

**EFFECT OF COMMUNITY POLICING ON CRIME PREVENTION IN NIGERIA (A  
CASE STUDY OF DELTA STATE)**

**BY**

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**NIGERIA.**

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**BEING AN ORIGINAL RESEARCH ESSAY PRESENTED TO**

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## CERTIFICATION

We certify that this work was carried out by OFFOR EZEKIEL UGOCHUKWU of the Department Of Public Administration in the University of Benin, and is adequate in scope and quality in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science (BSc.) Degree in Public Administration.

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DR. (Mrs) C.N. CHIAZOR

(Project Supervisor)

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PROF. STAN .O. AIBIEYI

(Head of Department)

## **DEDICATION**

This research work is, first, dedicated to God Almighty who gave me the intellect, wisdom and understanding during the course of running this program. All glory and honour belongs to Him.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My sincere gratitude and appreciation goes to God Almighty because without Him, I could have done nothing. Right from the day of my birth, He has been faithful and gracious.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The failure of government programmes for the control of crime informed private citizens playing a variety of roles that is making a decisive difference in the prevention, detection and prosecution of crime around the world. Private Citizens represent an underutilized source of assistance in crime control and social decay management. While law abiding citizens are willing and potentially capable of assisting the police, they lack direction and experience. However, with proper supervision and guidance by the police, citizens can contribute to reduction of crime and betterment of society. This study therefore aimed to ascertain the effect of community policing on crime prevention in Nigeria. The followings were the objectives of the study: to identify the prevalence of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria, to determine the factors that affect community policing in Nigeria and to inquire the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Nigeria.



# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

Neighbourhood watch is one of the traditional and best known crime prevention concepts in North America. It was popularly known as the neighbourhood watch organization in Pasadena Hills, under the direction of St. Louis Country Police Officer, Kyle Jundt, resident Geno Salvati and resident Ed Tyler. The International Code of Enforcement Ethics reveals the primary reason for establishing formal police system in any society thus: as a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind and property; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception; the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence and disorder; and to respect constitutional rights of all the men to liberty, equity and justice (Qadri, 2005). Admittedly, the main role of the police is to enforce law and order, safeguard lives and property, and render other essential services in the society. Put in a different way, fighting crimes and criminals is so difficult that the police and other law enforcement agencies alone cannot perform this task and achieve maximum positive results. Since the most visible part of criminal activities take place at the neighbourhood level, policing agencies need public support and co-operation. Intensive partnership and collaborative efforts of both the formal and informal agents of social control remain preconditions for a possible near 'crime-free' society (a complete crime free society is utopia); in other words, the idea will lead to a great success in crime prevention and control in the community.

Community policing is in line with systematic relationship between the police and the entire people in the community. Police roles and functions are not simply law enforcement but also include tackling a huge range of community problems. 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).

Community policing is a paradigm shift that seeks to focus on constructive engagement with people who are the end users of the police service and renegotiate the agreement between the people and the police therefore making the community co-producers of justice and a quality police force. The most recent attempt made by the Nigeria police force to improve its performance was the introduction of community policing programme in 2004. This was part of the Nigerian Police force's effort to change policing to a new and professional policing capable of ensuring and maintaining proper security of lives and property in Nigeria. Community oriented policing is a proactive measure that promotes curbing criminal act.

Conclusively, the police involvement in community affairs is another strong strategy that allows the police to display themselves as both private citizens and State agents of social control. Community policing under this programme or strategy presents the police as servants of the society who, should in a reasonable manner, enforce law and order and ensure public compliance with policies. Extant studies also attest that the involvement of police in community affairs has actually yielded fruitful results. For instance, Quinney (1974) affirmed that when the community collaborates with police personnel in maintaining social order, it helps the legal system also to be increasingly used in criminal justice administration. The police are viable instrument for building

an inclusive and organised community policing in Nigeria. Police involvement in community affairs facilitates rapid and timely control of persistence rebellion, whether in outright political processes or behaviour that otherwise, violates the rules of the society. Community policing also helps the State policing actors to exercise its repressive force on the people in order to achieve compliance with the law (see also Kelly & Clark, 2003). This technique can be employed only in a physically and socially disorganised community. In more disorganised areas, some experts pointed out, police use aggressive tactics to reduce crime and ‘take back the streets’ before building relations with community leaders (Siegel, 2008 citing Nolan, Conti & McDevitt, 2004).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

In spite the efforts of various police administrations to curb crime in Nigeria, crime and social disorder in Nigeria, it is obvious that there is still persistence of crime in the country. Thousands of lives and millions of naira worth of property are being lost as a result of one crime or the other. Some believed that the inability of the Nigeria police to ensure maximum security in the country is as a result of so many social and technical challenges ranging from lack of necessary tools to curb crime in the community and lack of maximum cooperation by the people in the communities (Dawn Newspaper, 2011).

Corruption in the Nigeria police force is fuelling abuses against ordinary citizens and severely undermining the rule of law in Nigeria on a daily basis. Numerous ordinary Nigerians have been accosted by countless armed police officers who specialized at demanding bribes and committing human rights abuses against by extorting money from them. These abuses range from ordinary arrest and unlawful detention to threats and acts of violence, including sexual assault, torture, and even extrajudicial killings (Human Rights Watch, 2010). Sequel to the end Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) protest which took place in 2020, the Special Anti-Robbery

Squad (SARS) of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) have really done more harm than good when it comes to the issue of discharging their duties.

The arrests of young Nigerians who are focused on optimizing their standard of living in the Information Technology industry, the illegal arrest of these citizens have greatly affected their perception about policing in Nigeria. This is why the advent of community policing would to a large extent help to curb the problems already created by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) department of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) the community police can attest to the credibility of these individuals as Information Technology (IT) Personnel due to the proximity between them and the citizens.

The protest which later took place in October 2020 was a testament to the fact that there need to be a reform and adjustment in the policing systems in Nigeria. There is a great need to have a balanced structure when it comes to the matters of policing in Nigeria, and one of the ways to salvage the situation is for the Federal Government to allow the states and local governments have their own police; to improve the security of lives and properties in Nigeria. When this is done we can be rest assured that the challenges with policing in Nigeria can be put to bed eternally.

