

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Crime is said to be a serious social problem that directly reduces the quality of life of individuals and the community. It causes economics, health and psychological effects on victims and the society at large. Police are the most visible institution concerned with fighting crime twenty four hours a day and seven days a week. Michael. (2022) community policing has become a major issue for many countries and Nigeria is not an exception. According to Lurigio, (2014) community policing is the best way of policing currently, and Michael (2022) said that working together with the community on the basis of partnership should be the primary concern of the police.

According to Igbinovia (2016), Crime has brought about deterioration in both physical and mental health of the victims of crime. It created fear and caused alienation for members of the society. The economic losses as a result of crime are very costly. Various communities have adopted several methods of controlling crime. These methods are either formal or informal. Emeka (2014) explained that the informal method involves the direct or indirect socialization of individuals, especially through its customary culture while the formal method are sanctions employed by the government to enforce it laws and ensure conformity. These sanctions involve the use of rules and laws and law enforcement mechanisms such as imprisonment, f , fines and the police force. From the above it is evident that the police force arose in response to crime. The police force is a

formal means of control which is responsible for maintaining order in a society. It is an institution of the state set up by the state for the state.

Community policing is in hand 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 (Chika, 2014). 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 (Clinard, 2020).

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 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, Emeka (2014) 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 (Haralambous, 2018). This technique can be employed only in a physically and socially disorganised community. In more disorganized areas, some experts pointed out, police use aggressive tactics to reduce crime and 'take back the streets' before building relations with community leaders (Igbinovia, 2016).

1.2 Statement of the problem

In spite the efforts of various police administrations to curb 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 (Clinard, 2020).

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. 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 (Haralambous, 2018). Police not unique. 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 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To investigate the impact of the community policing in crime control in Oredo LGA, Edo State.
2. To examine the public perception of the community policing effectiveness in crime control in Oredo LGA, Edo State.
3. To ascertain the strength and weakness of the community policing in crime control in Oredo LGA, Edo State.
4. To recommend policy framework that will help policy makers in the area of community policy.

1.4 Research Questions

This study will attempt to answer the following research questions:

1. What is the impact of the community policing in crime control in Oredo LGA, Edo State?
2. What are the public perception of the community policing effectiveness in crime control in Oredo LGA, Edo State?
3. What is the strength and weakness of the community policing in crime control in Oredo LGA, Edo State?
4. What are the recommended policy framework that will help policy makers in the area of community policy?

1.5 Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this study will bring to limelight the activities of the police force in the rural areas as this study is centered on a rural community. Much attention is usually placed on the police and their activities in major cities. This is due to the high rate of crime that abounds in urban centers. Nevertheless, crime is a ubiquitous phenomenon and it exists even in rural areas.

This study will contribute to the general knowledge of the public about the police force and build on existing data and information in the area of the police force, crime prevention and control in rural areas. This study will also be useful to the Nigerian government in monitoring the activities of the police force in rural areas and also it will expose the areas which the police force appears to be lagging in, which most at times could be as a result of neglect on the part of the government and policymakers. This study will be useful to the police force as it will mirror the public opinion on the police force and their activities. It will make the police force aware of what the public, whom they serve, think of them.

The findings of this work will serve as one of the scholarly bases for further research in the areas of the Nigerian police and crime control. Generalization can be made from the findings of this work and this work can also be used as a reference point for further research pertaining to the police force and crime control.

1.6 Scope of the study

This study is primarily focused on Effect of Community Policing on Crime Prevention in Nigeria: A case study of Oredo LGA, Edo State. The study is restricted to how the community policing controls and prevents crime in these areas, their strength and weakness and the public perception of the police force in Oredo LGA.

1.7 Definition of terms

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

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In this chapter relevant literature on policing generally and community oriented policing in particular were reviewed. The study topic and objectives guided the review of these relevant literatures.

2.1 Community Policing

Community policing or neighbourhood policing or proximity policing has been variously defined, but they are all mainly different ways of saying the same thing. For example, Abdi (2016) write that community policing entails community partnership in creating a safe and secure environment for all in which people take active part in their own affairs. In the same vein, Alemika (2023) conceived community policing as a management strategy that promotes the joint responsibility of citizens and the police for community safety, through working partnerships and interpersonal contact.

Similarly, Bayley (2020) regarded community policing as a philosophy and strategy which is based on a partnership between the community and the police to find creative solutions for contemporary community problems, crime and other related matters. According to SAPS Police, community policing is a philosophy that guides police community partnerships and a problem-solving approach responsive to the needs of the community (Cheng, 2015). For Ellison (2016) community policing means making the police more cooperative with those who are not police. Ghazala (2023) community

policing refers to a shift from a military inspired approach to fighting crime to one that relies on forming partnership with constituents. Consequently, community policing has become a term used by both professionals and scholars alike to replace other terms such as foot patrol, crime prevention, problem-oriented policing, community-oriented policing, police-community relations and more. Therefore, community policing is a policing strategy or philosophy based on the notion that community interaction and support can help control crime and reduce fear, with community members helping to identify suspects, detain vandals and bring problems to the attention of police (Haarr, 2021).

In other words, community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem solving techniques, which proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder and fear of crime. Perhaps, the inference that can be distilled from these definitions is that community policing, unlike the authoritarian and autocratic character and top-down approach of traditional policing, is democratic, participatory and consultative, and bottom-top in approach which is why it is referred to as democracy in action (Aniche, 2018).

However, no matter how community policing is defined, it represents a paradigm shift away from traditional policing or traditional model of policing. The central theme is the collaboration of efforts between the police and the residence in combating crime and fear of crime. Community policing does not imply that the police are no longer in authority or that the primary duty of preserving law and order is subordinated, rather

community policing entails community partnership in creating a safe and secure environment for all (Kessler, 2017). From the foregoing, the basic elements or core components of community policing include community partnerships, organisational transformation and problem solving.

Community partnership is collaborative if partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organisation they serve, develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police. It involves confidence building measures and capacity building in which the partnerships are forged in conjunction with the other government agencies, community members and groups, human and social service providers, private businesses, and the media. This may involve establishment of ad hoc community liaison, where a community police officers goes out into the community and tries to find responsive people who are on the side of the police to serve as police informants.

