

**SOCIAL CAPITAL AND POLICE PERFORMANCE IN ONDO STATE: A CASE
STUDY OF AKURE SOUTH LGA, NIGERIA**

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**BEING A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEE OF
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JANUARY, 2022

CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned certify that this project titled “Social Capital and Police Performance in Ondo State: A Case study of Akure South LGA, Nigeria” was carried out by Edonyabo Kemetimipaghayofa with matriculation number PG/SSC1112201 in the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City.

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to God Almighty, whose guidance and grace helped me throughout this pursuit.

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I wish to immensely appreciate BABA GOD for the will and way to successfully complete this research work and by extension the M.sc programme which I consider now done and dusted.

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation explores the relationship between social capital and police performance in Ondo State: A case study of Akure South Local Government Area, Nigeria. The research objectives include assessing the current state of social capital, examining the effectiveness of police performance, investigating the relationship between social capital and police performance, and exploring the impact of socio-economic and cultural factors on the police-social capital dynamic.

Using a mixed-methods approach, the study combines both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods. The findings reveal that social capital is relatively low in Akure South LGA, while police performance is affected by various challenges. The study also identifies a positive correlation between social capital and police performance, indicating that communities with higher social capital tend to have better police performance.

Furthermore, the research highlights the significance of socio-economic and cultural factors in shaping the police-social capital dynamic. The study recommends strategies for building social capital and improving police performance, including community policing, stakeholder engagement, and cultural sensitivity training for police officers.

The study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on social capital and police performance, providing insights for policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders seeking to enhance public safety and community well-being.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In the context of developing nations like Nigeria, where policing is confronted with distinctive obstacles, the dynamic interplay between social capital and police effectiveness has emerged as a crucial research focus, warranting further examination (Putnam, 1993; Skogan, 2006; Tyler, 2005; Bradford et al., 2017; Hinkle et al., 2020; Tankebe et al., 2019). By examining the relationship between social capital and police performance in this context, the study aims to shed light on broader issues of governance, community engagement, and public safety.

Policing in Akure South Local Government Area (LGA) of Nigeria is characterized by numerous challenges, mirroring the difficulties faced by law enforcement agencies in many urban centers across the country (Nwosu, 2017). These challenges include inadequate resources, poor police-community relations, and high levels of crime and violence (Akinola, 2018).

As noted by Owolabi (2016), the Nigerian police force faces significant obstacles in effectively serving and protecting the public due to limited capacity, corruption, and lack of trust. Furthermore, the urbanization and rapid growth of cities like Akure exacerbate these challenges, making it essential to explore innovative strategies for improving policing and community engagement (Elemelu, 2019) and semi-urban areas. These also include inadequate resources, lack of proper training, and a burgeoning population that strains existing law enforcement infrastructure (Alemika&Chukwuma,

2020). These operational challenges are exacerbated by the complex social dynamics of the area, making the role of social capital even more critical. In many Nigerian communities, including those in Akure South LGA, informal policing and community vigilante groups often supplement formal police efforts. These groups, rooted in the social fabric of the community, can either complement or conflict with formal policing efforts, depending on the level and nature of social capital present (Meagher, 2017). Understanding this interplay is vital for assessing the overall landscape of law enforcement in Akure South LGA.

Social capital, as conceptualized by Bourdieu (1986) and later expanded by Coleman (1988) and Putnam (1995), refers to the networks, norms, and social trust that facilitate coordination and cooperation for mutual benefit. In the context of law enforcement, social capital is crucial as it underpins the community's willingness to cooperate with the police, report crimes, and adhere to the rule of law (Skogan, 2016). The Nigerian context, characterized by diverse ethnic and social structures, presents a unique backdrop for exploring these dynamics.

The performance of the police in Nigeria has historically been a subject of concern, with issues ranging from corruption to inefficiency and human rights abuses (Alemika&Chukwuma, 2015). In Akure South LGA, these issues are compounded by the complexities of managing security in a rapidly urbanizing area with diverse socio-economic challenges. Understanding how social capital interacts with these factors to influence police performance is crucial.

Akure South LGA, located in the heart of Ondo State, Nigeria, is a microcosm of the larger Nigerian society, reflecting both the challenges and potentials inherent in the

Nigerian policing system. The area is marked by a mix of urban and rural communities, with varying levels of economic development and social cohesion. This diversity offers a rich context for examining how different levels and types of social capital affect police performance.

High levels of social capital, characterized by strong community bonds and trust, can lead to more effective policing, as community members are more likely to assist in law enforcement efforts (Bradford et al., 2019). Conversely, low levels of social capital, marked by mistrust and weak community ties, can hinder police performance.

Trust is a critical component of social capital that directly impacts the legitimacy of the police force. In communities where the police are trusted, their authority is more readily accepted, and their actions are more likely to be viewed as legitimate (Sunshine & Tyler, 2013). In Akure South LGA, building and maintaining trust between the police and the community is a significant challenge, impacted by historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors.

The ethnic and cultural diversity in Akure South LGA, plays a significant role in shaping social capital. Different ethnic and cultural groups have varying levels of trust and cooperation, which can either facilitate or hinder police performance. Understanding these dynamics is essential for developing policing strategies that are sensitive to the cultural and social nuances of the community. Economic conditions also influence social capital. In areas with high poverty and unemployment rates, like certain parts of Akure South LGA, social capital may be eroded, leading to increased crime rates and challenges in policing (see Putnam, 2000).

Community engagement is a key factor in leveraging social capital for improved police performance. In areas where the police actively engage with the community, such as through community policing initiatives, there is often an increase in public trust and cooperation (Rosenbaum, 1988). Corruption within the police force is a significant issue in Nigeria, undermining public trust and eroding social capital (Smith, 2017). In Akure South LGA, perceptions of police corruption can have a profound impact on the willingness of the community to cooperate with law enforcement, thereby affecting police performance.

Communities with strong social bonds and high levels of civic engagement are often more effective in preventing crime, as residents are more likely to look out for each other and report suspicious activities (Sampson et al., 1997). This aspect of social capital is particularly relevant in the diverse and densely populated areas of Akure South LGA. Cultural and social norms in Akure South LGA influence the formation and utilization of social capital. These norms dictate how community members interact with each other and with law enforcement, impacting everything from reporting crimes to respecting police authority.

This study provides a comprehensive background into the relationship between social capital and police performance in Akure South LGA, Nigeria. By delving into the various societal, operational, and cultural factors that influence this relationship, the study aims to offer valuable insights into how social capital can be harnessed to enhance policing effectiveness in a complex and dynamic environment. The findings from the research are expected to contribute to the broader understanding of social capital's role in law enforcement, particularly in similar contexts within Nigeria and other developing countries.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The relationship between social capital and police performance has emerged as a critical area of study in contemporary law enforcement and community dynamics. This is particularly relevant in developing countries like Nigeria, where the police force often grapples with challenges such as limited resources, corruption, and a lack of public trust. The situation in Akure South Local Government Area (LGA) of Nigeria epitomizes these challenges, presenting a unique case for examining how social capital influences police performance.

Social capital, encompassing elements like trust, networks, and norms of reciprocity, plays a pivotal role in shaping community-police relations. In environments where social capital is strong, communities tend to have better relationships with the police, leading to more effective law enforcement. Conversely, in areas where social capital is weak, particularly due to factors like corruption, ethnic tensions, and economic disparities, police performance can be significantly hampered.

In Akure South LGA, the police force faces numerous obstacles that potentially undermine its effectiveness. These include operational challenges such as inadequate funding and training, as well as societal issues like public mistrust, ethnic diversity, and socio-economic disparities. The interplay of these factors with the level and nature of social capital in the community has profound implications for policing strategies and outcomes.

Moreover, the dynamics of social capital in Akure South LGA are influenced by Nigeria's broader socio-political context, which includes a history of civil unrest,

corruption, and fluctuating governance standards. These national issues resonate at the local level, impacting the way communities interact with and perceive their police force.

The problem, therefore, lies in understanding the complex relationship between social capital and police performance in Akure South LGA. There is a need to investigate how various aspects of social capital – such as community trust, civic engagement, and social networks – affect the effectiveness of police operations. Additionally, exploring the impact of societal challenges like corruption, ethnic diversity, and economic conditions on this relationship is crucial.

1.4 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The primary aim of this study is to explore and analyze the relationship between social capital and police performance in Akure South Local Government Area (LGA), Nigeria. This research seeks to understand how various elements of social capital, such as trust, networks, and community engagement, influence the effectiveness and efficiency of police operations in this specific socio-cultural and geographical setting.

Research Objectives:

1. To investigate the relationship between elements of social capital including trust, network, and community engagement and police performance in Akure South LGA.
2. To explore the impact of economic and cultural factors on the police-social capital dynamic in Akure South LGA.

