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Impact of Police Behaviour on Criminal Identification in Bangladesh: Evidence from Dhaka Metropolitan Police

Md. Abdul Kader Miah^{1,*}, Shinthia Islam Talukder¹, and Prakash Chandra Roy²

¹Department of Criminology and Police Science, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Santosh, Tangail-1902, Bangladesh.

²Department of Criminology and Police Science, University of Chittagong, Chittagong-4331, Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the influence of police behaviour on criminal identification within the context of Bangladesh, focusing on the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP). It addresses critical issues related to police conduct and crime detection processes. The primary objective is to assess how specific police behaviours—detection strategies, use of force, arrest tactics, and support services—impact criminal identification efficacy. Data were gathered using a quantitative method from 142 police personnel through structured questionnaires across two major police stations, Uttara East (65) and Uttara West (77). Findings revealed that police primarily relied on arrest (68.3%) and force (52.2%) in identifying criminals, whereas detection strategies (41.3%) and support services (14%) were relatively underutilised. Effective criminal identification correlated positively with comprehensive training and experience, highlighting gaps in current police training and procedural methods. Regression analysis indicated that detection strategies ($\beta = .367, p < .01$) and use of arrest ($\beta = .289, p < .05$) significantly predicted criminal identification effectiveness. However, excessive reliance on arrest and force negatively impacts community relations, compromising long-term criminal identification success. Thus, the study emphasises the need for evidence-based interventions, a balanced approach, integrating investigative techniques with community engagement, and reforms in police behavioural practices.

1. Introduction

Police serve as the primary agents of the state in ensuring law and order, and their behaviour significantly influences the justice process, particularly in identifying and apprehending criminals (Alpert et al., 2004). Policing globally confronts dilemmas arising from respecting individual rights while ensuring community safety. When police encounter criminal activity, they must rationally balance offender rights against communal peace (Can, 2002). In Bangladesh, as in many developing nations, policing practices are shaped by colonial legacies, discretionary authority, abuse of power, and resource limitations (Uddin, 2022). Consequently, how police behave during investigations, whether through detection techniques, service delivery, or the use of coercive power, can shape both public trust and investigative outcomes (Sherman, 2001). Globally, research has demonstrated that effective policing hinges on both technical capabilities and behavioural strategies. Identification of suspects requires more than just arrests or force; it necessitates investigative skills, forensic application, procedural fairness, and

community engagement (Can, 2002; Omoroghomwan, 2018). Effective identification often relies on the strategic use of detection, evidence collection, service-oriented approaches, and proper training of police personnel.

In the context of Bangladesh, existing research explores that the Bangladesh Police today faces multifaceted challenges. Social issues, including poverty, urban slums, drug addiction (Ahmed & Johnson, 2014), political interference (Sarker et al., 2025), corruption (Uddin, 2022), and weak investigative practices (Kashem, 2017), frequently influence policing behaviours, shaping responses to crime and affecting criminal identification efficacy. While developed countries, such as the UK and the USA, increasingly integrate sophisticated detective methodologies and proactive community services, police in Bangladesh often prioritise immediate actions, such as arrests and use of force, over investigative thoroughness (Omoroghomwan, 2018). Therefore, there remains a critical gap in empirical studies analysing how these behavioural components influence the criminal identification process. Existing literature often overlooks

*Corresponding author: kader.cps@mbstu.ac.bd

the interplay between police behaviour and investigative accuracy, especially at the operational level. Given these realities, there is an urgent need to explore and analyse how current police behavioural patterns affect the accuracy and efficiency of criminal identification in Bangladesh, particularly within the jurisdiction of the DMP.