Thus, through community partnership, community policing seeks to recontextualise the police, that is to say, community policing involves efforts to better link police and community (Lewis, 2019). In this regard, Bayley (2022) noted that some forces require community police officers to handle calls for police, many do not. Almost all community police officers are responsible for community crime prevention one way or the other. Some do foot patrolling, many do not. Some are given responsibility for diagnosing the needs of communities and coming up with solutions, utilising police and

non-police resources. Others are simply responsible for delivering traditional police services but are enjoined to do so in a more responsive and community-oriented way.

Also, Lurigio (2014) stated that community policing has increased the police forms to include issues such as public safety, crime prevention, fear of crime and community quality of life. Thus, communities are seen as participants in shaping police objectives and interventions as well as evaluating them. Capacity building in community policing or community-police partnership is focused on crime prevention and victim assistance. The police strengthens citizens' capacity and resolve to resist crime and recover from it.

Therefore, effective community policing depends on optimising positive contact between patrol officer and community members. Police departments may supplement automobile patrols with foot, bicycle, scooter and horseback as well as adding "mini-stations" to bring police closer to the community. Regular community meetings and to afford police and the community members opportunity to air concerns or views and find ways to address them. Officers working long-term assignments on the same shift and beat will become aware of the day-to-day or daily workings of the community. There is need for increased police presence in the community in order to reduce fear of crime among the community members thereby creating a sense of neighbourhood security. Fear must be reduced if community members are to participate actively policing, because people will not aid if they feel that their actions will jeopardise their safety.

2.3 Crime Prevention

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 (Mike, 2015). The profundity of the country's security problem is heightened by the daring disposition of the criminals as evidenced by their temerity to take their trades to the door steps of the men of the agency that is charged with the responsibility for protecting lives and property in a manner that suggests that they have conquered the territory (Lee, 2019). Crime is dysfunctional as it threatens the stability of society and it is therefore, a social problem that requires a concerted effort towards finding a lasting solution to it. It undermines the social fabric by eroding the sense of safety and security (Jerome, 2018).

In essence, efforts or attempts aimed at ensuring crime do not occur at any point whatsoever in the society is known as Crime prevention. Crime prevention has expanded and evolved substantially, from being seen as a relatively narrow policing function, to one which involves a much broader transversal approach, and multiple state and community actors. This has mirrored a more general shift among governments away from assuming exclusive responsibility for safety and security for all their citizens.

acknowledging the limitations of their ability to provide such security. It can also be linked to the evolution of policing approaches away from centralized and hierarchical models, to more community-based and problem solving approaches which engage the concrete concerns of local citizens.

2.3 Effectiveness of Community Policing

Though community policing remains an important strategy to crimes control in the world, it has never been free from challenges. Critics of the strategy claim that it is difficult to implement community policing because of its two ways traffic position. That is, it needs the effort from the police force as well as the community if it is to be successful (Goldstein, 2017). According to Harris (2014), the failures of community policing in accordance to its definition emanates from the history of the police force which has been interpreted in relation to the past mistakes and it will be very difficult to create totally new form of policing strategy.

Despite the relevance of the community policing in modern policing practice and the fact that there are many literatures on the subject by Nigerian authors, the program is not taken so serious in the country. Haarr (2021) acknowledges that fact that community policing has become a widespread model of policing in US. Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has been created by the Justice Department to support innovative work in Community Policing. Nigeria has embraced the philosophy since 2004, but it has not been given such importance in the country. Ikuteyijo (2019) reported

the outcome of a project on the implementation of a community policing between 2001 and 2007 undertaken by CLEEN Foundation. Being the first of its kind, the project had an initial pilot phase and a subsequent follow up phase that aimed to generate first-hand experience and lessons in the implementation of community policing in the country. Abiri (2021) observed that there are possible challenges with implementing the program, because people were politicizing it and the police were not supportive of the program.

In spite of high expectations and widespread support for community policing, the impact of such approaches on corruption and accountability has not been clearly established. In terms of anticorruption benefits, bringing police forces closer to the community can strengthen and weaken the accountability of the police to the public. For the latter, community policing could create more opportunities for corruption/unethical practices by promoting closer ties between the police and the community and providing opportunities for long-term personal interactions, preferential treatments and the development of corrupt networks (Jennifer, 2019). It seems pertinent to observe that the dismal image of the Nigeria Police accounts for the non-cooperation by the public who are often reluctant to volunteer useful information to the police.

Yet, the tasks of crime prevention and detection as well as prosecution of offenders cannot be successfully performed without the cooperation of the public. Other allegations leveled against the police include arbitrariness in the exercise of its powers of arrest and prosecution, corruption and perversion of justice, use of crude techniques of

investigation, collusion with criminals and incessant cases of accidental discharge of lethal bullets (Lurigio, 2014).

On the nature of community policing scholars, assert that it is not realistic to set objectives for the police and then to expect the police to establish schemes to meet those objectives and needs of the community (Michael, 2021). Instead the police should first consult with the community and thereafter set objectives that can solve the community problems at hand. There also seem to be problems with rank-and-file police officers in studies show that they sometimes do not understand what the goals and potential benefits of community policing are to the public as well as the government and the police force in particular (Mike, 2015). This was also the biggest problem experienced in the past and the failure to motivate the street officers involved in community policing results into bribery, corruption and robbery as the police officers in community policing attempt to reward themselves from the public. Abdi (2016) concludes that in any future implementation of community policing, the problem and the resistance from lower ranking officers must be addressed but does not give how to address them. What are the your

2.4 Community Policing Strategy in Oredo LGA, Edo State

xThe Edo State Government has commenced training on weapons handling and intelligence gathering, among others, for members of the Edo State Security Network. The Coordinator of the Edo State Security Network, Col Kole Omomia (retd.), while

addressing journalists during the commencement of the programme at the Police Training School, Ogida, Benin City, said the programme would improve the government's efforts to combat crime in the state. He said the training followed the directive by Governor Godwin Obaseki to upstill the security architecture, equipping the operatives and better preparing them to handle complex security situations.

Community policing, the first major reform in policing in a half century, changes the way police think and act. This revolutionary movement broadens the police mandate beyond a strategies in narrow focus on fighting crime to include efforts that also address fear of crime, social and physical disorder, and neighbourhood decay. The community policing philosophy provides an organisational strategy that challenges police officers to solve community problems in new ways. Under community policing, police must form a partnership with people in a community allowing average citizens the opportunity to have input into the police process in exchange for their support and participation Community policing rests on the belief that contemporary community problems require a new decentralised and personalised police approach that draws citizens into the process of policing themselves (Alemika, 2023)

For more than 30 years, the police agencies have tried to gain the cooperation and respect of the communities they serve (Siegel & Senna, 2015). Community policing is therefore another evolutionary stage in police attempt to serve their community better.

