
Insecurity in Nigeria and the Need for Community Policing in Nigeria

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Abstract: *This paper is on Insecurity in Nigeria and the Need for Community Policing in Nigeria. The aim of the study was to examine the components of community policing in order to determine the extent which community policing has fared in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria. Anchored on the Public Relations theory of Community Policing as the theoretical framework of the study, the paper adopted library research as means of gathering and analysis of data. The paper observed that as among others that; community policing has the tendency to reduce crime in communities but there has being no much of community partnership between the police and community residents due to lack of trust on the part of citizens to the police, and lack of attitudinal change of the part of the police officers, community residents have wrong perception on the police hence achieving police-community partnership in the fight against security challenges in Nigeria has been at its lowest ebb, and community policing has not made the police to be courteous and helpful when interacting with neighborhood residents for problem-solving because police officers have continued to exhibit a culture of a warrior mindset rather than a guardian to build trust. Thus, the paper concluded that the foundations of a successful community policing strategy lie in close, mutually beneficial ties between police and community members. It was suggested that; Since Nigerian communities and towns have a variety of geographical, tribal, ethnic, and cultural differences; Community policing frameworks must take into consideration the numerous identities that exist within the community to enable security architecture designed in a manner that maximizes local resources to police communities in ways that suit their peculiar security challenges. It what was further recommended that the police ought to embrace a culture of a guardian—rather than a warrior—mindset to build trust, and Police should consider establishing “duty to intervene” policies and management by walking around.*

Key words: *Insecurity, community policing, Nigeria Police, Neighbourhood Introduction*

Introduction

Security is the most fundamental need of human beings (Alemika, 2011). The problem of ineffective policing has continued to persist in postcolonial Africa. Kelling and Mark (1988) identify three styles of traditional policing to include; watchman style which involves order maintenance and law enforcement; legalistic style which involves exercise of little discretion and enforcement of the law by making more arrests and encouraging victims to come and make complaints; and the service style which shares characteristics with the other two styles but focuses primarily on service to the community and the citizens. Under the conventional or traditional model of policing, local police departments were organized around strict hierarchical

lines and utilized standardized operational protocols, as well as emphasized on responding to crimes when they occurred. These strategies of policing which functioned in the past are no longer effective today because they were reactive in nature and the desired goal could not be achieved as communities continued to witness several acts of insecurity such as; unknown gunmen, banditry, illegal drugs, kidnapping, herders- crop-farmers clashes, jungle justice, rape, ritual murdering, gang violence, robberies, burglaries, human trafficking, terrorism, armed groups, corrupt state actors, arms traffickers, transnational organized criminals, cybercrimes, etc.

These crime rates and the perception of crime have been exacerbated by the high proliferation of small arms throughout the country. Fully and semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, machine guns and shoulder fired rockets are readily available for purchase in different parts of Nigeria (CLEEN, 2004). The effects of insecurity to the neighbourhood and government have been so enormous. It has been found to lead to neighbourhood decline, residential mobility, neighbourhood stigmatization. The burden of insecurity in Nigeria also cuts across the government as it reduces income from property tax, increases government budget as government have to pay more on procurement of arms, additional police, buildings, and maintenance of ever-overcrowded prisons. This, by and large affects the general economy. In addition to the foregoing, Nigeria has continuously placed low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), indicating that the country's security situation has deteriorated. In 2019, Nigeria was ranked 3rd below Afghanistan and Iraq out of 138 countries in the Global Terrorism Index and is said to be the 14th most fragile in the world and the 9th in Africa, according to the Fragile States Index (2019). Unsurprisingly, in the same year the country was also ranked 148th out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index, far below former war-ravaged countries like Sierra Leone (52), Liberia (59) and Rwanda (79). Nigeria is the deadliest country in Africa, accounting for nearly 29 percent of all organized, armed sectarian strife fatalities in Africa in 2014 (ACLED, 2015), with 6,383 deaths attributed primarily to the North East insurgency. This is nearly double the number of reported deaths in South Sudan, which accounted for 16% of all organised, armed sectarian strife deaths (ACLED, 2015, FPI, 2019).