Considering the aforementioned issues, this study aims to address that gap by empirically examining the behavioural dimensions of police work in two divisions of the DMP. Thus, research questions include — Is there any relationship between police behaviour and criminal identification? How do training programs enhance police skills for criminal identification? Is there a relationship between police support services and criminal identification? Is there a relationship between police use of force and criminal identification? Based on these questions, the main objective is to explore the impact of police behaviour on criminal identification efficacy within the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP). Specifically, the study seeks to: (i) identify the police behaviors that influence criminal identification, (ii) assess the relationship between police training and criminal identification effectiveness, (iii) examine how the use of force, arrests, and support services correlate with successful criminal identification, and (iv) provide data-driven recommendations for improving law enforcement practices in criminal identification. Thus, this research contributes valuable insights into police behaviour, offering strategic guidance for reform within policing practices in Bangladesh.

2. Literature Review

To ensure the relevance and quality of the reviewed works, a systematic process was followed. The inclusion criteria focused on peer-reviewed journal articles, books, and scholarly reports published primarily between 2000 and 2025 that examined police behaviour, criminal identification, or related criminological theories and practices. Studies with empirical evidence from both developed and developing contexts were included to enable comparative insights. Exclusion criteria eliminated purely opinion-based articles, non-scholarly sources (e.g., newspapers, blogs), and literature unrelated to policing behaviour or identification processes. Priority was given to works that provided theoretical grounding, methodological rigour, or practical insights relevant to the Bangladesh context. This approach ensured that the reviewed literature remained contemporary, reliable, and directly connected to the objectives of this study.

Police behaviour encompasses a range of actions—from routine patrolling and responding to calls, to arrests, interrogations, and the application of force. Scholars argue that behaviour in law enforcement is influenced not only by law but also by organisational culture, situational discretion, and public expectations (Walker & Katz, 2008). In the context of criminal identification, these behavioural patterns play a crucial role. Sherman (2001) identifies four behavioural tendencies essential

for effective criminal investigation: detection, service provision, arrest/citation, and the use of force. Detection is the act of noticing or discovering something unrevealed, essential to police investigative processes. It includes identifying crime occurrence, suspect identification, and evidence collection (O'Sullivan *et al.*, 2009). Detection behaviour includes practices such as field interrogation, surveillance, traffic stops, and lie detection. Service-related behaviour includes conflict resolution, patrolling, public assistance, and community engagement. A study by Omoroghomwan (2018) found that in jurisdictions where police were more service-oriented, communities were more likely to assist in criminal investigations, and modern techniques like forensic science and electronic methods enhance detection accuracy significantly. On the contrary, excessive reliance on arrest and force can be counterproductive. Although arrests are central to criminal justice processes, arbitrary or excessive force can alienate the public and diminish investigative credibility (Can, 2002). Empirical evidence suggests that suspects identified through coercive means are more likely to be contested or dismissed in legal proceedings (Obasogie, 2017).

Developed nations employ sophisticated forensic technologies alongside community policing approaches to enhance detection accuracy. These may include physical surveillance, forensic tools, interrogation, and data-driven techniques like predictive policing. In developed countries, technological integration in detection—such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and DNA testing—has revolutionised investigative capabilities (Ozgul *et al.*, 2014). However, in developing contexts like Bangladesh, detection remains largely traditional and reliant on manual practices (Kashem, 2017). Omoroghomwan (2018) argues that low-resource settings often lack access to modern investigative tools, leading to over-reliance on confessions, sometimes extracted under duress. Police support services include dispute mediation, patrolling (Westall, 2021), and responding to community calls (Awoyemi *et al.*, 2025), which are crucial for establishing good relations with the public. Support services are non-coercive forms of police work, such as mediation, crime prevention campaigns, and outreach programs (Garza, 2018). These efforts foster a cooperative relationship between police and citizens, enhancing the accuracy and reliability of suspect identification. Problem-oriented policing emphasises such community-based approaches, showing positive effects in both urban and rural environments (Goldstein, 1990). Use of force, though occasionally necessary, must be lawful and proportionate. Walker and Katz (2008) argue that excessive or arbitrary use of force undermines the legitimacy of police action and violates human rights. In Bangladesh, reports of torture, custodial deaths, and forced confessions raise concerns about the unethical use of power (Obasogie, 2017).