The Nigerian Police Force (NPF) ought to be a unique force but corruption is now rampant in the Nigeria police force. Various issues of corruption concerning the commission have been seen and reported. However, the issue of corruption in the Nigeria police as noted above cannot be treated in isolation of the larger society. Corruption in the police is so prevalent that it has destroyed people's trust and confidence they have in the police. Because of this prevalence of corruption in Nigeria and in the force, this study then aimed at investigating the effect of community policing on crime in Nigeria.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

These are some of the questions the study is designed to answer:

- i) What is the importance of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria?
- ii) What are the factors that affect community policing in Nigeria?
- iii) What are the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Nigeria?
- iv) What kinds of procedural and operational changes do police departments have to make to institute community policing?
- v) What kinds of skills do police and community leaders need to have to make community policing work?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The objective of this study was to find out the effect of community policing on crime prevention in Nigeria. The specific objectives are:

- i) to identify the importance of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria
- ii) to determine the factors that affect community policing in Nigeria.
- iii) to inquire the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Nigeria.
- iv) to identify societal problems with full supports of community members.
- v) to foster trust and improved community relations.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

A community crime prevention effort encourages residents to know and recognize their neighbors. It also serves as eyes and ears of the police for spotting and reporting any unusual

activity. The significance of the study was to observe the effect of community policing on crime prevention in Nigeria.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

This study covered respondents like the Nigeria Police, Vigilante group and other security agents in Nigeria.

### **1.7 Limitation of the study**

Major problems encountered were time constraints, validity and reliability of the sources or materials. The researcher was faced with the problem of meeting with the security agents like the Nigeria Police, Vigilante group, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and the likes as they were not willing to give adequate information needed for this research.

### **1.8 Definitions of Terms**

The following terms were used in the course of this study:

**Community policing:** the system of allocating police officers to particular areas so that they become familiar with the local inhabitants

**Crime Prevention:** is the attempt to reduce and deter [crime](#) and [criminals](#). It is applied specifically to efforts made by [governments](#) to reduce crime, enforce the law, and maintain [criminal justice](#).

## **CHAPTER TWO**

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter reviews literature related to the research. It involves a review of existing books, articles, journals and papers which are related to the research and also entails the interrogation of comments, critiques and issues revised by researchers/scholars on and about the Effect of Community Policing on Crime Prevention in Nigeria. It also provides information that are central to effective understanding of the issues which necessitate the undertaking of this research, putting into cognizance the views and postulations of people across various fields of studies. Thus, it deals with a balance of arguments for or against quoted comments and eventual position of the researcher.

### **2.2 CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS**

#### **2.2.1 The Concept of Police and Policing**

Police, according to Black Law Dictionary (1979, as cited in Brownson, 2008), is a unit of armed forces established for the maintenance of law and order. It is a branch or department of government which is charged with preservation of public order and tranquility, enforcement of laws, the promotion of public health, safety and morals; the prevention, detection and prosecution of offenders.

The concepts of police and policing are used interchangeably in everyday language, but they do not always mean the same thing. Of course, the primary role of police is policing, but policing is not a sole responsibility of the police. Conversely, not all those shouldered with policing responsibility are belonging to police organization. Policing is securing compliance with existing

laws and conformity with precepts of social order. But the police are not the only agency involved in policing, in the broad sense of the term. Policing has always been necessary in all societies for the preservation of order, safety and social relations. The necessity of policing becomes even more evident in modern societies characterized by diversities and contradictions arising from population heterogeneity, urbanization, industrialization, conflicting ideologies on appropriate socio-political and economic form of organization (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2005).

### **2.2.2 The Concept of community policing**

Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime (President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing, 2015). Tillman (2000:1) defined community policing "as bringing police and citizens together to prevent crime and solve problems, emphasizing the prevention of crime rather than the traditional policing method of responding to crime after it happens".

Community policing involves collaboration between police and community members characterized by problem-solving partnerships to enhance public safety. Community policing was adopted widely among law enforcement agencies in the 1990s, with a view toward improving trust between community members and police, and leveraging police resources through voluntary assistance by community members in public safety measures (COP Office, 2008).

### 2.2.3 The Concept of Crime

Crime is like other concepts in social sciences, which have no generally accepted definition. At first sight, it seems easy to define crime as doing something wrong or relating crime to immorality. Is there any agreement over what is morally wrong or right? Should all moral wrongs be crimes? It could also be asked whether all crimes are moral wrongs. In a strict legal sense, crime is the breaking of rules or laws for which some governing authority (via mechanisms such as legal systems) can ultimately prescribe a conviction. Crime in the social and legal framework is the set of facts or assumptions that are part of a case in which there were committed acts punishable under criminal law, and the application of which depends on the agent of a sentence or security measure criminal. In criminal law, crime is an act of omission which attracts sanctions such as fines, imprisonment or even death. According to Oxford Dictionary of Sociology (2009:139) “a crime is held to be an offence, which goes beyond the personal and into the public sphere, breaking prohibitory rules or laws, to which legitimate punishments or sanctions are attached, and which requires the intervention of a public authority... for crime to be known as such, it must come to the notice of, and be processed through, an administrative system or enforcement agency. It must be reported and recorded by the police (or other investigator); it may then become part of criminal statistics; may or may not be investigated; and may or may not result in a court case.”

Furthermore, a normative definition views crime as a deviant behaviour that violates prevailing norms – cultural standards prescribing how human beings ought to behave normally. This approach considers the complex realities surrounding the concept of crime and seeks to understand how changing social, political, psychological and economic conditions may affect the

current definitions of crime and the form of legal, law enforcement and penal responses made by society. For example, as cultures change and the political environment shifts, certain behaviour may be 'criminalized' or 'decriminalized', which will directly affect the statistical crime rates, determine the allocation of resources for the enforcement of such laws and influence general opinion.

The conflict orientation sees crime in the perspective of the ruling class. They defined crime as an act or behavior selectively identified by the few who governed in the society.

Society consists of competing interest groups which are in conflict with each other, due to unequal distribution of wealth which results in inequality in economic and social powers. According to Quinney (1980), "dominant class creates laws that will protect their own interests. That lower class crime as a function of miserable life condition and conflict with the interest of the dominant class; and that the dominant class constructs beliefs about crime which makes the dominant class look good and the powerless look bad."

Dambazau (1994), defined crime as "an act or omission against public interest, and which is prescribed by law enacted by the legislature in the overall interests of the society, and to which prescribed punishment is attached in the event of violation and it involves four major principles which are public wrong, moral wrong, law and punishment for the criminal. Crime is also seen as a violation of the rules agreed to be respected by all members of the society, and upon which the rest members of the society mete sanction upon those guilty of the violation. It is for the same reason that the legal system views crime as a public and moral wrong. For Mathews (1993), crimes are the outcome of social changes, which is brought about by social developments and

exposure of Nigerians to the Western culture and their life style. Crime is in an important sense, a socially constructed phenomenon. Its meaning is profoundly influenced by considerations of time and space. Its construction is based upon the interaction of four key elements – victims, offenders, the state and the public. The interaction of four key elements which are – victims, offenders, the state and the public. Criminologists infer that crime has two major elements, - criminal act which is either a commission or an omission and mental element which is called the criminal intent/committed. Both of the elements may pose serious threat to the physical, mental health, life and property. Therefore, crimes must have these two elements and if either of them is lacking, then there is no crime.