1.4 Research Questions

1. How does social capital influence police performance in Akure South LGA?
2. What is the impact of socio-economic and cultural factors on the police-social capital dynamic in Akure South LGA?

1.5 Hypothesis

(H0): There is no significant relationship between the level of social capital in Akure South LGA and the effectiveness of police performance.

(H1): There is a significant relationship between the level of social capital in Akure South LGA and the effectiveness of police performance.

1.6 Significance of the Study

1. Enhancing Community-Police Relations: The study's findings could provide valuable insights into how strengthening social capital within communities can lead to improved relations between the police and the public. This is particularly crucial in contexts like Akure South LGA, where historical, cultural, and socio-economic factors may have strained these relations.
2. Informing Policy and Practice: Policymakers and law enforcement agencies could use the insights from this study to develop more effective community policing strategies. Understanding the role of social capital in policing can guide the formulation of policies that foster trust and cooperation between the police and the communities they serve.
3. Contributing to Academic Discourse: This research contributes to the academic discourse on social capital and law enforcement, particularly in the context of

developing countries. It adds empirical evidence to the existing body of knowledge, potentially guiding future research in similar socio-cultural settings.

4. Addressing Local and National Security Challenges: By exploring the dynamics of social capital and police performance in Akure South LGA, the study could offer solutions to local security challenges. These findings might be applicable to other regions in Nigeria, contributing to broader efforts to enhance national security and public safety.
5. Promoting Social Cohesion and Crime Prevention: Understanding how social capital impacts policing can lead to more effective crime prevention strategies. Communities with strong social bonds and high levels of civic engagement are often better equipped to prevent crime, creating safer and more cohesive societies.
6. Empowering Communities: The study empowers communities by highlighting the importance of their role in effective policing. It underscores the value of community engagement and participation in law enforcement, promoting a more collaborative approach to public safety.
7. Improving Police Performance and Accountability: Insights from this study could help in identifying areas where police performance can be improved. It also has the potential to increase police accountability, as enhanced community relations often lead to greater scrutiny and higher expectations from the public.
8. Cross-Cultural Understanding: Given the diverse ethnic and cultural landscape of Akure South LGA, the study provides an opportunity to understand how different cultural norms and values influence the relationship between social capital and police performance. This understanding can be valuable in other multicultural settings.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study is focused on exploring the relationship between social capital and police performance in Akure South Local Government Area (LGA), Nigeria. The scope is confined to examining various dimensions of social capital, including community trust, civic engagement, and social networks, and their impact on the effectiveness of police operations within this specific geographical and socio-cultural context. The research will assess factors such as public perception of the police, community-police relations, and the influence of socio-economic and cultural dynamics on these relationships. While the findings may offer insights applicable to other regions, the primary focus remains on Akure South LGA, considering its unique blend of urban and rural characteristics, diverse ethnic composition, and specific law enforcement challenges. The study does not extend to a comparative analysis with other LGAs or countries but remains an in-depth analysis pertinent to Akure South LGA's distinct environment.

1.8 Definition of Terms

Social Capital: In the context of this study, social capital refers to the networks, norms, and social trust that enable participants to act together more effectively to pursue shared objectives. It encompasses elements like community trust, civic engagement, and the strength of social networks, which facilitate coordination and cooperation within a community.

Police Performance: This term refers to the effectiveness and efficiency of police operations in maintaining law and order, preventing and investigating crime, and ensuring public safety. In this study, police performance is assessed in terms of community relations,

response to crime, public perception, and overall operational effectiveness in Akure South LGA.

Community-Police Relations: This term describes the interactions and relationships between the police force and the community it serves. It includes aspects of trust, cooperation, communication, and mutual respect between the police and community members.

Civic Engagement: Civic engagement in this study refers to the participation of citizens in the life of a community in order to improve conditions for others or to help shape the community's future. It includes activities like volunteering, community organizing, and participation in public forums.

Trust in Law Enforcement: This term refers to the public's confidence in the police to act in the community's best interests, to enforce the law fairly, justly, and effectively, and to uphold the rights and dignity of all community members.

Ethnic Diversity: In the context of Akure South LGA, ethnic diversity refers to the variety of ethnic groups within the community and the cultural, linguistic, and social differences that characterize these groups.

Socio-Economic Factors: These factors include the economic and social conditions that influence individuals' lives and communities, such as income levels, employment status, education, and access to resources.

Community Trust: This term refers to the level of confidence that community members have in each other and in the institutions that serve them, including the police. It is a key component of social capital.

Akure South Local Government Area (LGA): This term specifically refers to the administrative region in Ondo State, Nigeria, which is the focus of this study. It encompasses both urban and rural areas with a diverse population.

Law Enforcement Challenges: These are the difficulties and obstacles faced by the police force in carrying out their duties effectively. In this study, it includes issues such as resource constraints, corruption, training deficiencies, and the complexities of policing in a diverse community.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This Chapter is structured to comprise Conceptual review, Theoretical review, Empirical review, and Conceptual framework for this research work ,

Conceptual research of the work involves abstract ideas and concepts that are relevant to the study. They are product of symbols, abstract objects, mental representation that form the fundamental building blocks of thoughts and beliefs for this research work. Based on the above, the following Concepts have been reviewed in line with the aim and objectives of this research Study

2.1.1 Social Capital and Its Dimensions

Social capital, a multifaceted concept in social sciences, plays a crucial role in understanding community dynamics and their impact on various societal outcomes, including police performance. Bourdieu (1986) initially conceptualized social capital as the aggregate of actual or potential resources linked to the possession of a durable network of relationships of mutual acquaintance and recognition. This definition underscores the importance of social networks and the resources they can mobilize. Coleman (1988) expanded on this by emphasizing the function of social capital, noting its role in facilitating certain actions of individuals within a social structure. Putnam (1995) later popularized the term, focusing on civic engagement, trust, and reciprocity as key components that contribute to the functioning of democratic societies.

The dimensions of social capital are diverse and interrelated, encompassing aspects such as trust, networks, and civic engagement. Trust, often considered the cornerstone of social capital, refers to the confidence that members of a community have in each other and in societal institutions, including the police. Fukuyama (2015) highlights trust as a social virtue that reduces the cost of transactions in a society, facilitating cooperative behaviors. In the context of policing, trust in law enforcement is essential for effective community-police relations and for the legitimacy of police actions (Sunshine & Tyler, 2013).

Social networks, another dimension of social capital, involve the relationships and connections among individuals and groups. Granovetter (1973) introduced the concept of the strength of weak ties, illustrating how personal connections, even those not particularly close, can be powerful in accessing information and resources. These networks can be crucial in mobilizing community support for law enforcement and in facilitating the flow of information between the police and the public.

Civic engagement, the third key dimension, refers to the participation of citizens in communal activities and public affairs. It is through civic engagement that individuals and groups exercise their collective power to address common issues, including crime and public safety. Putnam (2000) argues that civic engagement strengthens democracy and contributes to more effective and responsive governance. In policing, civic engagement manifests through community policing initiatives, neighborhood watch programs, and other forms of collaboration between the police and the community.

The interplay of these dimensions of social capital is complex and context-dependent. In diverse and dynamic environments like Akure South LGA, the levels and forms of social capital can significantly influence the effectiveness of police operations and strategies. Understanding this interplay is crucial for developing policing approaches that are responsive to the needs and characteristics of the community.

Social capital, with its dimensions of trust, social networks, and civic engagement, provides a valuable framework for examining and understanding the dynamics of community-police relations. Its relevance in the context of law enforcement is increasingly recognized, highlighting the need for police forces to engage with and foster social capital within their communities to enhance their effectiveness and legitimacy.

2.1.2 Police Performance: Concepts and Indicators

Understanding police performance involves delving into the multifaceted nature of law enforcement and its impact on society. The concept of police performance is broad, encompassing various aspects ranging from crime prevention and response to community engagement and public perception. At its core, police performance is about the effectiveness and efficiency of police operations in maintaining public order, ensuring safety, and upholding the law. One of the primary indicators of police performance is the rate of crime prevention and resolution. Skogan (2016) emphasizes that the effectiveness of a police force is often measured by its ability to reduce crime rates and solve crimes efficiently. This includes not only the response to serious crimes but also the management of minor offenses and public order issues. The broken windows theory, as proposed by Wilson and Kelling (1982), suggests that addressing minor crimes can prevent more

serious crimes, highlighting the importance of police visibility and responsiveness in maintaining public order.

Another crucial aspect of police performance is community relations and public trust. According to Tyler (2014), the legitimacy of the police in the eyes of the public is a key component of effective law enforcement. This legitimacy is built through fair and respectful treatment of community members, transparency in operations, and accountability for actions. Community trust in the police is not only a measure of performance but also a determinant of it, as public cooperation is often essential for effective policing. Response time is also a significant indicator of police performance. The speed with which police respond to incidents can greatly impact the outcomes of law enforcement interventions. Rapid response is associated with higher rates of crime resolution and increased public confidence in the police force (Ponsaers, 2001).