The use of arrests is another significant behaviour

influencing policing outcomes. Arrest and citation, discretionary actions initiating criminal justice processes, are debated for fairness regarding race, gender, and class discrimination (Novak, 2012; Omoroghomwan, 2018). Protection from arbitrary arrest and detention is a foundational principle in democratic societies, upheld by the European Court of Human Rights, which ensures judicial control over executive actions to minimise arbitrariness and secure the rule of law (Brander & Pickup, 2009). Police officers often make real-time decisions on whom to stop, arrest, or release. Turk (1969) highlighted that such discretion is influenced by the socio-political context and officer training. Effective training programs are crucial for enabling police officers to respond appropriately to contemporary social problems such as cybercrime incidents (Cockcroft et al., 2021; Forouzan et al., 2018). Law enforcement agencies must invest in skills and resources to address the global nature of cybercrime. Collaboration at local, regional, national, and international levels is decisive for effective crime prevention and investigation (Staniforth, 2017). Suspect identification predominantly involves visual identification, though advances like DNA testing provide higher accuracy. Police misconduct in visual identification procedures can lead to misrepresentation of suspects (Obasogie, 2017). DNA-based evidence has significantly improved identification accuracy, minimising wrongful convictions (Can, 2002). Disparities and discrimination during police interrogations further exacerbate tensions between police and minority communities, necessitating reforms in policing tactics to build trust (Omoroghomwan, 2018).

Thus, effective criminal identification depends significantly on proper police behaviour, necessitating thorough exploration and improvements in policing practices in Bangladesh. Further research is essential to address existing gaps, particularly in developing contexts where resources and training may be limited, impacting overall effectiveness and community relationships. This study synthesises these thematic areas, examining the relative influence of detection strategies, arrests, use of force, and support services within the Dhaka Metropolitan Police context.

3. Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

Institutional theory highlights the resilient aspects of social structures, focusing on rules, roles, and symbolic elements that shape organisational behaviour. Institutions create formal rules and regulations that dictate police conduct, ensuring adherence to legal standards. Compliance with these regulations is essential for maintaining public trust and legitimacy in law enforcement (Jackson et al., 2012). Effective law enforcement relies on these regulatory frameworks to address societal harms and enforce laws consistently (Nurse, 2024). On the other end, norms within institutions shape the expectations of acceptable behaviour for police officers, influencing their decision-making processes (Teraji, 2018). Each institution, including the police, requires specific resources to

sustain operations, guided by organisational needs and institutional beliefs. Police behaviours are shaped significantly by institutional norms and regulations. Police officers' actions and decisions, including their approaches to detection, arrest, and force, are influenced by their organisational norms, roles, and symbolic practices. Institutional theory thus helps explain variations in police behaviours observed in different contexts. Problem-oriented policing (POP), proposed by Herman Goldstein, involves identifying specific crime problems, thorough analysis, and the development of targeted responses. This approach emphasises community involvement and proactive strategies over traditional reactive policing, advocating collaboration with community members to solve underlying crime issues (Goldstein, 1990). It encourages law enforcement to look beyond symptoms and address root causes, leading to more sustainable crime prevention. Goldstein's POP model complements institutional theory by highlighting the role of proactive problem-solving behaviours within police institutions. Together, these theories provide a comprehensive analytical framework for understanding police behaviour and its implications for criminal identification processes, as they combine structural constraints with strategic action.

The study conceptualises police behaviour to include mechanisms of detection, the use of support services, strategies for arrest, and the application of force (Figure 01).

