Social Determinants of Community Policing in Lurambi Sub-County, Kakamega County, Kenya

Solomon Mosis
Department of Criminology and Social Work
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

Dr. Evans M. Oruta
Department of Criminology and Social Work
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

Dr. LilyFridah Muthoni Njeru
Department of Criminology and Social Work
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

Abstract

Community policing brings together the police and the community members through a partnership to prevent crime, control the crime, and solve social problems. There's a deterioration in the level of trust, coordination and the level of crime is still high in Lurambi Sub-County. This study sought to investigate Social determinants of community policing in Lurambi Sub-County. The specific research objective was to analyze the effect of community characteristics on community policing in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya. The study was underpinned by the social capital theory, cognitive dissonance theory, and routine activity theory. Descriptive research design was adopted. The target population was community members in Lurambi Sub-County. The study targeted a sample of 384 community members as primary respondents. Besides, Police Officers and County law enforcement officers involved in community policing participated in the study as key informants. Stratified random sampling was used to select community members, while purposive sampling was used to select informants for the study. Primary data from community members was collected using questionnaires, while interviews and focus group discussions were used to collect secondary data. The study adopted a mixed-methods approach where quantitative and qualitative data were collected and analyzed. Study data were analyzed using the statistical package for the Social Sciences version 27 for windows. Descriptive and inferential statistics were calculated for the quantitative data, while thematic analysis was used to analyze qualitative data. Results of the study revealed a statistically significant relationship between community characteristics and community policing Lurambi Sub-County (r= 0.519; P<0.05) with a regression coefficient of determination (R^2) at 0.233, implying that community characteristics accounted for 23.3% of the variance on community policing. The study findings concluded that community characteristics significantly influenced community policing. The study recommended that community policing actors and stakeholders develop policies that promote trust between the police and community members by cultivating teamwork and shared crime prevention goals since establishing and maintaining mutual trust is the central goal of community policing.

Keywords: Social, Determinants, Community Policing

1.1 Introduction

Community policing is an approach to policing that brings together the police and the community members through a partnership with the sole purpose of preventing crime, controlling the crime, and solving social problems (Cordner, 2014). Community policing recognizes the shared responsibility between the police officers and the community members to ensure a safe and secure environment. Crime control refers to the attempts to deter crime and stop criminals through action to remove the criminals or reduce the crimes (Santos, 2016).

Community policing establishes an equal partnership between the police and community members. The ultimate goal is dealing with crimes and ensuring safety in the community to enable the people to work without fear of crime (Gill, Weisburd, Telep, Vitter & Bennett, 2014). By very nature, the police officers are supposed to interact with the communities whom they serve. Since the inception of community policing in New York, several transformations have been carried out to promote the operationalization of community policing (Miller, Hess & Orthmann, 2013). The community members highly relies upon the police officers to help in emergencies and curb disorder. The police officers heavily depend on the community members to assist by reporting crime and share security-related information necessary in solving crime and addressing community concerns (Carter & Gore, 2013). In recent years, the scope of relationships between the police and the community has increased. Both the police and the community members have begun to expect to share information and increase interactions

to realize that they must partner together. Police on community policing programs encourage and empower community members to be more involved in public safety by amicably dealing with their problems and working with the community (Pandey, 2014).

In Australia, community-police collaborations are beneficial as they promote a greater flow of security-related information (Cherney & Murphy, 2017). Collaboration between community members and police is designed to foster ties, providing more robust and sustainable solutions to crime and disorder problems. Operationalization of community policing increases trust between community members and police and is thus best in areas where community trust of police is low (Kappeler & Gaines, 2012). Diversity in community policing is crucial as it promotes responsiveness and confidence in community policing. Community policing addresses cultural differences and increases the response rate to the call of service by policing agencies (Tilley, 2012). The crime rate reduced in 2018 in Western New South Wales town due to an increase in the use of community policing (Allam, 2018). From the above, collaboration is between police and community members is essential, and it encourages strong relations, which subsequently improves the level of trust. With trust, sharing of security-related and the level of patrol is intensified.

Nigeria, to date, continues to support the implementation of community policing (Umar & Bappi, 2014). Community policing promotes a strong partnership that is critical in its operationalization and collaborative efforts of police and the members of the public with a view to protecting lives of people and property at the neighborhood level (Ordu & Nnam, 2017). Public safety is guaranteed with the increased use of community policing. The community policing approach helps police identify and address community members' social problems (Lewis & Lewis, 2012). Community-police partnership, police involvement in community affairs, community-police sharing of security-related information are salient strategies or programs that promote community policing in Nigeria (Anicent, 2014). The police-community partnership program that motivates and encourages community members to be dedicated partner in policing the community. Nigeria has recently employed community policing in the latest crime fight attempt to curb the increasing crime rate in the country and promote good relations between police and community members (Okafor & Aniche, 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). 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 Police 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).

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Safety of citizens and the right to live without fear is important for all people in Kenya. When crime is reduced, social and economic development will improve, thus benefiting the economic prospects of a large population of Kenyans. The inception of community policing in Kenya in the year 2005 was predicated on the realization that Community policing had been an effective strategy in building trust, and cooperation between police and community members, businesses, and local leaders to bring about security in other parts of the world.

