

**POLICING AND CRIME CONTROL IN UROMI, ESAN NORTH-EAST
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE, NIGERIA**

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**BEING AN M.SC THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
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(CRIMINOLOGY).**

NOVEMBER, 2025

DECLARATION

I, **Promise Chinedu UDEH**, do hereby declare that this research work is entirely my own work and composition. The research work has never been previously submitted for the award of M.Sc. Degree in Criminology, at least to the best of my knowledge. All ideas and views are product of my personal research and where the views of others have been expressed, they have been duly acknowledged.

Promise Chinedu Udeh
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Date

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this M.Sc. project “Community Policing and Crime Control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State” was carried out by Promise Chinedu UDEH, (MAT. NO: PG/SSC2215833) under my supervision, and is adequate in scope and quality.

Prof. (Barr.) E. I. Obarisiagbon
(Project Supervision)

Date

Dr. O. G. Igbinomwanhia
(Head of Department)

Date

External Examiner

Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty God and to my late father, Mr. Benneth Chukwuma Udeh.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to express my sincere gratitude to God for making this work possible. I want to thank my bosses, AIG Salman Dogo Garba, psc; RTD AIG Arungwa Udo Nwazue, psc (+), mni; the Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. O. Osunde; my project Supervisor, Prof. (Barr.) E.I. Obarisiagbon; my amiable lecturers, Prof. A. O. Dokpesi; Prof O. Obaro; Prof K.U. Omoyibo; Dr. O. G. Igbinomwanhia my HOD; Dr. M. Ndisika; Dr. (Mrs) E. Agbontaen.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the dynamics of policing and crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State, Nigeria. With rising concerns about security and the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies, this research investigates the relationship between policing strategies and crime rates in the region. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach that includes qualitative interviews with law enforcement officials, community leaders, and residents, as well as quantitative crime data analysis, the study highlights the challenges faced by the Nigeria Police Force in Uromi. Key findings reveal issues such as inadequate policing resources, corruption, and community distrust, which collectively hinder effective crime control efforts. Moreover, the research explores community involvement in policing, emphasizing the necessity for collaborative approaches to enhance public safety. The study recommends strategic reforms, including improved resource allocation, community policing initiatives, and strengthened partnerships between law enforcement and citizens to foster trust and efficiency in crime prevention and control. However, this research contributes to the understanding of local policing dynamics in Nigeria and offers insights for policymakers and law enforcement agencies aiming to bolster crime control mechanisms in Uromi and similar communities.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the study

Community policing does not only consider community issues, but an idea that gives authority to the community instead of dictating to it. Its belief involves engaging civilians in quelling vices and bring about safety in the community (Okafor & Anihe, 2018).

It involves the police viewing themselves as part and parcel of the community, as it requires healthy collaboration between them and the people to achieve positive results in quelling crime and also safeguarding the people.

The Nigeria Police in 2004, embraced community policing as a practical approach to policing reforms (Nebo & Ndukwe, 2022). The same principles of African fractals can be related to community policing as crime and deviance are not lineal, but fractal and chaotic.

This is why there is a surge in demand for community policing worldwide, more particularly in Nigeria as people love to live in harmony in the absence of the police. The police cannot successfully eradicate vices even with the most sophisticated weapons at their disposal.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

In Nigeria, different police authorities have tried to quell vices but seemed to have failed, as the issues still lingers. Different factors are believed to be responsible for the

failure of the police to combat vices, such as the unavailability of important tools to and no collaboration between the people in the communities (Chinwokwu, 2016).

According to Aihie and Aigbe, (2024), law enforcement are daily besieged with issues more than most professions, as they undergo special trainings to function effectively. They have to be on top of their game to engage relevant stakeholders by managing relationships and emotionally connecting to balance the needs of the organization and community (Adegoke, 2014). Police are not unique.

Corruption has become very common in the Nigerian police force, as different cases of such have been seen and reported. However, this challenge has eroded the people's trust and confidence in the police (Idris, 2019). Though various studies have been conducted on community policing and crime control, no study has been conducted using crime control indicators which include performers, methods and police initiatives to ascertain the level of the impact of community policing in crime control especially in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.

1.3. Research Questions

In line with the objectives, this research seeks to answer the following questions.

- i) What is the perception of the public on community policing on crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State?
- ii) What is the impact of community policing on crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State?
- iii) What methods of community policing affect criminal behavior in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.?
- iv) What is the level of police initiatives on the effectiveness of community

policing in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State?

- v) What efforts have government taken to ensure better community policing in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.?

1.4. Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine community policing and crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State. While the specific objectives are to:

- (i) Evaluate the perception of the public on community policing on crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State
- (ii) examine the impact of community policing on crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.
- (iii) Investigate methods of community policing on criminal behavior in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.
- (iv) determine the level of police initiatives' effectiveness on community policing in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.
- (v) ascertain the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.

1.5 Scope of the study

This study emphasized on community policing with respect to on crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State and was carried out within the various quarters that make up Uromi Community.

1.6. Significance of the Study

The prevention of vices encourages people to identify and relate with themselves while being on the lookout for unusual business and informing the police. Recently, there has been an increasing concern on issues revolving around community policing as an ideal way of controlling crime in Nigeria. With the recent happening in the study area, attention has once again shifted to Community policing as a panacea to the quelling of vices. Although, it has been much around us in Nigeria, nonetheless, little is known about how this has impacted positively on crime control. This present study is thus significant as it shall make clearer and presents the true state of things regarding community policing and crime control. Findings here are vital ingredients that will aid the structuring and formulation of policies, and decision making with regards to the wellbeing of Community law enforcers.

Furthermore, the present study is significant as it produced findings that may expose all the predominant factors that affect the level of community policing /involvement in quelling vies in the area of study. These findings would be useful to the Federal Ministry of Police Affairs, the Nigerian Police Force and the National Assembly of Nigeria.

Moreover, the findings of this study which will be designed as policy notes will also be a veritable tool in developing alternative policy/programmes for effective community policing. As a matter of fact, the far reaching findings and recommendations will help policy makers, stakeholders, and even government officials, and private institutions in formulating and implementing policies that will help address it and quell vices being investigated in this study. Furthermore,

academicians and students will benefit immensely from this study as it will serve as an additional source of information at their disposal. Thus this research will serve as a means of getting information on Community policing and crime control in the study area to many people who cannot or do not have the time to engage in an in-depth study but may as well benefit from the findings of this study. Finally, the study empirically will inject new data from the primary data collected as they relate to the issue under investigation.

1.7. Definitions of Terms

The following concepts shall in this study imply

Community Policing:

Community policing is democracy in action which needs the involvement of all stakeholders (Bello, Magaji & Jamilu, 2016). The prevention of vices is of great importance and utilises different means in achieving it. The people and police join forces in minimizing the issues relating to disorder and neglect in society (Obeagu, 2014).

Community policing is also an idea that brings the people into the police establishment as stakeholders in the matters of security in the country (Wong, 2009).

Crime Control:

This emphasizes on the safety of society by quelling vices as much as possible through a working medium.

Police:

The Police in this study refer to that of Nigeria whose duty is preventing, detecting, investigating crime commission as well as catching and prosecuting offenders in courts of competent jurisdiction.

Community:

These are inhabitants of a place (village) who share common interests, social group, or nationality:

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Historical Discourse of Community Policing

Community policing was born from the people's lack of confidence for the police in keeping them safe. To Odeh and Umoh (2015), the people's involvement positively impacts the quelling of vices. The emphasis of people-oriented policing is proffering solution to the quelling of crime (Walklae, 2018). To Unufe and Obarisiagbon (2023); the people and police have to be in synergy for there to be fruitful results in combating crime.

Diarmaid (2018) stated that the mainstay of recent policing is police collaboration with members of the public. The Nigeria was not originally wired to protect the citizens but to make sure laws are obeyed, hence their brutality of accused persons in their custody; little wonder the people are wary of them.

2.2. Focus of Community Policing

The emphasis of policing is on the collaborative efforts of the people and police in crushing crime. It gives more regard to individuals instead of the law (Kelling & Moore, 1988). To Oluwakemi, (2016), informal ways of social control prevents property crime more than violent crimes in a society, especially because they happen in quiet and lonely places. Okoli (2019) noticed that all over the world, violence against women has soared, as they are not properly heard in community platforms for crime prevention and control.

2.3. Community Policing in Nigeria

The relationship between the police and citizens is viewed as hostile, especially as they are seen as tools of the rich and powerful in the society (Nwagbara, 2019).

Okereka, Efebeh and Oluka, (2020) agreed stating that:

The police usually show up in their numbers at occasions, shielding them from the poor and serve as bodyguards and are more in cities, especially the Government Residential Areas (GRAs).

They have also been accused of all forms of despicable acts (Okereka, Efebeh & Oluka, 2020). Sadly, the adversary outlook between the police and people in the colonial age has remained till date (Olajumoke, 2021).

2.4. General Principles of Community Oriented Policing

These principles were birthed in the 19th century by Sir Robert Peel in London in 1829 and were called Peel's principles of policing and are in use till date (Oneije., Anaoha & Osi-Njoku. 2019). He stated that the lack of good policing strategy brings about social disorder.

Peel as quoted in (Ibrahim, 2017), the people's approval dictate the ability of the police to function The strength of a nation lies in its peoples, so community-oriented policing operations enable the them enjoy their ability to quell vices, bring about calm and ally their fears (Ibrahim, 2017).

To Moore & Reeker (2016), the police will achieve more if they focus on certain vices that are termed important by the people because they are carried along. To Diarmaid

(2018), people-centred policing ought to boost the population of the police officers communicate with the people and using other effective means to counter vices.

