EFFECT OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN CURBING CRIME IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

"Community policing is a concept that is fast gaining ground in Nigeria especially among the police. Its model emphasizes proactive rather than reactive policing. The involvement of the community in crime fighting is a very essential element of community policing. While the Nigeria Police Force is used to the traditional model of policing where authorities are centralized and police only respond to call for service, in contrast, community policing believes that powers and responsibility of policing the neighbourhood should be shared between the police and the community.

Partnership and understanding between the general public and the Police gave birth to POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PCRC) nationwide under the then IGP, Mr.EtimIyang in May 1984. By April 2004, President OlusegunObasanjo initiated Community policing in collaboration with police authorities under the tutelage of former Inspector General of Police, Mr.TafaBalogun. This policing strategy has been incorporated into modern policing so that the police will respond to democratic system of governance.

Community policing should be welcomed not only because traditional policing has been failing because it is reactive rather than proactive, but also, the police personnel are part and parcels of the community that they serve. Looking at the prevailing insecurity in Nigeria, adherence to the principles of community policing will help the Nigeria Police Force to overcome the security challenges.

The slow development of community policing in Nigeria is due largely to the police history that is built on a semi-military command structure. However, as community policing begins to gain acceptance by the police, it will reduce crime rate because the public will assist the police in crime fighting by becoming the eye of the police in the community."

KEYWORDS: *Community policing, Crime, Management, Neighbourhood, Policy, Prevention, Protection, Security.*

INTRODUCTION

1.1   BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The roots of community policing come from the history of policing itself, and draw on many of the lessons taught by that history. Community policing is "a collaborative effort between the police and the community that identifies problems of crime and disorder and involves all elements of the community in the search for solutions to these problems"(Community Policing, 2005, para). However, a study of the available background literature on the subject shows that the trend is towards citizens based and intelligence led model of policing instead of the reactive-detective one.

"Community policing is a philosophy of full service personalized policing, where the same officer patrols and works in the same area on a permanent basis, from a decentralized place, working in a proactive partnership with citizens to identify and solve problems." —Bertus Ferreira.

Community policing is in hand with systematic relationship between the police and the entire people in the community. The movement from traditional policing to community policing is a universal phenomenon and the Nigeria police cannot be an exception to this. Indeed, community policing as a philosophy and practice is a veritable vehicle for police reforms (Okiro, 2007). Community policing is related to problem-oriented policing and intelligence-led policing and contrasts with reactive policing strategies that were predominant in the late 20th century. It does not eliminate the need for reactive policing, though successful prevention can reduce the need for the latter. The researcher would want to know whether the overall assessment of community oriented policing is positive, as both the police and community members attest to its effectiveness in reducing crime and raising the sense of security in a community.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Community policing involves the use of partnerships between municipal agencies, businesses, individual citizens, non-profit groups and the media in order to develop methods to police the community. These organizations work together to address criminal matters and reduce crime.

Have you ever seen signs in a neighbourhood that read 'Neighbourhood Watch?' This is an example of community policing, where individuals collaborated with traditional police forces work to make their neighbourhoods safer and to minimize crime.

The success of the police depends largely on the level of support it receives from communities and other key stakeholders. "This is more so because while the police cannot be everywhere our communities exist everywhere. Therefore, this research intends to bring to mind the impact of community policing in curbing crime in Nigeria.

1.2 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The broad objective of this study is to investigate the effect of community policing in curbing crime in Nigeria. Specifically, the study seeks to;

i.   Examine impact of community policing in curbing crime in Nigeria.

ii.   Investigate impact of community policing in helping the police and the community in crime prevention in Nigeria.

iii.   Assess how Community policing has direct bearing to community or police and how it renders assistance in the overall interest of safety and security of lives and property.

1.3 RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

In other to achieve the objectives of this study, the hypotheses below are considered:

Ho: Community policing has no significant impact in curbing crime in Nigeria.