#### **2.2.4 The Concept of Crime Prevention**

Crime prevention is an attempt to eliminate crime either prior to the initial occurrence or before further activity. According to the NCPI, crime prevention is a practical method for the direct control of crime. It involves analyzing criminal attack methods and designing specific actions within the environments of potential victims to reduce criminal opportunities and manage the crime risk.

### **2.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.3.1 Functionalist Perspective**

The functionalist or consensus approach is a model upheld tenaciously by orthodox western social scientists. It posits that behavior in society is structured. This means that relationships between members of society are organized in terms of rules. Social relationships are therefore patterned and recurrent (Harlambos and Holborn, 2005: 10).

Functionalists believe that there is value consensus in every social reality. They believe that there is general agreement by members of a society on what is desirable, worthwhile, and worthless.

People share consensus on the values, norms, and beliefs of a society. A high degree of consensus in a society whether it is democratic or communist, binds members together to form an integrated and cohesive unit. Functionalists also assume that societies and phenomena are pervaded by stability. The theory assumes that a certain degree of order and stability is necessary for the survival of social system. Functionalists downplay the conflict in society between classes and believe that once norms and values are maintained, the society would be conflict free.

Emile Durkheim is the most influential of the early functionalists and is viewed as the originator of functionalism. The theory was developed by Talcott Parsons in the twentieth century.

Durkheim's concept looks at society as a set of interrelated parts which together form a whole. It considers society as a structural system made up of interrelated parts. The social system has certain basic needs that must be met if it is to survive. These needs are known as functional prerequisites. This means that each part, will in some way, affect every other part and the system as a whole. It also follows that the survival of the system depends on the compatibility of the various parts. Since the Nigeria Police is an integral part of the Nigeria social system, its ineffectiveness and poor job performance has implication on the overall security of the society.

Other agencies that provide security become impacted as a result of the inability of the police to perform their function effectively. The inability of the police to perform their duties effectively has affected the overall security of the nation because people feel very unsafe to go about their

regular businesses. Thus, the inability of the police to perform their duties effectively affects the economy, polity, and the family.

## **2.4 HISTORY OF THE NIGERIA POLICE**

The Nigerian police was established by the British colonial administration in 1861 to enforce sanitary regulations in Lagos. The British colonial administration, who was responsible for the administration of Lagos, realized that its assignment included the maintenance of law and order.

In 1861, the British were granted permission from London to create the Consular Guard, which comprised of 30 men. In 1863, the Consular Guard became known as the “Hausa Guard”. The Hausa Guard was regularized in 1979 by an Ordinance creating a Constabulary for the Colony of Lagos. The force was mainly paramilitary in nature, but performed some civil police functions (Kupolati, 2007: 8). The Hausa Guard, which consists of Hausa-speaking ex-slaves was established to undertake semi-military duties of pacifying the indigenous population and ensuring colonial political domination (Igbo, 1999: 120). In 1896, the Lagos Police Force was created and armed like the Hausa Constabulary.

In 1894, the Niger Coast Constabulary was formed for areas now known as Delta, Rivers and Cross-Rivers states, following the proclamation of the Niger Coast Protectorate in 1893. In 1888, the Royal Niger Constabulary was established in Northern Nigeria which was later split into Northern Nigeria Police Force and the Northern Nigeria Regiment. (Iwarimie-jaja, 2003: 396). In 1914, the Northern and Southern police forces were united and in 1930, the present Nigeria Police Force, with headquarters in Lagos, was fully established (Igbo, 1999: 120). An Inspector General of Police was appointed as the Commander that was replaced with Commissioner in

1937, but reverted to its original title of Commissioner in 1951 after the introduction of a new Constitution. The title „Commissioner“ was assigned to the officers in charge of the Regions (Kupolati, 2007:8).

The amalgamation of the Southern and Northern Police Forces in 1914 also saw the establishment and formation of special police branches such as the Criminal Investigation Department, the Immigration and Passport Control, the Central Motor Registry, the Police Colleges, the Force Communication, the Police Band etc. (IwarimieJaja, 2003: 397). The unification of the forces also made it imperative to fight the alarming increase in such crimes as murder, manslaughter, counterfeiting, theft, house-breaking, child stealing, illegal distillation of gin and illegal mining (Igbo, 1999: 122). The force was reconstituted and a Police Council vested with powers in respect of policy, organization, finance, establishments and condition of service was created.

## **2.5 ORIGIN OF COMMUNITY POLICING**

The central tenets of community policing that stresses involvement and responsiveness to the community are similar to the principle set forth by Sir Robert Peel in 1829 when he opined that the police are the public and the public are the police. However, as the police evolved in the United States, they grew further apart from the public they served. This social distance by the police away from the public was enhanced due to the advent of patrol cars which replaced the traditional foot patrol.

Traditional police departments are insular organizations that respond to calls for service from their offices. This insular professional approach began to change in many agencies in the late

1970s and early 1980s. During this period, there was a paradigm shift in America from the traditional, professional model of policing to a more community partnership and proactive model of policing (Wroblewski and Hess, 2003:134-135).

Thus, Community policing started in the United States as a way of shifting police from its traditional reactionary way of policing to a more proactive policing. For decades, the U.S. police followed professional model, which rested on three foundations: preventive patrol, quick response time, and follow-up investigation. Sensing that the professional model did not always operate as efficiently and effectively as it could, Criminal justice researchers set out to review current procedures and evaluate alternative programme. One of the first known of these studies was the Kansas City, Missouri, Preventive Patrol Experiment. The study found that preventive patrol did not necessarily prevent crime or reassure citizens. Following the study, many police departments assigned police units to proactive patrol. Another of such significant study was that done by James Q. Wilson and George Kelling. They introduced the theory of “broken windows”.

The theory assumes that a community will be free of major crime if minor crimes are gotten rid of. They concluded that in order to solve both minor and major problems in a neighborhood and to reduce crime and fear of crime, police must be in close, regular contact with citizens. That is police and citizens should work cooperatively to build a strong sense of community and should share responsibility in the neighborhood to improve the overall quality of life within the community (Bohm and Halen, 2005; 214- 2 15).

