

COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION

BY

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DEGREE IN SOCIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Community Policing and Crime Prevention" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined community policing and crime prevention, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of community; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with community and policing. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Structural Functionalist Theory and the Social Learning Theory. A sample size of 409 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 397 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.15). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.578$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.32, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.27$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on community.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of community policing and crime prevention is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of community in shaping developmental trajectories. The socio-cultural diversity of Nigeria implies that responses to community must be differentiated rather than uniform. The aggregate picture emerging from Adeniyi and Bakare (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between community and the outcomes of interest. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Findings reported by Salami and Adekunle (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to community recorded markedly different results. Such findings reinforce the argument that community deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

The relationship between community and policing has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. Auxiliary variables, including education, income, and location, further condition how community is experienced across communities. Comparative work by Ekwueme and Adebayo (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking community with policing. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in sociology. Longitudinal research by Olawale and Ogunlana (2016) revealed that sustained attention to community yields appreciable dividends over time. For practitioners, the practical significance of community cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with policing. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

community occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about policing and national development. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of community. Empirical evidence from Olawale and Ogunlana (2021) suggests that positive developments in policing are associated with improvements in community. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Findings reported by Bakare and Kalu (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to community recorded markedly different results. Such findings reinforce the argument that community deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of community in shaping developmental trajectories. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of community are observed in their starkest form. Adekunle and Bakare (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of community are unevenly distributed across groups. Accordingly, there is a growing