The introduction of community policing in Kenya was meant to bring the runaway crime rates into check and ensure a safe, secure and crime free society where individuals could go about their day to day businesses without fear of crime. For effective implementation of community poling, the police and members of the community need to work together, collaborate and network in information sharing and patrols. A report by the Transparency International (2020) revealed that in Kenya, police officers have not been able to collaborate effectively with civilians in security related information sharing due to trust issues and perception by civilians that National Police Service is the most corrupt organization in Kenya. The level of interaction between community members and police officers is still an issue of great concern despite the National Police Service Act 2011 promoting cooperation and partnership with enhanced communication (Muchira, 2016). Under section 97 of the National Police Service Act 2011, County Policing Authority on community policing plays a critical role in implementing, receiving reports on 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.

Although community policing has been implemented in different parts of Kenya, its overall success still remains a subject of contention with evidence suggesting that community policing has largely failed (Muchira, 2016). The failure in implementation of community policing has partly been blamed on lack of trust and commitment between the police and members of the community. In Lurambi Sub-County crime rates have remained high despite the implementation of community policing with an increase from 1584 in 2017 to 2180 in

2018 which presents 596 cases of increased crime culminating into a 38% increase in crime (Western Kenya Regional Police Crime Report, 2019). Previous studies on community policing have largely focused on issues other than community characteristics and their role in community policing. In light of the paucity of knowledge on the nexus between community characteristics and community policing, this study is conceived.

1.3 Research Objective
To analyze the effect of community characteristics on community policing in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya.

1.4 Research Question
What is the effect of community characteristics on community policing in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya?

1.5 Study Justification
Kenya's vision 2030 about the security of all persons and property is fundamental and progressive. This cannot be achieved without the proper functioning of community policing. The study results enable policymakers to obtain knowledge about social determinants influencing community policing, which, when well addressed, could help them formulate policies that address issues that negatively affect the operationalization of community policing. The study's findings would help policymakers pass policies that strengthen community policing and provide an amicable solution to the existing impediments. The government is spending billions of Kenyan shillings in the security sector.

The study findings play a significant role in highlighting the community-police partnership and the general community members' attitude on community policing programs, which form the fabric of community policing and may contribute to policy formulation and implementation that could facilitate effective management of community policing in Lurambi Sub-County and beyond. Policies that promote and strengthen relationships between police and community members by addressing shortcomings are essential and progressive for improving community poling operations.

The previous studies have focused on challenges facing the implementation of community policing. The researcher intended to look at community characteristics, community-police partnership, and community members' attitudes on community policing, which have not been explored. The research results will help improve community policing by increasing sharing of security-related information, cooperation, and trust, reducing crimes while promoting developments in all sectors.

1.6 Literature Review
The study sought to find out the effect of community characteristics on community policing. These were characterized by gender, social class, neighbourhood characteristics and age.

1.6.1 Gender in community policing
Traditional policing was centered on male police officers as they were characterized as officers who were highly involved in fighting crime and thus were categorized as tough, not friendly, and most importantly were physically intimidating (Stuart & Benezra, 2018). Integrating a gender perspective into community policing in a more effective and appropriate manner, provides safety and also access to justice that promotes equality and fairness (Carrington, Guala, Puyol & Sozzo, 2020). Men, women, boys, and girls face different safety concerns as results of experiencing different crimes in different locations perpetrated by different offenders. Gender in policing is very critical since it is the only determinant of insecurity. The success of community policing depends on both males and females (Okech, 2017). For several decades, women were excluded from policing until the 1980s. The United Nations Office on Drug and Crime convened a global roundtable for the sole purpose of discussing the benefits of gender-responsive policing (Fraleigh, 2015). According to United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, less than 1 in 10 women turn to the police when involved in gender-based violence.

Genders' perspective in policing amicably brings to light the security needs of different groups within a specific community and ultimately supports effective policing strategies (Ericson & Haggerty, 2018). Addressing security needs promotes human safety while addressing gender equality. With gender inclusivity in community policing, people feel safe and able to use their skills due to more interactions and releasing security-related information (Bull, Watson, Amin & Carrington, 2021). Community security is a people-centered approach to tackling issues that cause insecurity, whether from security, peace, or development deficits. Gender inclusivity under operationalization of community policing helps improve relationships between community members and the police and easily identify security concerns and subsequently plan to implement collective responses (Tillyer, 2018).

The inclusion of female police officers is of necessity when it comes to policing since female police officers tend to be better while screening victims' suspects and conducting searches on the suspects (Denney, 2015). Surprisingly, female police officers constitute a small percentage of police officers globally. A diverse police service helps transform organization culture while encouraging a quick response rate to the call of service.

Delivering improved services is possible by making police service representatives, which helps promote safety for all citizens. Having diverse men and women helps in policing and motivates cooperation and continuous interaction between community members and the police officers (Denney, 2015). Critical analysis of the above literature shows that males and females have an essential role in community police. The program's success can only be realized when males and females are included in community policing activities. Literature has also suggested that the gender mix in community policing improves the success rate of community policing endevours (Denney, 2016; Denney & Jenkins, 2013).