## 2.6 PHILOSOPHY OF COMMUNITY POLICING

The philosophy of community policing is for citizens and police to share responsibility for their community's safety. It means that citizens and the police will work collectively to identify problems, propose solutions, implement action and evaluate the results in the community. The idea of Community policing is quite different from traditional policing that emphasizes strict police authority on crime prevention. In community policing, the police must share power with residents of a community, and critical decisions need to be made at the community level, rather than at police stations (Bohm and Halen, 2005: 215). The goal of community policing is to decentralize police decision making authority. To achieve this goal, it requires the successful implementation of three essential and complementary components or operational strategies namely community partnership, problem solving, and change management (Ibid, 2005: 215).

Community policing was intended to address the causes of crime and reduce the fear of crime in affected communities. It employs creative management styles so as to engage responsible members of the public in proactive problem-solving tactics to minimize the level of criminal activities and facilitate law enforcement in the communities. The core elements of community policing are as follows:

- A broader definition of police work;
- A reordering of police priorities giving greater attention to crime and disorder;
- A focus on problem-solving and prevention, rather than incident driven policing;
- A recognition that the „community“, however defined, plays a critical role in solving neighborhood problems, and

- A recognition that police organization must be restructured and reorganized to be responsive to the demands of this new approach and to encourage a new pattern of behavior;
- A recognition that police services, operation and management must be decentralized for effectiveness, so that local police officers can speedily address problems and needs encountered at the local levels;
- That the training of police officers must cover the areas of social interactions and problem-solving in addition to traditional policing skills;
- There must be a partnership between the police and the communities in defining or identifying, local problems and needs and developing solutions to identified problems;
- Commitment to development of long-term and proactive policies and programmes to prevent crime and disorder (Law and Justice in Emerging Democracies 2006:13)

## **2.7 ADVENT OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN NIGERIA**

As a result of the public distrust of the police, the former TO, Balogun, in 2003 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 with the help of the British government, he introduced a pilot community policing project in Enugu State (Ibeanu, 2007) Tafa Balogun's eight point's agenda state in nutshell as follows:

1. Massive onslaught against robbers, gruesome murder, assassination and other crimes of violence against the backdrop of which operation Pire for Fire" was adopted as a methodology.
2. Fast decisive crime/ conflict management.
3. Community partnership in policing, the modern approach all over the world.
4. Serious anti-corruption crusade, both within and outside the Force.

5. Comprehensive training programme conducive for qualitative policing.
6. Improved conditions of service and enhanced welfare package for officers, inspectors and rank and file.
7. Inter-service/agency cooperation at all levels down the line.
8. Robust public relations necessary for the vision of people's Police (Ibeanu, 2007:63).

When Mike Okiro became JO in 2007, he introduced a "9-way test". The high points of these programme are: transparency and accountability, war on corruption and crime, crime prevention, upgrading intelligence and crime database, improved training, improving the public image and public relations of the police, improving human rights record of the police and interagency cooperation, since 2004, when the Community Policing pilot project was introduced in Enugu State, it has also been implemented in other states such as Ogun, Ondo, Kano, Jigawa, Anambra, Sokoto, Cross River and Edo States (Ibeanu, 2007: 65).

## **2.8 PROBLEMS FACING THE NIGERIA POLICE**

The Nigeria police is faced with several problems some of which include, nepotism, ethnicism, corruption, institutional weaknesses such as inadequate manpower (both in strength and expertise), insufficient education and training, inadequate equipment and poor conditions of service of the average policeman, poor public relations between subordinate and superior officers, lack of public cooperation, Constitutional problem that put the whole country's police under the Presidency, and most recently, the poor perception of police by both police officers and the public (Ibeanu,2007: 59-60; Iwarimie-Jaja, 2003: 410; Igbo, 1999: 130). These problems have hindered, to a very large extent, the ability of the Nigeria police to perform their functions

effectively. However, in the 1990s and 2000 to 2003 several efforts have been made to reform the police and to address some of these problems especially in areas of staff recruitment, purchase of equipment and provision of logistics particularly transportation and remuneration.

Despite all efforts by the government, the Nigeria Police Force still struggles in its ability to perform their primary responsibility of fighting. There is alarming increase in crime rate and corruption within the force is still endemic, thereby leading to public distrust of police officers.

The public looks at police officers with scorn, distrust and suspicion. They do not consider them as friends and allies in the fight against crime but rather as enemies on the side of the criminals (Igbo, 1999: 130).

Due to this poor perception of the police, the public are reluctant to provide any form of support or cooperation to the police. This lack of trust in the police often leads to a resolve by the public not to cooperate with them in crime fighting, and sometimes resort to lynching of suspects by angry mobs (Igbo, 1999: 130). In fact, the relationship between the police and the public is very often characterized by brutality, confrontation, and exploitation (Ibeanu, 2007: 58).

## **2.9 STRATEGIES OF COMMUNITY POLICING**

Basically, there are three strategies of community policing: community partnerships, organizational transformation, and problem-solving.

**Community partnerships:** consisting of collaborative partnerships between the police and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in

police (Chene, 2012). For instance, it was instructed in the Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century policing (2015) that:

Community policing requires the active building of positive relationships with members of the community-on an agency as well as on a personal basis. This can be done through assigning officers to geographic areas on a consistent basis, so that through the continuity of assignment they have the opportunity to know the members of the community (P.42).

Similarly, Policing agencies are unlikely to be successful in creating partnerships to address violent crimes until they establish trusting relationships with the communities they serve (Schanzer et al. 2016). The community policing strategies employed under this category included community assessments and engagement, and efforts to educate members of the public, private, and non-profit communities. The strength of this strategy is the value of information collected from residents and other stakeholders about the issues and concerns of the community that can help inform police activities that are best suited to address these concerns.

**Organizational transformation:** involving the alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel and information systems to support community partnerships and collaborative/proactive problem-solving (Chene, 2012).

**Problem-solving:** problem-solving is defined as the process of engaging in proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and rigorously evaluate effective responses. Problem solving is new way of policing to address not only the causes of crime and the fear of crime but all quality of life issues in the community.

## **2.10 CHALLENGES TO COMMUNITY POLICING IN NIGERIA**

Despite numerous efforts by various police administrations to curtail the level of crime in Nigeria, crime and social disorder still persist in the country. Thousands of lives and millions of naira worth of property are being lost as a result of one crime or the other. Some believed that the inability of the Nigeria police to ensure maximum security in the country is as a result of so many social and technical constraints, among which are lack of equipment and sour relationship between police and public ( Dawn Newspaper, 2011).