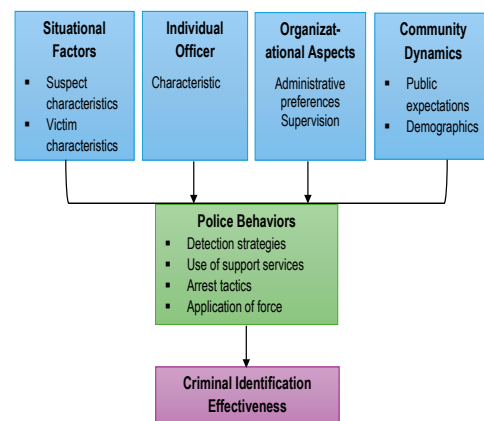


Figure 01: Conceptual Framework

Figure 01: Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework of this study connects police behaviours—detection strategies, support services, arrest tactics, and force application—to criminal identification effectiveness. These behaviours are influenced by situational factors (suspect, victim, legal characteristics), individual officer characteristics, organisational aspects (administrative preferences, supervision), and community dynamics (public expectations, demographics). Understanding these interconnected factors helps explain the variability in criminal identification outcomes.

Furthermore, this framework enables researchers and practitioners to pinpoint the behavioural elements that require policy attention and institutional change to enhance the identification process.

4. Methodology

Research Design and Approach: The study employed a quantitative research method, utilising a structured questionnaire survey to investigate the influence of police behaviour on criminal identification empirically. Quantitative methods enabled the objective measurement and statistical validation of relationships among key variables (Creswell, 2014).

Hypothesis: It is hypothesised that police behaviours, including detection strategies, support services, arrest tactics, and use of force, positively influence criminal identification efficacy, with detection strategies having the most substantial effect.

Study Area and Population: The study took place at the Uttara East and Uttara West police stations in the northern part of Dhaka city. These areas were selected due to their high density, diverse criminal profiles, and operational relevance within the DMP. The study population included all active-duty police personnel within the two selected stations. This included Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors (SI), Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASI), and Constables.

Sampling Procedure: A probability sampling approach was employed, utilising stratified random sampling to ensure proportional representation by rank and station. Specifically, strata were defined as (i) station: Uttara East (N = 101) and Uttara West (N = 121), and (ii) rank: Inspector, Sub-Inspector (SI), Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI), and Constable. Proportional allocation was used within each stratum so that $n_h = (N_h/N) \times n_s$; where N_h is the size of the stratum, $N=222$ is the population across both stations, and $n_s=142$ is the target sample obtained via Slovin's formula at a 5% margin of error. Within every stratum, we generated random numbers from duty rosters to select participants, ensuring each eligible officer had a known and non-zero inclusion probability. This design yields station-level samples of Uttara East (n = 65) and Uttara West (n = 77), preserving the underlying rank composition through proportional allocation. This provides a sample profile that is demographically representative of the accessible population.

Sample Characteristics:

Table 01 provides a detailed breakdown of the demographic characteristics (Sample Characteristics) of the 142 police respondents involved in this study. The vast majority of respondents were male (91.5%), with females constituting a significantly smaller proportion (8.5%), reflecting the broader gender imbalance prevalent within policing in Bangladesh. The age distribution indicated a younger police force, with most respondents falling between 21 and 30 years (45.8%) and 31-40 years (38.7%), demonstrating a youthful workforce potentially equipped for dynamic policing roles but possibly lacking

extensive experience.

Table 01: Demographic Summary of Respondents (N=142)

Sample Characteristics	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	130	91.5
Female	12	8.5
Age		
21-30 years	65	45.8
31-40 years	55	38.7
41 and above	22	15.5
Education		
SSC/HSC	98	69
Bachelor/Master	44	31
Rank		
Constable	85	59.9
SI/ASI	57	40.1
Experience		
1-10 years	93	65.5
11-20 years	49	34.5

Educational background revealed a predominance of respondents with secondary and higher secondary education (SSC/HSC, 69%), suggesting relatively modest academic preparation among the majority of officers. The ranked distribution revealed constables as the most represented group (59.9%), followed by sub-inspectors and assistant sub-inspectors (40.1%), indicating the frontline nature of the survey participants. Lastly, the respondents' level of professional experience showed a majority with 1-10 years of service (65.5%), reinforcing the youthful profile and suggesting a possible need for ongoing professional development to strengthen policing capabilities.

