

Effect of Police Professionalism on Police-Community Relations Towards Crime Prevention in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya

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Abstract

Increase in crime hinders socio-economic growth in different ways like the absence of safe living environment, threats to physical security, barrier for people to achieve their sustainable livelihoods, and impact provision of education, and health. Kakamega County is one of the most affected region in Kenya which discourages more investors and business community. This study assessed community policing role towards crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County, Kakamega County, Kenya with specific focus on the effect of police professionalism on police-community relations towards crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County. The study was underpinned in the social bond theory and the routine activity theory and adopted a descriptive research design. The target population of the study comprised of Police Officers, Community Members, Chiefs, Assistant County Commissioner, Deputy County Commissioner, and Sub-County Police Commissioner, and Kakamega County Enforcement Officers. A sample of 384 respondents was selected by simple random sampling, purposive sampling, and proportionate random sampling techniques. Both Primary and secondary data were used by the researcher. Questionnaire and interview schedule were used in the process of data collection. This being a mixed-method study, both quantitative and qualitative data were collected by the identified research instruments. The raw data obtained under the study was coded and analyzed through SPSS version 28 for windows. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were analysed for study. The finding of the study will help the county government of Kakamega and the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government by providing important data required in formulation of government policies to promote crime prevention, partnership and high level of cooperation between police and community members. The findings will further provide recommendations to the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government on the best strategies that promote community policing leading to crime prevention.

Keywords: Police, Professionalism, Police-Community Relations, Crime Prevention

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1.1 Introduction

Community policing recognizes the shared responsibility between the police and community to ensure a safe and secure environment for all. Crime prevention refers to the act of attempting to deter crime and criminals through action put in place to remove or reduce it (Santos, 2016). Community policing roots can be traced to ancient times when the community policed themselves (Mbuba, 2018). The societal norms guided the community members, and community members reinforced them. Community policing awareness on community members working to reduce the opportunity of crime was higher, and people voluntarily participated in informal policing. The community members had a system in place that was used for alternative dispute resolution.

According to the United Nations, crime prevention is the first imperative of justice (Zyber, 2016). Crime Prevention comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potentially harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes (Loren et al., 2012). Community policing is an essential component of policing that fully recognizes the shared responsibility between the police and the community members in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all citizens (Okafor & Aniche, 2018).

Community policing establishes an equal partnership between the police and members of the community, which the ultimate goal is dealing with the crime and ensuring there is safety in the community for people to work without fear of crime (Gill, Weisburd, Telep, Vitter & Bennett, 2014). Community policing begun in the 1980s in the United States of America and spread to other countries worldwide (Cordner, 2014). In the 1990s, community policing was viewed by many as a radical innovation in policing, and the 474 police departments adopted a community policing approach (Mohanty & Mohanty, 2014). Security is essential and encourages investors to invest, which in turn creates employment for jobless people. Insecurity impedes socio-economic growth, preventing people from achieving sustainable livelihoods (Cordner, 2014).

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) statistics collected on violent crime in New York indicate that the rate of violent crime fell by 49% between 1993 and 2017 (Gramlich, 2019). According to the FBI, the crime rate between 2004 and 2006 and further between 2014 and 2016 for violent crime was higher as compared to 2017 (Gramlich, 2019). In 2017, New York City in the United States of America had the lowest violent crimes

ever recorded in decades as a result of effective community policing (Nandi, 2018). Shootings fell below 800 while murders below 300, and there were more reductions in robberies and burglaries in New York City (Nandi, 2018). In 2018, New York experienced an increased rate of crimes, which was attributed to challenges experienced in community policing, which saw internal promotions that led to the appointment of Rodney Harrison as Chief of Patrol. Between January 1, and June 30 in New York, the number of recorded murder cases was 147 in 2018, which was an increase of 8% from 2017 which the number of recorded murders in the same period was 136 (Honan, 2018). The police officers in New York Police Department in 2018 went to the streets to build relationships with the members of the public and encourage shared responsibility in patrol and sharing of crime intelligence to maintain to reduce crime (Nandi, 2018) significantly. According to a study conducted by the University of California in conjunction with Berkeley Police Department in 2015, community policing implementation and active operation reduced violent crime by 12%, and property crime by 24% (Lortz, 2017). Community policing is an ideal strategy in preventing property crimes when police and community members' partner and work together closely (Palmiotto, 2011).