**Corruption:** Wide spread corruption in the Nigeria police force is fueling abuses against ordinary citizens and severely undermining the rule of law in Nigeria on a daily basis. Countless ordinary Nigerians are accosted by armed police officers who demand bribes and commit human rights abuses against them as a means of extorting money. These abuses range from ordinary arrest and unlawful detention to threats and acts of violence, including sexual assault, torture, and even extrajudicial killings (Human Rights Watch, 2010).

Police is not unique. Corruption exists in the Nigeria police force much the same as it does in any other police organisation the world over, except perhaps, in terms of its extent and the organisation's reaction to it.

However, the issue of corruption in the Nigeria police as noted above cannot be treated in isolation of the larger society. Police routinely extort money from victims of crimes to initiate investigations and demand bribes from suspects to drop investigations. Corruption in the police is so endemic that it has eroded public trust and confidence they have in the police. To achieve any success in combating corruption in the Nigerian police one has to take a holistic approach and most importantly understanding the growth and existence of corruption within the police.

**Institutional Constraints:** According to Onyeozili (2005), allegations levelled against the institution and its personnel, some of which have proven to be true, include arbitrariness in exercising its power, corruption, perversion of justice, and delays in the administration of justice. Various factors have been blamed as constituting a stumbling block to the effective administration of justice and efficient maintenance of law and order in Nigeria. Other factors are inadequate manpower (both in strength and expertise), insufficient education and training, inadequate equipment, and poor conditions of service of the average policeman. The long-term failure of the Nigerian authorities to address police bribery, extortion, and wholesale embezzlement threatens the basic rights of all Nigerians. Therefore, good policy is the bedrock for the rule of law and public safety according to Dufka (2010).

In a research conducted by Human Rights Watch in 2010 on 145 victims of and witnesses to police corruption in Nigeria. Among them are market traders, commercial drivers, sex workers, criminal suspects, and victims of common crime, rank-and-file and senior level police officers; federal government officials; judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, religious and civil society leaders, journalist, diplomats and members of an armed vigilante group.

Findings from the research shows “the myriad forms of police corruption in Nigeria” and “also show how institutionalized extortion and a profound lack of political will to reform the force, and impunity combine to make police corruption a deeply embedded problem”. This includes cases of extortion, bribery, embezzlement, and failure of oversight functions. One corrupt practice detailed in the findings is called “returns” in which rank- and – file officers are compelled to pay up the chain of command a share of the money they extort from the public. “Another form of

corruption the report noted is the practice of forcing crime victim “to pay the police to conduct every stage of an investigation (Human Right Watch, 2010).

Mammus (2010) further stressed that the major challenge of policing is the manpower shortage, inadequate funding, inadequate logistic support and infrastructure, lack of serviceable information and technological equipment to cover all the areas of the State are responsible for the current state of the police in Nigeria.

The police is arguably the most visible agent of government and citizens often assess the character of a government through its police force. This is because the police are the “guardians” of society. To a large extent, the growth, action and behaviour of the police as an institution not only reflect the political and economic character of society, but also mirror what those in power are willing or able to tolerate or condone or perhaps even demand of the police (ICPC,2008).

**Police Perception:** Another important factor that has been neglected for many years is the perception of the police force itself by the police officers. Questions that readily come to mind are: What is police officer’s perception of the citizens they claimed to be serving? What is the perception of citizens to police officers in Nigeria? To be frank, the image of police in the eyes of Nigerians is bad arising from all the factors enumerated above.

**Military Orientation:** The police as it is now came out of a military administration. That is probably the biggest challenge we face – turning it from a force into a service. Although Iwar (2009) agrees that police officers often lack the skills needed to police effectively, but refuses to admit the most serious allegations made about the police – that they brutally torture and sometimes kill suspects without –trial (Iwar, 2009)

**Godfatherism:** is an endemic problem in Nigeria, which the police still battle with. Godfatherism is the funding and abetting of vices and shielding “connected” criminals from justice by government agents and highly placed officials entrusted with the power and authority to investigate and prosecute such vices. It has become a dominant issue in African polity and impedes the course of justice in virtually all the countries in Africa (Onyeozili, 2005). Furthermore, many highly placed public officers in Nigeria are known to pervert the course of justice by the virtue of their closeness to the seat of power. Often, the police get sucked in, and this accounts for their complicity in several unresolved crimes across the country.

According to Alemika (1993b), many of these problem in the Nigeria police force are self – evident and have been sources of serious concern to the public, governments, police authorities and officials, the mass media and human rights organization in the country. What is required is a determination to address the problems.

The knowledge of human rights among the majority of policemen is poor. This might be as a result of the long period of military rule. Although policemen are taught the principles of the rule of law, in reality this is not put into practice because military rule does not recognize the rule of law. In the new democratic dispensation, policemen should be given intensive on-the-job training on citizens’ fundamental rights which they must uphold at all times.

## **2.11 PROSPECTS OF COMMUNITY POLICING IN NIGERIA**

Community policing in Nigeria presumes that it demands better communication and understanding between police and public; it encourages more liberal and tolerant attitude towards

criminal. Proactive policing is therefore, more effective both in preventing offending and in achieving offender detection and remedial action post offence.

The Nigerian community policing was on the same ideal that is not only for uniform patrol or specific community policing units rather the potential rewards cannot be fully realized unless there is a shared understanding of the community towards that approach throughout the police organization. Community policing therefore requires the integrated involvement of all departments and functions with their combined efforts and expertise being focused on community based actions plan to addressing local priorities.

Community policing in Nigeria does not replace all other policing styles and methods but harness core policing functions such as traffic enforcement, crime prevention as well as public order management. These responsibilities remain essential and are entirely compatible and complementary if they meet the performance standards and criteria demanded by the community policing (The Dawn Newspaper, 2011).

According to Ikuteyijo (2009), community policing entails community partnership in creating a safe and secure environment for all. It is policing whereby the people take active part in their own affairs. With community policing, the police is not seen as a stranger whose presence stands for danger and imminent hazard, but as partners in development. He further stressed that the unfriendly nature of the relationship between the police and members of the public has enjoyed a wide coverage among scholars. It was in reaction to this development that the concept of community policing was introduced. This is particularly the case in Nigeria where the informal ethnic militia groups contested policing space with the Nigerian police in the early year of the forth republic which began in May 1999.

The Nigeria police force has not met the minimum demands of democratic policing which cardinal elements are “Justice, equality, accountability, and efficiency” (Law Commission of Canada, 2002). These elements imply the following: Justice means that all individuals ought to be treated fairly and their rights are respected.

