**CASE 2**

**VISHNUPRIYA – SREEKARYAM POLICE STATION**

**Family Background:**

The name of the Respondent was Vishnupriya and is 30 years old. She was born in Karipoor, Nedumangad. Her family consists of four members including her husband, mother and a daughter with 2 and a half years old. Her father was died at an age of 58. Her mother was the one who took care of the family in her father’s absence. As they have a rubber plantation and the income they get through it were used for their family. She had faced so many difficulties in her education due to their lack of financial issues. Her mother had made her to study by working hard and after attaining puberty she had taken tuition classes in home for 6 years. This had made her to continue her studies. She had completed her Graduation in BSc. Natural Science Botany in karamana NSS College, Thiruvananthapuram and then got admission for Bed. in Nedumangad. She was interested in taking teaching as her profession but due to the family pressure about a government job she had registered for the PSC entrance exam and had cracked the exam with better results. Through the PSC she got selected in the police rank list and had joined the force. It was about 2 years 3 months since she had started to work in this field. She entered into the police training force at an age of 25 years old and after she finished her training, she got married to a Fire force officer who was 35 years old and was staying at Pothencode.

**CHALLENGES :**

One week after her marriage, the great disaster occurs that is the Kerala floods. At that time, she got the flood duty in Changanasherry. It was a tight schedule for her as she had separated from her family and husband and it had created negativities among the family members. This had created stress in her life as she was not able to balance in her family and career. The first posting station for her was friendly to her as she was able to establish contacts between the colleagues. Also there was no discrimination faced to her in the station. Also she had said that some of the senior officers may have attitude towards the junior officers. By saying this, she had suddenly stopped and talked about other things. From this it is clear as she is hiding something or she may have faced any discrimination from the higher officers. She is the junior among other officers. After that she had posted in the Women Battalion, Menamkulam where she felt very comfortable and safe working there. She had said that out of 800 candidates only 590 people were entering into the police force. If she has reservation category, getting a government job is safer and can stand straight in front of the neighbors. Also there are some people who are joining the force with interest but in my opinion I had entered this police field only through the lot of pressures put down by the family and the neighbors – her words. Women police officers are sent to the battalion where men are to the AR camp and the strength in the camp was seen less. When the arrive at the station, they can’t do any works or even rest. Only they get rest is from the battalion and it is a safer place for every women. They will get proper care and guidance from the Battalion. There she was able to find some relaxation and free from the overburdening stress. She was pregnant at that time during her camp days. So that she only gets the inside duty and not the outside field work. Only she gets the night shift duty. The she had applied for the Maternity leave for 6 months. After that, she had worked in the commissioner office for 60 days and from there she had posted to the Sreekariyam police station and joined there in the year of 2020 December. The Sreekaryam police station was came into existence at the year 2006. At that time, her daughter was only 7 months old. She will finish her office work and return from the station at 5 pm and need to report at 9 am in the morning for duty. The new officer can understand the situation of issues faced by the women. So that he will allow leave by not say anything as if there is any occurs of family problem. The officers will not say anything as they are aware about her family problems. If it was a family issue, the officer will grant her permission to go but if it was related to any women issue, she needs to stand there in the station for long hours The officer who was early working on the station was little rude and won’t allow leave for silly reasons. If there is a scene guard duty and she will stand till night then they will gave them rest hours. She says as it is comfortable to work during the night time as she can be free from her husband’s conflict. In the station, there are 27 police officers where only 3 are women officers. One has taken medical leave and now the two of them are working hard. They will drop the officers at the duty point and after the duty the officers will drop her at her home as after 8 pm there is no availability of buses to her place. And also at the time of emergency, the male officers will pick her from her house. She uses bus for transportation to coming to the station regularly. Women’s are not sent to the BEAT only pink police officers are designated to that post. She said that it was difficult for her to handle mentally retarded women who come as accused. If any women accused cases are reported in the station, they will be guarded by two women police constables or otherwise they will be sent to the women police station. Since the station has low facilities, they will send the accused women cases to that station. The career was chosen by her to look after her family and also to look after the financial issues. The police job creates ruckus in her family as her husband doesn’t like her profession as he hates the police. When she interacts with the other male co – workers working in her station, he questions her and made a fight with her. Her mother is supportive but due her husband’s negative thoughts, it made her mother to make her feel unmotivated and unsupportive. Her husband doesn’t like when her wife talks with other men. When the male colleagues contact her in her personal number and not the office number her husband will fight with her by saying negative comments. Her husband’s family supports her profession as they had agreed for this marriage proposal knowing that she was a civil police officer. They had also agreed to work according to her passion and no one will withdraw her from her profession. But it has become a lie and she had only understood her husband’s nature after the marriage. He was working in the Fireforce where he gets one day duty and one day rest. He gets rest according to the time he spends for the duty. He was saying that only men need to work and not women. They need to be dependent on their husband for money. Only one person in the family need to go for the work and if both the husband and wife goes for work, the society will consider them as bad as it the failure of the husband to look after the family makes the wife to go for work. This shows the gender discrimination among the husband and wife was strong and creating issues.