The system of evaluation and promotions also makes sure that the police mirrors that which is cherished by the community (Aigbe & Akenzua, 2020). Another principle is proactive policing. It requests departments to transit from what it used to be to a proactive and creative resolution to crime (Agbaje, 2018). This new focus in community policing is often termed-problem-oriented policing (Arisukwu, et al, 2020). This approach may utilize a four-step process represented by the acronym SARA: Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment which is the basis of the crime analysis model by the Newport News Police Department (Ibrahim, 2019).

In scanning phase, the police watch crimes and try to identify their connections, attempting to identify patterns and commonalities. At the analysis stage, data is gathered and attention is given to the main problem that brought about this pattern. The response stage brings about solutions. In the last phase they evaluate the effect of their answers (Le et al, 2019). The third principle allows the people take part in birthing the police plan of action, with the aim of assisting the people with ending vices by fostering their organizations and crime-prevention programs (Buralti, 2019).

2.5. Methods of Community Policing Style

Community policing, a city police initiative was created first in the US and Great Britain for places with issues between police and the people (Idris, 2017). It was perceived as a means of having the people up to speed with the police which brought hope for the people, but encounters some countries revealed that it is productive both in rich and poor areas (Ibidapo, 2019).

In Canada, the police usually move around on foot with people helping to locate issues and bringing about solution to them. However in Ontario province, every community police officer has to have a base and committee charged with advising and helping the officer with his duties.

Detroit Michigan, the oldest community policing program in the US since 1976. The police depends on individuals (Idris, 2019). The police depends on the aid of individuals to promote the prevention of vices by watching the neighbourhood. Houston, Texas makes use of small police stations with patrol teams. In Santa Ana California, both policemen in uniforms and civilian community-service officers who do not carry arms but focus only on social services (Nebo & Ndukwe, 2022).

In Japan, there is foot patrol by the police who also visit houses and business in the area bi-annually, enquiring about the people's personal challenges instead of those that are within the police control (Adegoke, 2014). In Singapore, the police adopted the style of Japan's proactive policing style, not focusing on motorized patrolling.

These changes occurred between 1983 and 1989 without going outside the normal budget (Gordner, 2014). Australia's policing is a replica of the U.S. but readapted to the Australian environment, while in the New South Wales, there were officers who carried out general responsibilities (Okoli, 2019).

2.6. Analyzing Community-Oriented Policing Initiatives in Nigeria

Nigeria among others utilised the system of loud outcry by a group of people against and act, policy or event, but in this case, it means a a type of community policing where members worked hand in hand with state agents to apprehend thieves (Oikhala,

2021). Before now, Africa used different traditional institutions to procure sanity and protection. It was successful in curbing antisocial habits by cooperating with policing agencies, especially the Nigeria Police Force via community policing (Odeh & Umoh, 2015).

Community policing makes use of local guards with integrity, vigilance groups, youths, and traditional rulers into the police subsystem to achieve far-reaching success in quelling vices at the grassroots.

Information sharing helps the police ascertain who the suspects of vices are; error occurs when there is a mix up in the social identity of people and their perceived identity, it brings about error (Walklate, 2018). Information sharing provides the facts necessary for bringing violators before the courts, an approach that enhances community policing (Okafor & Anihe, 2018). People look for information for different reasons and avenues, especially as human beings focus on their security and look for information to answer 'Wh' questions that are related to policing information sharing (Oikhala, 2021).

2.7. The Proliferation of Informal Policing Institutions and Vigilante Groups in Nigeria

The police is an agency whose duty is to protect the citizens and ensure that laws are not violated, hence their activities should be about the people. Okafor and Aniche (2018) agreement with Obeagu's (2014) opinion of the team work with the people is an emergent policy due to the busy nature of the police profession. Walklate (2018) contended that the activities of the people such as Odua People's Congress (OPC), are familiar to the members of the public.

Obeagu (2014) noted that the police can no longer put up with the different violent groups and they bear different names such as the “Odua Peoples” Congress (OPC), the Bakassi Boys, the Egbesu Boys and the Meinbutsu, and the Arewa Peoples” Congress (APC). Obeagu (2014) noted that the activities of these groups were already smearing the country’s civil-military, while Walklate (2018) focused on the violent displays of the groups, To Idris (2019), the policing groups were founded on traditional practices.

2.8. Accountability in Community Policing

All over the world, brutality on the part of the police is a common occurrence and have brought about protests such as Black Lives Matter in the United States, in Egypt, and recently ENDSARS in Nigeria, which was a protest against the Police are seen as a the people’s reaction against the evil in the country, especially the police's negative actions on the people. The Nigerian police as an agency will have to go the extra mile in order to restore its good name which is now in the mud, starting with their accountability issue.

The Ten Principles of Community Policing according to Ibidapo, (2019) and Oikhala, (2021) are as follow:

1. Community policing is a strategy which brings about collaboration of the police and the people in crushing vices and restoring sanity to society. It recognizes that members of the community ought to have a say in the policing of their environment.
2. Its organizational strategy implies that both the police and individuals should devise fresh means of providing solutions to the problems in the society and involving them in being their own security.

3. They should have Community Policing Officers (CPO), who acts as a bridge between the police and people by interacting physically with them in a clearly specific locations.
4. The CPOs main role entails constant interaction with the people (volunteers), especially in seeking new ways to crush vices and restore the much eroded values and sanity in society. They attend to distress calls, make arrests, develop and monitor broad-based, long-term initiatives that involves the people to improve the overall standard of living. They also bring external help to the people.
5. It means a fresh agreement between the police and the people that is, bringing about hope and security. It also implies that priority will be given to critical matters, while the people shall take care of lesser matters and the police proffering lasting solutions for pressing issues.
6. It includes protection to the original role of the police and expands its role so that it can be effective in bringing about changes that safeguards the people.
7. It focuses on new ways to safeguard and shield the weak, and broadens the scope of previous groups. By involving the police to quell vices in ways that encourage collaboration between the police and the people.
8. It not only promote proper use of technology, but also rests on dedication. It relies on the front liners' activities and help.
9. It must involve everybody with the CPOs as experts standing in for the police and the people, providing data and help for the community.

10. It provides police service to the people. Knowing that they will not externally force decorum on the people, but they should be encouraged to see them as a means of helping to solve issues, and should however be sustained (Ogbonnaya, 2019).

2.9. Theoretical Orientation/Framework

This study adopted James Q. Wilson and George's (1982) Broken Windows Theory (BWT) which states that public order offenses can create a downward spiral of neighborhood deterioration and fear of crime that breeds more decay and vices if not nipped in the bud. This is because little crimes seem to give the feeling that the people do not matter and the police is helpless. This is in agreement with the findings that there should be collaboration between the people and police. Hence, there should be more security with softer laws and participation of the people in policing (Palmiotto, 2000). The theory can be incorporated into the concept of community policing as the people and police collaborate and view themselves as stakeholders. The theory implies that most vices are carried out by individuals in the areas and only those around can conveniently fish them out.

The theory helps to elucidate the collaboration between the people and police in stopping and identifying vices. Social change as a concept is concentrates on changes in the social structure and order of society in every way. To social change theorists, internal and external variables can bring about change in society, which could be due to movement from one environment to another, innovations and inventions inside the society, and feud; technology (cyber-crime) is also included.

It either brings about progress to people or backwardness. As people live together, especially with technological advancement, change naturally comes. It is mostly

perceived that changes in technology encourage vices beyond their environment bringing about chaos and only the police and the people can stop it. Hence, it includes the modification in the structure or organization of society or its parts over time either in size, complexity, direction, or function (Wilmot, 1984)

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODS

This study assesses community policing and crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State. To achieve this objective, the following steps were considered; the research design, population, sample and sampling technique, instrumentation, validation, administration of the instrument, and data analysis and these are described below.

3.1. Research Design

This study adopted the cross-sectional study design with a quantitative research method. The questionnaire was utilized for the quantitative aspect of the research. The main reason for using this design is due to its ability to gather data consisting of variables at a specific point in time.

3.2. Area of Study

Uromi is not a local government but the seat of the local government council of Esan North-East Local Government Area, its headquarters which is categorized into eleven wards namely: Obeidu, Ivue, Egbele, Unuwazi, Utako, Onewa, Awo, Uzea, Eror, Idumoza, Ebhojje, Arue, Ubierumu-Oke, Ebue, Ewoyi, Odigwele, Eguare, Oyomon, Eko-Ibadin, Efandion, Atani, Ualor-Oke, Amedokhian, Ukoni, Ewoki, and Ebun. Some of the original villages like Obeidu, Ewoyi, Ivue and Uzea have grown to become suburban towns within the Uromi axis.

Uromi has an estimated population of over 180,200 people (projected NPC, 2024) with the majority being farmers and traders. It is known for its rich culture, festivals, and delicious local cuisines. The people lead a relaxed life, and they enjoy their food and drinks in a leisurely manner. The City has the presence of the Federal and State governments as it has a Police Station, the High Court and the likes. Like many semi-urban and rural communities in Nigeria, Uromi has experienced increasing levels of crime and criminality in recent years. The nature and causes of criminality in the area are linked to broader socio-economic, political, and cultural factors.

While specific crime statistics for Uromi may not be consistently published, local reports and anecdotal evidence from residents and media sources indicate that the following crimes are prevalent: armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom (especially targeting business owners and farmers), cult-related violence and killings (linked to youth gangs), burglary and theft, assaults and gender-based violence and disputes and related violence. However, the trends criminality tends to rise during election seasons due to political thuggery and youth involvement in cult groups. High unemployment and youth idleness contribute to increased crime, especially among young males. There has been a growing concern over ritual killings and internet fraud (Yahoo Yahoo) in the region (Adekeye, 2019).