Equality means, first, that all...ought to receive policing service sufficient to feel safe in their community.

Equality also means that there ought to be representative participation from all members of society in the delivery of policing services. i.e. that it requires equal and inclusive security forces. Accountability means that the actions of a body are subjected and that there are formal channels that individuals can use to lodge a complaint. Finally, efficiency means that services are provided in a cost-effective manner (Law Commission of Canada, 2002:3).

## **2.12 ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF COMMUNITY POLICING**

Community policing brings police and citizens together to prevent crime and solve neighborhood problems. With community policing, the emphasis is on stopping crime before it happens, not responding to calls for service after the crime occurs. Community policing gives citizens more control over the quality of life in their community. Community policing means police become part of the neighborhood. This helps police get a better sense of resident's needs and helps residents to develop greater trust in the police. In essence the community joins the police department. Those "who believe that community policing is practiced in their neighborhood are more likely to express favorable opinions of the police."(Weitzer & Tuch, 2006, p. 45) 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).

Community policing is seen as an effective way to promote public safety and to enhance the quality of life in a community. Community policing plays a pivotal role in the two defining elements of policing: police-community relations and problem-solving. "First, it should broaden police organization goals ...Second, it should alter the way police are organized to accomplish their goals." (Weisburd & Braga, 2007, p. 47) Active participation is required from the local government to the average citizen in order for community policing to work. Everyone is responsible for safeguarding the welfare of the neighborhood. Unlike traditional policing methods, the goals of policing are expanded and the perception of community is changed. Traditional policing assumes that the problems of society are not within the realm of the police department. Traditional police departments are strictly reactive and don't look beyond efficiently resolving the immediate incident at hand. Police officers are tied to the dispatcher and rarely have time to do more than answer one call after another. The police department, as an organization, separates itself from the city's infrastructure and from city services.

Implementing community policing changes the structure of policing and how it is managed. Community policing helps build up and strengthen the community. It also links the police and the community together. The partnership that develops over time can ultimately help the police find the underlying causes of crime within the neighborhood. By getting the community involved, the police have more resources available to them to help in crime prevention. By familiarizing themselves with the members of the community, officers are more likely to obtain valuable

information about criminals and their activities. Also, they are more likely to obtain a reliable evaluation of the needs of citizens and their expectations of the police.

As previously stated, community policing plays a major part in police-community relations and problem-solving. In order to develop a partnership with the community, first the police must form a great relationship with the neighborhood. The police must try to involve the neighborhood in its pursuit to control crime. Most community concerns and solutions are identified through problem-solving. The objective is to lessen crime and disorder by diligently examining the attributes of concerns in communities and then applying the most suited problem-solving solutions.

With any method of policing there are going to be advantages and disadvantages. One of the main advantages to community policing is that it reduces fear in the community. With an increase in police presence in the neighborhood the residents feel more secure. This feeling of security helps the police establish trust within the community. As citizens become more active in taking care of their community, they start to understand what officers actually do on a day-to-day basis. This improves police-community relations. Ultimately, quality of life for the community improves and crime is reduced. Another advantage is that community policing is flexible and capable of changing. The solutions and strategies change as the community changes. If a plan works in one community it doesn't mean that it will work in all communities. Community policing allows the community to come up with solutions that will work within their own neighborhood and to change or eliminate those that do not work. Community policing can be implemented in a limitless number of ways. This is also true of problem-solving. They both are only limited by one's imagination. Community policing offers a myriad of benefits. Making

effective use of the talents and resources available within communities will help extend severely strained police resources. Also, reduced levels of crime will allow more police resources to be allocated to services that have the greatest impact on the quality of community life.

A major disadvantage is that the only way that community policing is with community involvement. There must be an established partnership between the police officers and the community. Without the trust and involvement of the community, any attempts at community policing will fail. "Police and there would-be partners do not always value the same, or even compatible, things" (Thatcher, 2001, p. 766). Effective community policing requires a long-term commitment from everyone involved. It is not a quick fix. Ongoing relationships must be established and maintained. Another disadvantage to community policing is making sure that the right people are heading up the project. The focus should be of improving the community and not using the program to advance their own personal career or agendas. Also, programs like community policing can be regressive. Oftentimes when there is a problem that requires help from the community it seem like the same people always step forward. These are usually the homeowners that have longstanding ties to the community. Community policing requires everyone's involvement, not just the homeowners.

"Over a decade after it was first introduced, community policing remains the most important innovation in American policing today." (Forman, Autumn 2002, p.1) 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. Also, with the police more involved in the daily activities of the community will aid in the revitalization of the

community. This can only happen if both the police and the community are willing to put in the time, effort, and patience that is required when implementing the community policing program.

## **SUMMARY OF REVIEW**

There is every need to reposition the police in Nigeria to conform to what is obtainable in other countries of the world. Security is a very sensitive issue and no nation can afford to toy with it. Corruption has eaten deep into the fabric of Nigerian society and seems intractable, but the situation can be remedied given disciplined and forthright leadership and a citizenry that is united in its resentment to corruption. The police force as an institution is one that the Nigerian society cannot do without. It is however, necessary that in-depth and comprehensive reforms be carried out within it to make it a force that will satisfactorily discharge its constitutional duties without alienating, or making itself an enemy, of the Nigerian people.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter is concerned with the methodology used in achieving the objectives of the study. It covers research design, study area, population of the study, sample size, sampling techniques, instrument for data collection, sources of data collection, validity of research instrument, reliability of the instrument, administration of the instrument, method of data analysis and decision rule.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study employed the use of survey research design. The choice of this research design was considered appropriate because of its advantages of identifying attributes of a large

population from a group of individuals. The design was suitable for the study as the study sought to examine subject matters using the staff members of security agencies in Delta State.

### 3.2 The Study Area

This study was conducted in Delta State. The choice of this study area was informed by its involvement in the subject matter in the state.

### 3.3 Population of the Study

The population of this study consisted of One Hundred and Fifty (150) staff members of security agencies in Uvwie Local Government, Delta State.

