickers. Data from Assamese NGOs combating human trafficking at the local level was collected for this research. It is envisaged that the study would encourage decision-makers and other key players to consider the connection between human trafficking and subsistence (Borah, 2020).

This article examines the findings of a research conducted in Guwahati, Assam, India, using an all-female police station and other police stations, taking into account the risks associated with gender and occupational stress. Purposive sampling was used in this descriptive research to choose a sample of thirty female police officers, and individual and group meetings as well as questionnaire answers were used for analysis. The policewomen's dedication to their organization has been linked to their well-being and satisfaction levels (Dutta, 2018). Envision a scenario where the officer on duty is uncertain about his ability to see his family at the conclusion of the day. Imagine a society in which a mother is in the dark about whether her kid will be killed by security personnel in a current encounter. Imagine a scenario in which a housewife is purchasing onions in the evening and is unaware of the possibility of a bomb going off in the marketplace. The ordinary people of Assam are undernourished, uneducated, impoverished, and have little chance of becoming any better. There hasn't been much development, the majority of the roads are in poor condition, the monsoons rip down the embankments, flooding the hamlet and damaging its crops, there isn't much drinkable water, sickness is widespread, and assistance is far away (Shukla et al., n.d.).

The subject of the present research is traffic police officers' occupational stress. Research has shown that administrators are more susceptible to stress. Accordingly, it is important that a research in this area be done, as traffic police officers have been tasked with overseeing and monitoring the efficient operation of road transport. The goal of the research, which examined 35 traffic police officers serving as "Constables," was to identify the main

source of stress for them (Gogoi, n.d.). The purpose of the present research is to investigate how police officers' perceptions of different aspects of the Quality of Work Life are related to their gender. The Madhya Pradesh Police's Police Telecom Branch is the special subject of attention. This is an attempt to investigate the ways in which various genders in the police telecom section see the quality of their working lives. It aims to identify the aspects on which their perspectives diverge most. By doing this, the research aims to comprehend how different QWL aspects affect respondents' performance and provide solutions for addressing them. A questionnaire with fifty questions was utilised to collect data (Lupondo et al., 2023).

## RESEARCH GAP

Despite the valuable insights provided by existing research on various aspects of policing in Assam, there is a noticeable research gap in understanding the specific challenges and experiences faced by women police officers in the Nagaon and Golaghat districts. While the introductory section highlights the need to promote diversity, inclusivity, and equal opportunity in police agencies, there is limited exploration into the unique obstacles hindering the active participation of women in law enforcement in these specific regions. Additionally, the article touches upon the issue of human trafficking in Assam and its connection to employment opportunities in conflict-ridden areas. However, a more in-depth investigation is required to uncover the covert factors contributing to human trafficking and to identify comprehensive solutions. Furthermore, the narratives about the daily struggles of ordinary people in Assam provide a broader societal context, emphasizing the pressing need for holistic development. However, there is a lack of focused research on the specific challenges faced by traffic police officers in Assam, particularly in terms of occupational stress. Lastly, the exploration of police officers' perceptions of the Quality of Work Life (QWL) in the Madhya Pradesh Police's Police Telecom Branch offers a unique perspective, yet a research gap remains in understanding how these perceptions may differ across genders and how they impact overall performance. Addressing these gaps will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted challenges within the realm of policing in Assam.

## AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to comprehensively examine the living conditions of police personnel in Assam, with a specific focus on the Nagaon district. By investigating factors such as housing, amenities, and their impact on the well-being of officers, the study aims to identify challenges and opportunities within the living conditions of the police force. The ultimate goal is to provide valuable insights that can inform policy decisions and interventions aimed at enhancing the overall quality of life for police personnel in the region.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To assess the effectiveness of police reforms in Assam since its independence.
2. To examine the quality of life for police personnel in Assam.

## Research Questions

1. How have police reforms in Assam progressed since independence, and what quantifiable effects have they had on law enforcement efficiency, accountability, and public trust?
2. What are the most important elements impacting the quality of life for police officers in Assam, such as working conditions, pay, housing, and access to necessary services and support systems?