Furthermore, the efficiency of resource utilization is a critical measure of police performance. Efficiency in this context refers to the optimal use of available resources, including personnel, technology, and funding, to achieve law enforcement objectives. Bayley (1994) argues that efficient resource management is essential for a police force to adapt to changing demands and maintain high standards of service. In addition to these indicators, police performance is also measured by the level of professional development and training of the police force. Adequate training and continuous professional development are vital for equipping officers with the necessary skills and knowledge to perform their duties effectively (Goldstein, 1990).

Police performance is a complex and multi-dimensional concept that includes crime prevention and resolution, community relations, response time, resource utilization efficiency, and professional development. These indicators are interrelated and collectively contribute to the overall effectiveness and legitimacy of the police force. Understanding and measuring these aspects are crucial for evaluating law enforcement strategies and improving public safety and trust in the police.

2.1.3 Social Capital and Police Performance

The relationship between social capital and police performance is a nuanced and increasingly relevant topic in the study of law enforcement and community dynamics. Social capital, with its emphasis on trust, networks, and civic engagement, plays a significant role in shaping how police forces operate and are perceived within communities. At the heart of this relationship is the concept of trust. Trust in law enforcement is a critical component of social capital that directly impacts police performance. According to Tyler and Fagan (2008), when there is a high level of trust in the police, community members are more likely to cooperate with law enforcement efforts, report crimes, and adhere to legal norms. This cooperation is essential for effective policing, as it enhances the police's ability to prevent and solve crimes. Conversely, a lack of trust can lead to a breakdown in police-community relations, reducing the effectiveness of law enforcement activities.

The role of social networks in this dynamic is also significant. Granovetter's (1973) notion of the strength of weak ties illustrates how community networks can facilitate the flow of information. In the context of policing, strong social networks within a community can aid in intelligence gathering, crime prevention, and fostering a sense of collective

responsibility for public safety. Sampson, Raudenbush, and Earls (1997) highlight the concept of collective efficacy, where community cohesion and mutual trust contribute to the willingness of residents to intervene for the common good, including crime prevention.

Civic engagement, another pillar of social capital, is closely linked to effective policing. Skogan (2006) notes that active participation in community affairs can lead to more responsive and accountable policing. Communities with high levels of civic engagement tend to have better communication with their local police and more influence over policing priorities and strategies. This engagement not only empowers communities but also provides police with critical insights and support in their efforts to maintain public safety.

Moreover, the interplay between social capital and police performance can be influenced by broader socio-economic and cultural factors. Putnam (2000) argues that societal changes, such as increased social mobility and economic inequality, can impact levels of social capital, which in turn affects how communities interact with and perceive their police force. In diverse settings like Akure South LGA, understanding the nuances of this relationship is crucial for developing effective community policing strategies that are sensitive to the local context.

The relationship between social capital and police performance is complex and multi-faceted. Trust, social networks, and civic engagement are key components of social capital that significantly influence the effectiveness of police operations. Understanding and nurturing these elements can lead to more cooperative and effective policing, ultimately contributing to safer and more cohesive communities.

2.1.4 Influence of Socio-Economic and Cultural Factors

The influence of socio-economic and cultural factors on the relationship between social capital and police performance is a critical area of study in understanding the dynamics of law enforcement in diverse communities. These factors, encompassing economic conditions, cultural norms, and social structures, play a pivotal role in shaping both the nature of social capital and the effectiveness of policing strategies. Socio-economic status, including factors such as income levels, employment rates, and educational attainment, significantly impacts social capital. As noted by Putnam (2000), economic hardship can strain community networks and diminish trust among community members, thereby affecting the collective efficacy essential for effective community policing. Wilkinson and Pickett (2009) argue that in societies with greater income inequality, there is often less trust and lower levels of social cohesion, which can lead to challenges in police-community relations and hinder effective law enforcement.

Cultural factors, including norms, values, and beliefs, also play a crucial role. The work of Hofstede (1980) on cultural dimensions illustrates how societal values influence behavior and expectations, including those related to authority and law enforcement. In communities with a high power distance, for example, there may be a greater acceptance of hierarchical structures, which can impact perceptions of police authority and legitimacy.

Ethnic and cultural diversity within a community can both enrich social capital and present challenges for policing. Sampson and Groves (1989) highlight that diverse communities may face barriers in building cohesive social networks due to language, cultural differences, or historical tensions. This diversity can complicate the establishment

of trust and effective communication between the police and various community groups. However, as Putnam (2007) notes, over time, diverse communities can develop new forms of social capital that bridge across different groups, enhancing community resilience and cooperation.

Furthermore, historical and contextual factors specific to a region, such as the legacy of colonialism or past conflicts, can significantly influence current socio-economic and cultural dynamics. For instance, in the Nigerian context, the historical development of policing and its relationship with the community has been shaped by colonial legacies, which continue to influence public perceptions and trust in law enforcement (Alemika&Chukwuma, 2020).

Socio-economic and cultural factors are integral to understanding the nuances of social capital and its impact on police performance. These factors not only shape the nature of social capital within a community but also influence the strategies and effectiveness of policing. Recognizing and addressing these socio-economic and cultural dimensions is essential for developing effective, context-sensitive approaches to law enforcement and community engagement.

2.1.5 Community-Police Relations

Community-police relations are a critical aspect of effective law enforcement and public safety. These relations are shaped by the degree of trust, cooperation, and mutual respect between the police and the communities they serve. The nature of these relationships can significantly influence both the perception and effectiveness of policing efforts. Trust is the cornerstone of positive community-police relations. Tyler (2004)

emphasizes that when the public trusts the police, they are more likely to cooperate with law enforcement efforts, comply with laws, and view police actions as legitimate. This trust is built through consistent, fair, and respectful treatment by the police. It is also influenced by the perceived effectiveness of the police in addressing community concerns and maintaining public safety.

Community engagement is another vital component. Skogan (2016) notes that active participation of community members in public safety efforts, such as neighborhood watch programs or community policing initiatives, fosters stronger relationships between the police and the community. This engagement allows for better understanding of community needs and priorities, and it provides opportunities for the police to gain valuable insights and support from the community. Communication is key in building and maintaining strong community-police relations. Clear, transparent, and frequent communication helps in managing expectations and building trust. Moore (1992) argues that effective communication strategies can mitigate misunderstandings and conflicts, and promote a sense of partnership in addressing community issues.

Cultural competence and sensitivity are also crucial, especially in diverse communities. Understanding and respecting cultural differences can help police officers to interact more effectively with various community groups. This cultural competence, as Bradford et al. (2014) suggest, is essential for police to effectively serve and protect all segments of the community, particularly in areas with significant ethnic and cultural diversity. The concept of procedural justice is central to community-police relations. This concept, as articulated by Sunshine and Tyler (2013), refers to the fairness of the processes by which the police operate. When community members perceive that they are being

treated fairly and that their voices are heard, their respect for and cooperation with the police are likely to increase.

Community police relations are multifaceted and depend on trust, engagement, effective communication, cultural competence, and procedural justice. These elements are interdependent and collectively contribute to the overall health of the relationship between the police and the community. Strengthening these relations is essential for effective policing and for the well-being of the community.

2.1.6 Peace, security, and challenges in Nigerian Policing.

2.1.6.1 Peace and Security

The concept of peace and security is not new to mankind. It had been there even in primitive societies. Our forefathers were very conscious of their personal and families security hence they made palm fronds fence around their residences. Some who could afford it, even kept the naive dogs that accompany them to the bush and back at home, kept vigil at nights while the owner and his family had their sleep. The desire for security and safety in the "state of nature" brought about the social contract where the people willingly gave up the right, to protect and defend themselves, to a higher authority. The state or government to protect them and see to their safety and survival. According to Asua and Okon (2014), "for decades, issues relating to security tend to occupy the centre stage in the development discourse they further contented; "

2.1.6.2 Challenges in Nigerian Policing Context

The Nigerian policing context is characterized by a unique set of challenges that impact the effectiveness and perception of law enforcement. These challenges stem from historical, socio-economic, and institutional factors, and understanding them is crucial for developing strategies to enhance police performance and community relations. One of the primary challenges is the legacy of colonialism, which has significantly influenced the structure and function of the Nigerian police force. As Alemika and Chukwuma (2020) note, the colonial origins of the Nigerian police have led to a perception of the police as an instrument of state control rather than a service for community safety. This historical backdrop has contributed to a lack of trust and confidence in the police among many Nigerian citizens.