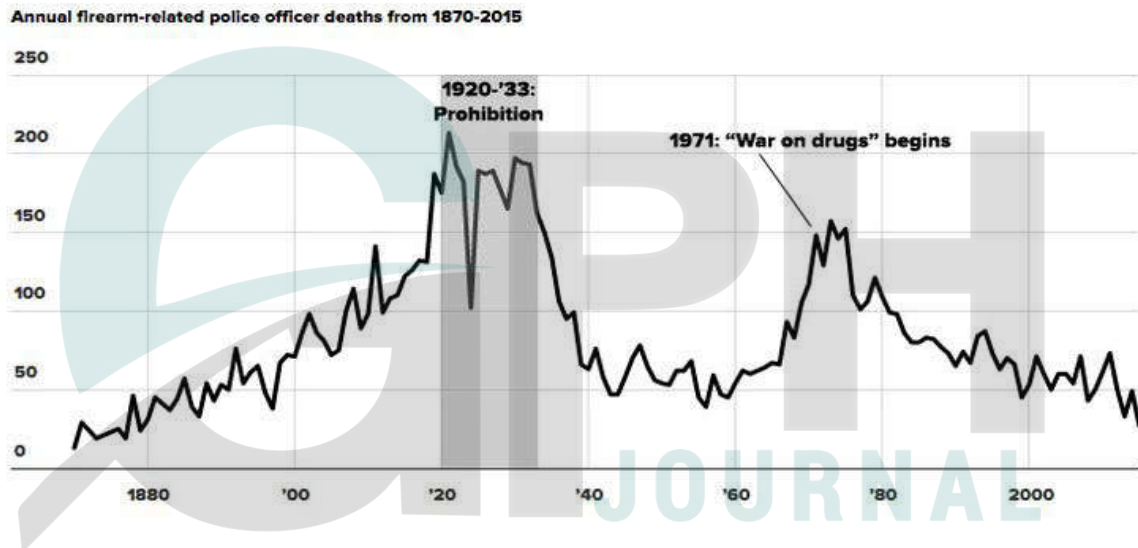Ho1: Community policing has significant impact in curbing crime in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1   UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY POLICING

Community policing is only as good its community involvement. This also applies to community-based programs. "Community-based programs are important in the service delivery in many communities."(Mancini &Marek, July 2004, p. 339).
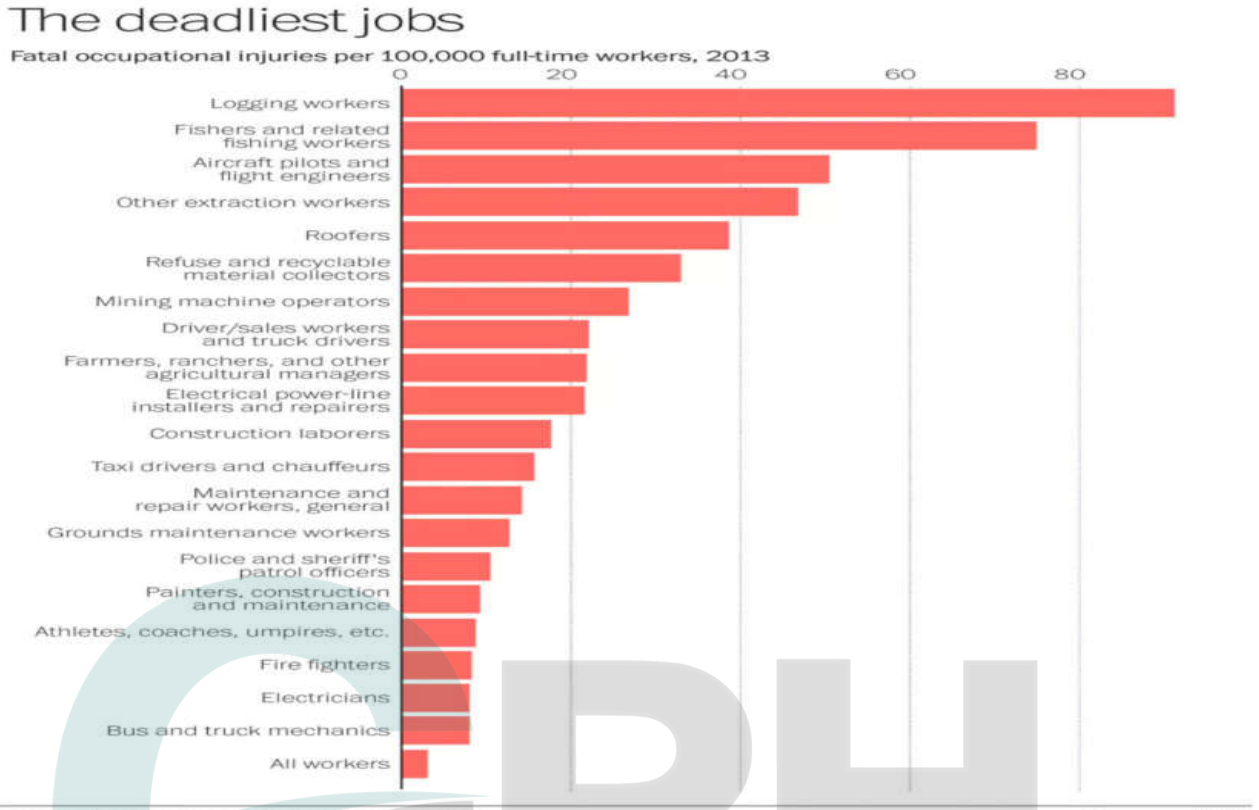
Below graphs explains and creates understanding the challenges of policing in the 21st century from Jerry Ratcliffe Policing explained in a few graphs August 26, 2017.