1.6.2 Social Class and Community policing

Social class refers to the grouping of individuals in a stratified hierarchy based on wealth, income, occupation, education, and social networks (Manstead, 2018). Community policing relies heavily on neighborhood organizations for its successful implementation. The level of involvement in community policing tends to be higher among married people who have children (Schuck, 2014). Lower and middle-class people highly participate in community policing compared with the upper class, though not possible to achieve high participation rates in community policing due to harsh economic reasons (Chen, 2013). Thus, people under the lower and middle-class category play a vital role in supporting and ensuring that community policing success is realized.

The police officers tend to patrol regularly places where the upper class resides compared with areas where the lower class resides (McKenzie, 2015). The upper-class people are always busy and rarely participate in community policing programs. The police officers patrol primarily in their area of residence, and others are protected by police or licensed gun licensed makes the majority of them not realize the value of community policing (Moreto & Charlton, 2021). Community policing success depends on resident participation, which provides valuable information on neighborhood problems and solutions. The community members' involvement in community policing is an indication that the police are responsive to their concerns, and there is a feeling of security and a decrease in crime (Fisher-Stewart, 2016). The truth is that only a small fraction of citizens participates in the community policing, yet there is a high potential for more citizens to be involved in fighting crime. The literature indicates that the lower and middle-class people highly play a significant role in community policing and therefore should be highly targeted.

Findings from this study have filled the gap in knowledge in so far as social class and involvement in community policing is concerned. In as much as findings from previous studies (Nagin, Solow, & Lum, 2015; Chen, 2013) were not conclusive on the role of social status in community policing, and since the said studies were undertaken in Asia and Europe, this study has demonstrated that lower class members of the community tend to take active role in community policing as compared to the affluent members of the community.

1.6.3 Neighborhood characteristics and community policing

Social investments such as a sense of belonging to a neighborhood and the act of relying on the neighbors in times of need foster willingness to participate in community policing (Kangaria, 2019). Fear of retaliation affects community members' participation in community policing since some offenders live in the community once they realize that there is cooperation between community members and the police officers. Neighborhood characteristics affect resident participation; for example, neighborhood social disorganization negatively affects community members' level of involvement (George, 2014). Social disorganization indicators include neighborhood poverty, lack of social control, and less monitoring.

Neighborhoods have attractions or services that are part of the fabric. The availability of schools, hospitals, shopping areas, religious facilities, and local business increases the population of a place (Barton, Grant & Guise, 2020). The increase in population with few resources available makes some engage in criminality and, at the same time, reduces participation in community policing. Sidewalks are neighborhood connectors and increase interaction between community members and the police (Hassen & Kaufman, 2016). Sidewalks in the community make police, interact with community members, and make new friends. Neighbours play a significant role in keeping an eye on what is happening in the neighborhood, protecting property, safety from crime or traffic, and realizing and promoting actions that draw new neighbors when property turns over (Diamond & Weiss, 2016).

Good transportation is critical to community policing (Jones & Lucas, 2012). Roads facilitate the continuous interaction between police officers and community members in remote places. The place officers have more patrol vehicles; they cannot pass through remote places in rural areas without good roads. Roads facilitate easy movement from one location to the other. The easy availability of resources and easy accessibility by general population members encourages community policing participation, unlike in a high-poverty society (Rukus, Warner & Zhang, 2018). The socioeconomic disadvantage, an individual characteristic, influences others to engage in criminal acts, especially in disorganized social areas where social control is low. The equal distribution of resources in the community encourages human contact and social activities, which helps develop a united society (Aldrich & Meyer, 2015). Resource availability promotes community involvement in community policing and maintains a secure environment. According to the resource materials reviewed, the

neighborhood characteristics play a significant role in community policing, and the governments need to ensure the roads are well maintained. At the same time, the members of the general public are empowered.

This study has filled a gap in knowledge by exemplifying the extent to which community policing works differently in areas with different neighbourhood characteristics. For instance, in as much as most other studies (Barton, Grant & Guise, 2020; Diamond & Weiss, 2016) concentrated on urban areas and how issues like lighting and paving of sidewalks improved community policing efforts. This study went a notch higher to reveal that places where road networks are good experience successful community policing outcomes given that the movement of police officers and community policing members is easier when reacting to incidences of insecurity.

1.6.4 The Age factor in Community Policing

Age is an essential factor to consider as a social determinant of community policing (Nalla, Meško & Modic, 2018). Not all people participate in community policing. There are community policing committees that play an integral role in mobilizing community members to participate in community policing. People selected to participate in community policing are primarily middle-aged people and not youths (Brogden & Nijhar, 2013). Many youths in Kenya and across the globe feel a deep sense of alienation and as well as disconnection from their communities, contributing to a lack of self-esteem that negatively affects participation in community policing. Community policing committees and police officers have for a very long time ignored youths on community policing operations, failing to tap into essential youth skills that are greatly beneficial, such as problem-solving and decision making which when combined effectively change conditions and attitudes within a community (Brogden & Nijhar, 2013).