According to Adekeye, (2019) several interrelated factors contribute to the rising criminality in Uromi such as socio-economic factors, that is, youth unemployment, many young people in Uromi are jobless or underemployed; poverty, limited access to financial opportunities drives people toward crime as a survival mechanism; and lack

of skill acquisition opportunities, many youths lack vocational training or support to start small businesses. Family and social disintegration such as broken homes and poor parenting have led to poor value systems. Peer pressure and gang influence often lure youths into cultism and other criminal behaviors.

Poor governance and corruption, weak law enforcement and corruption among local officials reduce the effectiveness of anti-crime efforts. Political actors sometimes empower youth gangs for elections, worsening insecurity. Weak security infrastructure, insufficient police presence and resources make it hard to respond quickly to crime, and lack of community policing and poor coordination between security agencies and locals. Drug and substance abuse, widespread abuse of drugs such as codeine, tramadol, and marijuana among youths contributes to violent behavior and criminal activities. Inadequate education and awareness, illiteracy and lack of civic education prevent people from understanding the consequences of criminality.

Several initiatives both formal and informal have been introduced to tackle crime in Uromi such as law enforcement measures, increased patrols and operations by the Nigerian Police Force and Nigerian Army during periods of unrest, establishment of local vigilante groups and neighborhood watch teams and arrest and prosecution of suspected cult members and kidnappers. Community-based responses, community leaders and traditional rulers have organized town hall meetings and local dialogues to promote peace and reintegrate ex-offenders. Churches, mosques, and youth organizations have launched anti-cultism and anti-drug campaigns.

Government programs such skills acquisition and youth empowerment schemes under state and federal programs such as N-Power (Federal Government initiative) and Edo Jobs which was state initiative promoting entrepreneurship and job matching (Adekeye, 2019); hence this study sought to assess the effect of community policing and crime control in Uromi.

3.3. Population of the study

The population of the study comprises all residents of Uromi Community who are 18 years and above; and have stayed in the community for a period of 2 ears and more, long enough to understand the internal dynamics of crime and policing within the community. This is irrespective of their sex, ethnic affiliation, religious, socio-economics status, marital status and educational attainment.

3.4. Sample Size

Quantitative data: The sample size for the quantitative survey was determined using Krejcie and Morgan {1970} formula for known population, the sample size formula is:

$$S = \frac{X^2NP(1-P)}{D^2 (N-1) + X^2P(1-P)}$$

Where:

S = Required sample size

X = Z value (e.g. 1.96 for 99% confidence level)

N = Population size

P = Population proportion (expressed as decimal) (assumed to be 0.5 (50%))

D = Degree of accuracy (5.0%), expressed as a proportion (3.5); it is margin of error

P = Estimated Population is 180,200

However, the study used the critical (table) values of Krejcie and Morgan (1970). The Krejcie and Morgan (1970) formula for known population was used for nearest population sample size of 250,000.00 due to the fact that the difference in the sample size table value for 95% confidence level and 3.5% margin of error is very minimal. Hence, from the table with a sample size of 180,200 population (as shown in the Appendix) and in order to have a good and wider representation for the selected population perception, an additional ten percent (10%) was added to compensate for anticipated sampling error or non-response.

N = 76

Therefore, $782+76 \text{ APP} = 858$

This sample covers the quantitative use of the sample instrument. Therefore, 858 respondents were quantitatively sampled amongst the residents in the study area.

3.5. Sampling Technique

The stratified random sampling technique was used in the selection of 78 respondents in the existing eleven (11) wards that made up the sample size of 858. That is, the ward includes Obeidu, Ivue, Egbele, Unuwazi, Utako, Onewa, Uzea, Idumoza, Ebhoijie, Arue, Ubierumu-Oke; so as to provide equal opportunity for every constituent of the population to be chosen or to ensure they have an equal chance of participation in the representation of the study. The simple random sampling technique was thereafter be used to select the final element in the study. On the other hand, the purposive sampling technique was adopted in selecting respondents for the qualitative aspect of this study focused mainly on the police and the vigilante groups.

3.6. Instrument for Data Collection

The questionnaire was used to gather and was chosen due to the benefits of reaching out to a large part of the population. It was shared into two major sections. Section A dealt with information on respondents' age, education status, marital status and religion e.t.c. Section B dealt with questions on community policing and crime control in Uromi City. The guide focused its questions on all the objectives of the study except objective one. That is, questions relating to the perception of people toward community policing and crime control in Uromi City.

3.7. Validity of the Instrument

The instrument for the study was face and content validated by professionals. A draft of the questionnaire was made available to the supervisor and other lecturers in the field to facilitate objective criticisms.

3.8 Reliability of the Instrument

To determine the instrument's reliability, the research instrument was pretested on sixteen (16) respondents randomly selected from the study area. After two weeks, using the same tool, a post-test was given; the scores from both administrations was analyzed using Person's Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) co-efficient. A correlation co-efficient of 0.75 was obtained which indicated that the instrument is suitable and reliable for the study.

3.9. Method of Data Collection

The one time survey method was employ for data collection in the study. In this, two research assistants were recruited and put through the essence of the study and how to carry out their assignments. Primary and secondary sources of data collection were

utilised. The primary source involved face to face distribution of the questionnaires and interview guides to respondents, while the secondary sources included information from the internet, journals, textbooks and government gazette. The information from the secondary sources were used to complement the information that is to be gotten from the questionnaire.

3.10. Method of Data Analysis

The analysis of data was done with SPSS which includes descriptive analysis using frequency tables and percentages, frequency tables, cross tabulation, graphs and charts. Also a master data sheet was prepared with the use of the SPSS.

3.11. Ethical Considerations

Consideration was given to research ethics while conducting the study and administering questionnaires to shield the participants from any form of inconvenience.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULT AND ANALYSIS

4.0. Analysis and Interpretation of Data

This chapter presented and analyzed data generated from the respondents. The data is presented with tables and charts to explain adequately the Community Policing and Crime Control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State. Hence, only the questions that are relevant to the objectives of study were analyzed. Thus, for quantitative questionnaires, the returned questionnaires were eight thousand five hundred and two (852) out of the total eight thousand, five hundred and eight distributed (858). The headings for this analysis and presentation of data were divided into two as follows: socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and the analysis of objectives.

4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	520	61
Female	332	39
	852	100
Age		
Below 20yrs	19	2.2
21-30yrs	91	10.7
31-40yrs	149	17.5
41-50yrs	116	13.6
51-60yrs	398	46.7
61 yrs above	79	9.3
	852	100
Marital status		

Single	279	32.7
Married	252	29.6
Divorced/separated	220	25.8
Widow	101	11.9
	852	100
Religion		
Christian	501	58.8
Islam	302	35.4
Africa traditionalist	49	5.8
	852	100
Education qualification		
WASE/HND/NEO	148	17.4
OND/HND/BSC	214	25.1
PGD/MS/PHD	237	27.8
OTHERS	253	29.7
	852	100
Job status		
Junior cadre	118	13.8
Executive cadre	305	35.8
Officer cadre	321	37.7
Unemployed	108	12.7
	852	100

Source: field work, 2025.

Table 4.1 above provides details on Sex and the gender status of the respondents. The sex distributions of the respondent shows that 520 are male representing 61% while 332 were female representing 39%. In this view it can be said that the respondents was fairly sought across both genders.

Figure 1

Pie-chart showing the gender distribution of respondents

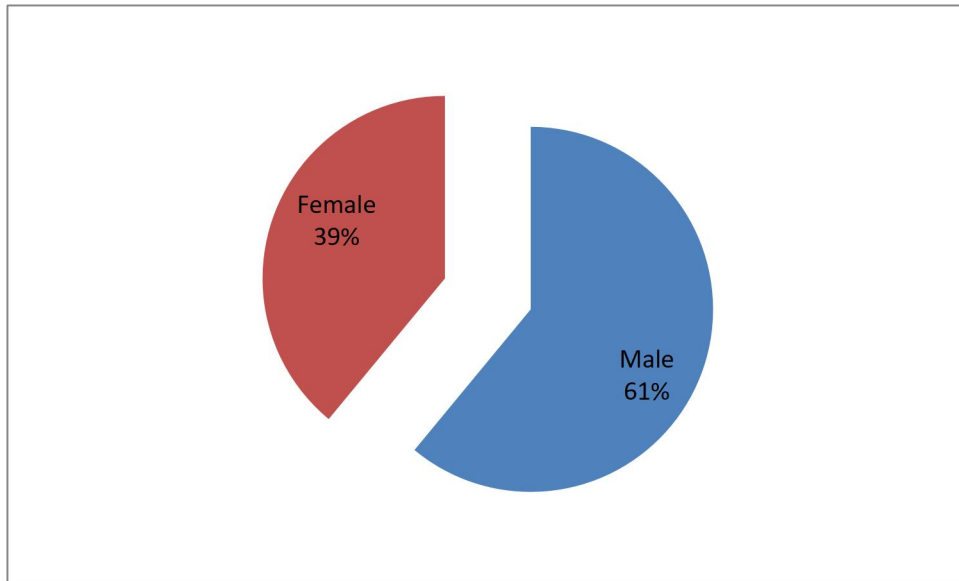
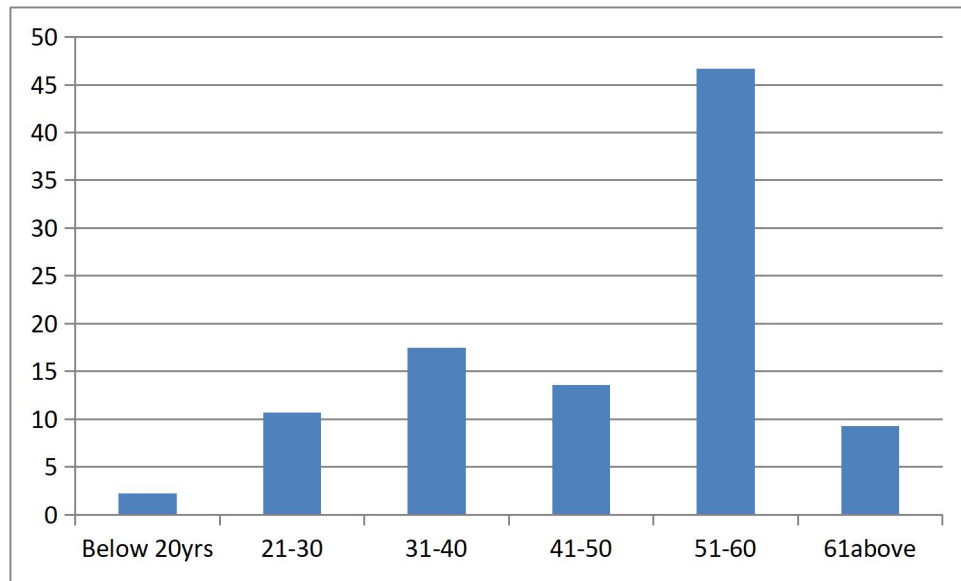