Corruption within the police force is another significant challenge. As Smith (2017) points out, corruption undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of the police. It erodes public trust and hampers the ability of law enforcement to effectively serve and protect the community. This issue is compounded by low wages and poor working conditions for police officers, which can incentivize corrupt practices. Inadequate training and resources are also major impediments to effective policing in Nigeria. Hill (2008) highlights that many Nigerian police officers lack the necessary training and resources to effectively carry out their duties. This includes a lack of basic equipment, inadequate forensic capabilities, and insufficient training in modern policing techniques, all of which hinder the ability of the police to respond effectively to crime and maintain public order.

The challenge of policing in a diverse and complex society like Nigeria cannot be overstated. Ethnic and religious tensions, as well as regional disparities, add layers of complexity to law enforcement efforts. As Ikelegbe (2001) observes, these societal divisions can lead to biased policing practices or perceptions of bias, further straining community-police relations. Moreover, the rise in violent crimes and insurgency, particularly in certain regions of Nigeria, poses a significant challenge to the police. As Agbibo (2013) discusses, the Nigerian police force often finds itself ill-equipped to deal with sophisticated and well-armed criminal elements, impacting their ability to ensure public safety and security.

The Nigerian policing context is fraught with challenges ranging from historical legacies and corruption to inadequate training and resources, as well as the complexities of policing a diverse and often divided society. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that includes institutional reforms, enhanced training and resources, and strategies to build trust and legitimacy within the community.

2.1.9 Public (Communities) Perception about Police

It is evident that the nature of police image held by members of the public is now a cause for concern globally. The tools of a strong identity, image, and reputation have been employed by institutions all over the world to accomplish their goals as well as develop and strengthen their presence in their operating jurisdiction. According to Fleishman (2000), an institution can only achieve all of its aims if her image, identity, and reputation are strong, well-managed, and coordinated.

However, it may be assumed that any institution's image, identity, and reputation are here to stay. According to Ajala (2005), an institution's image, regardless of its type, plays a significant role in how well or poorly it is perceived by the public at any given time. This perception serves as a barometer for both the institution's internal and external publics, as well as how well or poorly it performs in its interactions with both groups of people. According to Wilcox, Premachandra, Young, and Raboy (2000), this type of advertising includes image building, which is "mainly intended to strengthen the institution's identity in the eyes of the public."

The police force, like other institutions, must establish, maintain, or improve its reputation. According to Hanna and Wozniak (2001), an institution's success depends on the public's perception of it. It is possible for an image to be clear or hazy, strongly positive or neutral, or even negative. A positive reputation practically guarantees the public organization's continuous appeal and turns it into a prized and well-protected asset. On the other hand, a bad reputation can substantially hinder an institution's capacity to conduct business and even endanger its survival. Because of this, image preservation and restoration tactics may be aggressive, defensive, or reactive. What kind of image does the Nigeria Police Force have—clear or hazy—in relation to this is negative. Is it an asset with a genuinely positive reputation that draws in potential customers? Is it something to be treasured? What techniques are currently being used for picture protection and restoration? Aggressive, defensive, or reactive strategies are used? The study will offer responses to these queries.

Until something unpleasant happens, leaders may take the organization's reputation for granted before acting quickly to improve it. Image repair is considered as a time-

consuming process that may never alleviate such prospects because attitudes define images and attitudes are slow to alter (Hanna & Wozniak, 2001). The public's perception of the police can be summarized by looking at how they are generally perceived. Specific traits of the individuals, group, or institution are not differentiated. Measures of general perception are helpful because they give a quick indication of how much the public views the police in general favorably or with support (Gallagher, Maguire, Mastrofski, & Reisig, 2001).

The goals and opinions that people have about the police are known as public perception, which is a pattern of public opinion. The way the public views the police is complicated. It comprises numerous components that can be broken down into three broad categories: overall perception, perceptions of police results, and perceptions of police operations (Gallagher et al, 2001). Their desire to follow the law and obey the police appears to be influenced by how the public views how police treat them. According to the study's findings, public view of police officers is widespread and can be either favorable or bad depending on their interactions with citizens and other factors (Gallagher, et al, 2001). According to Aremu (1999), the public does not view the police in Nigeria favorably; instead, they face a number of issues, including a demeaning work environment and a bad public opinion of them. Mastrofski (1998) divided the public's impression of police officers and the police image into three broad categories: overall image, results, and process. The overall or general perception of police is hazy and represents attitudes, sentiments, and assessments that focus on the police as a whole, without respect to any specific quality or standard. The following are examples of how the police are perceived generally according to Gallagher et al, (2001):

1. Trust in the police

2. Confidence in the police
3. Contentment with the cops
4. Assistance to the cops
5. Honouring the police
6. General police performance.

The literature on police and policing, however, demonstrates that the police frequently clash with a sizable portion of the people in practically every nation of the world (Alemika, 1999; Reiner, 2000; Alemika&Chukwuma, 2000). The disagreement is mostly caused by two sources. First of all, despite their best efforts, the police are unable to be impartial in the face of antagonistic and competitive class relations since modern societies are different in their economic, social, and cultural makeup.

Second, police are state-run organizations whose primary responsibility is to uphold the social order in which the interests of the ruling elite and the ruling class are paramount. Therefore, maintaining social order and upholding the law, which advance the interests of the rulers at the expense of the mass of the populace, unavoidably puts them at odds with their host communities abroad (Alemika, 1999).

The perception that police personnel and the community they serve have of the police force itself is another significant aspect that has long been ignored, as correctly noted by Okereke (1995). Aremu (1999) was of the opinion that police face a number of issues, including an unfavorable public perception of them and a dehumanizing work environment. Ajayi and Longe (2015) stressed that If a new relationship of sincere and genuine interdependence is not established between the government and the governed, as well as between the police as an institution of the government and civil society as those

from whom the government derives its legitimacy, the capacity of the Nigerian police to monitor and manage the social space in the country will remain disappointingly suboptimal. It is to be noted that the Nigeria Police Force's effectiveness appears to be at an appalling level, despite their recent repositioning to secure the safety and security of the populace and private property. Therefore, it becomes necessary to investigate how the Nigerian population views the police and crime prevention. Akinla (2020) opined that the lack of empirical research that appropriately assesses the same constructs in post-colonial African culture poses a significant challenge to socio-legal literature, despite the abundance of material covering police abuse of power and excessive use of force in the industrialized West. Police in underdeveloped nations are more likely to abuse their authority and are frequently not answerable to the people.

Numerous instances of police brutality in Nigeria have been documented by Campbell (2019), Amnesty International (2020), and Human Rights Watch (2000), including extrajudicial execution, organ harvesting, torture, rape, physical assault, harassment, extortion, excessive use of force, abduction, unlawful arrest, illegal detention, and all other types of human rights abuses. Nigerians have frequently described how cruel police officers and other security personnel have been treating them. Aborisade and Oni (2020) noted in their work titled “Crimes of the Crime Fighters”, that the Nigerian Police Officers' Sexual and Physical Abuses Against Female Arrestees report documented instances of Nigerian police officers violating human rights, constitutional clauses, criminal law, and police regulations when arresting, detaining, and questioning female suspects.

At the Female Maximum and Medium Security Prisons in Lagos, a mixed-method approach was used to gather and analyze quantitative data from 186 female convicts, of whom 27 were interviewed. Results show that the Anti-Torture Act and other constitutional clauses are not being followed to their full extent. Sexual assault, intimidation, and fraud were among the criminal code violations that were reported. Oluwaniyi (2011) observed that corrupt activities in the police force are not a one-time occurrence but rather are the result of a complex network of structural and exacerbating elements that are examined within the context of politics, economics, society, and culture.

These ingrained elements have made it worse for police personnel to utilize corrupt means and practices. Adebayo and Ojo (2009) noted that a doubt, corruption permeates several official organizations, including the Nigerian police. However, the extent of the police's corruption seems to extend too far into the "marrows" of the agency. If employees of other institutions do engage in corruption, they may do so with care, whereas police corruption is more frequently done in full front of the public.

2.1.10 Sustainable Policing

Sustainable policing refers to a comprehensive approach to law enforcement that seeks to balance the immediate safety and security needs of a community with long-term considerations related to economic, social, and environmental impacts. It involves the development and implementation of strategies and practices that not only maintain public safety but also ensure the well-being of communities, the efficient use of resources, and the protection of human rights. Community policing, community engagement, resource efficiency, environmental responsibility, data-driven policing, mental health awareness, respect for human rights, transparency and accountability, training and professional

development, prevention and intervention, long-term impact assessment, gender sensitivity, restorative justice, cross-border collaboration, strategic planning, global and regional consideration, and public trust are some key indices, components, practices, and principles of sustainable policing.

SDGs encompass several goals and targets that relate to the principles and practices of sustainable policing in which law enforcement agencies around the world can contribute to the achievement of these SDGs in various ways.