She was working in the Crime wing where her duty is to write all the cases in the Case diary. She hadn’t applied for the General diary as she hadn’t written the test due to laziness and tension. Early there were five female staffs, but now it was reduced to three in number. This creates their work of duty overtime may be it will extend from 8 am till 7 pm. The tea were early made by the women in the station but now it had changed as the men officers are making tea and serving to the women officers. If they are under stress, they will not make it. To avoid such discrimination in the station, they had placed a coffee machine which helps them to relieve from stress also there is no gender based discrimination. She had then explained her duty as if any cases related to children are coming, they will only go in mafthy and not in police vehicles. They will enquire them and came back to station for reporting the case to the officer. She will get 4 hours of rest during the night shift and she likes to work at the night shift. But if any sudden work come at the time of 4 hours rest, it makes her feel tired and loss temper. She also feels tensed if the work was not able to handle easily. It will depend upon her mental condition status and it was not easy for her to stand for overtime. She says as she can stand up to 6 – 6 and a half hours. After that time limit, she becomes completely violent and will become angry. At the night times, there was unavailability of buses to her place and her husband was not available at homes some days due to his work schedule. This is making her to put over pressure as she was not able to move together with her work and family. She can’t always take leave even her daughter was not well. If she takes two days leave, the formality will be more and it becomes a huge difficulty. Her daughter was been looked after by her mother. This make her husband to get tensed. This is all because of her husband’s misunderstandable nature as he gets possessive over anything. She says as “I was born with lots of freedom but now it has changed a lot”. She was tired of fighting with her husband. He was questioning her for each and every single thing. She finds it difficult to live with him and says that in her 5 years of marriage life, he had only looked on her with doubts. Her husband doesn’t like her wife using mobile and he will check on her phone for every call and message. When she uses the social media platform, he creates a fight with her. Due to this, she will use her mobile at free times in the station and while traveling in the vehicle. She was afraid to use mobile at her house. She says as he is having a different kind of mentality and sometimes she feels to get divorced from him but due to the future of her daughter she is tolerating all these things. She does not know the duty time as the working hours are not fixed. Nobody knowns the problem of her husband. He is not ready to talk about the issue in open as he is hiding something in his mind. Due to this she had asked the male colleague workers to not to contact on her personal number after 9 pm. This makes her to undergo mental trauma and is unable to recover from the situation. This makes her to stay in the station for doing night shifts. She is saying as she can’t go to teaching field as she doesn’t hold a post graduation. But at free times she is reading the books and is also preparing for the teaching exam. Her main dream was to become a teacher but the fate had changed her life to a women civil police officer. The main problem she faces now is that from her husband and she responded as she is getting the higher protection in the police station rather than from the family.

Another issue is that whenever they were put to work in the secretary duty, they may get beats and even scolds from higher officials. So many people will come and there is no time for them to have a proper food or to sit for some time. This makes them creates urinary infections as the longer hours of standing makes them feel depressed. She is also saying as this situation can make some women’s feel difficult in carrying a child or becomes pregnant. Also they feel difficult at times of menstruation and they are afraid to ask for a leave or rest at that time, because some officers may scold them for asking leave for such reasons and asks them “If you are having periods, then why did you join the police force you can sit at home and look after you husband and children”. For this reason, they are afraid to ask for permission and control their pain at times of severity. She is suggesting as the government should implement Menstrual leaves to the women police officers and also to have an Anganwadi to be made near the police station. As through this the women officers can look after their child. The only thing she want is to live a independent life free from the overtime stress made from the duty and her family.