Table 4.1 above provides details on age and the parental status of the respondents. The age distribution of the respondent shows that 19 respondent below 20yrs old represent 2.2% of the population, while 91 respondent between 21-30yrs represent 10.7%, 149 respondent between 31-40yrs represent 17.5%, 116 respondent between 41-50yrs represent 13.6%, 398 respondents between 51-60yrs represent 46.7% and finally 79 respondents within the ages of 61yrs above represent 9.3%.

Figure 2

Bar chart showing the Age Distribution of Respondents



Again, from table 4.1, it was observed that 501 respondents that is, 58.8% of the respondents are Christians, while 301 respondents representing 35.4% are Islam; and 49 respondents that is, 5.8% of the total population claimed to be practicing African traditional religion. It is obvious that most of the respondents were Christians.

Figure 3

Pie chart showing religion distribution of respondents

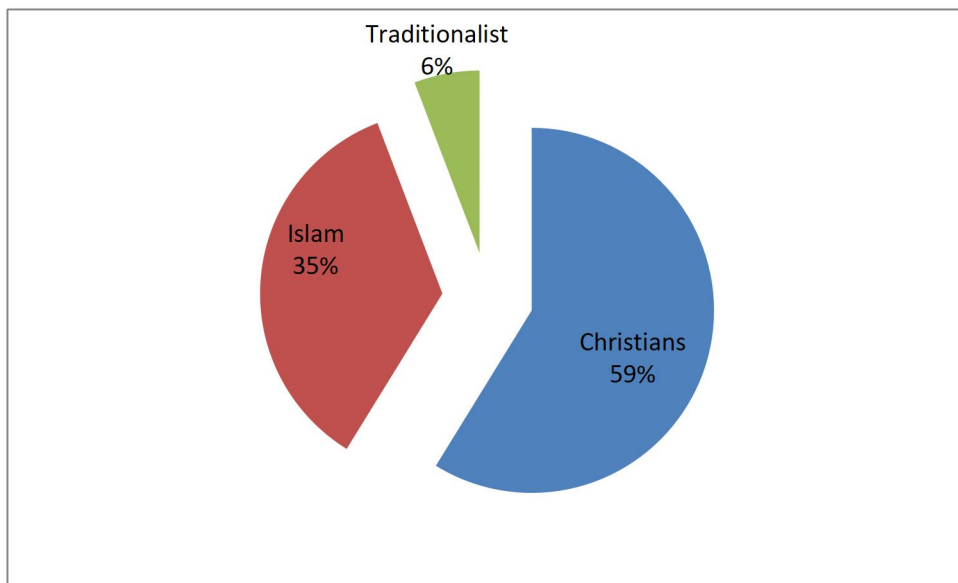


Table 4.1 above provides details on Education, it can be observed that a total number of 148 respondent (17.4%) had WASCE/SSCE/NECO qualification, 214 respondents (25.1%) had OND/HND/BSC qualification, 237 respondents (27.8%) of the population PGD/MSC/PHD qualification, and 253 respondents (29.7%) of the population had other qualification as such, the respondents have the required educational background to respond to issues raised in the study.

Figure 4

Bar chart showing the Educational Distribution of Respondents

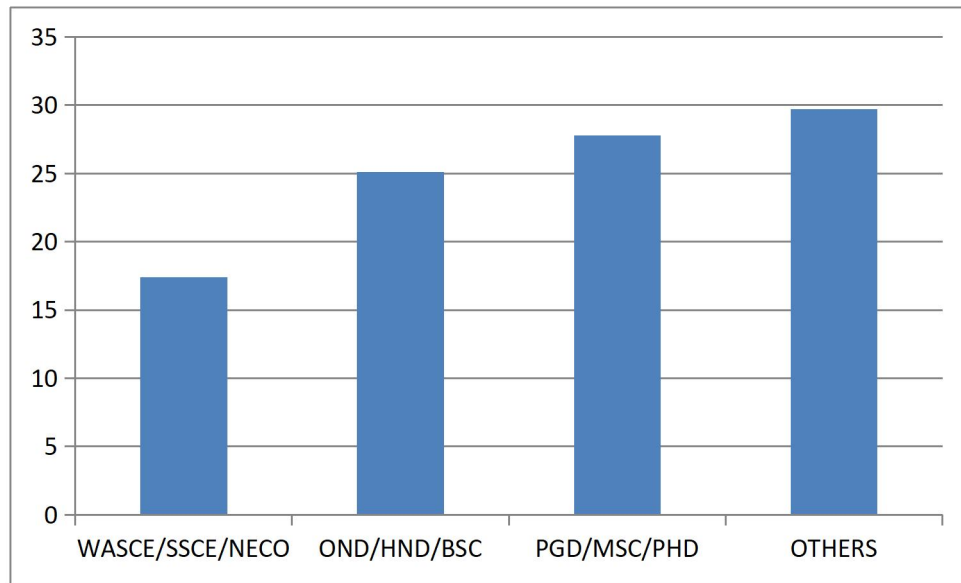


Table 4.1 above provides details on Marital Status, it can be observed that 279 respondent (32.7%) were single, 252 respondents (29.6%) were married, 220 respondents (25.8%) were Divorced, and 101 respondents (11.9%) were widowed. As such a total number of 573 respondents are either married at a point; this implies respondents have the requisite experience in parenting to give informed responses to the items raised in the study

Figure 5

Pie chart showing the Marital Status of Respondents

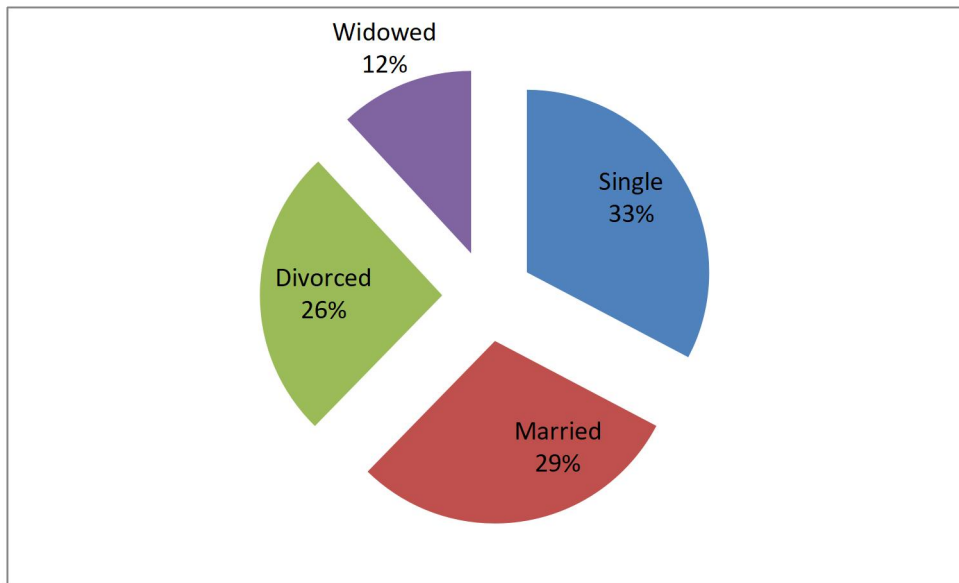
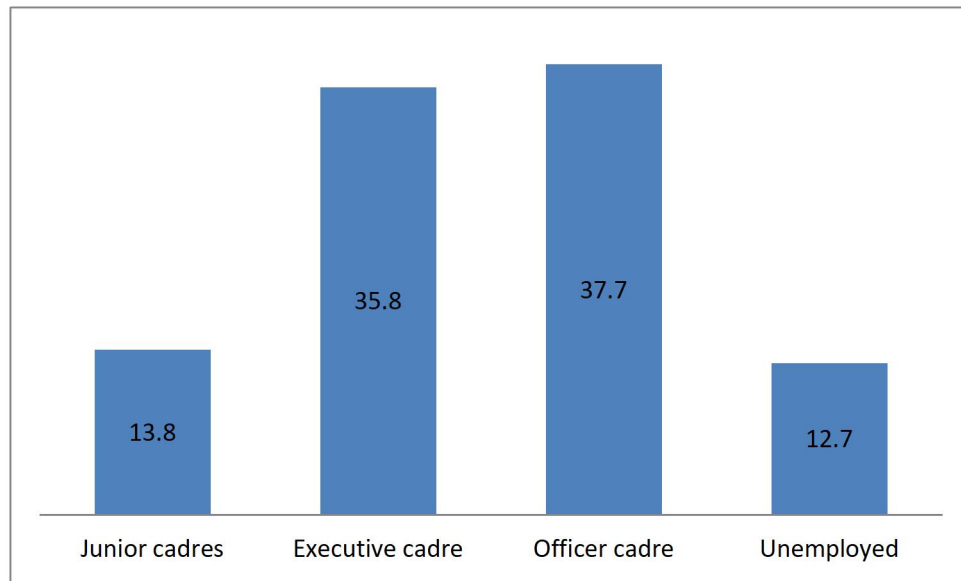


Table 4.1 above provides details on Job Status of the respondents, it can be observed that 118 respondent (13.8%) occupy the Junior Cadre, 305 respondents (35.8%) occupy the Executive Cadre, 321 respondents (37.7%) occupy the Officer Cadre and 108 respondents (12.7%) were Unemployed .As such, a total number of 744 respondents are engaged at a point, this implies respondents were experienced in parenting to give informed responses to the items raised in the study.