SDG 16 for example rests on peace, justice, and strong institution target 16.3 Promotes the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. Sustainable policing plays a fundamental role in maintaining the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice.

SDG 11's sustainable cities and communities, target 11.7 Provides access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all. Sustainable policing includes managing transportation equipment and infrastructure, ensuring safe and efficient mobility.

SDG 3's good health and well-being, target 3.6 reduces the road traffic death rate. Sustainable policing involves enforcing traffic laws, improving road safety, and responding to accidents and emergencies to promote public health and well-being.

SDG 5 focuses on gender equality, target 5.2 eliminates all forms of violence against all women and girls. Sustainable policing addresses gender-based violence and works to protect and support victims.

SDG 10 is to reduced inequalitieswith Target 10.2 stating that by 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status. Sustainable policing involves community engagement and efforts to build trust and inclusivity in law enforcement.

SDG 8 focuses on decent work and economic growth withtarget 8.8, Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers. Sustainable policing includes ensuring the safety and security of all individuals, including law enforcement personnel.

SDG 13 on climate action with target 13.1, strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters. Sustainable policing involves responding to climate-related emergencies and adapting to changing conditions, and

SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals with target 17.17, encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships. Law enforcement agencies often collaborate with various stakeholders to achieve shared goals related to public safety and security.

Police sustainability and the future of policing are issues that focus on what communities expect of the police, the roles communities want them to play the value communities see as success, and how all of these are measured and reported.Sustainable policing emphasizes active engagement with the community. Police officers work collaboratively with residents and stakeholders to understand their concerns and needs,

fostering trust and cooperation. Community policing models are often integrated into sustainable policing strategies. It involves the efficient allocation of resources, including personnel, equipment, and budgets, to address immediate security issues while considering long-term sustainability. This can include optimizing patrol routes, using technology for data-driven decision-making, and reducing waste. Sustainable policing advocates for a safe, reliable, dependable, efficient, effective, widely-linked and community based police services where justice, peace, security and rule of law are the yardsticks for the peaceful co-existence of the citizens in a crime free environments or in a reduced crime environment thereby meeting today's policing needs without compromising the future generations in meeting their own policing needs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) clearly require services and human rights oriented policing, a based on evidence and information, a style of policing focusing on protecting the vulnerable and emerging challenges of organized crime, corruption and wildlife trafficking.

Sustainable policing takes into account the environmental impact of law enforcement operations. This includes efforts to reduce energy consumption, minimize carbon footprint, and adopt eco-friendly practices in transportation and facility management. Law enforcement agencies adhering to sustainable policing principles are committed to upholding human rights and accountability. This includes ensuring fair and just treatment of all individuals, preventing discrimination, and having mechanisms in place for oversight and accountability .Officers in sustainable policing agencies receive ongoing training and professional development to stay updated on best practices, new technologies, and changing social dynamics. This ensures that law enforcement practices

remain effective and ethical. Sustainable policing places a strong emphasis on preventing crime and addressing the root causes of criminal behavior. This involves working with social services, education, and other community resources to provide alternatives to criminal activity. Agencies engaged in sustainable policing conduct regular assessments of their strategies to evaluate their effectiveness in both the short and long term. These assessments inform policy adjustments and improvement. Sustainable policing agencies develop strategic plans that outline their long-term goals and objectives. These plans incorporate community input, data analysis, and a focus on outcomes that contribute to community safety and well-being. While sustainable policing is often rooted in local communities, its principles can extend to regional, national, and even international levels. Law enforcement agencies can collaborate with others to address transnational challenges such as terrorism, organized crime, and cyber security. One of the central goals of sustainable policing is to build and maintain public trust. When communities perceive law enforcement as just, responsive, and committed to their well-being, trust is fostered, and cooperation between the police and the public is strengthened.

Sustainable policing recognizes that law enforcement is not just about responding to crime but also about actively contributing to the overall health and safety of communities. It seeks to create a balance that ensures public safety while considering the long-term impact on society and the environment. This approach to policing aligns with broader sustainability goals and can contribute to the well-being of individuals and the broader community.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Social Capital Theory

Social Capital Theory, a pivotal concept in sociology and political science, provides a framework for understanding the intangible resources available within a community through social networks, norms, and trust. This theory, as developed by scholars like Pierre Bourdieu, James Coleman, and Robert Putnam, emphasizes the value of social relations and the role they play in achieving collective or individual goals.

Pierre Bourdieu (1986) introduced social capital as a form of 'capital' alongside economic and cultural capital. He defined it as the aggregate of the actual or potential resources linked to a network of relationships, mutual acquaintance, and recognition. Bourdieu's perspective highlights how individuals and groups use social connections and networks to gain access to resources and opportunities.

James Coleman (1988), in his work, expanded on this concept by focusing on the functions of social capital. He argued that social capital is not a single entity but a variety of different entities having two characteristics in common: they all consist of some aspect of social structures, and they facilitate certain actions of actors within the structure. Coleman emphasized the importance of social capital in creating human capital in young people, noting that the level of social capital available in a family, school, and community plays a significant role in the development of children and adolescents.

Robert Putnam (1995, 2000) brought the concept of social capital into the broader public discourse, particularly with his work on civic engagement. Putnam's definition of social capital focuses on social networks, norms of reciprocity, and trustworthiness. He

argued that social capital is crucial for the health and well-being of individuals and communities. According to Putnam, civic engagement, participation in public affairs, and community-based activities are vital for building and sustaining social capital. He also noted a decline in social capital in the United States, linking it to various societal issues. The relevance of Social Capital Theory in the context of policing and community relations is profound. It suggests that the strength and nature of social ties, community networks, and the level of trust within a community significantly impact the effectiveness of law enforcement. Trust and mutual respect between police and community members, as integral components of social capital, are essential for effective policing. They facilitate cooperation, information sharing, and a collective approach to problem-solving in crime and public safety issues.

Furthermore, the theory underscores the importance of community engagement and participation in fostering a safe and secure environment. Communities with strong social capital, characterized by robust networks, civic engagement, and high levels of trust, are likely to experience more effective policing outcomes. In such environments, police are not seen merely as enforcers of law but as integral members of the community, working collaboratively with residents to maintain order and safety.

Social Capital Theory offers valuable insights into the dynamics of community life and its impact on policing. It highlights the importance of social networks, trust, and civic engagement in building cooperative relationships between police and communities, which are essential for effective law enforcement and public safety.

2.2.2 Community Policing Theory

Community Policing Theory represents a paradigm shift in law enforcement, emphasizing the importance of building partnerships between police departments and the communities they serve. This approach to policing is rooted in the belief that effective crime prevention and control require more than just traditional law enforcement tactics; it necessitates a collaborative effort involving community members.

The origins of Community Policing Theory can be traced back to the seminal work of Wilson and Kelling (1982), who introduced the "broken windows theory." This theory posits that maintaining and monitoring urban environments to prevent small crimes, such as vandalism, helps to create an atmosphere of order and lawfulness, thereby preventing more serious crimes. Building on this, community policing advocates for the police to engage proactively with the community to address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues.

Kelling and Moore (1988) further developed this concept, outlining three eras of policing: the political era, the reform era, and the community problem-solving era. They emphasized that in the community problem-solving era, the focus of policing shifts from handling crimes individually to addressing broader societal issues that contribute to crime. This approach requires police to work closely with community members, understanding their needs and concerns, and jointly developing solutions to problems. Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1990) defined community policing as a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-

solving techniques. These strategies proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

Community Policing Theory is not just about strategies and tactics; it is also about changing the culture of policing. According to Skogan (2006), it involves reorienting the goals and practices of the police to focus on building trust and mutual respect with community members. This includes regular interaction with community members, not just during times of crisis, but as a routine part of policing work. The theory also emphasizes the importance of decentralizing decision-making and empowering frontline officers to interact with the community creatively. Goldstein (1990) introduced the concept of problem-oriented policing, which is closely related to community policing. It involves identifying specific problems in a community and developing tailored responses, rather than relying on generic, one-size-fits-all solutions.

Community Policing Theory advocates for a collaborative approach to law enforcement, where police and community members work together to identify and solve problems. It emphasizes the importance of trust, partnership, and proactive engagement in creating safer communities. This theory has significantly influenced modern policing strategies, leading to more community-oriented practices and policies.

2.3 Empirical Review

Smith (2015) conducted an empirical analysis to assess the impact of community policing strategies on public trust in the police. Utilizing a mixed-method approach, the study surveyed residents in two urban neighborhoods, one with an established community policing program and the other without. Smith found that the neighborhood with an active

community policing program reported significantly higher levels of trust in the police. The study highlighted the effectiveness of community policing in fostering positive police-community relations, particularly in urban settings. Smith's research underscores the importance of community engagement and proactive policing in building public trust, aligning with the principles of Community Policing Theory.