a).   *Policing is increasingly a safer occupation*

Annual firearm-related police officer deaths from 1870-2015

The above graph no 1 tracks with the research of Jerry Ratcliffe. It is sourced from the Officer Down memorial page. While things have changed in the last couple of years, the good news is that policing has become increasingly safer (as has society) in the U.S. over the last 30 years due to community policing.

b).   *Policing is most effective when focused on specific people and places*
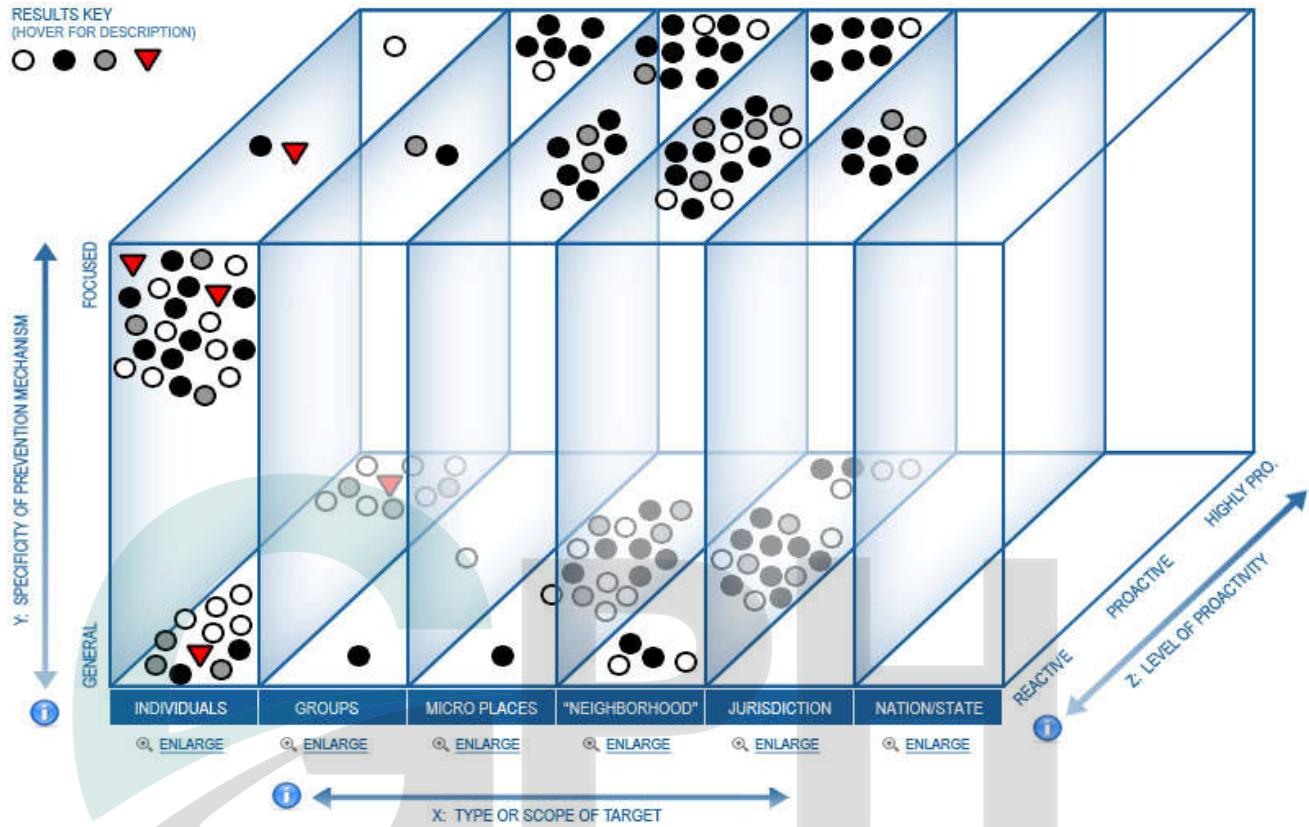

