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The Influence of Public Opinions of Police-Civilian Relations on Police Cadets

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Abstract: *A good police-civilian relationship is particularly important for building a harmonious society and maintaining social stability. In recent years, with the rapid development of the Internet and the awakening of public awareness of rights, the social public opinions involving the relationship between the police and the people are of great concern. This thesis attempts to use Laswell's 5W Propagation Model to construct a model of the influence of public opinions of police-civilian relations on police cadets. Through the investigation, it is found that the police academy students think that the police-civilian relations are tense at the present stage, and the public opinions have had a certain influence on the learning attitude, employment choice and the prospect of the police. On the basis of analyzing the causes of the negative influence of public opinions, this paper puts forward some countermeasures to provide a new method of thinking for the establishment of harmonious police-civilian relationship.*

Key words: *Laswell's 5W Propagation Model; Police-Civilian relations; Police cadets; Public opinions*

Introduction

Because of the sensitivity and particularity of the nature of the police work, it is easy for the police to become the focus of public opinions. At present, the construction of police-civilian relations in China is facing new challenges, which to some extent affects the social image of the police. As preparatory police officers of the Republic, the college period is an important stage for police cadets to grow and develop. The police-civilian relations at this stage will have a certain influence on their world outlook, outlook on life and values in the future. In addition, their cognition and attitude to the current police-civilian relations have an important influence on the development of police-civilian relations in the future. Based on this, this research tries to analyze the negative influence of the present public opinions of the police-civilian relations on the police academy students, and put forward the measures for the special group of police cadets by the means of Laswell's 5W Propagation Model.

Analysis of Laswell's 5W Propagation Model on the Influence of Public Opinions of the Police-Civilian Relations on Police Cadets

In his article "The Structure and Function of Communication in Society" published in 1948, American scholar Harold Laswell first proposed five elements that make up the process of disseminate, the famous 5W model, "Who – Say What – In Which Channel – To Whom – With What Effect". At present, many scholars study the

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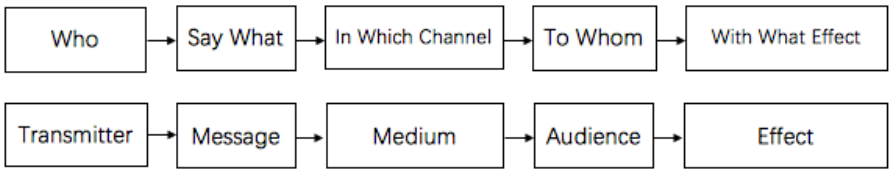
communication of public opinions based on Laswell's 5W Propagation Model. The 5W model is a one-way linear transmission mode, that is, "Transmitter–Message–Medium–Audience–Effect". Therefore, this paper focuses on the dissemination, acceptance and processing of information in one-way linear transmission mode, while the feedback of information and the two-way transmission of information are not the focus of this thesis.

Figure 1 Laswell's 5W Propagation Model



According to the 5W Propagation Model, the influence of the social public opinions on the police cadets can be divided into five links, and the corresponding model can be set up: Transmitter of social public opinions on police-civilian relations (Transmitter) – Public opinions on police-civilian relations (Message) – Media for the dissemination of public opinions on police-civilian relations (Medium) – Handling and analysis of police cadets towards the public opinions of police-civilian relations (Audience) – Police cadets' professional identity, job selection, attitude towards police-civilian relations in the future (Effect). The explanation of the 5W Propagation Model of the impact of public opinions on police academy students is as follows:

A. Transmitter of social public opinions on police-civilian relations. That is, in the process of social public opinions dissemination of information about the police-civilian relations of the active sender. Transmitters can appear either in the form of individuals or in the form of group organizations.

B. Public opinions on police-civilian relations. In general, the social public opinions of police-civilian relations often refer to the contradictions between the police and the people, such as attacking the police, the people's damaged interests have not been recovered, the police law enforcement irregularities caused mass dissatisfaction incidents, and of course, including some good interaction between the police and the masses, such as the opening day of the police camp, the public security organs cracked important cases, and so on. In addition, there are people's cognition of police-related public opinions incidents, the government's handling of mass incidents, and so on.

C. Media for the dissemination of public opinions on police-civilian relations. The first means of communication is interpersonal communication, which includes the personal experience of the people and the police, and the exchange of information between people; the second means of communication is mass communication, which includes various media reports, social hearsay and book records, and so on.