According to (Bayley, 2020), community-oriented policing is a new set of procedures for making sure that the traditional objectives of police are accomplished better. Community policing as a philosophy seeks to engage a community as co-producer of law and order, from consulting the community, to involving them in solving crime and related social problems within the community (Andrew, 2019). However, (Aremu, 2022) believed that it is when the police and communities become-co-producers of crime prevention, that one can talk of community policingl being practised in such a community. So the central premise of community oriented policing is that the public should play a more active part in enhancing public safety. As a result of the contradictions and social crisis generated by professional policing styles, the police authorities therefore made efforts to enhance and improve their relationship with the community. In the view of (Aremu, 2019), in America, in response to the negative police image that emerged during the 1960s, several departments across the country established programmes to enhance their relationship with the communities they served. So, the main focus of this policing strategy was to serve the community in a more humane and respectable way by the police so as to regain their fading confidence and trust among the people.

Community policing is therefore a philosophy, management style and organisational that promotes proactive problem solving and police-community partnerships to address the causes of crime and fear as well as other community issues. (Nigeria Police Force Operational Hand Book, 2017). This synergy between the police and members of the community tends to foster a better relationship between the police

and the public. According to Paruch, (2018), as noted in Arisukwu (2022) law enforcement has gone through an evolutionary change where community policing has become the norm rather than the exception for many departments. Simply put, community-oriented policing is based on the premise that partnerships between police and citizens will help increase public safety and reduce crime in society. This therefore means that where the community already have some local arrangement or vigilante groups that secure its environment, such community efforts should be assimilated, trained and supervised by the police and not discredited at face value by the police. Community-oriented policing style balances reactive responses to calls for service with proactive problem solving centred on the cause of crime and disorder (Bayley, 2020). To be able to do this effectively, there has to be a drastic change in policing philosophy, recruitment, organizational structure and operating procedures. The police must be friendly and people oriented in the process of discharging its constitutional duties to society. Management's role must be reordered to focus the problems of the community the police serve. The traditional vertical police organisational chart must be altered so that top-down management gives way to bottom-up decision making (Brogden, 2015).

This bottom-up management style will aid free flow of ideas and feedback from the people up to the police authorities. It will ensure that the people generate solutions to their perceived security needs and are carried along in providing solutions to these identified security needs. Community-oriented policing equally promotes the decentralisation of police structure so that the patrol officers have the ability to resolve

emerging problems within their community without waiting for instructions from the police headquarters or state command for directives. This prompt response to identified problem makes community oriented policing strategy very pragmatic and useful in crime prevention and control in the community

2.5 Assumptions of Community-Oriented Policing

In order to be able to accomplish the mission, goals, and values of community policing, there is a need to make clear the assumptions of community policing. Police managers especially should be aware of community policing assumptions so that they will take the necessary actions to implement community policing effectively and properly. First, community policing assumes that the presence of the police through increased visibility reduces the public's fear of crime (Cheng, 2015). Traditional policing can play only a limited role in addressing fear of crime. The main reason here is that the bulk of traditional response is focused on dealing with crimes after they have been committed. On the other hand, community policing focuses on proactive methods to prevent crime. Community policing also requires more presence of officers in streets that reduce fear of crime (Chika, 2014). Furthermore, Manning argued that some groups in society do not want a continued police presence.

He also pointed out that wealthier people make use of police services at a greater rate than lower income people for less serious crime and less serious order maintenance. However, lower income people demand police service for violent crime and serious order

maintenance. Police presence, depending on the social class, race, and age of the neighbourhood, will reduce the likelihood of a crime being committed and fear of crime (Ebbe, 2022).

The second assumption is that the public is of one mind, a homogeneous populace whose satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the police can be readily measured (Ellison, 2016) The question is here how the police can define who the community is and determine what the community needs are. So, police departments should examine community preferences for different types of policing, and place the degree of importance on certain tasks according to demographic characteristics of neighbourhoods (George, 2018).

The third assumption is that the police should be responsible for actively helping to define and shape community norms (Igbinovia, 2016). This assumption is closely related to the goal of the use of police as agents of informal social control. There are many reasons why this should not occur. One reason is that it violates the political neutrality of the police. Another reason is if the police try to base their control on the informal norms of society, it may cause problems such as corruption. Furthermore, there are many different communities with varying expectations and norms. Consequently, it would be difficult to identify and keep track of these expectations and norms.

The informal control of a community may be overtly illegal and in conflict with the duty of the police to enforce legal norms. On this point the assumption is controversial because the police need to act within legal norms (George, 2016) Public

fear stems more from disorder than crime, this is the fourth assumption of community policing (Goldstein, 2017). Fear of crime and social disorder can be reduced through the use of order- maintenance techniques. However, it is also important to remember that fear of crime is a significant problem for only a portion of the population. Fear of crime is often unrelated to crime rates or probability of victimization. Moreover, research pointed out that not all members of society want the same police service or visibility. For example, blacks and renters were not affected by the attempts to reduce fear of personal victimisation and crime. Therefore, the assertion that public fear stems more from disorder than serious crime can be questioned based on how the public is defined (Haarr, 2021).

The fifth assumption is that signs of neglect and decay in neighbourhoods invite crime (Goldstein, 2017). In other words, signs of neglect and decay in neighborhoods may lead to increased fear of crime. Furthermore, fear of crime in deteriorating neighborhoods is increased if the racial composition of the neighborhood is changing At this point, closer community contact may be beneficial, for example foot patrol. According to Trojanowicz's findings in 1998, foot patrol reduces crime and fear of crime in target areas. However, even if foot patrol has the impact of reducing crime, there is a possibility that foot patrol simply displaces crime to other areas. There is also other research that indicates that there is a relationship between fear of crime and decay in neighborhoods. Thus, police departments cannot solve problems only with foot patrols (Himelfarb, 2020)

2.6 The Ten Principles of Community Policing

Community Policing is both a philosophy and an organizational strategy that allows the police and community residents to work closely together in new ways to solve problems of crime, fear of crime, physical and social disorder, and neighbourhood decay. The philosophy rests on the belief that law-abiding people in the community deserve input into the police process, in exchange for their participation and support. It also rests on the belief that solutions to contemporary community problems demand freeing both people and the police to explore creative, new ways to address neighbourhood concerns beyond a narrow focus on individual crime incidents.