Figure 6

Bar chart showing the Job Status of Respondents



4.2 Analyzing Research Questions

The simple percentage analysis was used to provide a snapshot of responses to questions raised in the study. Responses for relevant questionnaire items were obtained to decide on the research questions as discussed in the research methodology

4.2.1 Research Question one

Research Question 1: What is the impact of community policing on crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 4.2 Community policing has reduced crime in Uromi, Esan North-East

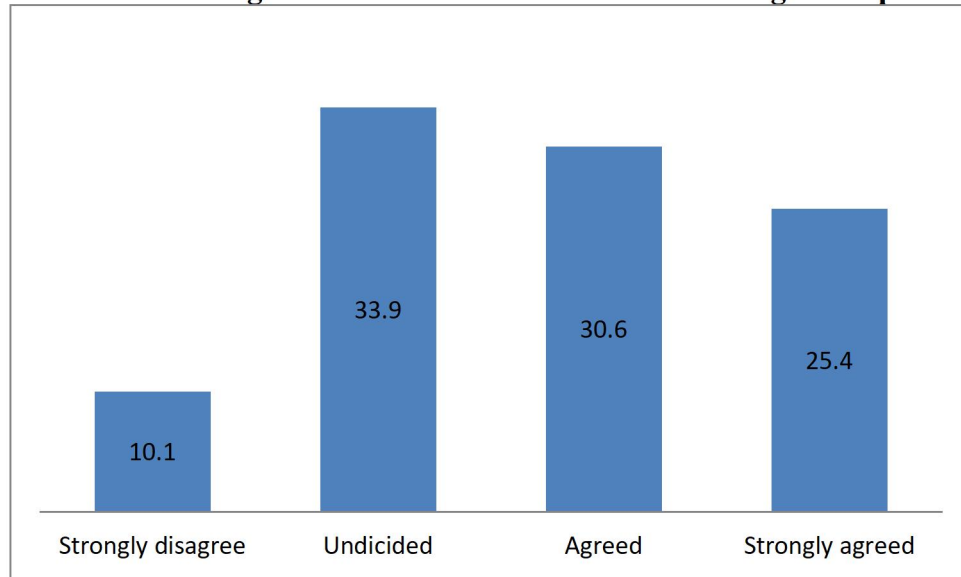
REDUCE CRIME	FREQUENC Y	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	86	10.1
Undecided	289	33.9
Agree	261	30.6
Strongly agree	216	25.4
TOTAL	852	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 4.2 shows the response pattern of the respondents as it relates to the relationship of community policing and how it determines criminal behavior. A holistic look at the response pattern show that most respondents agree that community policing has reduced crime in the study area. In the response pattern it shows that only 289 respondents representing 33.9% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 261 and 216 respondents responsively with a percentage of 30.6% and 25.4% agreed that there is a positive impact of Community policing on criminal behavior.

Figure 7

Bar chart showing crime reduction in the area according to Respondents



REDUCE CRIME

Table 4.3 Crime control has been very efficient with the introduction of community policing

CONTROL CRIME	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	115	13.5
Undecided	171	20.1
Agree	377	44.2
Strongly agree	189	22.2
TOTAL	852	100

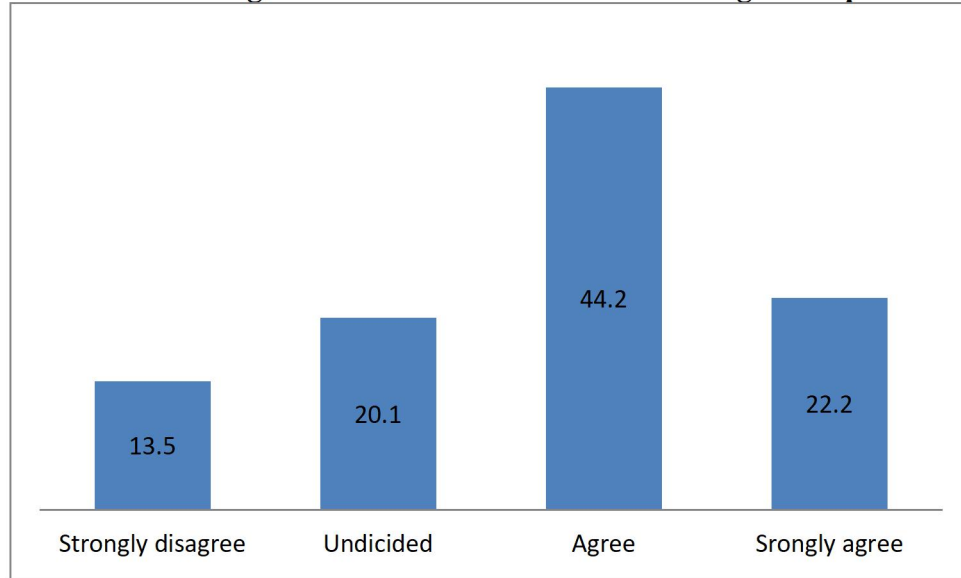
Source: Field Survey, 2025

The above table 4.3 shows the response pattern of the respondents as it relates to Crime control efficiency. A holistic look at the response pattern reveals that most respondents Agree that community policing has led to effective crime control in Uromi Edo State. In the response pattern it shows that only 171 respondents representing 20.1% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 377 and 189 respondents responsively with a percentage of 44.2% and 22.2% agreed that there

is a positive impact of Community policing on effective crime control.

Figure 8

Bar chart showing crime control in the area according to Respondents



CONTROL CRIME

Table 4.4 Community policing as a strategy to curb crime has improved local participation

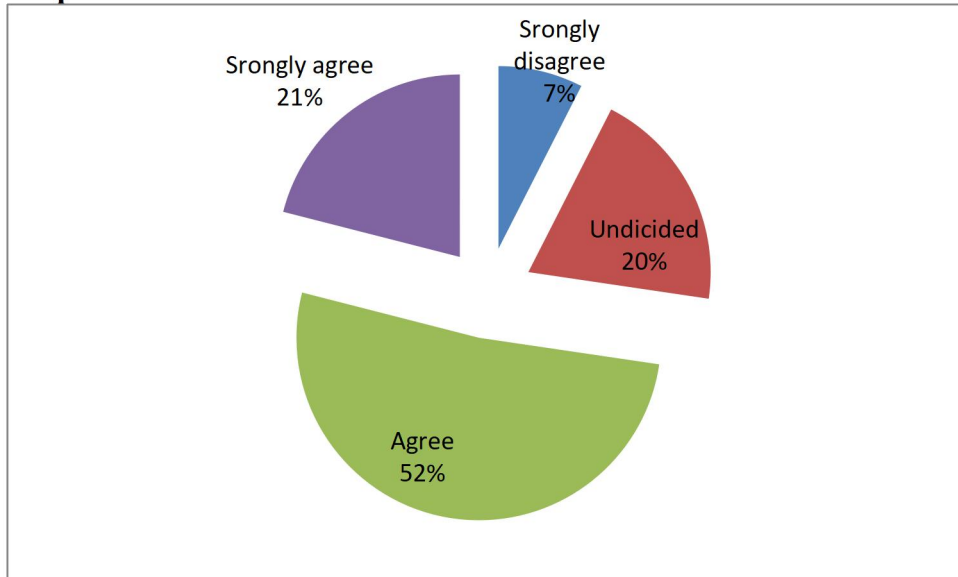
CURB CRIME	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	64	7.5
Undecided	169	19.8
Agree	440	51.6
Strongly agree	179	21.0
TOTAL	625	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The above table 4.4 shows the response of respondents as to Community policing as a strategy to improve crime. A holistic look at the response pattern indicates that majority of respondents Agree that community policing has led to improve crime control in Uromi Edo State. In the response pattern it shows that only 169 respondents representing 19.8% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 440 and 179 respondents responsively with a percentage of 51.6% and 21.0% agreed that there

is a positive impact of Community policing on improved local participation.