D. Handling and analysis of police cadets' public opinions of police-civilian relations. Police cadets are able to understand the public opinions of police-civilian relations through various channels, and social public opinions will also have a certain impact on them, which is the cognitive process of police cadets to social public opinions. In this process, we can guide the students through appropriate education actively, in order that they can view the social public opinions of the police-civilian relations correctly.

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E. Police cadets' professional identity, job selection, attitude towards police-civilian relations in the future. After the police cadets get to know the social public opinions, they will think about their own occupation, police-civilian relations, and then will have a certain impact on the choice of employment, employment direction and so on, which has an important influence on the future prospects of police-civilian relations.

Investigation and Analysis of the Impact of Public Opinions of Police-Civilian Relations on Police Cadets

According to the theory of 5W Propagation Model, the network questionnaire was designed and distributed them in three representative police academies randomly (People's Public Security University of China—subordinate college, Shandong Police College—undergraduate college, Hunan Police Academy—junior college), and collected total 300 questionnaires. The effective rate of collecting the questionnaire was 100%. Through the analysis of all questionnaires in order to get to know the impact of current public opinions of police-civilian relations on the police academy students. The results of the statistical analysis of the questionnaires are as follows.

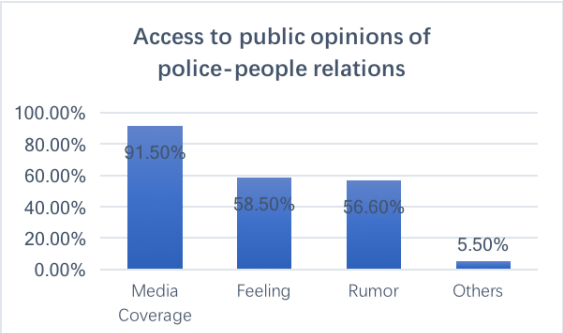
The general understanding of police cadets on the current police-civilian relations is the relationship tends to be tense

There is no difference in the type of institution, gender, specialty, whether it is a student cadre, whether it has participated in a public security internship, and whether its family members have engaged in public security work.

The understanding of police cadets on the social public opinions of police-civilian relations

In the channel of understanding the social public opinions of the police-civilian relations, mainly through the "Media Coverage ", accounting for 91.50%; the second is" Feeling ", accounting for 58.50%; the third is "relative and friends' hearsay ", accounting for 56.60%, and the choice of "Others" accounts for 5.50%. Among them, through the media coverage part, 81.10% of the people are through the official media to get to know the public opinions of police-civilian relations,69.8% of the people are through Weibo, WeChat Friends Circle and other We-media channels to understand. However, most police academy students believe that the current reports on the police-civilian relations are doubtful, which are exaggerated and fabricated.

Figure 2 Access to public opinions of police-people relations



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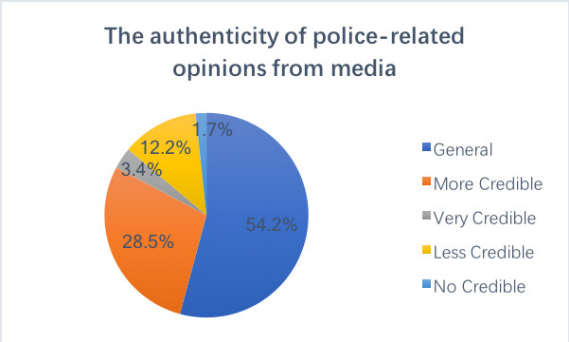
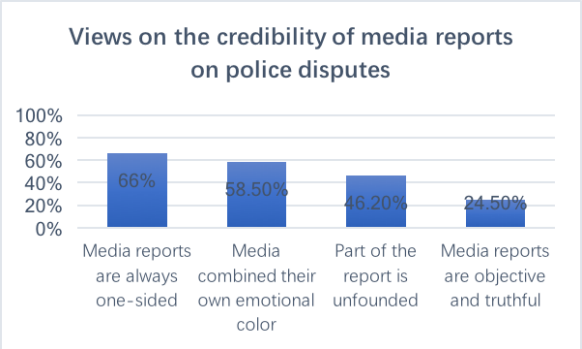
In terms of the authenticity of the media coverage of police-related public opinions, 54.2% of the police cadets choose "General", 28.5% choose "More Credible", 3.4% choose "Very Credible". Besides, 12.2% choose "Less Credible" and 1.7% choose "No Credible".