The above Graph no. 2 is the Evidence-Based Policing Matrix from Cynthia Lum and colleagues have three dimensions and four symbols. The bottom line is police interventions that actually reduce crime are focused and tailored to specific problems not citywide interventions.

Continue……………….next page

c). *Policing is most effective when focused on specific people and places*

These graphs no 3 below of community policing depict the reality of 21st Century policing. They are verily significant in understanding policing.

2.2   COMMUNITY POLICING IN NIGERIA

The origin of the word 'police' was derived from the Greek word 'Polis', which means "that part of non-ecclesiastical administration having to do with the safety, health and order of the state" (Reiner, 2000; 1).

In Nigeria, volunteers for traditional policing formed themselves into what was referred to as 'yanbanga' or 'ode adugbo' (street vigilante group), which still exists in most parts of the country today. However, the emergence of the state vis-à-vis the need to protect the state (political elites) during colonial rule necessitated the establishment of the police force (Oluwaniyi, 2011).

Police force is the most powerful constitutional organ among law enforcement agencies in Nigeria. As stated in the Section 214 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, "there shall be a police force for Nigeria,

which shall be known as the Nigeria Police Force, and subject to protect the life and property of the citizen.

With many challenges and constraints facing the Nigerian Police Force, which have adversely affected police image and police-community relations, the need to reconnect the police with the people they serve necessitated the introduction of community policing. In order to create a harmonious, cordial working relationship and lasting understanding between the Police and the Community, the Nigeria Police Force in May 1984 then established an avenue for some members of the public to interact with members and officers of the Nigeria Police for enhancing community relations and curbing criminality.

This partnership and understanding between the general public and the Police gave birth to an Association known as POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PCRC) Nationwide under the then Inspector General of Police (IGP) Mr.EtimIyang in May 1984s and curbing criminality. By April 2004, President OlusegunObasanjo initiated Community policing in collaboration with police authorities under the tutelage of former Inspector General of Police, Mr.TafaBalogun.

The movement from traditional policing to community policing is a universal phenomenon and the Nigeria police cannot be an exception to this. Indeed, community policing as a philosophy and practice is a veritable vehicle for police reforms (Okiro, 2007). The Nigeria police (in 2004) adopted community policing as a practical approach to police reforms. The stage was indeed set for a clear departure from traditional policing, that was reactive and incident based, to a problem solving oriented policing that is proactive with the community as the important part of policing objectives (Abdulrahaman, 2007).

2.3	THEORIES OF COMMUNITY POLICING

Community policing has been on theoretical construct, scholars have advanced a number of theories in an attempt to offer explanation in principle. Below are theoretical constructs that support and strengthen the basic idea underlying different methods and styles of community policing.

2.3.1 Social structural theory of Community Policing (CP)

Based on this theory American criminology rests mainly on the social structural explanations of crime and the impact that a community has on regulating the conduct of its members. See: Robert R. Friedmann in his book "Community Policing Comparative Perspectives and Prospects (2003: 3).

2.3.2 Modern management technology theory of Community Policing (CP)

The theory believes that information technology (IT) has been proven as an enabler for the achievement of community policing goals and there are many ways by which IT can be used as an enabler for CP. Thus, technology may make police and CP more efficient.

2.3.3 Democratic theory of Community Policing (CP)

Democratic theory of community policing rests on the belief that community policing, which is the newest development in the area of policing, involves the empowerment of a new level of social organization to generate work for the police, namely, groups, neighbourhoods, communities, businesses, civic groups, and so forth.

2.3.4 Zero tolerance theory of Community Policing (CP)

In zero-tolerance policing, laws are strictly enforced and suspicious people are stopped and questioned, which increases the opportunity to find fugitives

2.3.5 Public relations theory of Community Policing (CP)

The Public Relations theory of CP is based on the belief that not only should there be an emphasis on the maintenance of good 'public relations' but highlight the importance of inter-dependence, of mutual understandings and mutual responsiveness and support.