In Australia, Police issued 15, 498 charges and fines in New South Wales, which was considered the largest increase in Australia. That reflects crime to increase as the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows (Gladstone, 2019). The crime rate reduced in 2018 in Western New South Wales town as a result of an increase in the use of community policing (Allam, 2018). In the town of Bourke, it recorded the lowest crime in 2018, which was considered a groundbreaking as a result of the community embracing community policing. Major crimes fell by 18%, and drug offenses felled by 39%, meaning the impact of community policing in crime reduction was felt by the government (Allam, 2018). Though Bourke is one of the disadvantaged communities faced with a high unemployment rate, they highly participate in patrol, which is a cornerstone of community policing because of a positive attitude towards police (Allam, 2018).

Nigeria has recently employed the use of community policing in the latest crime fight attempt to curb the increasing crime rate in the country (Okafor & Aniche, 2018). The community in Nigeria is facing certain challenges such as interference by influential members of the society, police corruption, financial constraints, and a bad image of the police (Abasilim, Gbervbie, Ajayi, & Ifaloye, 2017). The rate of crime has significantly increased in Nigeria, which has prompted a shift in policing from traditional policing to people-centered community policing (Abasilim et al., 2017).

In 2006 in Tanzania police landmarked a special reform aimed at building trust between the police and community members (Hassani, 2016). The private telephone numbers for senior police officers were shared with the public members to promote effective communication, enabling the police to receive valuable information that aided in understanding criminal activities (Cordner, 2014). The community members are highly affected by insecurity and rarely find an opportunity to engage with the police officers constructively, which brings in mistrust (Donais & Burt, 2014). The increase in technology use has affected policing strategies in policing as criminals occupy different locations, prompting the police to increase surveillance. Community policing was implemented to aid law enforcement in policing to mitigate the problems of crime, fear of crime, and social and physical disorder (Taylor, 2018).

An analysis of some Counties in Kenya in terms of resources, such as Mombasa, Nairobi, Bungoma, Nakuru among others accounts for the highest number of crimes that are recorded nationally as 36,942 crimes in 2018 reported to the police as compared to 19,815 cases reported in 2017 (Eva, 2018). Though community policing has been implemented in Kenya, the crime rate is high as evidenced in prison that continues to experience high inmate populations (Muchira, 2016). There is insecurity in most parts of Kenya, despite community policing being implemented in different parts of the Country (Biwott, 2017).

1.2 Problem Statement

Community policing is a proactive crime prevention strategy where police and community members' work together in developing solutions to local safety and security concerns and thus a cement for security development (Cordner, 2014). Operationalization of community policing promotes community safety, reduce crime and fear of crime, and promote justice and cooperation between community members and law enforcement officers (Koslicki, Lytle, Willits & Brooks, 2020). Community policing enable the police officers to easily make arrest and subject the suspect to the due process. Over the years since its inception in the United States of America in the 1980s, community policing has been recognized as an effective strategy in building trust, and cooperation between police and community members, businesses, and local leaders, among others (Koslicki et al., 2020). The government of Kenya by 2006, had trained law enforcement officers on community policing. A total of 200 administration officers, 80 community members and the civil society's representatives, 60 Officers commanding police Divisions of Kenya Polic were already trained (Omeje & Githigaro, 2012). In 2019/2020, the Kenya government allocated 326 billion Kenyan Shillings to the security sector (Tanui, 2019). Since 2011, the Kenyan government has been increasing the allocation of National Security steadily between 10 and 11 percent of the expenditure (Makokha, 2018). The National Police Service (NPS) is responsible for fostering and promoting