Figure 3 The authenticity of police-related opinion from media



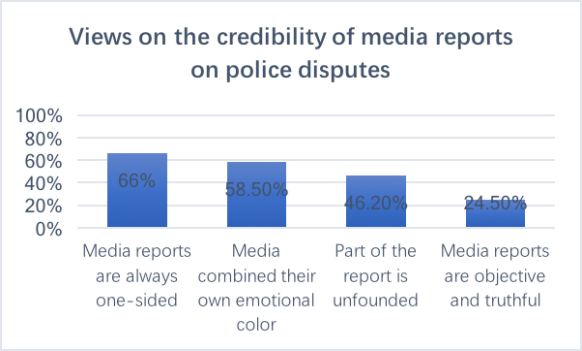
When asked about the credibility of media reports on police disputes, 66% choose "Media reports are usually one-sided and unfavorable to the development of police-civilian relations", 58.5% choose "The media combined with their own emotional color, excessive praise and criticism of the police", 46.2% choose "To attract attention, part of the report is unfounded". Only 24.5% think "Media reports are objective and true". There are differences in whether the family members are engaged in public security work($P<0.05$). The scores of the students whose family members are engaged in public security work are higher than others.

Figure 4 Views on the credibility of media reports on police disputes



When asked about who is responsible for the tension between the police and the people, 86.8% choose "The Media",55.7% think the main responsibility is for "The Masses",33% choose "The Policy Makers", 48.1% choose "The Police" and 10.4% choose "The Others". There are also differences in whether the family members are engaged in public security work($P<0.05$).

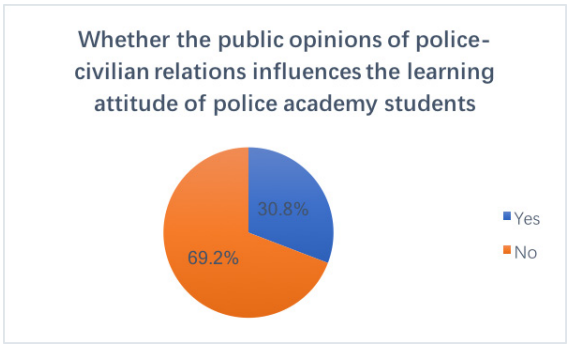
Figure 5 Parties responsible for causing tension between the police and the public



The influence of public opinions of police-civilian relations on police cadets' learning attitude, employment choice and the prospect of the police

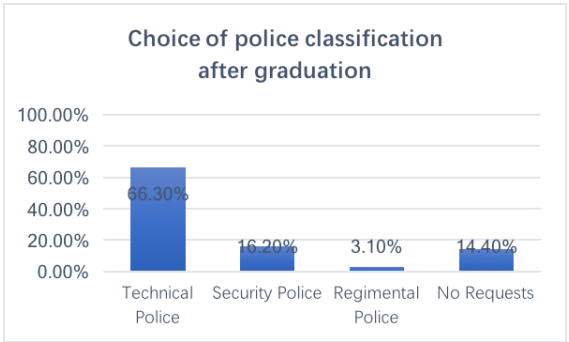
When asked about whether the public opinions of police-civilian relations influence the learning attitude of police cadets, 30.8% choose "Yes" and 69.2% choose "No". By the way, some students think that the choice of police classification after graduation is closely related to the police-civilian relations, accounts for 64.5%.

Figure 6 Whether the public opinions influences the learning attitude of police cadets



When asked about the choice of police classification after entry into the public security organs, 66.3% choose "Technical Police" and other types of police that have less conflict with the people, 16.2% choose "Security Police", 3.1% choose the "Regimental Police ". Besides, 14.4% are indifferent to the choice of police.

Figure 7 Choice of police classification after graduation



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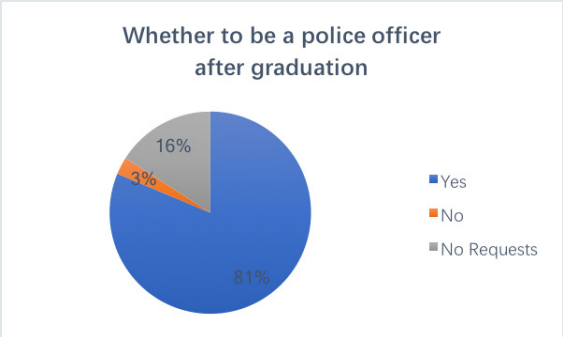
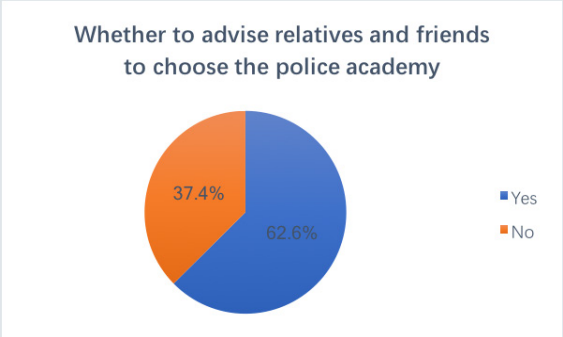
When asked whether they will choose to work in the public security organs after graduation, 81.3% choose "Yes", while 2.8% choose "No", and 15.9% choose "No Requests".