Figure 9
Pie chart showing policing as a strategy to curb crime in the area according to Respondents



CURB CRIME

Table 4.5: Community policing promote a collaborative relationship between police departments and the communities they serve

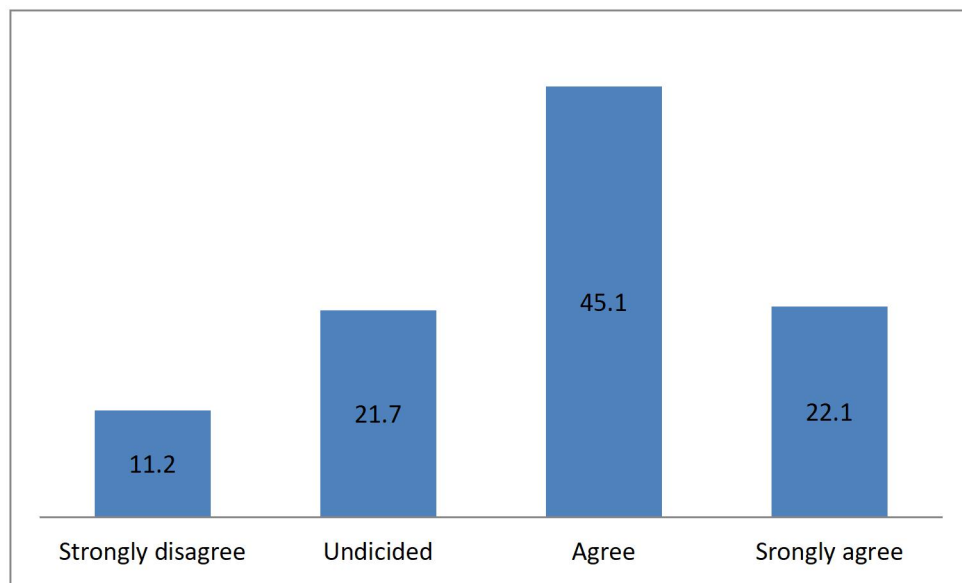
COLLABORATIVE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	95	11.2
Undecided	185	21.7
agree	384	45.1
Strongly agree	188	22.1
TOTAL	852	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Table 4.5 shows the response of the respondents as it relates to Community policing promote a joint efforts between police departments and the people. A holistic look indicates that majority of respondents Agree on the notion that collaborative

relationship has led to improve Community policing in Uromi Edo State. In the response pattern it shows that only 185 respondents representing 21.7% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 384 and 188 respondents responsively with a percentage of 45.1% and 22.1% agreed that there is a positive impact of Community policing promote a collaborative relationship between police departments and the communities.

Figure 10
Bar chart showing community policing promote a collaborative relationship in the area according to Respondents



COLLABORATIVE

4.2.2 Research Question Two

Research Question 2: What methods of community policing affect criminal behavior in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 4.6: Does the method of local participation in curbing crime impact positively on crime and criminality in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State.

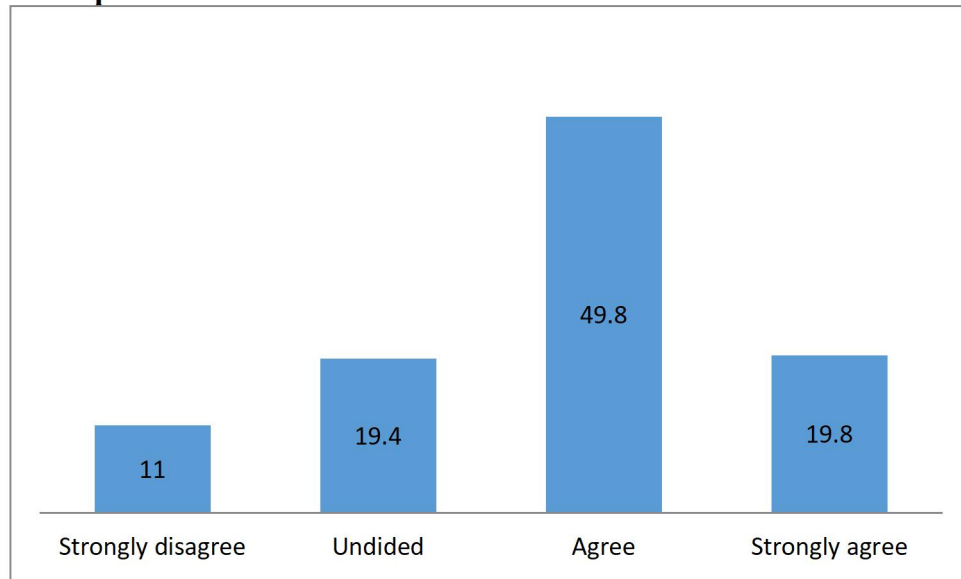
PARTICIPATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	94	11.0
Undecided	165	19.4
Agree	424	49.8
Strongly agree	169	19.8
TOTAL	852	100

Source: field survey, 2025

The above table, it shows the response patter of the respondents as it relates to local participation in curbing crime. A holistic look reveals that majority of respondents Agree on the notion that local participation has led to improve level in curbing crime in the study area. In the response pattern it shows that only 165 respondents representing 19.4% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 424 and 169 respondents responsively with a percentage of 49.8% and 19.8% agreed that there is a positive impact of local participation in curbing crime impact positively on crime and criminality.

Figure 11

Bar chart showing local participation in curbing crime impact positively on crime and criminality in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government according to Respondents



PARTICIPATION

Table 4.7: Community policing approach has increased local participation in reporting crime

CRIME REPORTING	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	84	9.9
Undecided	175	20.5
Agree	414	48.6
Strongly agree	179	21.0
TOTAL	852	100

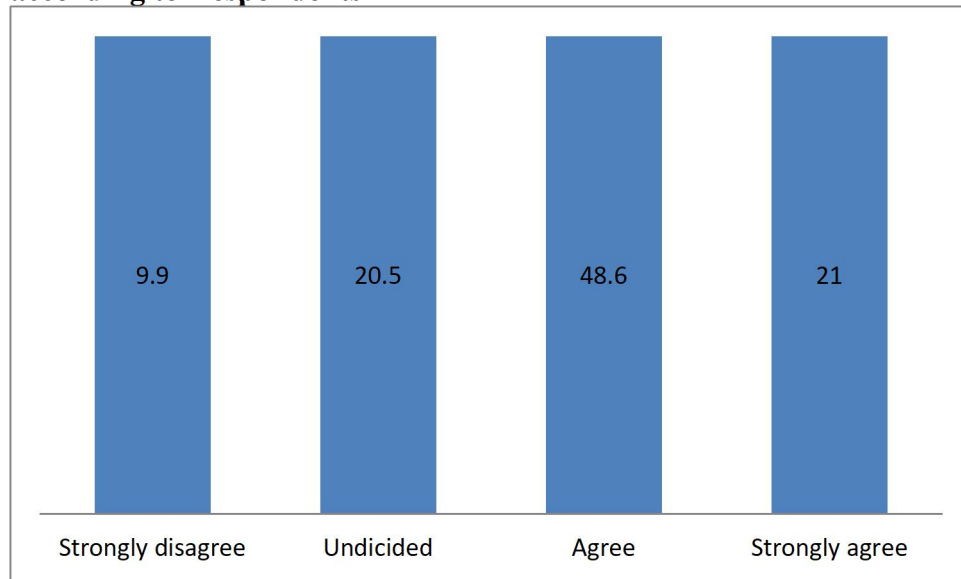
Source: Field Survey, 2025

The above table shows the response pattern of the respondents as it relates to Community policing approach and how increased local participation has improved crime reporting. A holistic look shows that most respondents Agree on the notion that

local participation has improved crime reporting in the area of study. In the response pattern it shows that only 175 respondents representing 20.5% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 414 and 179 respondents responsively with a percentage of 48.6% and 21.0% agreed that there is a positive impact of local participation increase in crime reporting.

Figure 12

Bar chart showing Community policing approach has increased local participation in reporting crime in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government according to Respondents



CRIME REPORTING

Table 4.8: Community Policing Approach Has Increased Criminal Awareness.

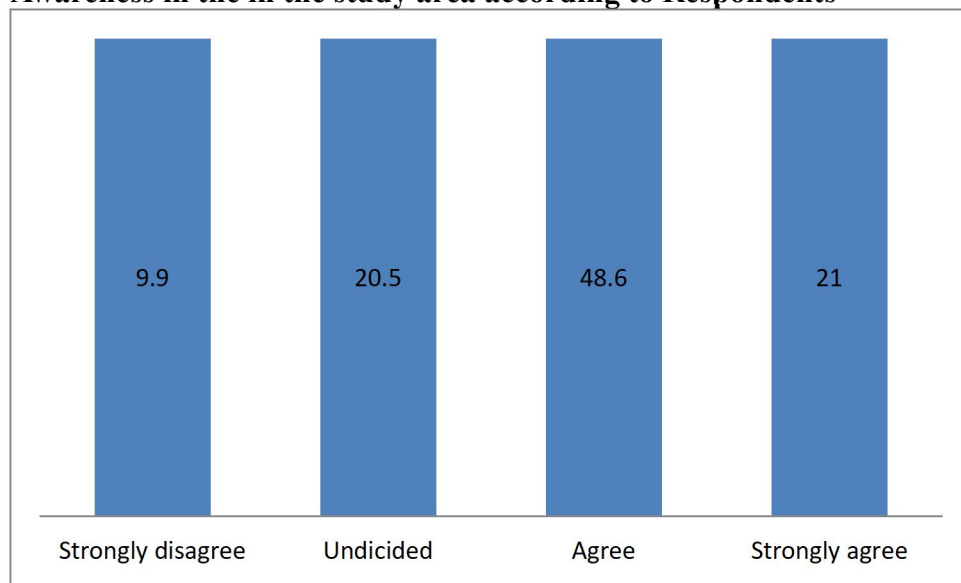
AWARENESS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	86	10.1
Undecided	172	20.2
Agree	416	48.8
Strongly agree	178	20.9
TOTAL	852	100

Source: field survey 2025

The above table shows Community policing approach on criminal awareness. Holistic look at the response pattern show that most respondents Agree on the notion that Community policing approach has improved criminal awareness in the study area. In the response pattern it shows that only 172 respondents representing 20.2% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 416 and 178 respondents responsively with a percentage of 48.8% and 20.9% agreed that Community policing participation has led to increase in criminal awareness.