2.3.6 Communitarian theory of Community Policing (CP)

The theory implies the notion of community involvement in problem solving i.e. community policing is "communitarianism". AmitaiEtzioni; Peak and Glensor 1996: 48.

2.3.7 *Social structural theory of Community Policing (CP)*

The theory maintains that for CP to become a central feature of law enforcement, the institutional framework and organizational apparatus of police organizations must be altered in order to accommodate the sweeping changes implied by community policing proponents.

2.4	ADVENT OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN NIGERIA

Community Policing started to take a good direction in 1984 when the Nigeria Police Force felt the need to create a harmonious, cordial working relationship and lasting understanding between the Police and the Community. This led to establishing an avenue for some members of the public to interact with members and officers of the Nigeria Police for enhancing community relations. See: Article one (1) of the Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC). This partnership and understanding between the general public and the Police gave birth to an Association known as POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PCRC) nationwide under the then IGP, Mr.EtimIyang in May 1984.

As a result of the public distrust of the police, the former Tafa O Balogun, in 2004 undertook a number of measures to improve the police and citizen relationship. He established in all state commands the Police Complaints Bureau and the Human Rights Desks, and a pilot community-policing project (Ibeanu, 2007).TafaBalogun introduced the eight points agenda for better community policing. By 2007 when Mike MbamaOkiro became Inspector General of Police (IGP) he introduced a "9-way test".

Thus, Community policing is now all over Nigeria.

2.5	THE CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN NIGERIA

Despite its introduction, Community Policing is still slow going in Nigeria. The public perception of the police is a contributory factor to slowing the paste of community policing in Nigeria. The public still view the police as people never to trust.

Thus, Nigeria has embraced the philosophy since for long but it has not been given such importance in the country. The philosophy of community policing emphasizes partnership, decentralization of authority, and proactive. The structure of the Nigeria police is very central and their approach to crime fighting is still reactionary rather than proactive. The partnership between the public and police in crime lighting is still poor because of the poor public perception of the police.

2.6 THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN NIGERIA

For community policing to have an inroad in Nigeria, the Nigeria police force must have a complete paradigm shift from its traditional model of policing to a more community oriented policing that stresses community partnership, decentralization of powers, and proactive policing.

The policing model should be that of partnership with less emphasis on regulatory powers and sanctions with greater reliance upon compromise and cooperation that would serve the public better rather than the traditional model of policing (Iwarimie-Jaja, 2006: 16).

As suggested by Akin Obe, a marine expert: *"Only when the community and the police truly work together for their common good will citizens feel that they can trust the police.*

2.7 IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY POLICING

"Over a decade after it was first introduced, community policing remains the most important innovation in American policing today." (Forman, Autumn 2002, p. 1).

Community policing plays a major part in police-community relations and problem solving so the police must try to involve the neighbourhood in its pursuit to control crime.

Thus, the advantages of implementing community policing still outweigh the disadvantages. Having the community on their side can only benefit the police in their aid to control and prevent crime.

The importance of community policing are:

i). Community Policing brings police and citizens together to prevent crime and solve neighbourhood problems.

ii). with community policing, emphasis is on stopping crime before it happens, not responding to calls for service after the crime occurs.

iii). Community policing gives citizens more control over the quality of life in their community.

iv). Community policing means police become part of the neighbourhood.

v). those "who believe that community policing is practiced in their neighbourhood are more likely to express favourable opinions of the police."(Weitzer&Tuch, 2006, p. 45)

vi). Together, in partnership, the community and police department work together to achieve a common goal of a safer, better place to live. It is "democracy in action."(BJA, August 1994, p. 4).

vii). Community policing is seen as an effective way to promote public safety and to enhance the quality of life in a community.

viii). Community policing plays two pivotal roles;police-community relations and problem solving.(Weisburd& Braga, 2007, p. 47).

ix). everyone is responsible for safeguarding the welfare of the neighbourhood.

xi). Implementing community policing changes the structure of policing and how it is managed.

xvi). Community policing helps build up and strengthen the community.

xvii). Community policing also links the police and the community together.