relationships between the police and the broader society (Constitution, 2010). The National Police Service Act 2011, under section 96, promotes partnership, professionalism, transparency, cooperation, and enhanced communication between police and community members. Under section 97 of the National Police Service Act 2011, County Policing Authority in Community Policing plays a critical role in implementing, receiving reports in community policing, and facilitating community members' training within the County. The NPS Act 2011, under section 98, establishes area community policing committees and other structures. Though community policing has been implemented in different parts of Kenya, the crime rate continues to increase against the expectations of the citizens and the Kenyan government. According to the National Police Service Crime Report 2018, indicates an increase in crime rate between 2017 and 2018. The offenses reported were 65,820 as compared with the previous year 2017 (Maina, 2019). In Kakamega County, between 2017 and 2018, 1604 cases of crime were reported (Maina, 2019). Increase in crime hinders socio-economic growth in different ways like the absence of safe living environment, threats to physical security, barrier for people to achieve their sustainable livelihoods, and impact provision of education and health (Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpor-Robaro, 2013). The relationship and cooperation between the community members and police officers is still wanting despite Kenyan Constitution mandating National Police Service to promote professionalism, foster and promote a relationship with the broader society. The level of interaction between community members and police officers is still low despite the National Police Service Act 2011 promoting cooperation, partnership with enhanced communication (Muchira, 2016). The cooperation between County Law enforcers who enforces County legislation, police, and community members is still low yet County Policing Authority facilitates training of community members within the County for a better understanding in community policing (Diphoom, van Staple & Kimari, 2019). There is an increase in the rate of crime in Lurambi Sub-County in Kakamega County yet community policing has been implemented in Kakamega County (Karuri & Muna, 2019) and consequently, this study sought to assess the effect of police professionalism on police-community relations towards crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya.

1.3 Research Objective

To analyze the effect of police professionalism on police-community relations towards crime prevention.

1.4 Research Question

What is the effect of police professionalism on police-community relations towards crime prevention?

1.5 Review of Related Literature

This section presents a review of empirical literature for the study.

1.5.1 Police professionalism on crime prevention

The primary mission of police departments as seen by both the public and police professionals is crime management. Collection of crime intelligence is achieved when there is good relationship between police and community members.

1.5.2 Professional police image

Tracing back the roots of policing to Sir Robert Peel in the 1800s, maintaining the police's positive image has been a great challenge (Dukova, 2016). The increased use of social media has amplified the existing bad relationship between police and community members. Any notice of police officers' misdeeds is shared on social media and goes viral across the country and the globe, and mitigating or reconciling the damage is impossible. There are daily activities that police officers do that fuels negative image such as the use of excessive force to secure arrest for a suspect who has not resisted, absconding patrol in most areas, harassing the lower class, taking of bribery, and misuse of police discretion in general (Matz, 2016). Negative police image discourages community members from participating in community policing.

Under community policing, it is required that the police take the forefront in initiating personal contacts with community members as they patrol in the community (Miller et al., 2013). The police are required to interact with community members in an attentive, friendly, and compassionate manner, which is achieved through police professionalism.

Community policing helps in law enforcement and fighting to prevent crime. Though the police officers role is to enforce the law, they are supposed to mitigate citizens' fear of crime, solving problems, caring for individual victims which requires that the police acts professionally to manage well and get the public support (Garland, 2012).

The Kenya Police Service have conducted necessary training on police officers to act professionally while engaging the members of the public to gain the trust of community members and relate well (Skilling, 2016).

1.5.3 Police Level of accountability

Police accountability refers to the practice of holding individual officers as well as law enforcement agencies responsible for discharging their duties within the bounds of the law. The police officers are required to uphold

the law to the latter while conducting search and seizure, arrests, and following the due process as required by the law (Teacher, 2013). Creating faith in the criminal justice system requires that the police officers be held accountable for the purpose of promoting police professionalism (Constitution, 2010.)

The police officer is a servant of the law and therefore required to be impartial while enforcing the law (Teacher, 2013). The most effective way of ensuring that the police officers are held accountable for their actions is putting in place effective procedures for complaints. People who are mistreated mostly by the police are the citizens, and having effective ways of filing complaints while withholding the complainant's identity encourages more citizens to file complaints (Chambers, 2012). The actions enable the community to hold police officers accountable for their actions while the officers will be forced to be answerable. Appropriate and effective departmental policies and procedures as well as performance evaluation, help police officers be accountable. Departmental structure, individual feedback, and continual input help ensure that the police officers are accountable to the police department and the community as a whole (Teacher, 2013).