Figure 13

Bar Chart Showing Community Policing Approach Has Increased Criminal Awareness in the in the study area according to Respondents



AWARENESS

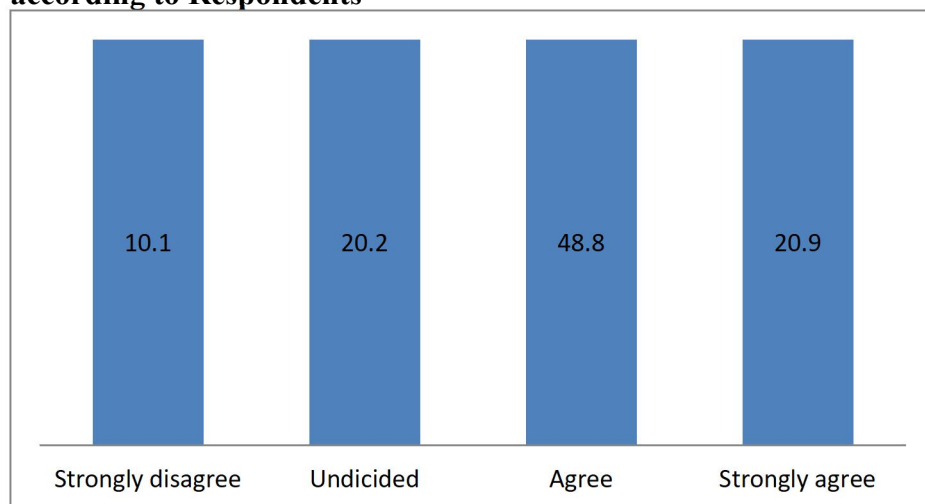
Table 4.9: Community policing methods has improved local orientation against issues on criminality.

ORIENTATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	91	10.7
Undecided	169	19.8
Agree	424	49.8
Strongly agree	168	19.7
TOTAL	852	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The above table shows Community policing methods. A holistic look at the response pattern shows that most of the respondents agree that Community policing methods has improved local orientation in in the study area. In the response pattern it shows that only 169 respondents representing 19.8% of the population is undecided, while a total number of 424 and 168 respondents responsively with a percentage of 49.8% and 19.7% agreed that Community policing methods has led to increase in local orientation.

Figure 14
Bar Chart Showing Community policing methods has improved local orientation against issues on criminality in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government according to Respondents



ORIENTATION

4.2.3. Research Question Three

Research Question Three: What is the level of police initiatives on the effectiveness of community policing in in the study area?

Table 4.10: Police initiatives have helped propel effective community policing in in the study area

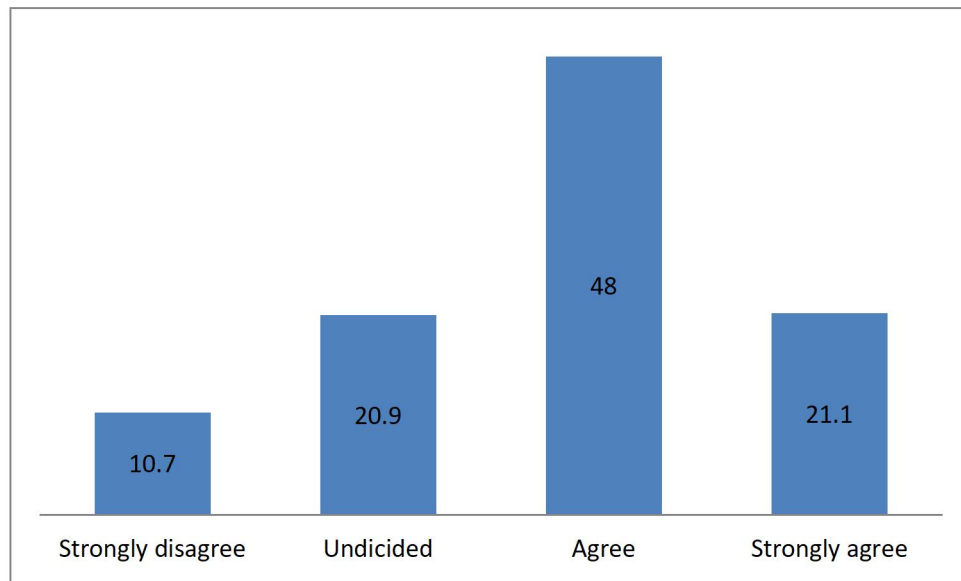
POLICE INITIATIVES	FREQUENC Y	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	91	10.7
Undecided	172	20.9
Agree	409	48.0
Strongly agree	180	21.1
TOTAL	852	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

The above table shows Police initiatives on effective community policing. A holistic look at the response pattern show that most of the respondents Agree on the notion that Police initiatives have improved community policing in in the study area. In the response pattern it shows that only 172 respondents representing 20.9% of the population is undecided, while a total number of 409 and 180 respondents responsively with a percentage of 48.0% and 21.1% agreed that Police initiatives has improved community policing.

Figure 15

Bar Chart Showing Police Initiatives Have Helped Propel Effective Community Policing in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government according to Respondents



POLICE INITIATIVES

Table 4.11: Introducing modern combat ready machine has improved community policing in in the study area

MODERN COMBAT	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	99	11.6
Undecided	172	20.2
Agree	399	46.8
Strongly agree	182	21.4
TOTAL	852	100

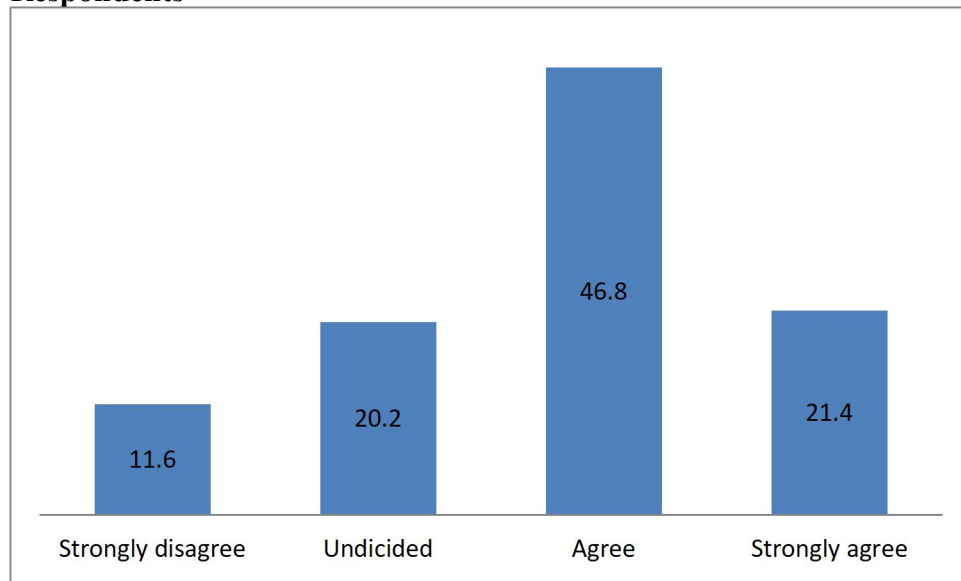
Source: Field Survey, 2025

The above table 4.11 shows modern combat on community policing. A holistic look at the response patter indicates that most respondents Agree on the notion that modern combat has improved community policing in in the study area. In the response pattern

it shows that only 172 respondents representing 20.2% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 399 and 182 respondents responsively with a percentage of 46.8% and 21.4% agreed that modern combat has improved community policing.

Figure 16

Bar Chart Showing Modern Combat Ready Machine Has Improved Community Policing in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government According to Respondents



MODERN COMBAT

Table 4.12: Use of modern technology as an apparatus to crime control has assisted community policing effectiveness in in the study area?

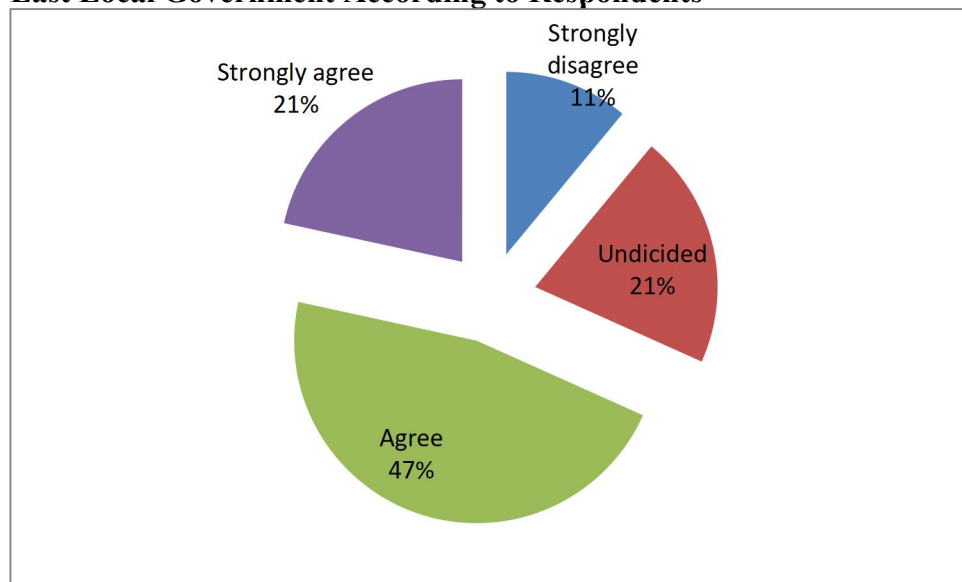
MODERN TECHNOLOGY	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	94	11.0
Undecided	176	20.7
Agree	398	46.7
Strongly agree	184	21.6
TOTAL	852	100

Source: field survey, 2025

The above table 4.12 shows Use of model technology as an apparatus to crime control.