### 3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

As a result of the inability of the researcher to effectively study the whole staff strength (population) of the organization, a representative number was chosen as the sample size population. One Hundred (100) staff was used as the sample size. The sample size was calculated using the Taro Yamane scientific formula which is given as:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where:

**N** is the Population

**1** is the constant

**e** is the degree of error expected

**n** is the sample size

$$n = 30$$

$$1 + 30 (0.05)^{2\lambda}$$

30

$$1 + 30 (0.0025)$$

30

$$1 + 0.075$$

30

$$1 .075$$

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$$n = 28$$

### **3.5 Sources of Data Collection**

Data were collected from primary and secondary sources. Primary data were obtained through questionnaire and personal interviews with both management and senior staff members of security agencies in Delta State. This method was adopted to enable detailed and independent information not covered by the questionnaire to be expressed by the respondents. Secondary data were obtained from published reports, books, internet, journals, newspapers and magazines. For analytical comparison of facts and proper compilation of facts and figures, survey of existing documents was deemed necessary.

### **3.6 Instrument for Data Collection**

Data were collected through questionnaire carefully designed and administered to the respondents, as well as through personal interviews. On the whole, the questionnaire constituted the major instrument for data collection. The questionnaire contains sections A and B. Section A contains personal information about the respondents. Section B is the main body of the questionnaire. This section contains sixteen (16) close ended questions using a four (5) point scale instrument through which the opinions of the respondents were expressed. Their responses were measured by means of a four category rating system:

SA	-	Strongly agree	5
A	-	Agree	4
D	-	Disagree	3
SD	-	Strongly disagree	2
UD	-	Undecided	1

### **3.7 Validity of Research Instrument**

The validity of the research instrument was assessed by the supervisor and other experts in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin. These experts assessed the relevance of each item in relation to the objectives of the study, the hypotheses to be tested as well as the comprehensibility of each item in relation to the cognitive level of the respondents. They validated the instrument by effecting necessary corrections, examining the contents and ascertaining clarification of ideas as well as appropriateness of the items.

### **3.8 Reliability of the Instrument**

Reliability in this context refers to the measure of consistency of the instrument used in eliciting relevant and desirable responses from respondents so that the objectives can be reliably and meaningfully achieved. In order to determine the reliability of the instrument used in the study, the corrected questionnaire was administered randomly on selected staff and members of security agencies in Delta State. This approach was repeated with the same group after a two – month’s period and the results obtained from the first and second pre-test were consistent, therefore, the instrument is reliable.

### **3.9 Administration of the Instrument**

The questionnaires were personally administered by the researcher to the respondents during official hours at the office. The exercise was done with the help of head of operations of the organization. This enhanced return rate of above 70%.

### **3.10 Method of Data Analysis**

Tables and simple percentage was used as technique of analyzing the research questions while chi-square was used to test the research hypotheses. All the tests were conducted at 0.05 level of significance.

### **3.11 Decision Rule**

The decision to either reject or accept the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) was reached using the following rules:

If the calculated value ( $t_{cal}$ ) is greater than the table value ( $t_{tab}$ ), the null hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) will be rejected in favor of the alternative hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) and if the table value ( $t_{tab}$ ) is greater than

the calculated value (t-cal) the alternative hypothesis (Hi) will be rejected in favor of the null hypothesis.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

This section presents the results of the field study; it shows the descriptive information of the respondents, the results of each of the research questions.

#### 4.1 Demographic Information of the Respondents

**Table 4.1: Distribution of the Respondents based on their Gender**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
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	Male	50	50.0	50.0	50.0
Valid	Female	50	50.0	50.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

The table above indicates the distribution of the respondents for this study based on the agenda of the respondents. The table showed that the respondents for the study are equally distributed between male and women, as each of the sexes make up of 50% of the total respondents. This is to ensure gender balance in the responses that is sought for in the study.

**Table 4.2: Distribution of the Respondents based on their Marital Status**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent	
Valid	Married	50	50.0	50.0	50.0
	Single	25	25.0	25.0	75.0
	Widow	15	15.0	15.0	90.0
	Separated	5	5.0	5.0	95.0
	Divorced	5	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

The tables 4.2 above revealed that majority of the respondents for this study are married as indicated by about 50 percent of the total respondents. The table also shows that about 25 percent of the respondents are single, while the about 15 percent are widows. This indicates that majority

of the respondents are with family and children with the attendant responsibilities and maturity that comes with family and children.

**Table 4.3: Distribution of the Respondents based on their Age**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Below 20 years	20	20.0	20.0	20.0
21 -30 years	40	40.0	40.0	60.0
31-40 years	30	30.0	30.0	90.0
41 years and above	10	10.0	10.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

The table 4.3 above indicates the distribution of the respondents based on their age, the table shows that about 90 percent of the respondents used in this study are less than 40 years of age and this indicates the youthfulness in the category of the respondents used in this study. An indication that they are current with the happenings in the police force crime related activities.

**Table 4.4: Distribution of the Respondents based on their Religion**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Christianity	55	55.0	55.0	55.0
Islam	30	30.0	30.0	85.0

Others	15	15.0	15.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

The table 4.4 above displays the distribution of the respondents for this study based on their religion, the table indicates that majority of the respondents approximately 55 percent of them are Christians, while about 30 percent are Muslim. This shows that there is a significant number of the Muslims living in the state.

#### 4.2 Answers from the Research Questions

**Research Question One:** What is the prevalence of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria?

**Table 4.5: Responses of the respondents on the prevalence of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
High	75	75.0	75.0	75.0
Valid Medium	25	25.0	25.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

From the responses of the respondents as indicated on table 4.5 above, we can infer that the prevalence of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria is high. This is owing to the fact that about 75 percent of the total respondents affirm to the assertion as indicated on the table.

However, about 25 percent of the respondents failed to agree with the assertion

**Research Question Two:** What are the factors that affect community policing in Nigeria?

Table 4.6: Responses of the respondents on the factors that affect community policing in Nigeria

S/N	Decision	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
1	Corruption	100	2.6324	1.36330	Accepted
2	Institutional Constraints:	100	2.8213	.75210	Accepted
3	Police Perception	100	2.7233	.98473	Accepted
4	Military Orientation	100	3.1234	.89893	Accepted
5	Godfatherism	100	2.6453	1.20605	Accepted
6	Poor funding	100	2.8122	.40202	Accepted
7	Modern day teaching aid make it easier for students to comprehend some adult terms in the curriculum	100	2.6324	.36440	Accepted
8	Modern day teaching aid make learning real and permanent	100	2.1213	.78210	Rejected
9	Modern day teaching aid promote total education in Nigeria	100	2.6544	.32454	Accepted
	Valid N (list wise)	100			

From the responses of the respondents as indicated on 4.6 above, it can be inferred that the factors affecting community policing in Nigeria include but not limited to corruption; institutional constraints; police perception; military orientation; godfatherism and poor funding. All these are as agreed by the majority of the respondents.