Data Collection Method and Instrumentation:

Data were collected from December 2022 to May 2023, encompassing routine operations at the Uttara East and Uttara West stations during this period. Data were gathered using a structured, pre-tested questionnaire that addressed six thematic areas: i) Detection strategies, ii) Support services, iii) Use of force, iv) Use of arrest and citation, v) Impact of training, and vi) Perceptions of effectiveness in identifying criminals. Before collecting

complete data, a pilot study was conducted to refine the questionnaire and ensure its effectiveness and clarity. Data collection was carried out during duty hours, with the consent and cooperation of station heads.

Variables and Measurement: Independent variables included police behavior, such as detection strategies, support services, arrest tactics, and the use of force. The dependent variable was criminal identification efficacy, measured through perceptions of effectiveness in suspect identification. The questionnaire items were operationalised on 5-point Likert scales (1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree). Item pools for Detection Strategies, Support Services, Arrest Tactics, Use of Force, and Criminal Identification Efficacy were adapted from prior work on police behaviour and investigative effectiveness (Walker & Katz, 2008; O'Sullivan et al., 2009; Klahm & Tillyer, 2010; Omoroghomwan, 2018) and tailored to the DMP context via expert review and a pilot test representing an ordinal level of measurement. Items for each construction (e.g., detection strategies, Arrest Tactics, Use of Force, and Support Services) were averaged to create composite scores for analysis, with no differential weighting applied to individual items to ensure an equally balanced understanding of how these variables influence criminal identification.

Data Analysis: The data were systematically coded, cleansed, and analysed utilising SPSS Version 20. Descriptive statistics, including frequencies and percentages, were employed to summarise demographic and behavioural variable trends succinctly. Bivariate correlation and multiple regression analyses were conducted to examine relationships between police behaviour variables and criminal identification outcomes.

Validity and Reliability: To ensure data validity and reliability, content validity was assessed through expert review during the pilot study, and construct validity was confirmed via Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA), which showed factor loadings above 0.6 for all items. Reliability was measured using Cronbach's alpha, with the following values: detection strategies ($\alpha = 0.82$), support services ($\alpha = 0.78$), use of force ($\alpha = 0.85$), arrest tactics ($\alpha = 0.80$), and an overall scale ($\alpha = 0.87$). These values indicate acceptable to good internal consistency (Creswell, 2014).

Ethical Considerations: Ethical approval was obtained from the relevant authority. The chairman of the Department of Criminology and Police Science and Officer-in-Charge of the respected police stations, who assessed the study protocol, informed consent procedures, and data protection measures, approved it. All respondents were informed of the voluntary nature of their participation. Confidentiality and anonymity were assured, and participants could withdraw at any time without repercussions.

5. Results

This section presents the findings of the study in two main areas: (1) Univariate descriptive statistics, and

(2) Bivariate and multivariate analyses assessing the relationships between various police behaviours and the identification of criminals.

5.1. Descriptive Analysis of Police Behaviour Variables

The descriptive results are presented following the sequence of the conceptual framework, which links police behaviours (detection strategies, support services, arrest tactics, use of force, impact of training) to criminal identification, providing a structured basis for analysing the findings.

5.1.1 Detection Strategies

Most respondents reported limited use of advanced detection strategies. For example, only 26% agreed that suspects could be interrogated without arrest, while a significant proportion (74%) disagreed. Informal interrogation and field questioning outside police stations were also rarely practised, with more than two-thirds expressing disagreement.

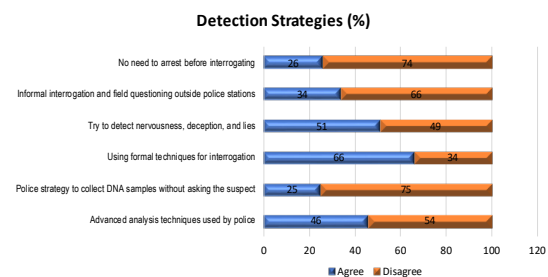


Figure 02: Detection Strategies

A notable 49% disagreed that they actively attempted to detect nervousness or deception in suspects, indicating a possible lack of behavioural profiling or interrogation training. However, 66% agreed that they used formal techniques of interrogation, which suggests some adherence to structured methods. DNA collection practices were also limited—75% disagreed with covert methods like tricking suspects or using saliva from food containers. Similarly, only 46% agreed that they applied advanced analysis techniques such as predictive policing, while 54% provided no clear opinion (Figure 02).