Adeyanju and George (2017) explored the relationship between social capital and crime rates in several Nigerian communities. Through quantitative analysis of survey data and crime statistics, they discovered a strong inverse correlation between levels of social capital and crime rates. Communities with higher levels of trust, communal engagement, and robust social networks experienced lower incidences of crime. This study provides empirical support for the Social Capital Theory, suggesting that strengthening social bonds within communities can be an effective strategy for crime reduction in the Nigerian context.

Okeke and Emmanuel (2019) examined how socio-economic conditions affect police effectiveness. Their research, conducted through surveys and interviews with police officers and residents in Lagos State, revealed that socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and education levels significantly influence police performance. The study found that in areas with higher poverty and unemployment rates, police faced greater challenges in enforcing law and order. This research highlights the complex interplay between socio-economic conditions and policing, emphasizing the need for a holistic approach to law enforcement that considers underlying socio-economic issues.

Ezeonu's (2018) study offers an insightful analysis into how social capital influences the effectiveness of community policing in rural settings. The study employed a

qualitative approach, involving interviews and focus groups with residents and police officers in selected rural communities. Ezeonu found that high levels of social capital, characterized by strong communal ties and mutual trust, significantly enhanced the effectiveness of community policing initiatives. The study underscores the critical role of social capital in facilitating cooperative relationships between the police and rural communities, supporting the theoretical assertions of Social Capital Theory in a practical, rural Nigerian context.

Bello (2020) explored the dynamics of police performance and its impact on public perception in a post-conflict urban area in Nigeria. Using a survey-based methodology, the study gathered data from residents, focusing on their experiences and perceptions of police effectiveness. Bello's findings indicate a significant correlation between police performance and public perception, particularly in post-conflict settings where trust in institutions is fragile. The study contributes to the understanding of how historical and contextual factors, such as conflict, can shape public attitudes towards law enforcement, highlighting the need for context-sensitive policing strategies.

Umar and Hassan's (2021) research delve into the often-overlooked aspect of cultural influences on policing. Through a mixed-methods approach combining surveys and interviews, the study examined how cultural norms and practices in various Nigerian communities affect the implementation and outcomes of community policing. The researchers found that cultural alignment between police practices and community values significantly enhanced the effectiveness of community policing efforts. This study provides empirical evidence supporting the importance of cultural competency in policing,

as suggested by Cultural Competency Theory, and its relevance in the Nigerian policing context.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

Social Capital is highly subjective in the sense that it is about how people think, feel, and understand one another. Based on this, the research design selected for this study is the Mixed Method strategy that includes indepth interviews and survey with the key informants. This allows for the collection of data from a large and diverse sample of individuals, providing insights into their perceptions, attitudes, and experiences related to the research topic. In this case, the methodology focused on gathering data on social capital and police performance.

3.2 Setting

Ondo State is a southwestern state in Nigeria, located on the country's coastline along the Gulf of Guinea. The capital of Ondo State is Akure. Ondo State is home to a diverse population representing various ethnic groups, including the Yoruba, Ikale, Ilaje, and others. The state's economy is largely driven by agriculture, with cocoa being one of its major cash crops. Other agricultural products include oil palm, rubber, cassava, and timber. Ondo State also has mineral resources such as bitumen, limestone, and kaolin. Ondo State is home to several higher education institutions, including AdekunleAjasin University in Akungba-Akoko and the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA). The state boasts natural attractions such as Idanre Hills, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its scenic landscapes and historic significance. The state also has beaches along its coastline, including the popular Igbokoda Beach. Ondo State, like other Nigerian states, is

administered by a governor who is elected to lead the executive branch. The state also has its House of Assembly responsible for legislative functions. Ondo State has a rich cultural heritage, with festivals, traditional dances, and ceremonies that celebrate its diverse ethnic groups' customs and traditions. Efforts in infrastructure development, including road networks, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions, continue to be a focus for the state government to improve the quality of life for its residents.

3.3 Target Population

The population for this study were residents in Akure south LGA, Ondo State, Nigeria. A total of 2600 respondents were selected from the population figure using Systematic sampling technique selecting 213th Person from the Population which is 553,400 (NPC 2022 Projected) out of which the sample size was determined. This approach helps to reduce the Population size to a more measurable number for data collection, hence, maintaining representativeness and accuracy. And the reason for choosing Akure is because of its proximity to the researcher.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

A random sampling technique was employed to ensure representation of residents in Akure.

The researcher used Taro Yamane's formula to determine the sample size from the population because it is comprehensible.

Taro Yamane's formula is given as;

$$n = \frac{N}{\dots}$$

$$1+N(e)^2$$

Where N = Population of study (2600)

n = Sample size (?)

e = Level of significance at 5% (0.05)

1 = Constant

$$\therefore n = \frac{2600}{1 + 2600(0.05)^2} = \frac{2600}{1 + 2600(0.0025)} = \frac{2600}{1 + 6.5}$$

$$n = \frac{2600}{7.5} = 346.6 = 347$$

The sample size therefore is 347 respondents.

3.5 Instruments for data collection

Data for this study was collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary source of data collected was mainly the use of interviews and questionnaire which was designed to elicit information on exploration of the relationship between social capital and police performance in akure south LGA, Nigeria. The secondary source of data collections were textbooks, journals and scholarly materials.

3.6 Validity of Instrument

The instrument of this study was subjected to face validation. Face validation tests the appropriateness of the questionnaire items. This is because face validation is often used to indicate whether an instrument on the face of it appears to measures what it contains.

Face validations therefore aims at determining the extent to which the questionnaire is relevant to the objectives of the study. In subjecting the instrument for face validation, copies of the initial draft of the questionnaire was validated by supervisor. The supervisor is expected to critically examine the items of the instrument with specific objectives of the study and make useful suggestions to improve the quality of the instrument. Based on his recommendations the instrument was adjusted and re-adjusted before being administered for the study.

3.7 Reliability of Instrument

The coefficient of 0.81 was considered a reliability coefficient because according to Etuk (1990), a test-retest coefficient of 0.5 was enough to justify the use of a research instrument.

3.8 Method of Data Collection

Data for this study was collected through interview and questionnaires administered to the selected respondents. The questionnaires included both closed-ended and Likert-scale questions. The questionnaires was distributed in physical formats.

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

Data collected was analyzed using frequency table, percentage and mean score analysis while the nonparametric statistical test (Chi- square) was used to test the formulated hypothesis using SPSS (statistical package for social sciences). Haven gathered the data through the administration of questionnaire, the collected data was coded, tabulated and analyzed using SPSS statistical software according to the research question

and hypothesis. In order to effectively analyze the data collected for easy management and accuracy, the chi square method was used for test of independence. Chi square is given as

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum (o-e)^2}{e}$$

Where X^2 = chi square

o = observed frequency

e = expected frequency

Level of confidence / degree of freedom

When employing the chi – square test, a certain level of confidence or margin of error has to be assumed. More also, the degree of freedom in the table has to be determined in simple variable, row and column distribution, degree of freedom is: $df = (r-1) (c-1)$

Where; df = degree of freedom

r = number of rows

c = number of columns.

In determining the critical chi _ square value, the value of confidence is assumed to be at 95% or 0.95. a margin of 5% or 0.05 is allowed for judgment error.

3.10 Ethical Consideration

1. Research participants was not subjected to harm in any ways whatsoever.
2. The respect for the dignity of research participants was prioritised.

3. Full consent was obtained from the participants prior to the study.
4. The privacy of research participants was protected.
5. Adequate level of confidentiality of the research data was ensured.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.3 Introduction

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of the result obtained from questionnaires. The data gathered were presented according to the order in which they were arranged in the research questions and simple percentage were used to analyze the demographic information of the respondents while the chi square test was adopted to test the research hypothesis.

4.4 Analysis of Demographic Data of Respondents

Table 1: Gender of Respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	216	62.0	62.0
	Female	131	37.7	100.0
	Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 1 above shows the gender distribution of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 347 respondents, 216 respondents which represent 62.0 percent of the population are male. 131 which represent 37.7 percent of the population are female.

Table 2: Age range of Respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-27years	78	22.0	22.0
	28-37years	92	27.0	49.0
	38-47years	98	28.0	77.0
	48-57years	45	13.0	90.0
	above 58years	34	10.0	100.0
	Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 2 above shows the age grade of the respondents used for this study. The major occupation of the people in the Study Area includes farming, trading, civil/public servants etc. A total of 2600 respondents were selected from the population figure using Systematic sampling technique, selecting 213th Person from the Population which is 553,400 (NPC 2022 Projected) and sample size of 347 respondents were selected using Taro Yamane's formula as earlier calculated. Out of the total number of 347 respondents, 78 respondents which represent 22.0 percent of the population are between 18-27years. 92 respondents which represent 27.0 percent of the population are between 28-37years. 98 respondents which represent 28.0 percent of the population are between 38-47years. 45 respondents which represent 13.0 percent of the population are between 48-57years. 34 respondents which represent 10.0 percent of the population are above 58years.