In today's mass society, no government can effectively combat crime alone through conventional enforcement without the assistance of sub-state actors due to a variety of circumstances. As a result, most countries around the world are seeking for new ways to combat the rising tide and increasing sophistication of insecurity. Community policing is now a global phenomena in this shift from traditional reactive and incident-based policing to proactive problem-solving policing with the community as a cornerstone of policing (Bamidele, 2020). Community policing was created as a policing strategy in reaction to the loopholes created in the operation of traditional policing. The concept has been around for more than a century in Europe, with some authors tracing it back to John Alderson, former Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall Police, in the late twentieth century (Mmanti and Friday, (2021). Since the late 1970s, community policing has grown in popularity in the Western world, particularly in the United States. In the early 2000s, community policing began to gain traction in Nigeria. The Nigeria Police Force followed the conventional British semi-military policing organization that emphasizes authority centralization. This principle of power centralisation runs counter to the philosophy of community policing, which emphasizes power decentralisation. In community policing, the police must share power with people of a neighborhood, and crucial decisions must be taken at the community level rather

than at police stations (Bohm and Halen, 2005). Community policing seeks to decentralize police decision-making authority. To attain this purpose, three vital and complimentary components or operational methods must be successfully implemented: community partnerships, problem solving, and change management. The community policing tactics exist in a variety of forms and models in Nigeria: Neighborhood watch, vigilantes, religious and ethnic militias, forest guards, door-to-door visits by police officers, and residential meetings all serve as avenues for them to acquire information and learn about the people's problems. While some are established and/or funded by the government, others are totally owned and governed by the community. Thus, community policing is a partnership model of policing the community aimed at bridging the distance between the police and citizens, promoting citizen participation, providing the police with more information, and promoting the effectiveness of policing strategies(Terpstra, 2010).

Perpetrators of crime are usually well known within their communities and effective policing entails a police force that is in close ranks with the community, knows its ways around, knows criminals;(their hideouts and modus operandi of criminal syndicates in far flung communities), is conversant with the terrain and that members of the community, trust and are willing to share information with them (Akani, Toby, &Onuoha, 2020). By involving the community, the police gets more available resources for crime-prevention efforts rather than being compelled to respond to crime after it has occurred. It has become the public view that without the spontaneous cooperation of the community and partnership with the police, the police alone cannot ensure the safety of the people and address the problem of the community to the satisfaction of the people of the community. As a result, the police have come to emphasize community-based policing under the umbrella of community policing. In this regard, the federal Government of Nigeria in October 2021 released sum of N13 billion (about \$35 million) to fund the launch of community policing nationwide and commenced the recruitment of some 10,000 constables to be deployed in areas from which they come so as to bring security closer to the people (Mobayo, 2020). This is why Osinbajo (2019) assured that the establishment of community policing in Nigeria would not take away the powers of the national police. The purpose of this paper is to examine the components of community policing in order to determine the extent which community policing has fared in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification

Community

A community refers to a specific group of people, often living in a defined geographical area, who share a common culture, religion, ethnicity, values, norms and concerns and who are arranged in a social structure according to relationships the community has developed over a period of time. The term “community” includes worksites, schools, churches, private and public agencies, social groups and health care sites. Thus, communities may share a sense of abode located in a given geographical area such as a country, village, town, or neighbourhood, school, market or in near space through communication platforms. This is supported by Richard (1994) when he says “community is comprised of more than those persons who live within a geographic area and who share ties, whether social or economic”.

Police

The police are a constituted body of persons empowered by a state, with the aim to enforce the law, to ensure the safety, health and possessions of citizens, and to prevent crime (*Policy Studies Institute*, 2009, Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2020)). Hence policing is concerned with the maintenance and preservation of rules of external conduct of human being in the society (Onwe, 2013). Police also refers to a socio-political and quasi-legal institution charged with the responsibility of crime control, enforcing criminal law and the maintenance of law and order (Alemika, 2011).