Figure 8 Whether to be a police officer after graduation



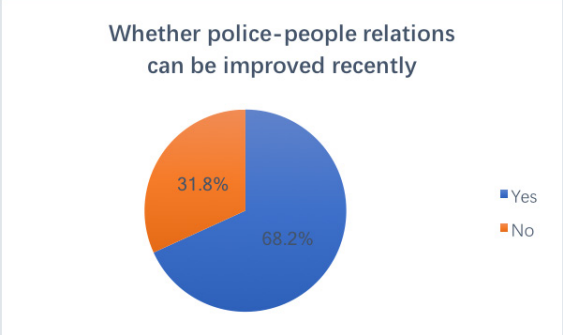
When asked if they will advise their relatives and friends to apply for a police academy, 37.4% choose "No" and only 62.6% will advise their relatives and friends to apply for.

Figure 9 Whether to advise relatives and friends to choose the police academy



When asked whether police-civilian relations can be improved recently,68.2% choose "Yes" and the others choose "No".

Figure 10 Whether police-people relations can be improved recently



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Reasons for the Emergence of Negative Public Opinions of Police-Civilian Relations

Problems of public security organs and related staff

First of all, there are loopholes in the internal management of some public security organs, and the law enforcement of some auxiliary police personnel is unstandardized, which reduces the credibility and authority of the public security organs. Secondly, because of the special nature of the public security organs, some cases need to be kept secret and inconvenient to be made public. The asymmetry of the information between the police and the people is easy to cause the people's dissatisfaction and misunderstanding. In addition, the public security work exists high risk. The work intensity is huge, while the income return is especially low, causing some staff members to create intense unbalanced psychology and take bribes. The existence of "gray income" and corruption phenomena have caused the image crisis of police.

Individuals and unscrupulous media use network to vent wantonly, smear police image

In the context of wide application and rapid popularization of the Internet, the network has become a new channel for people to obtain information and express their demands. Once there is dissatisfaction with the results, relying on laws to maintain rights will take a lot of time and energy. If they consult with the police, there is a serious asymmetry of information between the two sides. In the end, people can only use the network to protect their legitimate rights and interests. Thus, the convenient and efficient network becomes their "catharsis tool ". In addition, in order to arouse social attention, some media embroider on the key word "police ", exaggerate or distort the facts. At the same time, the media launch a large number of" paid posters "to increase reading so as to create public opinion guidance, resulting in the rapid fermentation of ordinary police-related events on the Internet, which has a negative impact on the image of law enforcement and the credibility of law enforcement.

The mechanism of public security organs in monitoring and warning, handling and rehabilitating the public opinions of the police is not perfect

Because the public opinions in network have the characteristics of diverse communication carriers, fast communication speed, wide communication range and complex and changeable public opinions tendency, it is difficult for the public security organs to monitor and warn the network public opinions involved in the police. In addition, the police officers are in the front line of maintaining public order and stability, facing the masses regularly. Some inappropriate ways of dealing with the public opinions related to the police affect the harmonious relationship between the police and the people to a certain extent. Fearing to undertake the responsibility and be exposed to the media, the public security organs often use their strong position as violent organs to solve the problem by means of covering, blocking, deleting and pressing. In addition, according to the principle of "Golden Four Hours ", the current work efficiency and response speed of public security organs to deal with public opinions are weak, which cause the police to miss the best time and lose initiative.

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Countermeasures of the Adverse Effect of the Negative Public Opinions on the Police Cadets

Through investigation, we know that the way that police academy students obtain public opinions about the police-civilian relations is mainly media reports, and most police cadets think that the reports about police and people's disputes are not exactly true. The media often play a negative role in the current construction of police and people's relations. The vast majority of police academy students have a positive attitude towards the improvement of police-civilian relations and are willing to choose to work in the public security organs after graduation. However, it is undeniable that the negative social public opinions of the police-civilian relations at the present stage have had a negative impact on the learning attitude, employment choice and the prospect of the police for some police academy students. Because of this, some police cadets have even been prepared to engage in other industries. Combining with the causes of the emergence of negative social public opinions in police-civilian relations, I believe that we should intervene some of the links in the 5W Propagation Model in order to reduce the adverse effects of negative public opinions on police cadets. These links include: Public opinions on police-civilian relations (Message), Media for the dissemination of public opinions on police-civilian relations(Medium), Handling and analysis of police cadets towards the public opinions of police-civilian relations(Audience).