Community policing's organizational strategy first demands that everyone in the department, including both civilian and sworn personnel, must investigate ways to translate the philosophy into practice. This demand making the subtle but sophisticated shift so that everyone in the department understands the need to focus on solving community problems in creative, new ways that can include challenging and enlisting people in the process of policing themselves. Community policing also implies a shift within the department that grants greater autonomy to line officers, which implies enhanced respect for their judgment as police professionals.

To implement true Community Policing, police departments must also create and develop a new breed of line officer, the Community Policing Officer (CPO), who acts as the direct link between the police and people in the community. As the department's

community outreach specialists, CPOS must be freed from the isolation of the patrol car and the demands of the police radio, so that they can maintain daily, direct, face-to-face contact with the people they serve in a clearly defined beat area.

The CPOs broad role demands continual, sustained contact with the law-abiding people in the community, so that together they can explore creative new solutions to local concerns involving crime, fear of crime, disorder, and decay with private citizens serving as unpaid volunteers. As full-fledged law enforcement officers, CPOs respond to calls for service and make arrests, but they also go beyond this narrow focus to develop and monitor broad-based, long-term initiatives that can involve community residents in efforts to improve the overall quality of life in the area over time. As the community's ombudsman, CPOs also link individuals and groups in the community to the public and private agencies that offer help.

Community Policing implies a new contract between the police and the citizens they serve one that offers the hope of overcoming widespread apathy, at the same time it restrains any impulse to vigilantism. This new relationship, based on mutual trust, also suggests that the police serve as a catalyst, which will challenge people to accept their share of the responsibility for the overall quality of life in the community. The shift to Community Policing also means a slower response time to non-emergency calls and that citizen themselves will be asked to handle more of their minor concerns, but in exchange this will free the department to work with people on developing long-term solutions for pressing community concerns.

Community Policing adds a vital protective element to the traditional reactive role of the police, resulting in full-spectrum police service. As the only agency of social control open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the police must maintain the ability to respond to immediate crises and crime incidents, but Community Policing broadens the police role so that they can make a greater impact on making changes today that hold the promise of making communities safer and more attractive places to live tomorrow

Community policing stresses exploring new ways to protect and enhance the lives of those most vulnerable-juveniles, the elderly, minorities, the poor, the disabled. the homeless. It both assimilates and broadens the scope of previous outreach efforts, such as Crime Prevention and Police/Community Relations units, by involving the entire department in efforts to prevent and control crime in ways that encourage the police and law-abiding people to work together with mutual respect and accountability.

Community Policing promotes the judicious use of technology, but it also rests on the belief that nothing surpasses what dedicated human beings, talking and working together, can achieve. It invests trusts in those who are on the front lines together on the street, relying on their combined judgment, wisdom, and expertise to fashion new creative approaches to contemporary community concerns

Community policing must be a fully integrated approach that involves everyone in the department, with the CPOS as specialists in bridging the gap between the police and the people they serve. The Community Policing approach plays a crucial role internally, within the department, by providing information and assistance about the

community and its problems, and by enlisting broad-based community support for the department's overall objectives.

Community Policing provides decentralized, personalized police service to the community. It recognizes that the police cannot impose order on the community from the outside, but that people must be encouraged to think of the police as a resource they can use in helping to solve contemporary community concerns. It is not a tactic to be applied, then abandoned, but an entirely new way of thinking about the police role society, a philosophy that offers a coherent and cohesive organisational plan that police departments can modify to suit their specific needs (Himelfarb, 2020). These principles should guide the curriculum contents and training sessions of community-oriented policing in Nigeria. It forms the basic foundations upon which both the police and the public will build their trust and efforts at providing solutions to crime and other social decay within the community.

2.7 The Emergence of Community Policing Training in Nigeria

Community policing advocates claim that this new policy is a more effective and successful way to reduce crime by allowing the community to be involved with policing efforts. However, community policing is not a simple tactical plan (Holden, 2022). It is an organizational strategy that requires redefining the goals of policing (Tilley, 2018). However, there is very little literature available that deals specifically with training in community policing. What scholars often focus more on is the process of its

implementation and operations within the society. There are many major differences between traditional policing and community policing

Traditional policing is based on improving the quality of police service through police administrative efforts by tightening organisational control and narrowly defining accountability. Rigid organizational controls, limited discretion for line officers, personnel specialisation, and heavily centralised authority are essential tenets of traditional policing strategies (George, 2016). On the other hand, community policing is based on satisfying customer demands. Community policing therefore is the belief or intention held by the police that they should take into accounts the needs and desires of the public when determining and evaluating their operational strategies. Furthermore, the police should work closely with the public to identify and solve local problems (Goldstein, 2020).

On the other hand, Haarr (2021), defined community policing as an emphasis on improving the number and quality of police-citizen contacts, a broadening of scope of legitimate police work, a decentralization of the police bureaucracy, and a greater emphasis on proactive problem solving strategies (Holden, 2022). In their contribution, Jennifer (2019), defined community policing as a new philosophy of policing based on the notion that police officers and community members should work in cooperation, in order to help solve community problems related to crime, fear of crime, social disorder, and neighbourhood decay. The accomplishment of community policing requires that law enforcement agencies build anew relationship with community members, allowing them

to participate in the creation of a local agenda for combating crime, and to actively be involved in efforts to improve the living standards in their neighbourhoods. This new policy changes the focus of police work from handling random calls to solving problems (Lawrence, 2016).

The community policing strategy emphasizes police service to the community, and operates with the belief that by developing a familiar and intimate connection with the community, police will be able to uncover and eliminate the underlying social problems that cause crime patterns to develop. Steps are taken to raise officer motivation and increase job satisfaction among police personnel (Carter, 2021). The Nigeria police in 2004 embraced community oriented policing as a guiding philosophy and pragmatic approach to police reforms (Nigeria Police Force Operational Handbook, 2017). Community policing style started in Enugu State as the first piloting state in Nigeria under the leadership of the former inspector general of police (IGP) Tafa Balogun. The police sent some officers to America to be trained on how to implement this new policing philosophy in the country. To further train members of the Nigeria police as trainers, the British council through the department for international development (DFID) trained more police officers within the country. These trained community oriented policing training officers formed the bulk of community-oriented policing trainers in Nigeria. Training is an important tool in the process of facilitating change within police organisations (Birzer. & Tannehill, 2021), Ehindero (2016) believed that training is important in changing the attitude of policemen. However, the relevance of community

policing training in preventing crime and changing the attitude of the police to the people of Nigeria needs to be investigated. According to Haarr (2021), after training in the academies, some of the positive attitudinal changes dissipate as police recruits proceed to their respective police agencies and are exposed to the work environment and organizational culture.