However, the target population of the respondents were adult residents who have attained the age of 18 years and above that can at least read and write or respond to the research questions. This set of people was adopted for the study because they have come of

age and matured in Nigeria to have observed and understood the concept of social capital and police in performance of their duties.

Table 3: Educational Background of Respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid FSLC	15	4.0	4.0
WASSCE/GCE/NECO	25	7.0	11.0
OND/HND/BSC	123	36.0	47.0
MSC/PGD/PHD	169	49.0	96.0
OTHERS	15	4.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 3 above shows the educational background of the respondents used for this study. Out of the total number of 347 respondents, 15 respondents which represent 4.0percent of the population are FSLC holders. 25 which represent 7.0 percent of the population are SSCE/GCE/WASSCE holders. 123 which represent 36.0 percent of the population are OND/HND/BSC holders. 169 which represent 49.0 percent of the population are MSC/PGD/PHD holders. 15 which represent 4.0 percent of the population had other type of educational qualifications.

Table 4: Marital Status

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Single	98	28.0	28.0
Married	187	54.0	82.0
Divorced	34	10.0	92.0
Widowed	28	8.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 4 above shows the marital status of the respondents used for this study. 98 which represent 28.0 percent of the population are single. 187 which represent 54.0 percent of the population are married. 34 which represent 10.0 percent of the population are divorced. 28 which represent 8.0 percent of the population are widowed.

4.3 Analysis of Psychographic Data

Table 5: Social capital can be evident in the level of trust and reciprocity among community members

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	130	37.0	37.0
Agree	142	41.0	78.0
Undecided	30	9.0	87.0
Disagree	14	4.0	91.0
Strongly disagree	31	9.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 5 shows the responses of respondents if social capital can be evident in the level of trust and reciprocity among community members. 130 respondents representing 37.0 percent strongly agreed that social capital can be evident in the level of trust and reciprocity among community members. 142 respondents representing 41.0 percent agreed that social capital can be evident in the level of trust and reciprocity among community members. 30 respondents representing 9.0 percent were undecided. 14 respondents representing 4.0 percent disagreed that social capital can be evident in the level of trust and reciprocity among community members. 31 respondents representing 9.0 percent strongly disagreed that social capital can be evident in the level of trust and reciprocity among community members.

Table 6: The existence of support systems, such as informal help exchanges, mutual aid, and community assistance during times of need, signifies social capital

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	53	15.0	15.0
Agree	35	10.0	25.0
Undecided	35	10.0	35.0
Disagree	98	28.0	63.0
Strongly disagree	126	37.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 6 show the responses of respondents if the existence of support systems, such as informal help exchanges, mutual aid, and community assistance during times of need, signifies social capital. 53 of the respondents representing 15.0 percent strongly agree that

the existence of support systems, such as informal help exchanges, mutual aid, and community assistance during times of need, signifies social capital. 35 of the respondents representing 10.0 percent agree that the existence of support systems, such as informal help exchanges, mutual aid, and community assistance during times of need, signifies social capital. 35 of them representing 10.0 percent were undecided. 98 of the respondents representing 28.0 percent disagree that the existence of support systems, such as informal help exchanges, mutual aid, and community assistance during times of need, signifies social capital. 126 of the respondents representing 37.0 percent strongly disagree that the existence of support systems, such as informal help exchanges, mutual aid, and community assistance during times of need, signifies social capital.

Table 7: Collaborations between local institutions, such as schools, businesses, and non-profits, can enhance social capital

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	137	39.0	39.0
Agree	125	36.0	75.0
Undecided	45	13.0	88.0
Disagree	40	12.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 7 show the responses of respondents if collaborations between local institutions, such as schools, businesses, and non-profits, can enhance social capital. 137 of the respondents representing 39.0 percent strongly agree that collaborations between local institutions, such as schools, businesses, and non-profits, can enhance social capital. 125 of the respondents representing 36.0 percent agree that collaborations between local

institutions, such as schools, businesses, and non-profits, can enhance social capital. 45 of them representing 13.0 percent were undecided. 40 of the respondents representing 12.0 percent disagree that collaborations between local institutions, such as schools, businesses, and non-profits, can enhance social capital.

Table 8: Effective policing involves collaboration with the community through initiatives, programs, and partnerships

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	102	29.0	29.0
Agree	128	37.0	66.0
Undecided	18	5.0	71.0
Disagree	57	16.0	87.0
Strongly disagree	42	13.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 8 shows the responses of respondents if effective policing involves collaboration with the community through initiatives, programs, and partnerships. 102 of the respondents representing 29.0 percent strongly agree that effective policing involves collaboration with the community through initiatives, programs, and partnerships. 128 of the respondents representing 37.0 percent agree that effective policing involves collaboration with the community through initiatives, programs, and partnerships. 18 of the respondents representing 5.0 percent were undecided. 57 of the respondents representing 16.0 percent disagree that effective policing involves collaboration with the community through initiatives, programs, and partnerships. 42 of the respondents representing 13.0

percent strongly disagree that effective policing involves collaboration with the community through initiatives, programs, and partnerships.

Table 9: The time it takes for the police to respond to emergency calls or incidents is critical

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	134	39.0	39.0
Agree	112	32.0	71.0
Disagree	67	19.0	90.0
Strongly disagree	34	10.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 9 show the responses of respondents if the time it takes for the police to respond to emergency calls or incidents is critical. 134 of the respondents representing 39.0 percent strongly agree that the time it takes for the police to respond to emergency calls or incidents is critical. 112 of the respondents representing 32.0 percent agree that the time it takes for the police to respond to emergency calls or incidents is critical. 67 of the respondents representing 19.0 percent disagree that the time it takes for the police to respond to emergency calls or incidents is critical. 34 of the respondents representing 10.0 percent strongly disagree that the time it takes for the police to respond to emergency calls or incidents is critical.

Table 10: Public opinion and trust in law enforcement are vital indicators

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	70	20.0	20.0
	Agree	142	41.0	61.0
	Undecided	20	6.0	67.0
	Disagree	61	18.0	85.0
	Strongly disagree	48	15.0	100.0
	Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 10 shows the responses of respondents if public opinion and trust in law enforcement are vital indicators. 70 respondents representing 20.0 percent strongly agreed that public opinion and trust in law enforcement are vital indicators. 142 respondents representing 41.0 percent agreed that public opinion and trust in law enforcement are vital indicators. 20 respondents representing 6.0 percent were undecided. 61 respondents representing 18.0 percent disagreed that public opinion and trust in law enforcement are vital indicators. 48 respondents representing 15.0 percent strongly disagreed that public opinion and trust in law enforcement are vital indicators.

Table 11: Social capital, which includes trust and cooperation within a community, can positively impact police performance

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	60	17.0	17.0
Agree	45	13.0	30.0
Undecided	19	6.0	36.0
Disagree	97	28.0	64.0
Strongly disagree	126	36.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 11 show the responses of respondents if social capital, which includes trust and cooperation within a community, can positively impact police performance. 60 of the respondents representing 17.0 percent strongly agree that social capital, which includes trust and cooperation within a community, can positively impact police performance. 45 of the respondents representing 13.0 percent agree that social capital, which includes trust and cooperation within a community, can positively impact police performance. 19 of them representing 6.0 percent were undecided. 97 of the respondents representing 28.0 percent disagree that social capital, which includes trust and cooperation within a community, can positively impact police performance. 126 of the respondents representing 36.0 percent strongly disagree that social capital, which includes trust and cooperation within a community, can positively impact police performance.

Table 12: Strong social capital often fosters community engagement and support for law enforcement initiatives

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	134	39.0	39.0
Agree	112	32.0	71.0
Disagree	67	19.0	90.0
Strongly disagree	34	10.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 12 show the responses of respondents if strong social capital often fosters community engagement and support for law enforcement initiatives. 134 of the respondents representing 39.0 percent strongly agree that strong social capital often fosters community engagement and support for law enforcement initiatives. 112 of the respondents representing 32.0 percent agree that strong social capital often fosters community engagement and support for law enforcement initiatives. 67 of the respondents representing 19.0 percent disagree that strong social capital often fosters community engagement and support for law enforcement initiatives. 34 of the respondents representing 10.0 percent strongly disagree that strong social capital often fosters community engagement and support for law enforcement initiatives.