Police and community committees play a crucial role in community policing. Youths' involvement in community policing helps benefits from the high energy and creative talents of young people, and young people benefit from the critical realization that they can make positive differences in their community (David-Ferdon, Simon & Knuth, 2014). The Elderly rarely participate in community policing because of age challenges. Minor and elderly are exempted from community policing since the program requires more energetic people. Patrol is key to community policing, and participation in patrol is voluntary. There is no payment on community policing as the practice is voluntary, and people are required to patrol day and night. Only adults are required to participate in community policing, excluding the elderly (Brown, 2012). Elderly and minors are suitable targets for criminals due to strength differences. The majority of offenders are energetic and could easily overpower minors and the elderly. Age is critical to community policing, and middle-aged people, when involved in community policing, significantly help prevent would-be offenders from committing a felony or misdemeanor (Lamin & Teboh, 2016). Age under community policing, according to the materials reviewed, is highly essential, and the youths should be given priority under community policing. The middle-aged people since most of the offenders are rational and energetic. Although research from other jurisdictions is inconclusive on the subject of age and involvement in community policing (Nalla, Meško & Modic, 2018; David-Ferdon, Simon & Knuth, 2014), the present study has revealed a different position in Lurambi Sub-County. Based on this study, older members of the community were involved in community policing as compared to the middle aged and the young members of the community.

1.6.5 Theoretical framework

Three theories; social capital theory, cognitive dissonance theory, and routine activity theory were used to underpin the study.

1.6.5.1 Social capital theory

The social capital theory was developed by French social theorist Pierre Bourdieu (1930–2002) and two American social scientists, James Coleman and the political scientist David Putnam (Homscheid, 2020). The social capital theory is based on relationships, potential resources, class, and durable networks. The social capital theory argues that the network provides value to its members since it allows members to access resources. The social capital theory examines how social relationships are formed and the benefits to both organizations and individuals (Homscheid, 2020). Trustworthy networks and social relations are critical as they promote collaboration and other benefits derived. Mobilization is highly stressed under social capital theory as that helps increase relations. Trusting relationships help build other trusting relationships.

The social capital theory argues that social relationships within communities are benevolent as they promote positive change (Kerber, Woith, Jenkins, & Schafer Astroth, 2015).). The theory emphasizes norms and networks as key in facilitating collective action for mutual benefit. Gender is essential, and gender roles tend to be socially constructed. Both men and women play an integral role in building solid relationships. Women play a vital role in bridging social networks as compared with men. The kind of association between men and women differs. Men based on diverse research conducted, tend to be more active in both sports and recreational associations, while women are more involved in associations related to social services. Both men and women contribute to the proper operationalization of community policing.

Groups' relations are precious and a reliable source of relationships. Class-related inequalities place

different categories of people in various socialization and interaction levels. The higher class people tend to link and bridge social capital, whereas the lower class holds a higher level of social capital (Homscheid, 2020). The level of participation in community policing is highly influenced by class. The upper class tends to concentrate on wealth creation and rarely participate in community policing. The middle and upper classes tend to participate more in community policing activities such as patrol than the upper class.

To a larger extent, social capital theory contends that social relationships are resources that can lead to the development and accumulation of human capital. The theory helps explain the impact of community characteristics and the impact of community-police partnership on community policing in Lurambi Sub-County. Community members and police officers are assets that come together to propel the drive towards the achievement of the desired community policing outcomes. Coming together to work towards a common goal is not sufficient to achieve successful community policing outcomes, the composition of the community policing team in terms of gender diversity, age, social class, and neighbourhood characteristics are critical factors to underscore. The diversity in the mix of community policing teams presents itself as a social capital factor for the success of community policing in Lurambi Sub-County. However, since this theory cannot effectively explain community members' attitudes, cognitive dissonance theory is incorporated to explain community members' attitudes and roles in community policing.

1.6.5.2 Cognitive Dissonance Theory

Cognitive dissonance theory was developed by Leon Festinger (1957). The theory premise is attitude change and that behavior can determine attitude. The theory stipulates that whenever two linked cognitions are inconsistent, it results in guilt or uneasiness; two conflicting attitudes about a given topic result in inconsistencies. With this in mind, this study contends that community members need to possess a positive attitude towards community policing and believe in its benefits for them to effectively join the police in community policing activities in Lurambi Sub-County. Dissonance can be achieved by changing attitudes and beliefs (Harmon-Jones & Mills, 2019). Cognitive dissonance arises from freely chosen behaviour and not simple cognitive inconsistency. Chosen behavior may sometimes bring negative consequences. Adverse consequences are harmful as they may cause threats to stability, competence, predictability, moral goodness, or violation of general self-integrity (Davis, Soref, Villalobos & Mikulincer, 2016).

Individual perception of own attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors is essential under community members' perspective on community policing. There are situations where people are forced to decide that favors one alternative despite reasons for favoring another. People who tend to think more about themselves tend to make decisions that are favorable to them. Threat to our self-esteem triggers attitude and behavior change. Some people rarely trust police officers since when some share pertinent information, it's unfortunate that some decide to share information with others, yet confidentiality is essential. Trust is developed with regular interactions and sharing of information regularly, but that tends to be a problem with the police's bad image (Brunson, Braga, Hureau & Pegram, 2015). The level of trust tends to be lower, and there has been a public outcry on the increased use of excessive force by the police, which significantly reduces the level of trust.