The emergence of democracy in Nigeria has placed additional demands and challenges on both police training and operational strategies. There has been a growing concern on increase in crime wave and also on police respect for human rights of the people while carrying out their duties (Omotola, 2017). This concern on the ability of the police to effectively control crime has led to the formation and reliance on local vigilante groups and other private security outfits in some parts of Nigeria. It is as if the police were no longer of any relevance to the security needs of the people.

Proponents of community policing believe that this new paradigm has the potential to serve as a model for reforms in the entire criminal justice system in the country. In other words, community-oriented policing training will affect the entire criminal justice system in Nigeria. If crime is proactively prevented, it will reduce the number of police arrests, number of court cases and number of people sentenced to prison. So, as the gate keeper into the criminal justice system, the police through community-oriented policing strategy will prevent crime proactively and reduce the number of people entering into the deviant corridor of the criminal justice system.

Community policing training promotes better collaboration and partnerships among law enforcement agents and departments within the criminal justice system. According to Bucqueroux (2021), community-oriented policing's successes inspire optimism that the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, prosecution, courts and corrections could begin to function as a seamless whole, with all elements working as partners with the people who have the most to gain or lose in making their neighbourhoods better and safer places in which to live and work.

Community policing emerged due to concerns that the prevailing system had failed. The traditional or professional policing approach stressed the efficiency of rapid responds as the primary means of addressing serious crime. The focus of the traditional policing training was mainly on the bad guys (Bucqueroux, 2021). Police efforts were directed on identifying, arresting, and then locking up bad guys within the society. The police were trained on how to suspect everybody in the society while on duty.

The mission of the police was, therefore, to hurry to the scene in the hope of catching the culprits on the spot or at least to gather evidence that would lead to an arrest. However, over time it became clear to the police that contemporary crime problems required a different approach. Though the police maintain their ability to rush to crime scene, most often they arrive there late, and research has shown that only one in three crimes is ever reported to the police.

Most times citizens watch crime take place in their community without reporting to the police because they do not want to-get involved or they do not trust the police. So, to

function better, the police through community-oriented policing training and effective partnership with the community now has the capacity to prevent crime and intervene in problems within the community.

According to Himelfarb, (2020), in this era when people from all walks of life feel angry and alienated from government and its representatives, moving closer to the people fulfills community-orientated policing's mandate to build trust with the consumers of their service. If the police realize that they exist for the people and without working with the people they cannot prevent crime, then the people should form the fulcrum of their services and activities within the community. The overarching goal of community-oriented policing should be for the police to become partners with the community, empowering them so that they can shoulder their share of the responsibility and the tough work of making their neighborhoods safer (Trojanowicz, 2021). This partnership is enhanced through adequate community-oriented policing training in Nigeria. However, having embraced this training orientation, the public need to see visible positive police change in attitudes and behaviors so as to encourage public partnership and support of community-oriented policing style.

2.8 Theoretical Framework

A theory is a set of ideas that explains the correlation of variables or the prediction of a phenomenon. Several theories can be adopted in this study, but the best suiting theory that can satisfactorily analyze the effectiveness of community policing

would be examined. This study will examine the Window theory and social Change theory as it relates to the study.

2.8.1 Broken Windows Theory

Broken Windows Theory (BWT). The theory was popularized by James Q. Wilson and George Kelling in an article which appeared in the March 1982 edition of *The Atlantic Monthly*. The BWT suggests that public order offences like vandalism and rowdy behavior can create a downward spiral of neighborhood deterioration and fear of crime that leads to more deterioration and more serious crimes if not checked by the community. This is because little crimes like vandalism, broken windows, and others tend to portray the impression that nobody cares about the community and that residents as well as the police have lost control over the community. On the other hand, increased police presence and enforcements of informal rules of conduct and laws can make a community seem less chaotic and safer thereby increased presence and involvement of residents in their community and lowering crime rates (Ikutevijo, 2019).

The BWT can be incorporated into the concept of community policing in the sense that collective effort by both the police and community dwellers can help alleviate the rate of crime in the community as the police see residents as partners in development and vice versa. The BWT assumes that most neighborhood crimes are more often than not perpetrated by offenders who reside near the victims; this makes crime primarily a local problem which can best be solved locally. The BWT is very useful in explaining the synergy between the police and the community in crime detection but contemporary

developments have belittled the effectiveness of the theory as some crimes are perpetrated by people who are not domiciled in the environment of the crime. An example is cyber-crime, where victims are not necessarily close to the criminals; in fact they are usually miles away from one another. Broken Window theory is therefore, the most suitable theory in explaining the public perception on community policing

2.8.2 Social Change Theory

Social change is central to sociology as a discipline which is concerned with the study of the society. Sociology emerged as a result of changes in society as reflected by the works of the founding fathers of the discipline. Social change as a concept is concerned with the alterations in the social structure and organization of society overtime, either in size, complexity, direction or function.

According to social change theorists, change can occur as a result of internal and external factors which could be functional or dysfunctional to the survival of the society. Change is caused by various factors, which may include diffusion from one society to the other, innovations and inventions from within the society, as well as crises and conflict which equally lead to change. Social change could either bring about progress for members of a society or visit them with retrogression. As human beings live collectively by developing adaptable features to their environment through science and technology, change naturally ensued (Kelling, 2018). It is argued that technological changes to a great extent often give criminals the opportunity to carry out certain crime outside the society

that would disrupt peaceful coexistence of that community. Technological advancement makes community to suffer from the activities of criminals that are not domiciled within that community.

Therefore, social change implies the alteration in the structure or organization of society or its component parts over time: this alteration of the structure or component parts of society may be in size, complexity, direction or function (Tilley, 2018). It is presumed that alteration in any part will affect the structure of the whole. This should however be understood in perspective. When a new policy or reform (community policing) had been introduced, it will have a significant effect at the point of impact and a ripple effect on the people which peters out a small problem caused by other activities which may have a devastating effect not just on the reform but within the people of that environment. This supports what Parsons (2016) the leading proponent of the social change theory of equilibrium, viewed society as constantly changing due to the interrelatedness of the parts of the structures of the society, change experienced in one of the structures or parts, automatically affects the other parts.