The Intervention in the message and media links

A. Public Propagation: The public security organs should monitor and handle the public opinions successfully.

By analyzing the internal mechanism of police-related network public opinions and understanding the law of the spread of public opinions, the public security organs can set up scientific and reasonable warning index and adopt manual monitoring and automatic monitoring meanwhile, which is beneficial to set up an efficient monitoring and early warning system and control the development of public opinions roundly. In order to improve the public opinions processing mechanism, the public security organs should formulate the corresponding emergency plan in advance. When the public opinions appear, the police and the media should maintain efficient and timely communication, take the initiative to hold a press conference to establish mutual trust, which is sure to shorten the response time and deal with the event as soon as possible.

The public security organs should make a summary of such incidents after handling the public opinions. Enriching the cultural system of the public security organs and strengthening the acceptance of supervision, which are the objective need to deal with the increasingly onerous task of public opinions of police-civilian relations. The frequent incidents are also sounding the alarm bell to the public security organs, so we must fundamentally improve the service level and the law enforcement standard to promote the harmonious construction between the police and the people.

B. Interpersonal Propagation: Teachers should play a positive role.

Teachers should be good at controlling their emotions and avoid complaining in front of students. Talk more about the pride of being a police officer, cultivate the honor of police academy students to engage in public security. At the same time, teachers should pay attention to sharing their experiences and lessons in handling

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police and people's relations in practical work, and the skills of communicating with the people to the students without reservation, so as to improve their professional skills and communication skills. In addition, in view of the incidents of "attacking the police" and "police-people conflict" in the society, teachers should do a good job of guiding and explaining. As to the students who have a negative psychology because of such incidents, teachers should give timely guidance so that they can maintain an objective and correct attitude towards the issues of police-civilian relations.

The Intervention in the audience link

A. Strengthening the psychological curriculum system construction .

In the education of police academy, the psychological curriculum teaching is especially important. Take the People's Public Security University of China as an example, the police cadets' psychology curriculum can be divided into three categories: a. the basic course (the whole school general knowledge course). Such as "Police Academy Students' Mental Health", the course is mostly psychology introductory courses, whose audiences are all police cadets. b. the professional course (the professional compulsory course). For example, "Police Psychology", such curriculum is the product of the combination of psychology and social practice, which is to explore feasible ways to effectively apply psychology to police practice. c. the selected course (the professional elective course). Such as "Police Psychological Training", such course always combines with actual combat training, aims to teach police cadets how to self-control and adjust mental when facing with the people.

The construction of the psychological curriculum system must proceed from the students, and the required courses and elective courses should complement each other. In the whole police academy education stage must be integrated into the humanities education. The freshmen mainly learn the basic courses, which aim to correct their thought and endow them with the responsibility consciousness. Sophomores mainly study professional courses. At the same time, the school should lead them to participate in practical activities actively, especially the security work of large-scale activities. For senior police cadets, because they have already had a solid theoretical foundation, so this period is mainly to arrange the selected courses properly and urge them to combine theoretical knowledge with practical operation.

B. Strengthening the campus culture construction of public security colleges.

As an integral part of public security education, the campus culture construction of police academy is of great significance to the growth of police cadets, which cannot be replaced by other forms of education. If the campus culture atmosphere is positive, it will encourage the students to participate in various activities, which can cultivate their sense of responsibility and help them establish humanistic feelings. In addition, through scientific and reasonable community and team-building activities, we can improve the leadership quality and the organizational ability of student so as to lay a solid foundation for the future road of police.

To strengthen the construction of campus culture is the inevitable trend of the times and historical development. The campus culture is rich in content and various in forms, and the activities are carried out in the spare time, so it is bound to be a huge and complex project. Therefore, the police academy should carry

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out the overall design and capital construction of campus culture construction according to the characteristics of the school itself, take the campus culture as a key work, strive to create a scientific, reasonable, comfortable and inspiring education environment, and urge the students to establish a correct world outlook, outlook on life and values and take the initiative to participate in the construction of campus culture.

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