In contrast, those who perceive police officers negatively rarely report crimes that do not directly affect them. Community policing requires mutual trust, regular interactions, and sharing of security-related information. This creates the right attitude towards community policing for both the police and community members, hence the adoption of cognitive dissonance theory. Both social capital theory and cognitive dissonance theories do not highlight patrol, which is a routine activity that highlights on reducing the opportunity by a capable guardian.

1.6.5.3 Routine Activity Theory

The routine activity theory that Lawrence E. Cohen and Marcus Felson developed (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 Cohen and Felsom come together (Madero-Hernandez & Fisher, 2012).

Routine activity theory is an important theory under community policing. A high level of patrol is achieved when the capable guardian is present, making some motivated offenders forego criminal act. The increase in patrol by the community members and the police reduces the opportunity motivated offenders require to commit a crime. The more one is exposed to criminal behavior in their everyday lifestyle, the higher the chances that one will be involved. The concept of opportunity helps explain why crime occurs and that helps people employ crime control techniques, which is important.

The day-to-day activities carried out by individuals to meet their needs provide an opportunity for crime. The individuals have different routines that they engage in, such as recreation activities, shopping, and traveling to and from work, which, when carefully change day to day, help fight crime. Motivated offenders are rational and use readily available opportunities to commit crime. According to routine activity, understanding of crime patterns is possible since the theory emphasizes the relevance of regular and routine behaviors (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, which 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 in fighting crime (Fisher-Stewart, 2016). Routine activity highlights the importance of community members and police partnering together and acting as guardians. In terms of policy and crime control, the routine activity approach has mainly been linked to situational crime control and policing, for example, hot spots analysis.

1.7 Research Methodology

The study employed a descriptive research design. Descriptive research design (asking questions/observations) is best when the research problem describes individuals, events, or conditions by studying them as they are in nature (Groves *et al.,* 2011). The research design was employed to answer questions relating to who, what, and how for target populations, if the task is to identify relationships between variables or determine whether differences exist between groups, the study is about how social determinants influence community policing and thus descriptive research design is the best.

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 situated 52km North of Kisumu and is the second-largest populous county after Nairobi County (Peters *et al.,* 2012).

There have been incidences of increased rate of crime in the Lurambi Sub-County (Wangara, Oruta, & Bota, 2021). The relationship and coordination between community members and police is still a problem despite police reforms. Many Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology students have been killed despite community policing being implemented. In May 2021, a third-year girl was raped and murdered, then dumped in a thicket in Kefinco Estate within Lurambi Sub-County (Owino, 2021). In addition, the 2018 National Police Service Crime report presented a 596 case increase in the crime rate in Kakamega from 1584 in 2017 to 2180 in 2018. This is a clear indication of the failure of community policing initiatives, hence the choice of Lurambi Sub-County as the study area.

The target population for this study was community members residing within the Lurambi Sub-County of Kakamega County in Kenya. Police officers and County law enforcement officers were also part of the study population as they play a significant role in community policing.

The study employed both probability and non-probability sampling techniques. Stratified random sampling, simple random sampling, and purposive sampling techniques were used to select respondents in the study. Proportionate distribution of respondents was used to divide the entire population under study to ensure all the six wards were equitably represented for community members. Stratified random sampling was used to achieve the desired representations by dividing the respective class of respondents into strata according to age, gender, and occupation. Only adults (18years and above) were selected to participate in the study on age. Participants from one stratum were randomly selected when dealing with community members, and simple random sampling was employed to select the respondents from each stratum.

3.6 Data Collection Instruments

The study used both primary and secondary data. Multiple methods are critical in gaining in-depth information and understanding the phenomenon under study. The collection of primary and secondary data strategies helps add rigor, breadth, and depth to the study (Thomas & Magilvy, 2011). Questionnaires, interviews, and focus group discussions were employed to collect primary data from the target population. The instruments chosen provide quick, efficient, and inexpensive means of obtaining information from the target population.

The raw data obtained from the field was cleaned, coded, edited, and checked for completeness, consistency, and comprehensibility. Statistically quantitative data for the study were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) version 26 for windows. Descriptive statistics used in the study included frequencies, percentages, and measures of variability expressed in tables. Inferential statistics were used to investigate relationships and associations between and among study variables. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to test the strength of relationships between variables. Regression analysis was used to predict the dependent variable based on the study's independent variables. In contrast, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to establish the goodness of fit between observed and expected frequencies in the distribution of the study data. All statistical measures were undertaken within a 95% confidence interval. It was transcribed and then organized into themes on qualitative data to form coding categories for analysis purposes. Excerpts were obtained and categorized as either

supporting or against the researcher's interpretations cross-reference to the earlier analyzed quantitative data. Qualitative data was analyzed and then presented textually and concurrently with the quantitative data in line with the study's objectives.