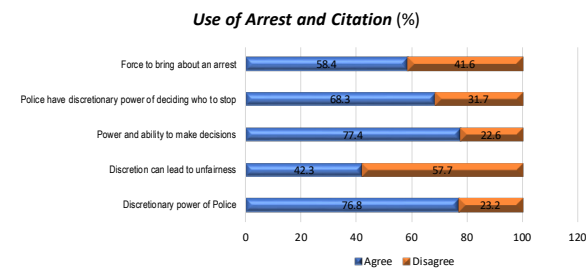
5.1.2. Support Services

Community-oriented services were not a primary focus. Many officers did not report engaging in proactive service activities, such as community mediation or problem-solving policing. When asked about the effectiveness of the delivery service, the responses were mixed, suggesting that support services are underutilised or undervalued.

5.1.3. Use of Arrest and Citation

The use of arrest and citation was frequent. Officers reported considerable discretion in their arrest decisions (Figure 03). The findings reveal that a majority agree that police may use force to bring about an arrest (58.4%) and possess discretionary power in deciding whom to stop (68.3%), while an even larger proportion (77.4%)

recognize their power and ability to make decisions. Similarly, 76.8% acknowledge the general discretionary power of the police, reinforcing the perception of wide-ranging authority vested in law enforcement. However, when asked whether discretion can lead to unfairness, a greater proportion (57.7%) disagreed, indicating that although respondents accept the existence of significant discretionary powers, they generally trust these powers to



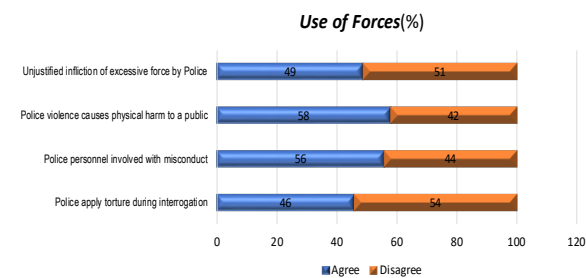
be exercised fairly.

Figure 03: Use of Arrest and Citation

Overall, the data suggests that while the public perceives police as having substantial authority in arrest and citation decisions, there remains confidence that such discretion does not necessarily translate into unfair practices. While arrest is a legitimate tool in policing, its overuse may signal a reactive rather than investigative orientation. Excessive reliance on arrest may hinder the development of sustainable crime prevention frameworks and damage citizen relationships.

5.1.4. Use of Force

Use of force during interrogations was usual, with significant proportions acknowledging physical and psychological coercion. However, this was accompanied by concern: Many respondents agreed that excessive force negatively affects police legitimacy and public



cooperation (Figure 04).

5.1.5. Impact on Training

Training significantly enhanced police capabilities. It appeared to play a moderately positive role. Over 56.3% agreed that they received adequate training, and 67.6% reported receiving training on scientific investigation techniques. Additionally, training was perceived to improve skills and the application of knowledge by most respondents. Officers who had undergone formal training were more likely to employ structured interrogations, avoid coercion, and exhibit professional discretion. This confirms the importance of structured training in

developing ethical and effective policing.

5.1.6. Perceptions of effectiveness in identifying criminals

The findings on the effectiveness of police in identifying criminals indicate mixed opinions among participants. According to the study, a significant portion of respondents (46.5%) disagree with the statement that police can effectively identify criminals based on their behaviour, such as detection, service, arrest, and use of force. On the other hand, 29.6% of respondents agree with the statement, suggesting that a notable portion sees some level of effectiveness in the police's ability to identify criminals through these methods. In addition, 23.9% remain neutral, showing a considerable degree of uncertainty on this matter.

