

Skills and qualities of the police officers in Bangladesh: A police perceptions study

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Abstract

Different views exist concerning the skills and qualities of the police officers in Bangladesh. Research suggests that public views differ from the police views regarding the police leadership and management skills and qualities. This paper attempted to shed light on the skills and qualities of the police by interviewing randomly selected 50 police officers ranking from ASI to SP representing various police units including 13 police stations, district police super and police reserve of Tangail District. Survey method was employed with a pre-tested questionnaire for face-to-face interview in mother tongue. The purpose of the study was to explore the perceived skills and qualities of police officers. The study found that police officers possess higher levels of skills and qualities, - foresight, operational skill, decision making, honest, organizationally supportive, common sense, responsibility, integrity, enthusiastic, work ethic, diligent, team builder, quality in work, dreamer, well versed, which are very important for effective police leadership and professionalism. It also reveals that the management skills rated high by police officers were on public order management skill, critical incident management skill, shoot or don't shoot decision making skill, application of IT based management skill, crime prevention techniques, motivating personnel and maintaining high morale, laws and regulation relating to thana management and staff management skills. Many of these may not be supported by public perceptions of the police. Further research is needed to explore the gaps. The study also suggested some measures for improving the skills and qualities of the police leaders.

Keywords: Police, leadership, skills, qualities, characteristics, Bangladesh.

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