He meant that society tends towards a state of stability, which is to be achieved in the course of the parts performing their assigned functions. Parsons would view even prolonged crime, labour strikes, religious crises or civilian riots as temporary disruption in the status rather than a significant alteration in social structures. This refers to relationship between the system and environment, because for society to survive, social system must have some degree of control over their environment.

Community policing was established to have some degree of control in the area of criminal justice, primarily concerned with the adjustment of conflict, religious crisis, among others. It is also concerned with the coordination and mutual adjustment of the parts of the social system. Community policing defines standard relations between individuals and institutions, and also reduce the potential for conflict, when conflict does arise it is settled by them and does not therefore lead to the disintegration of the social system (Stephen, 2021).

Parsons maintained that three processes of social change are inevitable in the society. The first is differentiation, refers to the increasing complexity to parts of structure. Community is an illustration of differentiation in the field of criminal justice, which becomes specialized to perform different functions. Differentiation of parts and specialization of functions required integration so that the parts would function effectively for the survival of the whole social system. Without contributing towards order and stability/crime prevention and control in the society, it is difficult to see how it changes. Parsons approached this problem by arguing that in practice, no social system is in perfect state of equilibrium although a certain degree of equilibrium is essential for the survival of society.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Area

One of the 18 local government areas (LGAs) in Nigeria's Edo State is Oredo. It occupies an area of roughly 43 square kilometers and is situated in the state's southern region. The city of Benin, which serves as both the state capital and the LGA's administrative center, is located there. One of the most populous LGAs in Edo State is Oredo LGA, which has a population of over 500,000. The majority of the inhabitants of Oredo LGA belong to the Bini ethnic group, and the Bini language is commonly used there. Trade, business, and services are the main drivers of the economy of Oredo LGA.. With numerous marketplaces, stores, and enterprises functioning nearby, the city of Benin serves as a significant commercial and economic hub. A number of government organizations, including the Edo State Government House, the Edo State House of Assembly, and other ministries and agencies, are also based in the LGA. The Oredo marriage registry may be found in Benin City on Ring Road. The registry is used to officially bring spouses together (Edoaffairs, 2019). The study is of the opinion that the residents and officials of Edo state's Oredo local government region, which has a sizable population, should be able to profit from the study.

3.2 Research Design

Survey research design will be used in this study. The survey research design is an efficient way of collecting information from a large number of respondents and it has the

ability to use statistical techniques to determine statistical significance (Denscombe, 2023). This research strategy is considered necessary because of its ability to view comprehensively and in detail the major questions raised in the study. We considered this method appropriate as it is useful for the study of non-observable events such as opinions, attitudes preferences or dispositions (Soyombo, 2022; Fubara & Mguni, 2015). The design will be adopted because the study involves the use of a representative sample from the population and the drawing of conclusion based on the analysis of available data.

3.3 Population of the Study

The population of the study is 339,899 resident in Oredo LGA from age between the ages of 18-60 years both graduate, secondary school leavers and some artisans.

3.3 Sample Size and sampling technique

A sample size of respondents were chosen and one hundred questionnaires were administered to adults (men & women) in Oredo Local Government Area between ages of 18-60 years who are graduates, and secondary school leavers who are job applicants.

The purposive technique was used to select one hundred (100) respondents out of the entire population and they are from Oredo Local Government.

3.4 Method of Data Collection

Both secondary and primary data were used for the study. Secondary data were sourced from various books and journals relevant to the research topic. The internet proved to be an indispensable and veritable source of information for this study. The primary data were generated from the field survey carried out by the researcher.

Specifically, primary data were obtained from the target respondents through a carefully constructed questionnaire with the assistance of the research supervisor. The respondents were approached in their schools and the questionnaires were administered face-to-face, where the respondents answered the questions immediately.

3.5 Instruments for data collection

The questionnaire was the instrument for data collection which was divided into two (2) sections. Section A was designed to obtain socio-demographic information on respondents. Section B contained fixed-response questions measuring the perception of the responding students on the relevant issues raised in the research hypotheses and objectives of this study. The respondents were required to agree or disagree with each of the statements by ticking yes or no.

3.6 Validity of Instrument

The suitability and the coherence of the questionnaire were validated by the project supervisor and other learned professionals within the Public Administration department, in order to make sure that included questions capture the study variables.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

The main statistical method used is the descriptive statistics, that is; frequency count and simple percentage.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

This section explains the responses of the respondents from Oredo Local Government area on the Nigerian Police and crime control in Oredo local government area of Edo State. It looks at the analysis of these data in relation with the research question and objectives. It further states the finding of the work in tables and charts.

Data on Socio-Demographic Characteristics

Table 1: Showing the Sex Distribution of Respondents selected in Oredo LGA

Sex of respondent	Response	Frequency	Percentage
	Male	204	68
	Female	96	32
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The table above shows the sex distribution of the respondents in Oredo. From the table, it is obvious that most of the respondent that were interviewed were male. Males represented 68%, and female represented 32% of the total population of study.

Table 2: Showing the Age Distribution of Respondents

Age of respondent	Response	Frequency	Percentage
	18-27years	65	21.7
	28-37yrs	74	24.7
	38-47yrs	76	25.3
	48-57yrs	43	14.3
	57yrs & above	42	14.0
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025

Table 2 above shows the age distribution of the respondents. From the table it is observed that respondents with the highest frequency are those within the age bracket of 38-47years of age with 25.3%, duly followed by 24.7% for respondent within age 28-37 years. Those within 18-27years possess 21.7%, while 14.3% and 14.0% are for respondents with 48-57 years and 57 years and above respectively.

Table 3: Showing the Educational Status of Respondents

Educational status of respondent	Response	Frequency	Percentage
	Primary	49	16.3
	Secondary	72	24
	OND/NCE	83	27.7
	HND/BSC	64	21.3
	Others	32	10.7
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025

On the educational status, the table reveals that 27% of the entire respondents claimed to have gotten their OND/NCE degree, duly followed by those with HND/BSC with 21.3%, while 16.3% had primary certificate and 24% their secondary school certificate. However the respondents with the least numbers are the respondents who claimed to have other certificate with 10.7% respectively.