Overall, these results suggest that while DMP officers possess considerable field experience, there is an over-reliance on coercive tactics. To improve criminal identification and public cooperation, policies should focus on enhancing training, encouraging community policing, and refining investigative strategies. Investments in forensic capabilities, data analytics, and accountability frameworks could significantly strengthen Bangladesh's policing infrastructure in line with global best practices.

5.2. Bivariate Correlation Analysis

The Pearson correlation matrix revealed significant positive relationships between: Use of detection and criminal identification ($r = .52, p < .01$); Training received and identification effectiveness ($r = .47, p < .01$); Use of service and identification ($r = .43, p < .01$). Conversely, use of force had a weaker and inconsistent correlation with identification outcomes ($r = .22, p = .06$), indicating that coercive practices may be less effective or even counterproductive.

5.3. Regression Analysis

Multiple regression analysis was performed to assess how well behavioural variables predict criminal behaviour identification. Table 03 summarises the regression analysis results, highlighting how specific police behaviour

Table 03: Predicting Criminal Identification Effectiveness

Variables	Beta (β)	t-value	p-value
Detection Strategies	.367	4.512	.000
Use of Arrest	.289	3.125	.002
Use of Force	.202	2.432	.016
Support Services	.145	1.943	.054

Detection strategies emerged as the most influential factor ($\beta = .367, p < .001$), suggesting that investigative methods significantly enhance police accuracy in identifying criminals. The use of arrest ($\beta = .289, p = .002$) was also highly significant, indicating that arrests are frequently relied upon and effective in the identification process, though potentially associated with broader implications

regarding justice and fairness. The use of force showed moderate influence ($\beta = .202, p = .016$), underscoring its relevance but also emphasising potential adverse impacts on public perception and community trust. Support services were marginally significant ($\beta = .145, p = .054$), indicating that, while supportive community engagement is beneficial, it is currently underutilised and therefore not as impactful as other behaviours. Therefore, detection, training, and services are significant predictors of successful criminal identification, while the use of force does not independently contribute.

6. Discussion

This discussion follows the sequence of the conceptual framework, linking findings to the objectives and theoretical framework (institutional theory and problem-oriented policing). The present study sets out to explore how police behaviour affects criminal identification, with a focus on the DMP. The findings demonstrate a complex interplay between behavioural practices—such as detection, training, use of services, and force—and the effectiveness of identifying criminal suspects. The results both reinforce and challenge earlier studies and provide valuable insights into policing within a developing country context.

The Central Role of Detection and Training: Consistent with the first and fifth objectives, detection strategies proved to be the most important predictor of successful criminal identification. This aligns with institutional theory, where organisational norms promote structured investigative methods and problem-oriented policing, which emphasises proactive analysis (Goldstein, 1990). It is also consistent with existing literature stating that organised and skill-based investigative methods such as field interrogation, use of forensic techniques, and behavioural analysis are vital to modern policing (Sherman, 2001; O'Sullivan et al., 2009). However, the relatively low use of these strategies, as revealed in the descriptive statistics, suggests a capacity gap in the practical application of such techniques within the DMP. Equally imperative is the role of training. Officers who received structured and scientific training were significantly more likely to report success in identifying suspects. Effective training programs are decisive for enabling police officers to respond appropriately to cybercrime incidents (Cockcroft et al., 2021; Forouzan et al., 2018). In this study, training not only enhanced technical knowledge but also appeared to improve officers' ability to apply discretion appropriately, supporting institutional theory's emphasis on roles and norms (Teraji, 2018).

Underuse of Support Services and Community Engagement: Addressing the second objective, the data revealed that support services such as community mediation, patrolling, and engagement in problem-solving policing were underutilised. This contrasts abruptly with models like Problem-Oriented Policing and Community Policing, which prioritise collaboration between police and the public to prevent crime and build mutual trust

(Goldstein, 1990). The findings suggest that while officers diagnosed the potential of service-based behaviours, institutional limits and organisational culture may discourage their practice. This aligns with Institutional Theory, which posits that deep-rooted rules and norms often guide behaviour more than legal or technical prescriptions (Berthod, 2016). The lack of service-oriented behaviour may also clarify the weak relationship between public trust and criminal identification. As Omoroghomwan (2018) argues, participatory policing not only increases effectiveness but enhances legitimacy, which is critical in gathering intelligence and gaining community cooperation.