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Research Design:** The study employs a mixed-methods research design, combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches. This design allows for a comprehensive exploration of the living conditions of police personnel in the Nagaon District, encompassing the richness of personal experiences through qualitative data and statistical analysis of quantitative data.

### Source of Data:

1. **Primary Data:** The primary data will be collected through structured interviews, surveys, and focus group discussions with police personnel in the Nagaon District. This will include inquiries into housing conditions, access to amenities, and job-related stress.
2. **Secondary Data:** Secondary data will be gathered from official police records, government reports, and relevant literature to provide contextual information on policies, reforms, and historical developments in the policing system in Assam.

### Data Collection:

1. **Structured Interviews:** Face-to-face structured interviews will be conducted with police personnel, focusing on their living conditions, challenges faced, and suggestions for improvement.
2. **Surveys:** Questionnaires will be distributed to gather quantitative data on specific aspects of living conditions, allowing for statistical analysis.

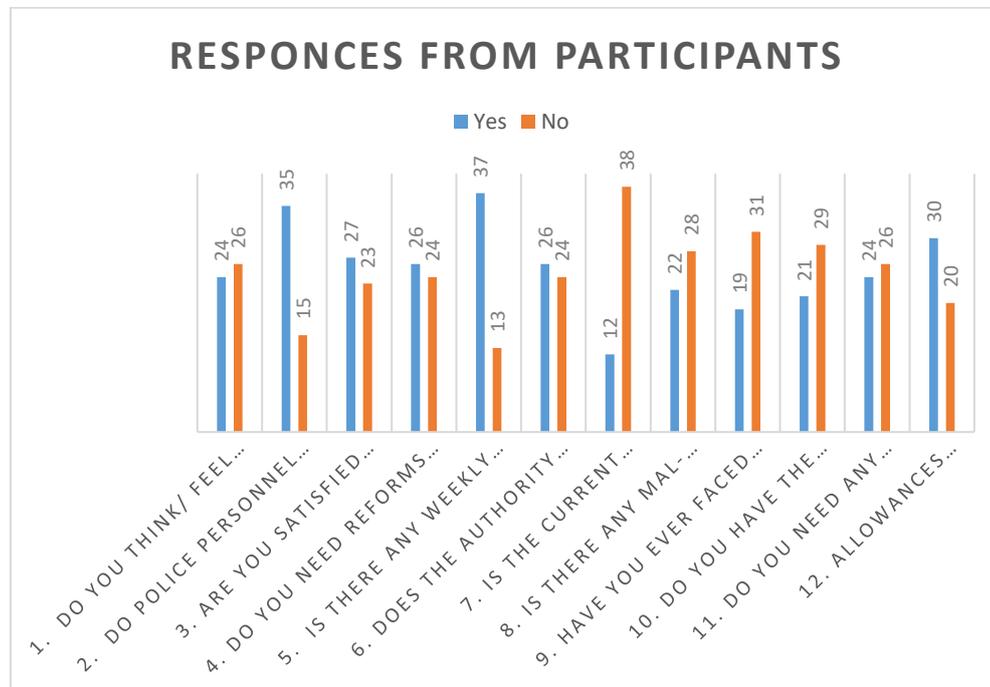
**3. Focus Group Discussions:** Group discussions will be organized to encourage open dialogue among police personnel, providing qualitative insights into shared experiences and perceptions.

**Sampling:** Purposive sampling was employed to select police personnel from various ranks within the Nagaon District. The sample was collected from 50% of the chosen police stations. The sample was representative of the diverse roles and responsibilities within the police force, ensuring a holistic understanding of living conditions.

## RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

**Table 1 Responses of the Participants**

Questions	Responses		
	Yes	No	Total
1. Do you think/ feel that in present times public Is losing faith in police personnel?	24	26	50
2. Do police personnel Get housing facilitates to live in?	35	15	50
3. Are you satisfied with the present salary provided by the Government?	27	23	50
4. Do you need reforms in the existing police department?	26	24	50
5. Is there any weekly off for the police personnel?	37	13	50
6. Does the authority recall the police personnel during their off time?	26	24	50
7. Is the current working hours led to any health problems/ issues?	12	38	50
8. Is there any mal-practices/ corruption going on in police department?	22	28	50
9. Have you ever faced any situation leading to life threat while serving?	19	31	50
10. Do you have the provision for pension after your service?	21	29	50
11. Do you need any improvement for better working conditions of the?	24	26	50
12. Allowances provided to you	30	20	50



**Graphs 1 Responses of the Participants**

The above table and graph summarizes the replies obtained from a survey that specifically examined the living and working circumstances of police officers. The major results reveal a noticeable division in public confidence, with 24 respondents confirming and 26 denying the idea that faith in police officers is declining. The availability of housing facilities for police officers seems to be easily attainable, as confirmed by the majority of respondents (35 individuals) who acknowledged this provision. The current government-provided pay is marginally more satisfactory, with 27 respondents expressing happiness compared to 23 expressing dissatisfaction. 26 respondents indicate the need for improvements within the police department, while 24 think that the current state of affairs

is satisfactory. The findings from a survey of 37 participants reveal that a large majority of respondents acknowledge the presence of a weekly day off for police officers, highlighting a favorable feature of maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Nevertheless, there is a prevailing worry over the potential negative effects of present working hours on health, as acknowledged by 38 respondents. In addition, a significant proportion of respondents, namely 28 individuals, highlight instances of malpractices or corruption inside the police department. The study also emphasizes the dangers inherent in the industry, as 31 respondents had encountered life-threatening scenarios while on duty. 21 respondents recognize the provision for post-service pension, while 29 remark a lack of such provision. In conclusion, 24 participants express the need for enhancements in order to improve working circumstances, while the majority of 30 participants are content with the allowances offered. The survey findings provide valuable information on the complex issues and perspectives related to the life of police officers. They highlight specific areas of concern that may need to be addressed and reformed.

## DISCUSSION

The research investigating the living conditions of police officers in the Nagaon District of Assam using a questionnaire to explore their circumstances. The data and analysis provide a comprehensive depiction of the difficulties encountered by these officers. Although there are differing views on public confidence in law enforcement and the need for departmental changes, it is clear that widespread issues include dissatisfaction with salaries, concerns about the health effects of working hours, and the prevalence of misconduct within the department. Although there are options for housing and financial support, there is a significant difference in opinions on the sufficiency of these benefits. The report also highlights the inherent hazards of the job, since a substantial number of responders had experienced life-threatening scenarios while on duty. The results highlight the complex environment in which police work, underscoring the importance of addressing concerns related to public perception, compensation, working conditions, and integrity within law enforcement. This is crucial to safeguard the welfare of personnel and maintain the ongoing effectiveness of policing efforts.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research on the living conditions of police officers in Assam's Nagaon District provides insightful information on the variety of difficulties that law enforcement professionals encounter. The results show that there is a mixed level of public confidence in police officers, underscoring the necessity for aggressive steps to change public opinions. While most respondents accept that living amenities are supplied, there are differences in how satisfied they are with the government-provided wage, which highlights areas where compensation policies might be strengthened. The police department's reform demands highlight the structural problems that need to be addressed in order to improve credibility and effectiveness. Weekly vacations are common, which is good for work-life balance; nonetheless, worries about health problems related to working hours suggest that policy should be adjusted. The department's admission of wrongdoing and corruption indicates the urgent necessity for internal changes to preserve integrity. The research highlights the inherent hazards that law enforcement officers must deal with, since many of them describe encounters that might endanger their lives. Overall, this research's extensive examination of living conditions offers the framework for well-informed policy decisions aimed at alleviating problems, ensuring the efficacy of law enforcement operations, and promoting a healthy work environment for police personnel in Assam.

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