Table 4: Showing if Respondents reside in Oredo LGA

Do you reside in Oredo LGA	Response	Frequency	Percentage
	Yes	284	94.4
	No	16	5.3
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The table above shows that most of the respondents reside in Oredo LGA; this was evident with 94.4% of the entire respondents while 5.3% reside in nearby community.

Table 5: Showing the Community of residence of Respondents

Do you reside in Oredo LGA	Response	Frequency	Percentage
	Ogbe	55	18.3
	Uzebu	50	16.7
	Urubi	107	35.7
	New Benin II	72	24.0
	Ibiwe	16	5.3
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The table above shows the respondents in the community, Ogbe represent 18.3%, Uzebu represent 16.7%, Uribi represent 35.7%, New Benin II represent 24.0%, Ibiwe represent 5.3%.

4.2 The Community policing and Crime Control in Oredo LGA Local Government Area, Edo State.

TABLE 8: Does the presence of the Nigerian Police reduce or Control Crime?

Does the presence of the Community Police reduce or control crime?	Response	Frequency	percentage
	Yes	139	46.3
	No	46	15.3
	Indifferent	115	38.3
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025

The table above shows that the respondents have diverse views of the community policing, as 46.3% of the entire respondents asserted that the presences of the Community Policing has force help in reducing of controlling crime , duly followed by 38.3% who are indifferent in their response. While only 15.3% disagreed to the idea raised.

TABLE 9: Methods used by the Community Police to reduce or control crime

What method is been used by the Community Police in a bid to reducing crime.	Response	Frequency	Percentage
	Beat patrol	178	59.3
	Anti-vice squad	39	13.0
	Stop, detain & search	64	21.3

	Others	19	6.3
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025

On examining the method used by the Community Police in curbing crime, the study find out that the beat patrol system was the most frequently method used with 59.3%, followed by the stop, detain and search with 21.3%. The Anti-vice squad had 13% and other method 6.3% respectively. This supports the methods explained by Otubu and Coker in 2008.

TABLE 10: Frequency of the Community Police in carrying out the mention method of reducing or controlling crime

How often do the community police carry out the crime control method mentioned above?	Response	Frequency	percentage
	Often	67	22.3
	Rarely	233	77.7
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025.

In knowing the frequency of using various crime control methods, the result shows that most of the respondents asserted the community police rarely used all the mentioned

methods, as this was opined by 77.7% of the entire respondent. While only 22.3% agreed that the Nigeria Police often uses the method indicated.

TABLE 11: How fast was the Community Police during distress?

How fast was the Community Police during distress	Response	Frequency	percentage
	Very fast	50	16.7
	Fast	18	6.0
	Slow	29	9.7
	Very slow	50	16.7
	Never present	153	51.0
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025.

During distress, many respondents asserted that the Community police were never present, this assertion was made by 51.0% of the entire respondents, the respondents that opined that they are very slow toward responses had 16.7% and same goes for respondents who said very fast, while the respondents that said ‘slow’ and ‘fast’ had 9.7% and 6.0% respectively. The findings from our study support Alemika (2010) who stated that “the public do not respect, trust and support the police because their performance is poor. Also, the public regards the character and level of accountability of the police as grossly unsatisfactory. The police in the nation are generally feared but not respected, distrusted and despised by the Nigerian public.”

TABLE 12: How satisfied are you with the Community Police?

How satisfied are you with the Community Police?	Response	Frequency	percentage
	Very satisfied	30	10.0
	Satisfied	16	5.3
	Not satisfied	127	42.3
	Indifferent	127	42.3
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025.

On examining the satisfaction of the respondents toward the Community Police, majority of the respondents asserted that they are either not satisfied or they are indifferent. This assertion was made by 42.3% of the entire respondents respectively, while 10% were very satisfied with the attitude and 5.3% claimed to be satisfied. This is in line with the opinion of Igbinovia (2003), Alemikia (2010) and W.A Johnson, J. Johnson and Ifedayo (2013).

TABLE 13: Do you think the Community Police are well trained to handle crime.

Do you think the police are well trained to handle crime?	Response	Frequency	percentage
	Yes	46	15.3
	No	146	48.7
	Indifferent	108	36.0
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025.

From the table above shows that most of the respondents were either in total disagreement with the idea or were indifferent, this was revealed by 48.7% and 36.0%

respectively and the respondent that agreed possesses 15.3% of the entire respondent. This supports the findings of Osayende (2008) who stated that poor funding is one of the external factors affecting police performance as there is inadequate fund for training of personnel and providing the required logistics for all aspect of police functions needed for proper performance.

TABLE 14: Do you think the Community Police are well equipped to handle crime

Do you think the community police are well equipped to handle crime?	Response	Frequency	percentage
	Yes	16	5.3
	No	175	58.3
	Indifferent	109	36.3
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025.

Table 13 shows that many of the respondents disagreed that the Community Police is well equipped to handle crime; this assertion was made by 58.3%. While 36.3% were indifferent, only 5.3% of the entire respondent gave a yes to the idea stated. This supports the findings of Osayende (2008) who stated that poor funding is one of the external factors affecting police performance as there is inadequate fund to buy arms and ammunitions and other necessary equipment's needed for proper performance.

TABLE 15: Is there any other agent of crime control in your area?

Is there any other agent of crime control in your	Response	Frequency	percentage
	Yes	272	90.7

area?	No	0	0
	I don't know	28	9.3
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025.

Table 14 reveals that 90.7% of the entire respondents asserted that there are other agents of crime control in the community, while 9.3% said they are not aware, if other agents of crime control exist. As opined by Oduah (2014) that the existence of other agents of crime controls have helped in reducing crime.

TABLE 16: Do you think other means of crime control are more effective than the Nigeria Police Force?

Do you think other means of crime control are more effective than the Nigeria police force?	Response	Frequency	percentage
	Yes	118	39.3
	No	99	33.0
	I don't know	83	27.7
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025.

In examining if other agents of crime control are more effective than the Nigeria Police, the result show that 39.3% said yes, while 33.0% said no. 27.7% were indifferent in their response.

TABLE 17: Shows who Respondents prefer in crime situations

Who respondents prefer in crime situations?	Response	Frequency	percentage
	Police	117	39.0
	Others	183	61.0
	Total	300	100

Source: Fieldwork 2025.