Xviii). the partnership that develops over time can ultimately help the police find the underlying causes of crime within the neighbourhood.

xix). by getting the community involved, the police have more resources available to them to help in crime prevention.

xx). by familiarizing themselves with the members of the community, officers are more likely to obtain valuable information about criminals and their activities.

xxi). by familiarizing themselves with the members of the community they are also more likely to obtain a reliable evaluation of the needs of citizens and their

expectations of the police.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 METHODOLOGY:-

Several methods are available for use in collecting data in a research work. Some of these methods are so linked that a full study or research cannot be carried out using only one method. There must then be a blending of with available facts.

This research work is specifically designed to study the effect of community policing in curbing crime in Nigeria. The research design is meant to guide the researcher in the use of the best method of collecting data in the course of the study. The research design used in this study is the simple method and approach. The researcher is only interested in knowing the effect of community policing in curbing crime in Nigeria.

3.2   METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The need to source reliable data on conducting a research work is vital and important. This has prompted the researcher to adopt the best and most appropriate techniques and method of data collection needed. The researcher employed both primary and secondary sources of data collection. In the primary sources, the researcher used the questionnaire as an instrument for collecting data and in the secondary sources of data collection, the researcher obtained data from textbooks and previous write-ups on the study, as well as journals and on the internet.

3.3   SAMPLE TECHNIQUES AND SIZE

The random sampling technique that is used consists of some people from Zaria Area selected at random without giving preference to any. This consist of the Fifteen (15) Local Government Areas. A total number of Ninety eight (98) copies of questionnaire were distributed to respondents at random. However, out of the distributed Ninety eight (98) questionnaires only fifty (50) where returned duly filled correctly and accepted for the research work.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1   DATA PRESENTATION

This section attempt to provide clear analysis and interpretation of all data collected through questionnaire given to respondents randomly. The responses are presented in the form of table for easy comprehension. The analyses are computed using simple percentage method, which forms the basis of analysis and conclusion drawn there from.

4.2   DATA ANALYSIS

Table 4.2.1 Does community policing has significant impact in curbing crime in Nigeria.:-

Decision	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	32	75.45%
No	12	24.55%
Total	50	100%

Source: Questionnaire Administered 2018

From the 4.2.2 above chi-square table is conducted as shown below:

Decision	No. of respondents	Percentage
Yes	76	55%
No	24	45%
Total	100	100%

USING FORMULA:

$X2 = \dfrac{(01 - E1)2 + (02 - E2)2}{E1 \qquad E2}$

$X2 = \dfrac{(38-38)2 + (12-25)2}{25 \quad 25}$

$X2 = \dfrac{169 + 169}{25 \quad 25}$

$X2 = 6.76 + 6.76$

$X2 = 13.52$

Calculate X2 = 13.52

Degree of freedom (df) = KY (where k= 2).

= 2-1

= 1

Table value of 5% level of significance and degree of freedom

= (X2C) x 15%

t= 13.52x2x0.005

t= 1.35

t= 13.52+1.35

t= 14.87

4.3   VALIDITY TEST AND RELIABILITY OF INSTRUMENTS

The essence of this validity is to know whether meaningful inferences can be drawn from the measure of the instrument of this study. This can be by conducting a face validity test on the wordings and sequence of the items to determine which best suites the respondents among the alternative formats, to ascertain whether the items of this study will adequately measure the hypothetical concepts of the study. (Sekaran&Bougie, 2009). Reliability is the quality of consistency of a study or measurement (Kothari, 2009). It explains the degree to which observed scores are free from errors of measurement. Reliability is an essential pre-condition for validity. In other to ensure reliability of the instrument, a pilot test was carried out.

A pilot study mainly requires a range of few respondents (10-30), though there may be a substantial increase in the sample size for a pilot study (Malhotra, 2008). The questionnaire was reviewed by academia in the department and pilot test was later carried out with a group of consisting twenty (15) staff of the selected branches, of which 5 questionnaires were distributed to each branches. In this research, Cronbach"s alpha (1946) is used to determine the reliability of the scales and results. According to Nunnally and Bernstein (1994)the alpha of a scale should be greater than 0.70 for the items to be used together as a scale. The result for the pilot study is 0.956. Thus, the result shows that the instrument is reliable for the study.