Community policing

The origins of community policing may frequently be traced back to Kelling and Wilson's early 1980s broken windows hypothesis, which contends that crime thrives in areas where disorderly behavior is tolerated. Kelling and Wilson claimed that by "controlling" street life to accomplish public order, crime and the fear of crime might be avoided. Many researchers have described the process of defining community policing as challenging, but Trojanowicz (1994) presents the most frequent definition, which has come to be known as the "nine Ps" of community policing. Community policing is a philosophy of full service individualized policing, in which the same officer patrols and works in the same area on a long term basis, from a decentralized location, working in a proactive collaboration with citizens to identify and solve problems (Trojanowicz, 1994). This means that community policing comprises the police participating in the community and reacting to community needs, as well as the community engaging in its own policing and supporting the military. Community policing, within this concept, focuses on providing policing services that include traditional law enforcement as well as preventive, problem-solving, community participation, and collaborations. The initiative is predicated on the belief that both the police and citizens at the grassroots have a joint responsibility to fight crime. This is why Ndukwe (2022) writes that community policing is a policing technique in which the police and community people work together to police the community through information collection and sharing. This is why Miller and Kyulu (2021) define community policing as a belief that working together, the police and the community can accomplish what neither can accomplish alone.

Insecurity

Some typical descriptions of insecurity problems include: lack of safety; risk; hazard; uncertainty; lack of confidence; questionable; poorly guarded or protected; unstable; troubled; lack of security; and unsafe, among others (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2020). These various descriptions, however, all have one thing in common: they all allude to a condition of vulnerability to injury and loss of life, property, or livelihood. Insecurity instills worry or anxiety as a result of actual lack of safety or the existence of insufficient freedom from risk. Thus, insecurity is said to be the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, or the state of being open to danger; where danger supposes the state of being susceptible to violence or injury (Buratai 2021). A significant point emphasized by these descriptions of security issues is that people impacted are not only unsure or wholly unaware of what may happen, but they are also helpless to stop it or protect themselves if it does occur.

Theoretical review

Components of Community Policing

The idea of community policing is that the more connected the police are within a community, the easier it be to prevent crime instead of responding to it when it had occurred. To accomplish this mission, community policing consists of three key components which are discussed below.

i: Organizational Transformation

Organizational transformation entails the alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community policing and proactive problem solving. It's all about ensuring that the law enforcement agency embodies the purpose and values of community policing in their hierarchical structure so as to be able to serve the community to the best of their ability. Organizational transformation requires agency management, long term assignments, and fast spread of information. Community policing cannot be adopted successfully unless the organization's structure, management style, and measurements of performance and accountability are changed. The structuring of police units around geographically based assignment and allocation is the foundation of organizational reform. In this scenario, one of the transformational components that might be implemented is the decentralization of a police agency (Boss, 2019). Decentralization entails reduced dependence on top-down policy directives from departmental leadership, devolution of decision making, and a less hierarchical reporting structure. Decentralization offers local authorities and area leaders more power and preference, allowing them to develop creative solutions to unique, individual neighborhood problems without being constrained by blanket, unduly stringent laws. Police officers are given more freedom to devise novel tactics to meet the specific issues of local citizens. One of the key advantages for this strategy is that regionally based assignments allow officers to have closer and more frequent interaction with the people who live and work in those areas. The idea is that increasing engagement leads to a better grasp of a neighborhood's goals and problems, as well as a better understanding of local assets and resources that may be used to solve those concerns.