1.8 Findings of the Study
Research findings are presented in this section.
1.8.1 Response rate and characteristics of the respondents
The study targeted a sample of 384 respondents being community members. Out of the target sample, 322 respondents participated and returned duly completed questionnaires for analysis.
This gave the study a response rate of 83.85%. According to Creswell (2014), a response rate of over 70% is excellent to enable the findings to be generalized onto the entire population from which the sample was drawn.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics of respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender		
Male	223	69.25
Female	99	30.75
Total	**322**	**100.0**
Residence of Respondents		
Butsotso East	57	17.7
Butsotso South	47	14.6
Butsotso Central	53	16.46
Shieywe	61	18.94
Mahiakalo	38	11.8
Shirere	66	20.5
Total	**322**	**100.0**
Age categories of Respondents		
18 – 30 years	69	21.43
31 – 40 years	97	30.12
41 – 50 years	117	36.34
Over 50 years	39	12.11
Total	**322**	**100.0**
Respondents' Level of Education		
Universiry Graduate	47	14.6
Diploma and Certificate	82	25.47
High School	156	48.45
Primary School	37	11.48
Total	**322**	**100.0**

Source: Field Data, 2021

The study respondents comprised 223 (69.25%) males and 99 (30.75%) females. The results led to the interpretation that, while the study had the potential to be fair in terms of gender representation due to equal representation of genders, residents of Lurambi Sub-County maintained patriarchal status. The results agree with (Halperin-Kaddari & Freeman, 2016), who argued that the level of equality in the family, economic, cultural, and social life had not been achieved as a result of patriarchal status that continues from one generation to another. Community members were drawn from all the six wards of Lurambi Sub-County as follows; 57 from Butsoto East (17.7%), 47 from Butsotso South (14.6%), 53 from Butsotso central (16.46%), 61 from Shieywe (18.94%), 38 from Mahiakalo (11.8%) and 66 from Shirere ward (20.5%). With respect to age, 69 respondents (21.43%) were aged between 18 and 30 years, 97 respondents (30.12%) were aged between 31 and 40 years, 117 respondents (36.34%) aged between 41 and 50 years, while 39 respondents (12.11%) were over 50 years of age. Concerning education level, 156 respondents were secondary school graduates (48.45%), 82 respondents (25.47%) had completed tertiary colleges as certificate or diploma graduates, 47 respondents (14.6%) were university graduates, while 37 respondents (11.49%) were primary school leavers.

1.8.2 Effect of Community Characteristics on community policing
The study sought to investigate the effect of community characteristics on community policing. Respondents were asked to state the impact of community characteristics on policing.

Table 2: Responses by Community members on the Effect of Community Characteristics on community policing

Item	Response options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Are females involved in community policing programs?	Yes	297	92.23
	No	25	7.76
If yes to question 1, what is their impact of inclusion on community policing program?	Improve sharing of security-related information	131	44.11
	Increase level of patrol	103	34.68
	No impact	63	21.21
Does the inclusion of both males and females help in effecting community policing?	Yes	269	83.54
	No	53	16.46
If Yes to the above question 2, does it have an effect on the level of patrol on community policing?	Increase level of patrol	170	63.2
	Reduce level of patrol	91	33.83
	No impact	8	2.69
Is the inclusion of female police officers in community policing motivating community members to increase sharing of security-related information	Yes	251	77.95
	No	71	22.05
Whom do you feel comfortable sharing security-related information	Male police officers	280	86.96
	Female police officers	32	9.94
Do you have neighborhood watch programs?	Yes	162	50.31
	No	160	49.69
Who mostly assists the police officers in terms of patrol and investigation in your village?	Lower class	137	42.55
	Middle Class	119	36.96
	Upper Class	66	20.5

Source: Field Data, 2021

Respondents were asked if female community members were involved in community policing. The findings revealed that 297(92.23%) of the respondents agreed, while 25 (7.76%) did not agree. This implies that female community members form a core component of community policing efforts in the Lurambi Sub-County. The results concur with the finding that the advent of community policing, women's perceived skills are finally finding a legitimate place in police work, and law enforcement structures have realized the critical role note that women plays an integral role in policing and helping in increasing the level of trust, cooperation, compassion, interpersonal communication, and conflict resolution (Natarajan, 2016).

Respondents who agreed that female community members were involved in community policing were asked to state the impact of the inclusion of females on community policing, and 131(44.11%) of the respondents indicated that it led to improved information sharing, 103(34.68%) were of the view that it resulted into an increased level of patrol and 63(21.21%) indicated that it had no impact. From the study, information sharing proves to be an essential ingredient under the operationalization of community policing. The findings concur with a social capital theory that, Class-related inequalities place different categories of people in various levels of socialization and interactions. The high-class people tend to link and bridge social capital, whereas the lower class hold a higher level of social capital (Homscheid, 2020).