4.4   NORMALITY TEST

Table 4.4.1 Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov-Smirnov[a]			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistic	Df	Sig.	Statistic	Df	Sig.
EMP	.163	47	.435	.915	47	.536
MGP	.144	47	.167	.953	47	.125
MTV	.306	47	.118	.851	47	.087
INS	.214	47	.187	.876	47	.108

SOURCE: RESEARCHER COMPUTATION 2018

Here two tests for normality are run. For data set smaller than 2000 elements, we use the Shapiro-Wilk test; otherwise, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test is used. In our case, since we have only 50 elements, the Shapiro-Wilk test was used. The study employed Shapiro-wilk test for normality test. The normality test result shows that the data distribution indicates normal given the p-value for all the variables greater than 5% significance level. Based on the findings the study rejects the null alternate hypothesis that the data are not normally distributed and accept the null hypothesis that the data are normally distributed.

4.5 <mark>**DECISION RULE**</mark>

If the calculated chi-square is less than the table chi-square, accept the alternative hypothesis (H1) that Community policing has significant impact in curbing crime in Nigeria. If however the calculated chi-square is greater than the table chi-square, reject the alternative hypothesis (H1) and accept the null hypothesis (Ho).

From the analysis above the calculated chi-square (X2) is 14.87.

We therefore accept the alternative (H1) that Community policing has significant impact in curbing crime in Nigeria.

4.6   IMPLICATION OF THE FINDINGS

The research work has observed that Community policing has significant impact in curbing crime in Nigeria. It increases the effectiveness of preventing and curbing crime and motivates the police and the community to be more committed in curbing crime.

The people are heart of any community so it is vital and important to involve them in policing there environs. For any community to operate smoothly and without any interruption, the people in the community cooperation cannot be replaced with anything else. It is of utmost importance that the people of a community not only have a good relationship with the police, but also be part of policing there environs.

What makes the people of any community "go extra mile" to provide excellent service and cooperation in curbing crime? The answer to this question is in this self-conducted research paper and it is community policing.

The researchers inferred to the conclusion based on the research conducted above and the respondent's repercussion of the questionnaire supplied, that Community policing has significant impact in curbing crime in Nigeria. From the data, analysis presented above we can clearly come to the decision that the

factors taken into account during the survey pragmatically dominates Community policing has significant impact in curbing crime in Nigeria.

Finally, the results obtained from this research can certainly be used very effectively to improve the present scenario of Community policing in curbing crime in Nigeria.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1   SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This study was meant to find out the effect of community policing in curbing crime in Nigeria. From the test of the hypothesis formulated, it has been proven that Community policing has significant impact in curbing crime in Nigeria.

In the course of this study the following have been deduced from the analysis and interpretation of data connected:

a).   *Community policing assist the Nigeria Police in combating crimes through intelligence information gathering on criminals and criminal activities within the neighbourhood as well as offering logistic assistance and problem-solving discussions*

b).   *Community policing makes the people of any community "go extra mile" to provide excellent service and cooperation in curbing crime.*

c).   *It can also be seen from the study that a cordial relationship between police and the community help in preventing and combating crime.*

d).   *Community partnership with the Nigeria Police help a great deal to enhance cordial relationship that will be in the overall interest of the police and the public.*

5.2   CONCLUSION

The people of any community have a great role to play in preventing and combating of crime. It is therefore, the opinion of the researcher that the the Nigeria police should work harder in employing community policing in preventing and curbing crime. This is not to say they have not been working hard enough, but it is believed that there is still room for improvement with community policing.

This study also shows that there is a positive relationship between the community and police in crime prevention and combating criminality. It is important therefore that the police should always involve the community in aspects of security management of the community.

The philosophy behind community policing is that the security apparatus will not be left in the hands of the police alone, but will allow the participation of the citizenry by making it a social contract between members of the public and the police. The research work suggest that there should always be a collaborative effort between communities and the police because both parties are always trying to discourage all forms of attacks and evils against the neighbourhood.

After all, there is nothing to lose in considering community policing as a way of curbing crime because it seems to be so far the best approach in terms of cost, safety, maintenance, reward and management of crime.