As part of organizational transformation, in smaller units, the police can adopt a process called "management by walking around" in which the chief visits key managers and implementation groups to get on-the-spot reports on implementation efforts. In every organization, the chief executive should hold regular meetings with the personnel responsible for overseeing community policing implementation and should ask for reports on efforts with the goal of both reinforcing accountability and allowing for immediate discussion of problems (Terpstra, 2010). The chief executive and the head of the implementation team could meet regularly with groups of managers and supervisors to discuss changes in decision-making authority. Periodic personnel surveys can also help determine what modifications have occurred in management style, which obstacles stand in the way of change, and how agency leadership can facilitate the necessary adjustments in the roles of managers, supervisors, and patrol officers. In an ideal world, all officers and support staff would be involved in the community policing program. Although the community policing officer is the most visible sign of this policing approach, the department itself must be committed to building a new partnership with neighborhood members (William, Richard, and Thomas, 1997).

ii: Police-Community Partnership

Police-Community Partnership entails a collaborative partnership between the law enforcement agency and the individuals. And organizations they serve and protect to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police. Police agencies must first solicit community input in order to build police-community cooperation in addressing neighborhood problems. Some of the partnerships involved in community partnerships include but not limited to community members and groups, government agencies, private businesses, the media, nonprofit and service providers. This is accomplished through a variety of means, including police officer door-to-door visits, mail-out surveys, and community block meetings. By encouraging locals to report illegal or suspicious behavior, the police can enlist the help of the community in their attempts to avoid crime and unrest (Arase, 2018). In response, police can educate residents on how to avoid becoming crime victims through crime prevention efforts such as Neighborhood Watch.

Even if the police retain the majority of decision-making authority, a long-term connection between the police and local people can be established if police departments are attentive to community needs and responsible to the community for whatever action they take (Goldstein, 1987).

The aim is to increase the number and quality of relationships between individual officers and members of the public. Officers get to know the people who live on their beat, which promotes police-community partnership. The visible presences of police officers who are approachable and sympathetic in their contacts with residents help reduce citizens' anxieties about crime, and enhance rapport between officers and communities which can improve officer morale. Furthermore, allocating an officer to a constant beat enhances an officer's sense of accountability for the betterment of community life as a whole. Community collaborations are vitally necessary for effective community policing activities. Building trust does not come overnight; it takes time and effort. However, trust must be established before police can analyze community needs and build the strong ties that will encourage community support. This cooperative partnership will, in turn, strengthen the bonds of trust. Police should treat others with respect and compassion in order to create trust for an effective relationship (Terpstra, 2010). The use of unnecessary force and arrogance, aloofness, or rudeness at any level of the agency dampens the willingness of community members to ally themselves with the police. The effective mobilization of community support requires different approaches in different communities. The tight alliance formed with the community must not be restricted to a single occurrence or set of incidents, nor should it be time-limited, but be long-lasting and balanced. The police and the community must work together to promote and maintain peace and stability (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 1994). For the security guard, police/community collaboration entails speaking with business owners to identify their concerns and difficulties, visiting individuals in their homes to provide security advice, and assisting in the organization and maintenance of neighborhood watch organizations and frequent community meetings. A patrol officer, for example, may canvass the neighborhood for information on a string of burglary and then return to alert residents after the burglar has been captured. The police chief can describe and debate contentious police practices so that people of the community understand why these measures are required for community and officer safety.

The police unit can engage with community members about gang suppression tactics, and all levels of the police unit will actively collect complaints and suggestions from community groups, individuals, leaders, and local government officials. In this police/community collaboration, important social services will be recognized as intrinsically related to crime prevention and issue solutions will become a collaborative endeavor (CLEEN'S, 2004). The general public should be involved in prioritizing and addressing public safety issues. Citizens' participation in policing in this scenario will include reporting crimes in progress, providing witness testimonies, supporting police in solving crimes, capturing suspects and delivering them over to police when necessary, and so on. However, community members' readiness to trust the police is determined by whether they believe police activities represent community values and embrace procedural fairness and legitimacy principles (Mba, 2019).