**Research Question three:** What are the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Nigeria?

Table 4.6: Responses of the respondents on the factors that affect community policing in Nigeria

S/N	Decision	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Decision
1	serious retraining towards attitudinal change	100	2.6324	.36440	Accepted
2	professional efficiency and proficiency	100	2.1213	.78210	Rejected
3	Equipping the police	100	2.6544	.32454	Accepted
4	giving the police vital information	100	3.1234	.89893	Accepted
5	Increasing funding for the police	100	2.6453	1.20605	Accepted
6	improvement in the conditions of services of policemen	100	2.8122	.40202	Accepted
7	Analyze historical data for past victims	100	2.7233	.98473	Accepted
8	Identify areas experiencing the highest level of trauma	100	3.1234	.89893	Accepted
9.	Focus on collaborative approaches to	100	2.6453	1.20605	Accepted

	policing				
10	Encourage consistent monitoring and screening	100	2.7233	.98473	Accepted
	Valid N (list wise)	100			

From the responses of the respondents as indicated on 4.6 above, it can be inferred that the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Nigeria include serious retraining towards attitudinal change; equipping the police; giving the police vital information; increasing funding for the Police and improving the conditions of service of policemen. All these are as agreed by the majority of the respondents.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Summary**

This study focused on the Effect of Community Policing on Crime Prevention in Nigeria. The study was set to address three objectives which include:

- i) To identify the prevalence of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria.
- ii) To determine the factors that affect community policing in Nigeria.
- iii) To inquire the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Nigeria.

Based on the above stated objectives and the study carried out, the following findings were made:

- i. That the prevalence of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria is high.
- ii. Inferred that the factors affecting community policing in Nigeria include but not limited to corruption; institutional constraints; police perception; military orientation; godfatherism and poor funding.
- iii. that the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Nigeria include serious retraining towards attitudinal change; equipping the police; giving the police vital information; increasing funding for the Police and improving the conditions of service of policemen.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

The main purpose of this study was to assess the Effect of Community Policing on Crime Prevention in Nigeria. All the staff members of security agencies in Nigeria including the Nigeria police, etc. were selected for the study. Three research questions guided the study.

In this study, a survey research design was adopted, the population comprises all the staff members of security agencies in Nigeria including the Nigeria police, etc., a simple random sampling technique was used to select 100 respondents from the population and a questionnaire was the instrument for data collection. Relevant literatures were reviewed which guided the

objectives and methodology of this study. As result of the field study and analysis of results, the following findings were made:

- i. That the prevalence of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria is high.
- ii. Inferred that the factors affecting community policing in Nigeria include but not limited to corruption; institutional constraints; police perception; military orientation; godfatherism and poor funding.
- iii. that the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Nigeria include serious retraining towards attitudinal change; equipping the police; giving the police vital information; increasing funding for the Police and improving the conditions of service of policemen.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- i. There should be serious retraining towards attitudinal change and professional efficiency and proficiency among both the rank and file and other officer cadre of the police.
- ii. There is need for the police to improve its public relationship. They should see Nigerians as their fellow human beings who deserve to be treated with a high level of courtesy and decorum.
- iii. The Federal Government should as a matter of urgency equip the police with ultra-modern arms and ammunitions as well as security gadgets. This has become necessary now more than ever to enable the force fight the gruesome scourge of armed robbery and orchestrated kidnappings ravaging the entire length and breadth of the country.

- iv. Nigerians should help the police to discharge their duties optimally. They could do this through giving vital information to them on the activities of undesirable elements in the society. Such invaluable information could help the police to perform creditably.
- v. The police should be shielded from political appointments. The role of law enforcement in any civilized society is to serve and protect the citizens. This is because political appointments corrupt the officials, destroy spirit de corps, skew their sense of neutrality and impartiality, and infuse a sense of allegiance to appointing authority. It is a major obstacle to police effectiveness and must be discouraged at all cost if improved police performance must be achieved.
- vi. There is the need for Government to steadily increase logistic funding, so that the police can work towards attaining the standard patrol practice of developed countries. There should be a massive injection of funds into the police force so that operational and logistics equipment can be acquired.
- vii. Crime in our society has become rather sophisticated. The police should, therefore, acquire up-to-date weapons and equipment, which it deems necessary for the successful performance of its duties. There should be an improvement in the conditions of services of policemen. This will go a long way in removing any justification or predisposing circumstances for corrupt practices or the extortion of the public in the performance of their duties.
- viii. The living conditions of policemen should be improved. Policemen live in barracks built several years ago which are poorly maintained.
- ix. Police authorities should put in place structures to motivate honest, dedicated and hardworking policemen. Promotion should be given to deserving officers as at when due.

This is because denial of promotion is a major cause of the low morale and that seems to have permeated and pervaded the entire force.

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**QUESTIONNAIRE ON EFFECT OF COMMUNITY POLICING ON CRIME  
PREVENTION IN NIGERIA**

Good day sir/ma,

I am ..... studying the effect of community policing on crime prevention in Nigeria. This study will be of help to the government in security reform. I hope to

have a few minutes of your time to fill out this questionnaire as all information provided on this questionnaire is highly confidential and can only be used for this research purpose. Your identity is not needed in any way.

There are different questions in this questionnaire; each question to be answered will be Strongly Agree, Agree, and Disagree and Strongly Disagree response. Please place a tick (“√”) mark on the box for your response.

Please tell me if you have any other questions about the research or how to fill in the questionnaire. On completion, please just hand back the form to me.

Thanks for your anticipated corporation.

**SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. Gender: Male  Female
2. Marital status: a) Married  b) Single  c) Widow  c) Separated  c) Divorced
3. Age: a) Below 20 years  b) 21-30 years  c) 31-40 years  d)41 years and above

**SECTION B: THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

What is the prevalence of community policing on crime reduction in Nigeria?

High  Medium  Low

What are the factors that affect community policing in Nigeria?

S/N	Statement	SD	D	A	SA
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1	Corruption				
2	Institutional Constraints:				
3	Police Perception				
4	Military Orientation				
5	Godfatherism				
6	Poor funding				

What are the efforts taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Nigeria?

S/N	Statement	SD	D	A	SA
1	Serious retraining towards attitudinal change				
2	Professional efficiency and proficiency				
3	Equipping the police				
4	Giving the police vital information				
5	Increasing funding for the police				
6	Improvement in the conditions of services of policemen				
7	Analyze historical data for past victims				
8	Identify areas experiencing the highest level of trauma				
9	Focus on collaborative approaches to policing				
10	Encourage consistent monitoring and screening				

Thank you.