Respondents were asked if including both men and women helped in effecting community policing, and 269(83.54%) of the respondents agreed, while 53(16.46%) did not agree. Respondents who agreed to the above question were asked to indicate how the inclusion of males and females in community policing affected the level of patrol, and 170(63.2%) said that it increased the level of patrol, 91(33.38%) said that it decreased the level of patrol. In comparison, 8(2.69%) said that it had no impact on the level of patrol. This finding reveals that sharing roles between men and women at the community level is a key aspect that nurtures success for the community's common good. These findings concur with Miller, Hess & Orthmann (2013), who found that both males and females play an essential role in community policing and encourage participation, which is vital under community policing. Community members feel appreciated, respected, and acknowledged regardless of their gender. Victory under community policing depends on the team effort.

As to whether female police officers' inclusion in community policing motivated community members to increase sharing of security-related information, 251(77.95%) of respondents agreed, while 71(22.05%) did not agree. This shows that gender diversity in the police service is a good indicator of success in community policing. Community members prefer male police officers to report a crime or even share security-related information, while others prefer female police officers. The findings concur with the finding of Gender diversity as an essential issue in the police force since there is a consensus that a well-recognized diverse police force is critical

in building public trust, which increases public safety as it promotes sharing of the crime intelligence (Kane, 2020). Gender diversity in law enforcement is more valuable in the United States of America. It addresses the issue of color between Black and White Americans since it simply seeks to up the number of an underrepresented group (Tate, 2018).

Respondents were asked whom they felt comfortable sharing security-related information with, and 280(86.96%) felt comfortable with male police officers. 32(9.94%) indicated comfortable with female police officers. This suggests that our society still regards men as higher than women in essential aspects that affect the community. The patriarchal nature of our society still greatly influences how people perceive issues.

There was a divided opinion when respondents were asked if they had a neighborhood watch program in the community. A nearly equal number of respondents agreed and disagreed (162(50.31%) said yes while 160(49.69%) said no). This may imply that respondents were not quite clear on the neighborhood watch programme and sensitization needs to be done on this aspect and make this programme acceptable and implemented at the community level since literature suggests that neighborhood watch programs effectively fight crime. The findings agree with findings of the study conducted by Finegan (2013) who found that there were people who did not understand neighborhood watch based on the case where George Zimmerman killed a teenager in Sanford in Florida while patrolling in the community yet He was only supposed to report only to the police officers and thus was charged with second-degree murder.

Respondents were asked to identify the members of the community that assist the police in terms of patrols and investigations in the village, and 137(42.55%) of the respondents were of the view that it is the lower-class members of the community that are more helpful to the police, 119(36.96%) of the respondents identified the middle class as the more helpful group to the police. In comparison, 66(20.5%) indicated that the upper-class members of the community were more useful to the police in terms of patrols and investigations in the village. Lower class members of the community were freer and did not have much to do; hence the more time they had to assist police officers in patrols. Patrol is a vital component of community policing that significantly helps in bringing police and community members together. Offenders tend to commit crimes when there is an available opportunity, and with an increased level of patrol by police and community members, such an opportunity is reduced. It is likely that middle-class and upper-class members of the community were busier in gainful employment or business and had limited time to engage in security-related patrols.

The findings concur that lower and middle-class people highly participate in community policing compared with the upper class though not possible to achieve high participation rates in community policing due to harsh economic reasons (Chen, 2013). The lower-class experiences challenge acquiring resources but still participates in community policing programs more than the upper class (Chen, 2013).

Table 3: Community member's perception on the effect of Community Characteristics on community policing

Are there incidences when someone you know was attacked after sharing security-related information?	Yes	81	25.16
	No	241	74.84
Does the availability of schools, hospitals, shopping areas, religious facilities, and local businesses motivate people to increase patrol?	Yes	217	67.39
	No	105	32.61
Is the increase in population with inadequate resources making some people engage in criminality and at the same time reducing the participation of community policing?	Yes	272	84.47
	No	50	15.53
Are roads in good condition to facilitate movements?	Yes	288	89.44
	No	34	10.56
Who is highly involved in the community policing program	18-25 years	32	9.94
	26-35 years	44	13.66
	36-45 years	62	19.25
	46-55 years	77	23.91
	56-65 years	56	17.39
	Above 66 years	51	15.84
Does age influence participation in community policing?	Yes	299	92.86
	No	23	7.14
With increased gender diversity in the police force, does it improve the sharing of security-related information between police and community members?	Yes	251	77.95
	No	71	22.05
With Increased Gender diversity in the police force, increased patrol by police and community members has prevented more crimes prevented?	Yes	239	74.22
	No	83	25.78

Source: Field Data, 2021

Respondents were asked to state whether any community member they know of has ever been attacked for sharing security-related information, and 241(74.84%) said no while 81(25.16%) said yes. This implies that

incidents of attacks linked to sharing security-related information were few. Protecting the identity of informants under community policing is highly essential in avoiding a few cases of retaliation. The findings concur with the findings of Williams (2015) who found that the identity of the majority who shares information with the police were protected. Police in their modern form continues to improve relations with the members of the public while maintaining confidentiality on the information shared to them.