iii: Problem- solving

Problem resolution is based on the idea that "crime and disturbance may be reduced in small geographic areas by thoroughly analyzing the nature of the issues in the area and then employing the appropriate resources (James,(2004). Problem solving refers to the procedures by which specific community concerns are identified and the most appropriate solutions to these concerns are discovered. Rather than responding to specific occurrences and relying solely on law enforcement to control crime, police are encouraged to allow communities to recognize local problems and collaborate with them to develop the most efficient solution. It entails engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and evaluate effective responses. Effective problem-solving necessitates that police personnel investigate various ways of social control and be led by community preferences. This may need the police officer to use resources outside of the police department, such as collaborating with residents and other local community organizations (James,2004). Measurements that help to improve the quality of police service and the efficacy of problem-solving strategies are good indicators of how well the police are functioning and to what extent the police are responsible to the public in terms of crime rates. It is believed that every community is different and as such problem solving naturally looks different from place to place. Community policing emphasizes proactive problem solving in a systematic and routine fashion. Thus, rather than responding to crime only after it occurs, community policing encourages agencies to proactively develop solutions to the immediate underlying conditions contributing to public safety problems. Agencies are encouraged to think innovatively about their responses and views, making arrests as only one of a wide array of potential responses. In community policing, the problem-solving process is dependent on input from both the police and the community. It can involve eliminating the problem entirely, reducing the number of the occurrences of the problem, reducing the degree of injury per incident, improving problem handling, manipulating environmental factors to discourage criminal behavior.

Community problems can take many different forms and are typically linked by characteristics such as location, period, victim or perpetrator group, and environment. The following are examples of communal difficulties (Goldstein, 1990): an unusually high number of burglaries in an apartment complex that are creating great anxiety and fear among residents, panhandling that

creates fear in a business area, prostitutes in local parks or on heavily traveled streets, disorderly youth who regularly assemble in the parking lot of a convenience store, and an individual who persistently harasses and provokes community members.

Problem-solving policing is a citizen-centred and community policing approach which leads to more sustainable successes in the management of internal safety and security threats (Muhammed, 2019). Police divisions that are grounded in a community policing idea trains and assigns officers to duties that are focused on creative and active problem solving and prevention, rather than simply reacting to crime and disorder. In order for officers to do this effectively, some degree of autonomy is granted to them. One of the most common approaches to problem solving in police is the SARA Problem-Solving Model (Livingston, 2013). SARA stands for the four step process: Scanning (identifying and prioritizing problems), Analysis (researching what is known about the problem), Response (developing solutions to bring about lasting solutions in the number and extent of the problems), and Assessment (evaluating the success of the solutions). Evidence indicates that problem-oriented policing strategies based on the SARA method can achieve significant reductions in crime over traditional response models. In other words, problem solving is based on the assumption that “crime and disorder can be reduced in small geographic areas by carefully studying the characteristics of problems in the area, and then applying the appropriate resources. Cooperative issue solving also builds trust and improves information flow between both the police and the community. Bringing police officers closer to the public is said to reduce fear, boost contentment with police services, and promote the growth of problem-solving strategies. This includes, in particular, assigning officers to locations long enough for them to discover local problems and concerns. Police officers are more visible in the community and have more possibilities to contact with individuals on a more personal basis (Brett and Anne, 2016).

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical underpinning for this research is Public Relations theory. Ivy Ledbetter Lee (1877–1934) established contemporary public relations. The Public Relations theory of Community Policing assumes that not only should there be an emphasis on the maintenance of good ‘public relations’ as being so typical to many of the traditional police-community relations programmes, but there should also be an attempt to highlight the importance of interdependence, of mutual understandings and mutual responsiveness and support. The theory holds that public relation is an inseparable part of police work. The idea is that Public relation is based upon public opinion as influenced to a greater extent by the media. Public relations are the attempt to establish and maintain good relations between an organization and its constituents (Theaker, 2004). Thus, the police should keep the public informed about matters from its sphere of activity, unless by doing so it would prejudice its own work or justify benefits of others. The police can perform some tasks such as; organizing press conferences, briefings and photo sessions on various topics in the police field, press releases, notices and information for the public, and also attending to written requests and questions made by journalists.