1.5.4 Citizens complaints on excessive use of force by police

The police officers are responsible for enforcing the law and, therefore, generally allowed legally to use whatever necessary force while making an arrest or defending themselves (Smith & Holmes, 2014). The police officers are allowed to use more force on the suspects who resist arrest, but no force should be used on a compliant suspect. The police officers are legally allowed to use excessive and deadly force on those suspects who intend to kill or seriously injure police officer (Pinizzotto, Davis, Bohrer & Infanti, 2012).

Police officers under specific circumstances are allowed to use excessive force on self-defense or defense of others or groups of people (Shores & Evans, 2019). The Police agency trains their officers on the use of force. The use of force by the police is required to the last option to restore safety. The police officers are held accountable by the police department's internal disciplinary committee, while others are held accountable by the court (Fan, 2018). The citizens are required to report unjustified excessive use of force such as shooting to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA). Both citizens and media records incidences where police use force and enable the law enforcement agency and IPOA to swing to action due to the availability of the evidence.

Community policing requires mutual cooperation between police and community members. Addressing citizen complaints under community policing boost the morale for the community members to interact with the police and share information, increase public trust, and redeems the bad image of both police officers and police agency (Barela, 2017). When the police officers approach the victims of crime appropriately, they gain trust and cooperation from the citizens. Addressing citizens' complaints increase community participation in community policing activities crime reporting rate. An increase level of patrol enables the community members to support police operations in ensuring an area is safe. Once the crime has been reported, the law enforcement officers carry out an investigation, arrest the suspect and charge those whose evidence are collected, making them accountable for the acts committed. Making offenders accountable helps in crime prevention since it creates deterrence.

1.5.5 Police response to crime scene

Police response to the crime scene is crucial as it helps in the investigation process (Blanes & Kirchmaier, 2018). The evidence found on the crime scene are more valuable as it provides of what happened. The citizens are entitled to call the police officers whenever there is a security issues. The police officers are trained on crime scene management. Police response time to the call for service is a crucial factor in evaluation of police performance. Cases of domestic violence and other common offenses require prompt response by the police since it results in severe injuries if not intervened quickly (Dichter & Gelles, 2012).

The victims of crime suffer as a result of crime, and police officers in most scenarios are first respondents to the crime scene (Maxfield & Babbie, 2014). The police is supposed to ensure the victim is attended to immediately while the crime scene is protected. The police officers are required to attend to many tasks including but not limited to medical needs to the victims, advising other personnel, determining facts and circumstances, and gathering information (Blanes & Kirchmaier, 2018).

1.5.6 Level of Patrol

Police patrol officers sole responsibility is to promote safety. Police officers are responsible for patrolling on a bike, vehicle, or foot. Regular and dedicated patrol reduces the opportunity for crime. The business community and area residents' value their security and increase patrol reduces fear of crime and enables them to engage constructively with one another (Sutton, Cherney, White & Clancey, 2021). Patrol purpose is to monitor suspicious activity, respond to calls for service, and issuing traffic citations for the petty traffic offenses. Patrolling enables the law enforcement officers to detect crime, maintain law and order while arresting suspects

1.5.6 Police service and the community relations

The police department's community input recognition is highly crucial as it encourages the community members to participate in community policing activities and share insights with the police department (Sutton, Cherney, White & Clancey, 2021). Good cooperation between the community members and the police department creates a strong social bond and therefore fosters good relations required for successful implementation of community

policing, which is a crucial element in crime prevention.

The police professionalism in gathering information is key as it makes the community members appreciate them and relate well with them by sharing intelligence as a priority helping in resolving community concerns. When the police officers act professionally, it encourages community members to report illegal or suspicious activity and therefore preventing crimes before occurrence (Reynald, 2016). The long-term relationship between the police and the community members is beneficial when the police department addresses community needs and remains accountable in all their actions.