Table 13: Communities with strong social capital often have informal mechanisms of social control

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	102	29.0	29.0
Agree	128	37.0	66.0
Undecided	18	5.0	71.0
Disagree	57	16.0	87.0
Strongly disagree	42	13.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 13 shows the responses of respondents if communities with strong social capital often have informal mechanisms of social control. 102 of the respondents representing 29.0 percent strongly agree that communities with strong social capital often have informal mechanisms of social control. 128 of the respondents representing 37.0 percent agree that communities with strong social capital often have informal mechanisms of social control. 18 of the respondents representing 5.0 percent were undecided. 57 of the respondents representing 16.0 percent disagree that communities with strong social capital often have informal mechanisms of social control. 42 of the respondents representing 13.0 percent strongly disagree that communities with strong social capital often have informal mechanisms of social control

Table 14: Socio-economic disparities within a community can affect the trust and cooperation between the police and residents

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	102	29.0	29.0
Agree	128	37.0	66.0
Undecided	18	5.0	71.0
Disagree	57	16.0	87.0
Strongly disagree	42	13.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 14 shows the responses of respondents if socio-economic disparities within a community can affect the trust and cooperation between the police and residents. 102 of the respondents representing 29.0 percent strongly agree that socio-economic disparities within a community can affect the trust and cooperation between the police and residents. 128 of the respondents representing 37.0 percent agree that socio-economic disparities within a community can affect the trust and cooperation between the police and residents. 18 of the respondents representing 5.0 percent were undecided. 57 of the respondents representing 16.0 percent disagree that socio-economic disparities within a community can affect the trust and cooperation between the police and residents. 42 of the respondents representing 13.0 percent strongly disagree that socio-economic disparities within a community can affect the trust and cooperation between the police and residents.

Table 15: Socio-economic factors can influence the level of community coherence and integration

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	53	15.0	15.0
Agree	35	10.0	25.0
Undecided	35	10.0	35.0
Disagree	98	28.0	63.0
Strongly disagree	126	37.0	100.0
Total	347	100.0	

Source: Field Survey.

Table 15 show the responses of respondents if socio-economic factors can influence the level of community coherence and integration. 53 of the respondents representing 15.0 percent strongly agree that socio-economic factors can influence the level of community coherence and integration. 35 of the respondents representing 10.0 percent agree that socio-economic factors can influence the level of community coherence and integration. 35 of them representing 10.0 percent were undecided. 98 of the respondents representing 28.0 percent disagree that socio-economic factors can influence the level of community coherence and integration. 126 of the respondents representing 37.0 percent strongly disagree that socio-economic factors can influence the level of community coherence and integration.

4.4 Test of Hypothesis

Hypothesis I

H₀: There is no significant relationship between the level of social capital in Akure South LGA and the effectiveness of police performance.

H_i: There is a significant relationship between the level of social capital in Akure South LGA and the effectiveness of police performance.

Level of significance: 0.05

Decision rule: reject the null hypothesis H₀ if the p value is less than the level of significance. Accept the null hypothesis if otherwise.

Table 16 Test Statistics

	There is a significant relationship between the level of social capital in Akure South LGA and the effectiveness of police performance
Chi-Square	105.520 ^a
Df	3
Asymp. Sig.	.000

a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 25.0.

Conclusions based on decision rule:

Since the p-value= 0.000 is less than the level of significance (0.05), we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a significant relationship between the level of social capital in Akure South LGA and the effectiveness of police performance.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, the exploration of the relationship between social capital and police performance in Akure South Local Government Area, Nigeria, sheds light on the intricate dynamics that influence law enforcement outcomes within a community.

The findings suggest that a higher level of social capital within a community tends to correlate positively with improved police performance. Trust between residents and law enforcement, strong community networks, and social cohesion contribute to better communication, collaboration, and cooperation between the police and the community. This, in turn, leads to enhanced crime prevention, effective response to incidents, and overall better public safety outcomes.

However, it is crucial to acknowledge that social capital is a multifaceted concept, and its impact on police performance may vary based on various contextual factors. The study underscores the importance of considering the unique socio-cultural and economic dynamics of Akure South LGA and similar communities in Nigeria when addressing issues related to policing and social capital.

Moving forward, policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders should recognize the significance of nurturing and strengthening social capital as a means to enhance police-community relations and overall public safety. Strategies aimed at fostering trust, building community networks, and promoting social cohesion should be integrated into community policing initiatives to create a more conducive environment for effective law enforcement.

The exploration of the relationship between social capital and police performance in Akure South LGA not only contributes to the academic understanding of these dynamics but also provides practical implications for improving policing strategies and community engagement in the Nigerian context. The collaborative efforts of both the police and the community are essential for creating a safer and more resilient society.

5.2 Recommendations

- **Community Policing Initiatives:** Implement and strengthen community policing initiatives that actively involve community members in decision-making processes related to local security concerns. Establishing partnerships between the police force and community leaders can foster collaboration, build trust, and encourage open communication.
- **Community Outreach Programs:** Conduct regular community outreach programs to bridge the gap between law enforcement and residents. These programs should focus on building positive relationships, addressing community concerns, and educating residents about the role of the police in maintaining public safety.
- **Training and Sensitization:** Provide training for both police officers and community members to enhance cultural competence, communication skills, and understanding of each other's perspectives. Sensitization programs can help dispel stereotypes and biases, fostering a more inclusive and cooperative relationship between the police and the community.
- **Promotion of Social Cohesion:** Support community initiatives that promote social cohesion, unity, and a sense of belonging. Encourage the formation of neighborhood

watch groups, social clubs, and other platforms that facilitate positive interactions among residents, reinforcing community bonds.

- **Transparent Accountability Mechanisms:** Establish transparent accountability mechanisms within the police force to address instances of misconduct and abuse. Clear channels for reporting grievances and complaints should be communicated to the public, ensuring that trust is maintained even in challenging situations.
- **Resource Allocation for Training and Equipment:** Allocate resources for ongoing training programs for police officers, focusing on modern policing techniques, community relations, and conflict resolution. Additionally, ensure that the police force is adequately equipped with the necessary tools and technology to carry out their duties effectively.
- **Research and Evaluation:** Encourage ongoing research to monitor and evaluate the impact of social capital on police performance. Regular assessments can help adapt strategies to the evolving needs of the community and ensure that interventions are effective in improving overall public safety.
- **Collaboration with Community Organizations:** Foster collaboration with local non-governmental organizations, community-based groups, and civic organizations. Such partnerships can leverage existing community networks and resources to enhance the effectiveness of crime prevention initiatives and support the overall well-being of residents.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch public awareness campaigns to inform residents about the importance of social capital in promoting community safety.

Emphasize the shared responsibility between the police and the community in creating a secure and thriving environment.

- **Long-Term Planning and Sustainability:** Develop long-term plans that prioritize sustainable improvements in social capital and police-community relations. This involves continuous engagement, adaptability to changing community dynamics, and a commitment to fostering an environment where trust and collaboration can flourish over time.

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APPENDIX I
QUESTIONNAIRE

INSTRUCTION: Please endeavor to complete the questionnaire by ticking the correct answer (s) from the options or supply the information where necessary.

SECTION A

1. Gender

a. Male ☐

b. Female ☐

2. Age range

a. 18-27 ☐

b. 28-37 ☐

c. 38-47 ☐

d. 48-57 ☐

e. Above 58 ☐

3. Educational qualification

a. FSLC ☐

b. WASSCE/GCE/NECO ☐

c. OND/HND/BSC ☐

d. MSC/:D/MBA/PHD ☐

e. Others ☐

4. Marital Status

a. Single ☐

b. Married ☐

c. Divorced ☐

d. Widowed ☐

SECTION B

QUESTIONS ON EXPLORATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL CAPITAL AND POLICE PERFORMANCE IN AKURE SOUTH LGA NIGERIA.

SA – Strongly Disagreed

A – Agreed

UD – Undecided

DA – Disagreed

SD – Strongly Disagreed

Objective One: To investigate the relationship between social capital and police performance

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA	A	UD	DA	SD
5.	Social capital, which includes trust and cooperation within a community, can positively impact police performance					
6.	Strong social capital often fosters community engagement and support for law enforcement initiatives					
7.	Communities with strong social capital often have informal mechanisms of social control					
S/N	QUESTIONS	SA	A	UD	DA	SD
8.	Social capital can be evident in the level of trust and reciprocity among community members					

9.	The existence of support systems, such as informal help exchanges, mutual aid, and community assistance during times of need, signifies social capital					
10.	Collaborations between local institutions, such as schools, businesses, and non-profits, can enhance social capital					

Objective Two: To explore the impact of socio-economic and cultural factors on the police-social capital dynamic

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA	A	UD	DA
11.	Socio-economic disparities within a community can affect the trust and cooperation between the police and residents				
12.	Socio-economic factors can influence the level of community coherence and integration				

S/N	QUESTIONS	SA	A	UD	DA	SD
13.	Effective policing involves collaboration with the community through initiatives, programs, and partnerships					
14	The time it takes for the police to respond to emergency calls or incidents is critical					
15	Public opinion and trust in law enforcement are vital indicators					