5.3   RECOMMENDATION

The researcher has been able to identify some of the factors that can help prevent and curb criminality in our

communities. The researcher hereby makes the following recommendation:

a   This research suggests that members of the community should be more and more engaged in the decision making process of the Nigeria Police Force. This is because the members of the community will feel wanted and important, when they are allowed to take part in deciding their fate in the community. When community are involved in security decision-making, they feel that the police and people in positions value them as a significant contributor to the team's success. When people feel valued, they will usually raise their level of effort and commitment to ensure success. It will also make them focus more of their energy on future-oriented problem solving rather than blaming their current problems on management.

b.   Community policing is unlike the conventional style of policing where a police officer can be transferred from Imo State to Zaria Local Government Area of Kaduna State where topography and geographical areas are markedly different. With community policing people must be speaking the same language and adopt a uniform culture as residents living in that community by transforming the organization to respond to community needs more effectively.

c.   Increase the number of Neighbourhood Watch programs and create Create a citizen ride-along programs.

d.   *Initiate a more neighbourhood improvement programs Work. with local schools and community groups to establish more programs for drug prevention.*

e.   *Develop a neighbourhood e-newsletter and web site to report current happenings.*

f.   *Community policing has some peculiar features. These include indigenization, docility, topography, language and culture. What this implies is that for community policing to be very effective in a particular area, you must involve people residing in that particular place.*

g.   *In every situation of life, safety and security are sacrosanct to human existence. There is the need for everyone to be conscious of his home, immediate environment and the society at large. Even the nation needs to be well secured. To avoid unwarranted calamities, the state and local government also need adequate protection. Not only that: markets, streets, motor parks, hospitals and other public institutions require heavy security apparatus.*

h.   *The whole community needs to take responsibility for it. People has the responsibility (as a citizen) to fight crime. This is the notion of "communitarianism" in the U.S., which is defined as "a mind-set that says the whole community needs to take responsibility for it. People need to actively participate, not just give their opinions … but also instead give time, energy, and money.*

i.   *The people are in the best position to see that "people's justice" is done, including making decisions on who to police, what to police and how to police. This is akin to the idea in the U.S. that the community notion of order and justice prevails over the rule of law.*

j.   *Increase more community programmes and support them to exist and work effectively. The list of programs implemented through community policing goes on and on. There are programs like, "Neighbourhood Watch, citizen police academies, citizen surveys, and the establishment of community policing units" (Weisburd& Braga, 2007, Pp. 47-48), that have become a staple in a lot of communities to help steer crime away from residential areas. Programs like National Night Out symbolize a neighbourhood's unison in fighting crime by leaving their outside lights on. Citizens can find a plethora of ways to get involved in community policing. It can be as simple as making sure that the elderly lady down the street makes it home safely from the grocery store to starting your own Neighborhood Watch program.*

Also, increase the more participation and use of neighbourhood watch. Neighbourhood Watch teaches the residents how to deter and detect suspicious activities. Starting a Neighbourhood Watch is very beneficial to the police and the community. The benefits of organizing and participating in a Neighbourhood Watch program translate into a higher quality of life. The following are some standard steps to help ensure a strong attendance and participation in your Neighbourhood Watch Program.

In addition, increase more community-oriented program like D.A.R.E. Program. It is "designed to make youths feel good about the police...in hope that they will later provide useful information about crime" (Weisburd& Braga, 2007, p. 57). It give young people with the necessary skills to make well-informed choices and to empower them to say no when they are tempted to use alcohol, tobacco or drugs. Another component of DARE helps students to recognize the dangers of violence in their schools and community. D.A.R.E. "humanizes" the police: that is, young people can begin to relate to officers as people. It allows students to see officers in a helping role, not just an enforcement role. It also opens up the lines of communication between law enforcement and youth Officers can serve as conduits to provide information beyond drug-related topics.

Finally, it is good to note that community policing involves not only developing partnerships between law enforcement and citizens, but also with state and federal agencies. It is necessary to note that the Nigerian society is witnessing its fair share of upsurge in crime. To be candid, problems such as militancy, insurgency, pipeline vandalism and several life threatening criminalities such as killings, assassinations, ritualism, armed robbery, domestic violence, corruption and Fulani herdsmen's terrorism are now the order of the day. This is a source of worry to all the principal stakeholders in the security business.

In summary, I implore parents and guardians to be more conscious and vigilant. Statistical data have shown that kidnappers are now prowling our cities and communities, perpetrating their evil acts at all times. Teachers and other professionals are also enjoined to always develop an eagle eye for vital information on the movement of children for proper accountability, documentation and safety.

This research is recommended for further study. This is because it deals with security of lives and property, which is not static but dynamic and capable of being influenced to change with passage of time. Security and healthy environ is crucial and important for good and wellbeing of a community and its people as a whole. Therefore, it is increasingly important to study community policing so the researcher urges that more and more research should be conducted to study the effects community policing in curbing crime.

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