1.5.7 Theoretical underpinnings of the Study

Social bond theory is a theory that was developed by Travis Hirschi in 1969. The theory explains what makes people to conform to the existing laws. The social bond theory stipulates that the social bond between an individual and the community determines the level of commitment and involvement in different activities (Beaver et al., 2014). Crime and delinquency occurs due to weaker ties between an individual and the community members. Those with weaker bond easily participate in deviant and criminal behavior. Community members' and police participation in community policing is influenced by the social bond between community members and police officers.

Attachment refers to the symbiotic linkage and linking it to community policing; there is a symbiotic linkage between the community members and police (Kangaria, 2019). Police cannot help successful manage to prevent and control crime without involving the community members while the community, on the other hand, depends on the police officers to success in dealing with crime. The attachment between an individual and the community determines the level of dedication one can make for the community, for example, in participating on patrol with other community members and the police.

Community policing plays a significant role in crime prevention. Community crime prevention is based upon the premise that private citizens can play a major role in preventing crime in their neighborhoods (Brogden & Nijhar, 2013). Community policing unites and strengthens the relationship between the police and community members. Strong attachment and commitment by the police encourage the community members to reciprocate and be free to share crime intelligence and any information that helps in crime prevention, enabling the police to device crime prevention strategies (Cordner, 2014).

The routine activity theory that was developed by Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson (1979) revolves around three things according to: a "potential offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian". The crime activity occurs when three things stipulated by Chen and Felson come together (Madero-Hernandez & Fisher, 2012).

Routine activity theory is an important crime prevention theory. Crime prevention is achieved when the capable guardian is present as that makes some motivated offenders to forego criminal act. The increase in patrol by the community members and the police reduces an opportunity which motivated offender requires to commit a crime. The more one is exposed to criminal behavior in their everyday lifestyle, the higher the likelihood that a person will commit criminal activity. The concept of opportunity helps explain why crime occurs and that helps people employ crime prevention techniques, which is important.

The day to day activities carried out by individuals to meet the needs provide an opportunity for crime. The individuals have different routines that they engage in life such as recreation activities, shopping and travelling to and from work which when carefully change day to day helps in crime prevention. Motivated offenders are rational and uses readily available opportunities to commit the crime. Routine activity theory emphasizes the relevance of regular and routine behaviors for an understanding of crime patterns (Rossmo & Summers, 2015).

Change in peoples' exposure to situations leads to a change in crime involvement, consequently changing society's crime rate. Individual routines expose them to criminality whenever there is an opportunity. The changes in the modern world as a result of globalization and increase in the use of technology have greatly created an opportunity for crime and the availability of the targets. Many households lack capable guardians and that predisposes people and households to property offenses. The increase in business activities creates an opportunity for more property offenses, especially where the business owner is unable to employ the security guards and creates a suitable target for theft and other property crimes. The conditions conducive to crime promote criminality, and dealing with such conditions amicably helps crime prevention (Fisher-Stewart, 2016). In terms of policy and prevention, the routine activity approach has mainly been linked to situational crime prevention and policing for example, hot spots analysis.

1.6 Methodology of the Study

Research design comprises of three main sections, namely data collection, measurement, and analysis. The study employed a descriptive research design. Descriptive research design (asking questions/observations) is best when the research problem either describes characteristics of existing market situations or evaluates current marketing mix strategies (Groves et al., 2011). If research questions include who, what, where, when, and how for target populations or marketing strategies, If the task it to identify relationships between variables or determine

whether differences exist between groups, then descriptive research design is the best. Descriptive research design seeks to obtain information that describes an existing phenomenon through inquiries about perception, attitudes, behavior, or values.

The study was conducted in Lurambi Sub-County within Kakamega County. Kakamega County is one of the 47 counties in Kenya and is located in the Western part of Kenya lying 30km north of the Equator. Kakamega is 52km North of Kisumu and is the second-largest populous county after Nairobi County (Peters et al., 2012). The choice of Lurambi Sub-County was due to increasing cases of insecurity that have put police professionalism in community policing to serious question and doubt. The population of the study comprised police officers, county law enforcement officers, and community members from Lurambi Sub-county within Kakamega County in Kenya. The study will employ both probability and non-probability sampling techniques. The sampling procedures that were used by the study were stratified random sampling, simple random sampling, purposive sampling, and proportionate random sampling.