2.4 Empirical review

AUTHOR	YEAR	TITLE	OBJECTIVE	METHODOLOGY	FINDINGS	CONCLUSION	RECOMMENDATIONS
Onyeije, Anyaoha, and Osita	2019	Community Policing and Preventing Crime in Imo State, Nigeria's Isiala Mbanwo Local Government Area.	To ascertain the effect of community policing on crime control in the IsialaMbanwo Local Government Area of Imo State, Nigeria.	Survey, Chi-square statistical method used to examine the study's hypothese	Community police patrol has aided in crime control and police collaboration with the community has not contributed to crime control.	Government should vigorously pursue training program aimed at achieving attitudinal change and professional effectiveness among the police's rank and file as well as other officers' cadre.	A forum should be established in the community to allow members to freely meet with the police to discuss crime-related issues.
Madaki	2020	Insecurity and Community Policing: Impact on Adolescent Educational Attainment in Nigeria	To explore the use of community policing in tackling security challenges posed in the education of adolescent in secondary schools in Nigeria	Structured questionnaire analysed through simple descriptive statistics	The main cause of insecurity in the country can be attributed to lack of education and poverty	The main consequence of insecurity in the attainment of education by adolescent is increased rate of school dropout as well sexual abuse and rape while ineffective community policing influences school enrollment by adolescents and academic performance.	Members of the community policing groups should cut across ethnicity, religious and political inclinations and sensitization campaigns should be carried out to educate and enlighten the public on the importance of education. Also, tolerance should be advocated by the Government and nongovernmental bodies with greater efforts put into researching and discovering ways in which the Nigerian police can build its image and trust to the Nigerian citizenry and awareness campaigns so as to enlighten the public on the need to collaborate with the police.
Ugwu	2020	Community Policing through Neighbourhood	To discuss the strategic security programmes in Nigeria via Enugu State, and examine the roles of	Descriptive analytical methods	In Enugu State, Community Policing is structured in such a way that all the	Old system of crime prevention and the pattern of relationship between the police force and the	Adequate number police officers must be assigned in each area, and on the job training must be given to the police officers so as to update and scale up their knowledge and skill

		Watch as a Strategic Security Development in Nigeria: Enugu State Experience.	government in sustainable security/neighbourhood development, by evaluating the community policing through neighbourhood watch.		stake holders have input to make in smooth running of the programme.	society have changed with the coming and functioning of community policing	on crime management issues in general and community policing implementation in particular.
Onuoha, Joseph and Arua	2021	Community Policing in Nigeria: A mere Rhetoric than	To investigate into the need to incorporate members of the community in Nigeria in the business of crime control.	content analysis and library resources	Introduction of community policing is like pouring water on a rocky ground.	For the fact that current police structure in Nigeria is embedded in a colonial legacy which is rooted in brutality, violence, harassment of members of the public, the police have continued to witness lack public cooperation and acceptability.	Government should organize programs aimed at bringing the community and police closer to aid in the crime prevention. Seminar on police/public attitudinal change should be organized in order to recognize and protect the dignity of human persons.
Omeje and Ogbu	2021	Community Policing as an Efficient Crime Reduction Strategy in Enugu State: Challenges and Opportunities.	To identify the issues and challenges of community policing as a crime reduction approach in Enugu State	Survey research design with structured questionnaire, basic percentage and frequency, table. Chi-Square statistical approaches	Crime has decreased after the implementation of Community Policing and employment would be a superior technique for reducing crime	Community policing will perish unless both neighborhood inhabitants and the Nigeria Police Force share information.	Nigerian Police and other security agencies should make more efforts to develop their relationships with members of the public in order to earn their trust and allow for the free flow of information.
Okechukwu and Iheanyich	2021	Community Policing	To examine the prospect of	A self-designed structured questionnaire	The challenges facing	It is only when the Nigerian	There is need for the Nigerian Police to strengthen their