A holistic look at the response pattern indicates that majority of respondents Agree on the notion that modern technology has improved crime control in the study area. In the response pattern it shows that only 176 respondents representing 20.7% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 398 and 184 respondents responsively with a percentage of 46.7% and 21.6% agreed that modern technology has improved crime control.

Figure 17
Pie Chart Showing Use Of Modern Technology as an Apparatus to Crime Control Has Assisted Community Policing Effectiveness in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government According to Respondents



MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Table 4.13: Use of police recording system has help identify criminals in the process local policing.

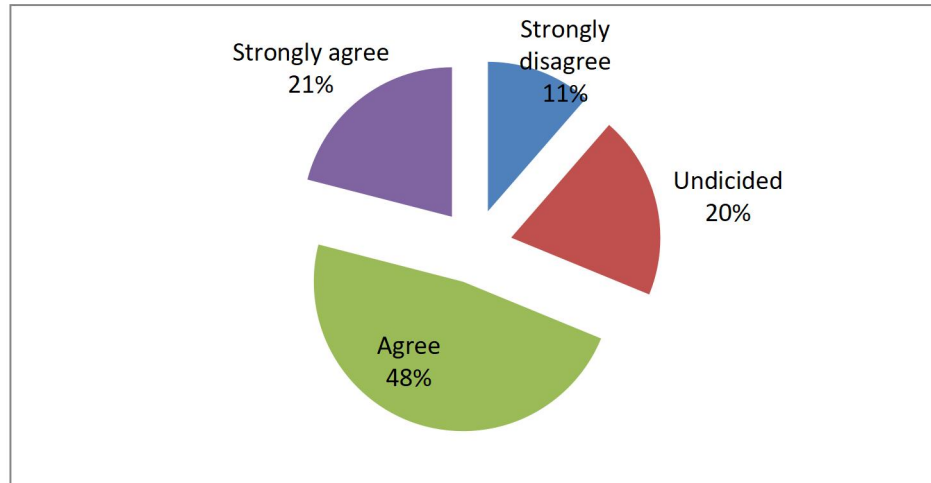
RECORDING SYSTEM	FREQUENCY	PERCENT
Strongly disagree	97	11.4
Undecided	169	19.8
agree	407	47.8
Strongly agree	179	21.0
TOTAL	852	100

Source: field survey, 2025

The above table 4.13 shows police recording system on criminal identification. A holistic look at the responses indicates that many respondents Agree that police recording system has help identify criminals in the process local policing. In the response pattern it shows that only 169 respondents representing 19.8% of the population is undecided. While a total number of 407 and 179 respondents responsively with a percentage of 47.8% and 21.0% agreed that police recording system on criminal identification have helped control crime.

Figure 18

Pie Chart Showing Use of Police Recording System Has Helped Identify Criminals in the Process Local Policing in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government According to Respondents



RECORDING SYSTEM

4.3 Discussion of Findings

Several findings have been gotten in this work on the analysis of the questions guiding the study. Herein, the findings on the impact of community police on crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area and the methods of community policing, and the societal perception of the relationship between community policing and crime control Preliminary analysis reveals that the societal level of policing is high as perceived by various respondents.

The study's findings are in agreement with the work of Chinwokwu, (2016) where he states that the inclusion of people positively impacts on crushing crime, as it greatly reduces the normal situation that puts the prevention and control of crime solely on the shoulders of the police without any input from the community.

The study also perceived the findings of Gordner (2014), and Ibrahim, (2017); the community and police should work together as much as possible, only then will there

be meaningful impact. On police collaboration with the locals Buralti, (2019) argued that violence against women has soared worldwide and they are not involved when the prevention and control of crime is discussed, especially in Nigeria where their opinion do not count in certain quarters.

Furthermore, on the findings of police initiative, it was observed that there is high level of police presence in the local to further support of this study is inferred from the work of Gordner, (2014), where he posited that the ability of the police to work depends on the people's approval. In other words, the police may not be able to work alone without the people to remain successful and useful to their community.

Also, on the path of police initiatives which was tremendously optioned by respondents collaborated with Buralti, (2019), the main aim of community-oriented policing is that the police would become be more formidable, especially as members of the public are carried along in important matters. To Ibrahim (2017), the training of members involved in the policing of the community is poised to raise the population of police officers' mingling with the public. Also, Aigbe and Akenzua, (2020) noted that police-community information sharing is the second significant strategy for effective community policing. It aids the police in identifying crime suspects.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter concludes the study, where in the summary of findings and policy recommendations, and suggestions for further studies are discussed.

5.2 Summary

This work empirically assessed community policing and crime control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State as the study area. On the basis of review of related literature, the empirical analysis and results, the findings of this work:

1. Community policing determines crime control in the area of study, hence bringing community policing to the people helps bring about the reduction of vices and let the people know of their existence.
2. It impacts on criminal behavior, i.e., the method adopted in ensuring proper policing at the local level in the long run enhance community policing and impacts on the behavior of locals on one path the need to avoid crime and on the path of criminals the price of doing the time.
3. Polices training of locals in tactical and use of weaponry, bifurcating there ring system to ensure proper channels are put in place to ensure smooth communication and so on
4. Community policing methods has improved local orientation against issues on

criminality from the perspective of orientation, training and introduction of modern tactical policing skills

5. The finding further asserts that government on his path has introduced various avenue to strengthen the local participation in policing with the state by ensuring facilities that will enable the locals perform effectively are provided and remuneration is also used as a tool to encourage those that have stood out in carrying out their duties and responsibilities

5.3 Conclusion

Community policing is germane in controlling crime in any given area and the tenets of this study simply anchors its approach as a way of curbing and preventing crime and also the level of synergy between the locals and the police and how they co-exist. Various issues were raised on how the community policing upspring has been truncated over the years due to corruption role duplication amongst others. It has now become obvious even after the anti-Sars riot that the synergy between the locals and the police is indeed necessary to create a balance in the policing system.

5.4 Recommendations

The following recommendations were made for this study:

1. In the view of double duplication of responsibilities of the police and the locals there should be a blue print introduced by the government to ensure that proper roles, responsibilities definition should be streamlined to avoid role overlapping. This in the long run can increase the efficiency of both the police and the locals

2. Government should ensure periodic training for local police to ensure their performers is increased by setting up various institutions to ensure training of the locals is done and also promote the coexistence of these protective institutions from role duplication.
3. The public should therefore collaborate with the police in terms of crime prevention and control, by first of all eradicating the lack of trust for the police. Hence, in strengthening this co-existence the issue of crime and criminality will surely be a thing of the past
4. The perception of people-oriented policing should be enacted while erasing the perception of the police as adversary.
5. The strength of any community or society is the ability for them to have a secured environment where business can flourish. People-oriented policing operations will enable the gain a lot and resolve the challenge of vices to solve its crime problems and bring about peace.
6. The aspect of values and norms is seen as a propelling tool in police community relation. Government should create recruiting and training procedures to make sure that officers have regards for the people's values.
7. The police on its part should not undermine the activities of the locals as they as set as the root source of information.

5.5 Recommendation for further studies

Given the nature of this study, it is recommended that an in-depth study involving

more rigorous analytical techniques should be embarked upon for richer results. Also, studies with a broader scope involving more cross-sections of the society should be carried out in order to allow for the sampling of more respondents. This will foster greater representation of the study population and the applicability of study results. Comparative studies should be carried out between several subgroups of various communities with respect to several socio demographic criteria, so as to identify which communities in Nigeria have more quest to ensure policing More studies involving already proven cases of co-existence and cooperation between the police and locals should be carried out. As this will help strengthen the crime hub and reduce the persistent occurrence of crime as it exists in present day Nigeria.

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APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND
ANTHROPOLOGY,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,
BENIN CITY.

Sir/Madam,

I am a Student of the above-named University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, I am carrying out research work on “**Community Policing and Crime Control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State**” as part of the requirements for the award of Master Degree in Criminology. I will be grateful if you could fill in your response in the space provided below. Your response shall be treated with utmost confidentiality as it is meant for academic purpose only, thank you.

Promise Chinedu UDEH
Researcher

APPENDIX II

TICK (√) for the correct answer

- 1. SEX: Male () Female ()
- 2. AGE: 18-25 years () 25-45 years () 45 years and above
- 3. MARITAL STATUS: Single () Married () Divorced ()
- 4. JOB STATUS : Junior Cadre () Executive Cadre () Officer Cadre () unemployed ()
- 5. What qualification do you have? Primary Six () Secondary or equivalent () Tertiary () Higher Degree ()
- 6. What is your religion? Christian () Moslem () Traditionalist () others ()

TICK (√) for correct answer Strongly disagree (SD) Disagree (D) Undecided (U) Agree (A) Strongly Agree (SA).

S/NO.	STATEMENT	SD	D	U	A	SA
1	Community Policing determines Crime Control in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area					
2	Community Policing has reduced crime in Uromi, Esan North - East Local Government Area					
3	Crime Control has been very efficient with the introduction of Community Policing					
4	Community Policing as a strategy to curb crime has improved local participation.					
5	Community Policing promote a collaborative relationship between police Department and the communities they serve.					

S/NO.	STATEMENT	SD	D	U	A	SA
1	Community policing method impacts on criminal behaviour in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area.					
2	Does the method of local participation in curbing crime impact positively on crime and criminality in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area.					
3	Community Policing approach has increased local participation in reporting crime.					
4	Community policing approach has increased awareness in crime related matter matters.					
5	Community Policing methods have improved local orientation against issues on criminality.					
6	Orientation in crime and criminality has changed through the introduction of Community Policing.					
	Police initiatives affect effective Policing in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area.					
1	Police initiatives has helped propel effective Community Policing in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area.					
2	Use of modern technology as an apparatus to crime control has assisted Community Policing effectiveness in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area.					
3	Use of Police recording system has help identify criminals in the process of local policing.					