The study used both primary and secondary data hence questionnaire and interview schedule were used in data collection. The use of multiple methods was critical in gaining in-depth information and understanding the phenomenon under study. The collection of primary and secondary data strategy helped in adding rigor, breadth, and depth of the study.

This being a mixed-method study, both quantitative and qualitative data were collected by the identified research instruments. The raw data obtained under the study were coded and analyzed through Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) version 28 for windows where descriptive and inferential statistics were generated.

1.7 Research Findings

This section presents the research response rate and the findings of the study.

1.7.1 Response Rate

The study targeted 384 respondents being 120 police officers, 24 law enforcement officers and 240 community members. Out of these potential respondents, a total of 363 respondents took part in the study being 109 police officers, 19 law enforcement officers and 235 community members. This gave the study a response rate of 94.53%. According to Remler and Van Ryzin (2021), when conducting a research study, collecting data from 70% or more of the target sample is adequate for purposes of generalization of findings from the sample to the population from which the sample was drawn.

1.7.2 Descriptive Statistics for the Study

Respondents were asked to state whether police officers were professional in their conduct and findings presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Police Professionalism

Are the police officers professional in the conduct within the community?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	61	16.8
Agree	83	22.87
Neutral	27	7.44
Disagree	129	35.54
Strongly Disagree	63	17.36
Total	363	100.0

Source: Research Data, 2023.

From the findings in Table 1, majority of the respondents were of the view that police officers were not professional in their official conduct as this was confirmed by 35.54% (129) of the respondents who disagreed and 17.36% (63) of the respondents who strongly disagreed with the question whether police officers were professional in their conduct. To this same question, 7.44% (27) of the respondents were neutral, 22.87% (83) agreed and 16.8% (61) strongly agreed that police officers were professional in their work. Community policing helps in law enforcement and fighting to prevent crime. As noted by Garland (2012), though the police officers' role is to enforce the law, they are supposed to mitigate citizens' fear of crime, solving problems, caring for individual victims which requires that the police acts professionally to manage well and get the public support. Respondents were asked to state whether police officers portrayed a professional image in the conduct of their duties in the community and findings presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Police Professionalism

Do police officers portray a professional image in the conduct of their duties in the community?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	55	15.15
Agree	79	21.76
Neutral	34	9.37
Disagree	146	40.22
Strongly Disagree	49	13.5
Total	363	100.0

Source: Research Data, 2023.

Results in Table 2 show that 40.22% (146) of the respondents disagreed with the question whether police officers were professional in the conduct of their duties in the community and 13.5% (49) of the respondents strongly disagreed. The study also established that 9.27% (34) of the respondents were neutral to the question, 21.76% (79) agreed and 15.15% (55) of the respondents strongly agreed that police officers were professional in the conduct of their duties in the community. This finding reveals that majority of the respondents were of the view that police officers were not professional in the conduct of their duties in the community. The study of Matz 2(016) revealed that the increased use of social media has amplified the existing bad relationship between police and community members. Any notice of police officers' misdeeds is shared on social media and goes viral across the country and the globe, and mitigating or reconciling the damage is impossible. There are daily activities that police officers do that fuels negative image such as the use of excessive force to secure arrest for a suspect who has not resisted, absconding patrol in most areas, harassing the lower class, taking of bribery, and misuse of police discretion in general (Matz, 2016). Negative police image discourages community members from participating in community policing.

The study sought to establish whether police officers were accountable in the professional conduct and findings presented in table 3.

Table 3: Police Accountability

Are police officers accountable in their duties in the community?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	52	14.33
Agree	81	22.31
Neutral	32	8.82
Disagree	141	38.84
Strongly Disagree	57	15.7
Total	363	100.0

Source: Research Data, 2023.