In examining who the respondents prefer, during crime situation, the study shows that 61% prefer other agent of crime control to the police while 39% prefer the Nigeria Police force.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

From the data gathered observations are that more males were willing to discuss the topic than the female folks. The reason why is not ascertained. Also most of the respondent interviewed were within the age range of 38-47 years old. Still on the socio-demographic status of the respondents data revealed that most of the respondents claimed to have OND/NCE certifications in terms of educational qualification. Also majority of the respondents claimed to be students while others were into business.

Coming down to the objectives of the study, the first objective was geared towards finding out the impact of the community policing in crime control. It was observed from data gathered that many of the residents were of the opinion that the presence of the police has helped to reduce crime while majority of the remaining part of the population were sitting on the fence as they were indifferent to this question. Also data revealed that

the police in Oredo LGA rarely used any of the various means of crime control. This implies that the presence of the police force is enough to deter crime but they are not actively involved in controlling crime.

The second objective was to find out the public perception of the community policing effectiveness in crime control. This objective was achieved as data revealed that beat patrol and stop, detain and search are the methods the Nigerian police force in Oredo LGA employ in crime control, although the first objective revealed that this methods are rarely employed.

On examining the strength and weakness of the community policing in crime control, majority of the respondents were not satisfied with the police force as well as indifferent on their level of satisfaction with the police force performance. Also it was observed that most of the respondents claimed that the police force were never present during their time of distress. All this made up the third objective.

Lastly, the fourth objective was to recommend policy framework that will help policy makers in the area of community policy. Data gathered from respondents revealed that other means of social control which helped in controlling crime existed and most of the respondents were of the opinion that these other means were more effective than the Nigerian police force in Oredo LGA and they would prefer to contact them during a crime situation than contacting the police force. This is not far-fetched as it was gathered earlier that the police were almost never present during distress.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

This work focused on the Community Policing and crime Prevention in Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State. The findings of this work shows that the Government, the public and the Community Police have a lot of work to do in ensuring that crime is controlled in Oredo LGA.

It is also observed that many communities' especially rural ones have developed parallel institutions to meet their needs in combating crime in the society as a result of failure of the police force.

Community Police corruption is a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the institution and this has affected the public's judgment about the force. The community police are known to accept bribes and misuse their power and even violate human rights thereby deviating from their duties. Instead of protecting the citizen's they have become dreaded and are now a major source of concern to the public. The very Force designed to create a sense of security has become criminal, leaving the masses at the mercy of criminals.

5.2 Conclusions

In conclusion, this research work focuses on the Community Police who is the first in the Criminal Justice system which people encounter. There is need to ensure that the police

are effective in crime control so that the society can be rid of crime to a reasonable extent. This research focuses on the community police and their activities in Oredo LGA of Edo state. The findings of this research can be generalized upon in discussing the Community policing and their activities especially in rural areas.

5.3 Recommendations

Attempt will be made to proffer solutions and offer recommendations based on the findings of this work to help improve the community police effectiveness in crime control.

Firstly a restructuring of the community police is essential. The quality of people recruited into it should be taken into consideration. Sociologist, Social workers, Psychologist, Lawyers and most importantly criminologist who are well grounded on issues concerning crime, criminal behavior and the laws governing a state should be employed to handle the affairs of the police force.

Secondly finance which seems to be a major constraint of the force should be made available for the procurement of the needed technology, ammunition and other facilities such as vehicles to aid effectiveness of the force.

Also there is need for transfer of technology from other countries. These technologies include having a database of the entire Nigeria citizens, cameras and CCTV in specific locations, tracking devices etc. This can be achieved by inviting police personnel from

advanced countries to lecture our force and also sending some members of the force to other countries for seminars and lectures and also so that new ways of doing things can be imported and adopted in our system.

There is also need for a nationwide orientation for the police and public to create a friendly relationship so as to create a police-public partnership and enhance a healthy criminal justice system. But in doing this, the police need to ensure that they have eradicated all the bad eggs in the system so the public can place their full trust in the police.

The government should set up an inquiry into community police affairs so as to checkmate the actions of those who are heading the community police. Also there should be room for the public to lay complains especially when they are mistreated by any police officer.

Finally, people should go into the police force not because it is their last resort in terms of job but because they are interested in the criminal justice system and have a passion for eradicating crime from the society. This is to ensure that people are committed and dedicated to their job and their zeal will not die down or will not be based on monetary rewards.

It is the belief that if the recommendations made by this work is looked into and applied, the Nigerian police force will record more success and positive remarks from the public.

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Dear Respondent,

**EFFECT OF COMMUNITY POLICING ON CRIME PREVENTION IN
NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF OREDO LGA, EDO STATE**

I am a final year student of the department of Political Science, University of Benin, Benin City.

I am currently conducting a research on the Effect of Community Policing on Crime Prevention in Nigeria: A Case Study of Oredo LGA, Edo State.

Please kindly assist me in carrying out this research by providing the appropriate information to the questions below. You are assured of confidentiality of information collected as it is only required for this academic purpose.

Your cooperation is highly appreciated.

Akporduado Promise

Please fill as appropriate, ticking were indicated and writing were necessary.

SECTION A

BIO-DATA

- i. Sex: Male () Female ()
- ii. Age: 18-27() 28-37() 38-47() 48-57() 57&above ()
- iii. Do you reside in Oredo LGA Yes() No()
- iv. If yes which community do you reside in? Ogbe () Uzebu () Urubi () New Benin II () Ibiwe ()

SECTION B

- 1. Does the presence of the Community Police reduce or control crime? Yes () No ()
- 2. What method is been used by the Community Police in a bid to reducing crime. Beat Patrol () Anti- vice squad () stop, detain and search () others ()
- 3. How often do the community police carry out the crime control method mentioned above? Often () rarely ()
- 4. How fast was the Community Police during distress? Very fast () fast () slow () very slow () never present ()
- 5. How satisfied are you with the Community Police? Very satisfied () satisfied () not satisfied () indifferent ()
- 6. Do you think the Community police are well trained to handle crime? Yes () no () indifferent ()
- 7. Do you think the community police are well equipped to handle crime? Yes () no () indifferent ()
- 8. Is there any other agent of crime control in your area? Yes () no () I don't know ()

9. Do you think other means of crime control are more effective than the Nigeria police force? Yes () no () I don't know ()
10. Who respondents prefer in crime situations? Police () others ()