Overreliance on Arrest and Force: In line with the third and fourth objectives, a worrying pattern emerged in the data: police officers appeared to rely heavily on arrest and force during the identification process. While arrest is a legitimate tool in law enforcement, overreliance on this method, especially when accompanied by discretionary or coercive practices—raises concerns about procedural fairness. This is consistent with research suggesting that excessive force, arbitrary detention, and physical coercion can lead to false confessions, community alienation, and diminished police legitimacy (Can, 2002; Obasogie, 2017). Interestingly, regression results indicated that the use of force was not a significant predictor of successful criminal identification. This finding supports the argument that coercive methods are not only ethically questionable but also ineffective from a criminological perspective. As Walker and Katz (2008) noted, legitimacy and procedural justice are more sustainable policing strategies than brute force power, echoing problem-oriented policing's focus on root causes over reactive measures.

In summary, the findings clearly indicate that improving the effectiveness of criminal identification within the DMP requires balanced police behaviours that emphasise detection strategies, community support services, and minimise reliance on coercive tactics. Strategic policy interventions focusing on comprehensive training, institutional reforms, and community engagement are essential to enhance the overall effectiveness of criminal identification and policing practices in Bangladesh.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

7.1. Conclusion

This study explored the influence of police behaviour on the process of criminal identification in Bangladesh, using data collected from officers in the DMP. The results reveal that among the various behavioural scopes examined, detection strategies and professional training are the most significant contributors to the successful identification of criminals. Officers who applied investigative techniques—such as structured interrogations, behavioural profiling, and evidence-based tools—were more likely to identify suspects accurately. On the contrary, the study found that overreliance on arrest and force, although prevalent, did not contribute meaningfully to identification outcomes and may even hinder effective policing by eroding

public trust and legitimacy. Moreover, support services and community-oriented activities were underutilised despite their potential to foster cooperative policing environments. These findings underscore the importance of moving beyond traditional, heavy enforcement models of policing towards a more balanced and evidence-based approach. Therefore, the integration of scientific methods, community engagement, and ethical practices is essential for building a responsive and accountable police force in Bangladesh.

7.2. Recommendations

According to the study's results, the following recommendations are proposed:

- (i). **Enhance Professional Training Programs:** It would be fruitful to introduce compulsory, regular training modules focusing on modern detection strategies, forensic evidence collection, and ethical interrogation techniques. Include scenario-based training to enhance situational judgment and decrease dependence on force.
- (ii). **Strengthen Community Policing Initiatives:** Enthusiastic community liaison police officers should be trained in problem-solving and public engagement. Police need to participate in outreach programs to build rapport with citizens and gather grassroots intelligence.
- (iii). **Modernise Detection Infrastructure:** Police stations must be equipped with basic forensic kits, surveillance tools, and access to digital databases. The use of GIS, AFIS and predictive policing needs to be ensured.
- (iv). **Monitor and Regulate 'Use of Force':** Independent oversight bodies should be established to review incidents involving police force and custodial interrogation. Internal reporting systems for misconduct need to be institutionalised, escorted by retraining or disciplinary action where necessary.
- (v). **Institutional Reforms:** A shift in police culture should be materialised from coercive enforcement to service-oriented policing. Organisational structures, supervision systems, and promotions must be kept aligned with behavioural performance indicators rather than arrest quotas.

By implementing these recommendations, the Bangladesh police can take meaningful steps toward improving investigative quality, safeguarding human rights, and strengthening public trust. A behaviorally informed and community-engaged approach is not only more ethical but demonstrably more effective in identifying and addressing crime in today's complex social landscape. Only then the police can serve not just as enforcers of the law, but as trusted custodians of justice.

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