From the findings in Table 3 reveal that 38.84% (141) of the respondents disagreed to the question whether police officers were accountable in their duties in the community, 15.7% (57) strongly disagreed and 8.82% (32) of the respondents were neutral. Study further revealed that 22.31% (81) of the respondents agreed and 14.33% (52) strongly agreed that police officers were accountable in their duties. This shows that majority of the respondents were of the view that police officers were not accountable in their duties in the community. As noted in the study by Teacher (2013), police officer is a servant of the law and therefore required to be impartial while enforcing the law. The most effective way of ensuring that the police officers are held accountable for their actions is putting in place effective procedures for complaints. People who are mistreated mostly by the police are the citizens, and having effective ways of filing complaints while withholding the complainant's identity encourages more citizens to file complaints (Chambers, 2012). The actions enable the community to hold police officers accountable for their actions while the officers will be forced to be answerable.

To the question whether there were rampant complaints on excessive use of force by police officers in their security related operations, findings are presented in table 4.

Table 3: Excessive use of Force by Police

Do police use excessive force during their duties in the community?	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	60	16.52
Agree	157	43.25
Neutral	26	7.16
Disagree	69	19.0
Strongly Disagree	51	14.05
Total	363	100.0

Source: Research Data, 2023.

Findings in table 4 show that 43.25% (157) of the respondents agreed that police officers used excessive

force during their duties in the community. The study also found that 16.52% (60) strongly agreed that police officers use excessive force during their duties in the community, 7.16% (26) were neutral, 19% (69) disagreed and 14.05% (51) strongly disagreed. This shows that majority of the respondents were of the view that police officers use excessive forced in the course of their duties in the community. The use of force by the police is required to the last option to restore safety. The police officers are held accountable by the police department's internal disciplinary committee, while others are held accountable by the court (Fan, 2018). The citizens are required to report unjustified excessive use of force such as shooting to the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA). Both citizens and media records incidences where police use force and enable the law enforcement agency and IPOA to swing to action due to the availability of the evidence. Community policing requires mutual cooperation between police and community members. Addressing citizen complaints under community policing boost the morale for the community members to interact with the police and share information, increase public trust, and redeems the bad image of both police officers and police agency (Barela, 2017). When the police officers approach the victims of crime appropriately, they gain trust and cooperation from the citizens. Addressing citizens' complaints increase community participation in community policing activities crime reporting rate.

To determine the effect of police professionalism on police-community relations towards crime prevention, data on police professionalism and data on crime prevention were subjected to Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and findings presented in Table 5.

Table 4.7: Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient for Police Professionalism and Crime Prevention (n=363)

		Police Professionalism	Crime Prevention
Police Professionalism	Pearson Correlation	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	363	
Crime Prevention	Pearson Correlation	.517*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	363	363

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

From the results in table 5, there was a significant relationship between police professionalism and crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya ($r=0.517$; $p<0.05$). This means that when police conduct themselves in a professional manner, they will receive support from the community in their efforts towards crime prevention and will ultimately succeed in crime prevention and the reverse also holds true.

Having established that police professionalism had a significant effect on crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County, there was need to determine how much change in crime prevention success was as a result of police officers professionalism. Consequently, linear regression analysis was undertaken and findings presented in table 6.

Table 6: Linear regression model for Police professionalism and Crime Prevention (n=363)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	R Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.364 ^a	.386	.372	.48059	1.597

a. Predictor: (Constant) Police Professionalism

b. Dependent Variable: Crime Prevention

Research findings in Table 6 for linear regression between police professionalism and crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County revealed a coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.386 implying that 38.6% of the variance witnessed in crime prevention success was as a result of levels of police officers professionalism in Lurambi Sub-County. The police are required to interact with community members in an attentive, friendly, and compassionate manner, which is achieved through police professionalism. Community policing helps in law enforcement and fighting to prevent crime. Though the police officers role is to enforce the law, they are supposed to mitigate citizens' fear of crime, solving problems, caring for individual victims which requires that the police acts professionally to manage well and get the public support (Garland, 2012).

1.8 Conclusion of the Study

In relations to the findings of the study, it is concluded that a significant relationship existed between police professionalism and crime prevention in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya.

1.9 Recommendation

The study recommends that police officers should exhibit high level of professionalism in their work so as to make the community members to appreciate them and relate well with them by sharing intelligence towards crime prevention. This is in realization that community input is highly crucial as it encourages the community

members to participate in community policing activities and share insights with the police department for purposes creating a shared responsibility in crime prevention

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