ukwu		ng and Insecurity in Rivers State (2015-2019)	community policing as a panacea to the problem of insecurity in Rivers State	with purposive and simple random sampling technique, mean and rank order statistical methods used to analyse data collected	community policing in Rivers State were lack of trust between the police, vigilante groups and the members of the communities, coupled with poor public image of the police	Police strengthen their cooperation with the members of the various communities in Rivers State that the existing mutual suspicion and distrust which alienate people from them could be reduced	cooperation with the members of the various communities in Rivers State.
Taylor and Nzeneri	2021	Neighbourhood Watch as a Strategy for Curbing Insecurity towards Promotion of Community Development in Enugu State	To examine neighbourhood watch as a strategy for curbing insecurity towards promotion of community development in Enugu State	descriptive survey design with proportionate sampling technique	Neighbourhood watch strategy is used to tackle insecurity in Enugu State through arresting of criminals by neighbourhood watch group, reporting of cult activities to the police and exposure of hideouts of criminals.	There is need to have effective partnership between the police and the neighbourhood watch group existing in the communities	Government at federal and state levels should provide a legal framework through enactment of legislations to enforce the creation of neighbourhood watch groups in the 36 States of Nigeria.
Kyulu	2021	Strategies and impact of community policing in Kikuyu	looked at the techniques and effects of community policing on preventing crime in Kikuyu District,	descriptive survey research design	There was marked decrease in criminal activities as a result of community policing effort	Mistrust/negative attitude towards police is the major challenge facing community policing	Government should come up with new community relations service strategies and policies to alleviate mistrust/negative attitude towards police.

		District in Kiambu County, Kenya	Kiambu County, Kenya.		strategies adopted.		
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Observations

From the analysis so far, the following observations could be made;

- 1: Community policing has the tendency to reduce crime in communities but there has being no much of community partnership between the police and community residents due to lack of trust on the part of citizens to the police, and lack of attitudinal change of the part of the police officers.
- 2: Community residents have wrong perception on the police hence achieving police-community partnership in the fight against security challenges in Nigeria has been at its lowest ebb.
- 3. Community policing has not made the police to be courteous and helpful when interacting with neighborhood residents for problem-solving because police officers have continued to exhibit a culture of a warrior mindset rather than a guardian to build trust.

Conclusion

Community policing has become the new philosophy of professional law enforcement in the world’s industrial democracies of which Nigeria is one. Community policing is an extended form of policing – it does not replace but harnesses core policing functions such as traffic enforcement, crime investigation and public order management. The foundations of a successful community policing strategy are the close, mutually beneficial ties between police and community members. It is, in essence, collaboration between the police and the community that identifies and solves community problems. Community policing enhances public security, and lowers crime rates, reduces the fear of crime and makes the public feel less helpless, reconnects the police with alienated publics, raises police moral, and makes the police more accountable. Des pit the benefits claimed for community policing, programmatic implementation of it in Nigeria has been very uneven. Although, almost globally said to be important, it means different thing to different people in Nigeria. As long as community residents continue to have no trust in the Nigeria Police Force, the assumption that the formalizing and implementation of community policing in Nigeria will reduce security challenges remain a mirage. A foundation of trust allows police to form close relationships with the community that will produce solid achievements. Without trust between police and citizens, effective policing is impossible. The diversity of Nigeria’s security challenges requires an innovative set of solutions adapted to each community. This will entail understanding the security challenges peculiar to communities and maximizing local resources to police such communities in ways that suit their peculiar security needs.

Suggestions

- 1. Nigerian communities and towns have a variety of geographical, tribal, ethnic, and cultural differences. Thus, Community policing frameworks must take into consideration the numerous identities that exist within the community to enable security architecture designed in a manner

that maximizes local resources to police communities in ways that suit their peculiar security challenges.

2. The police ought to embrace a culture of a guardian—rather than a warrior—mindset to build trust. This will require the policing model to be that of partnership with less emphasis on regulatory powers and sanctions but greater reliance upon compromise and cooperation.

3. Police should consider establishing “duty to intervene” policies and management by walking around. This will entail restructuring of police departments to be more decentralized in order to allow better deployment in the community, enhance more effective use of officers to respond to citizens complaints, and in building a network of cordial relations with citizens.

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