Respondents were asked if the availability of schools, hospitals, shopping areas, religious facilities, and local businesses increased motivation for people to increase the level of patrol, and 217(67.39%) of the respondents said yes, while 105(32.61%) said no. This is a clear indication that residents of Lurambi Sub-County value their investment and are always concerned about the security of their assets and community-owned resources such as schools. The findings concur with other findings that places of worship and other facilities encourage community members and the police to increase the level of patrol, which is more significant in promoting human safety (Ambrosini, 2013). Respondents were asked if the increase in population with inadequate resources had made some people engage in criminality and, at the same time, reduced participation in community policing; 272(84.47%) of the respondents said yes, while 50(15.53%) said no. An increase in the population of any given area without expansion in opportunities to earn a livelihood is bound to cause insecurity arising from a scramble for scarce resources, as depicted in literature. An increase in population negatively affects participation under community policing, especially in terms of information sharing and level of patrol. The findings agree that neighborhoods have attractions or services that are part of the fabric. The availability of schools, hospitals, shopping areas, religious facilities, and local business increases the population of an area (Barton, Grant & Guise, 2020).

Whether the roads were good to facilitate movement, 288(89.44%) of the respondents agreed, while 34(10.56%) did not agree. Good roads enabled free and faster movement of members of the community as well as police officers within the study area. Good roads encourage speedier responses to the call of service and even police officers to quickly access different locations. Respondents were asked to state the age bracket most involved in community policing. Most respondents, 77(23.91%) indicated that the most involved community members were aged between 46 and 55. 62(19.25%) believed that community members aged between 36 and 45 were the most involved. In comparison, 32(9.94%) of the respondents believed that community members aged between 18 and 25 years were the most involved in community policing. The findings concur with the literature finding that neighborhoods have attractions or services that are part of the fabric. The availability of schools, hospitals, shopping areas, religious facilities, and local business increases the population of an area (Barton, Grant & Guise, 2020). Community policing committees and police officers have for a very long time ignored youths on community policing operations, failing to tap into essential youth skills, such as problem-solving and decision making, that can effectively change conditions and attitudes within a community (Brogden & Nijhar, 2013).

When asked if age had any effect on participation in community policing, 299(92.86%) of the respondents agreed, while 23(7.14%) did not agree. Age is a critical factor to consider under community policing since moving from one location is vital for sharing security-related information. The results concur with the findings that age is a critical factor to be considered under community policing since not all participate in the patrol, which is an important component of community policing (Sozer & Merlo, 2013). Respondents were asked whether increased gender diversity in police service has led to increased sharing of security-related information between police and community members, and 239(74.22%) of the respondents said yes while 83(25.78%) said no. The finding from both community members indicates that gender diversity is essential. For the successful operation of community policing, the issue of gender diversity needs to be considered. The findings agree with Schuck (2014) findings that female representation in law enforcement is essential for the law enforcement agency to realize its objectives.

1.8.3 Qualitative Interview and focus group discussion findings on the effect of community characteristics on community policing

According to critical informants, namely Deputy County Commissioner, Assistant County Commissioners (2), Sub- County Commander, Officers commanding Kakamega Central and Bukura (2), Officers in charge of Kakamega Municipality and Eshisiru police posts, all the five Chiefs', and six county law enforcement administrators in charge of six wards, that participated in the study, agreed that gender diversity on community policing is significant in operationalizing community policing (Field, 2021). The officer in charge of Kakamega Central Police Station argued that increased gender diversity is therefore critical under operationalization of community policing since information sharing is valuable in ensuring that Community policing achieve its objectives of crime prevention, crime control, and problem-solving and, above all, improving working relations between community members and police officers. One county law enforcement administrator and deputy county commissioner argued that gender in community policing determines sharing of different types of information like domestic violence (Field, 2021). The Chief in charge of Shieywe Location stated that gender is critical in the success of community policing. The Chief in charge of Shirere and Mayiakalo Locations argued that diversity in

police service promotes free sharing of information. Gender diversity seems to bring about inclusivity, which results in openness and collaboration between community members and police officers (Field, 2021). This results in free sharing of information between the police and community members, subsequently improving working relations. All the participants who participated in the study unanimously agreed that age is a critical factor in community policing. According to the chief in charge of Central Butsotso, age is essential (Field, 2021). Adults' involvement helps collect security-related information as anyone who is 18-years old and above plays a vital role in information sharing on information sharing community policing. Individuals who are between 35 and 55 years are the most influential group to use, according to the chief in charge of the South Butsotso location. According to the officer in charge of the Eshisiru police post, middle and lower-class people play an integral role in community policing compared to the upper class. Officer commanding Bukura police station argued that the availability of schools, hospitals, shopping areas, religious facilities, and local businesses increased motivation for people to increase the level of patrol (Field, 2021). All the five chiefs who participated in the study unanimously agreed that neighborhood characteristics are key under community policing. Deputy County Commissioner alluded that age is a critical factor in community policing but proceeded to say that security needs highly dictate social determinants under community policing (Field, 2021).

According to the focus group discussion conducted across all the six wards within Lurambi Sub-County, the information gathered and analyzed revealed that community characteristics influence community policing. All the members who participated in the discussion agreed that gender, social class, and neighborhood characteristics impacted community policing. A business person within the Lurambi area in Mahyakalo ward had to say the following when asking about the role of gender in police service, the operationalization of community policing in participation and crime rate subsequently;

> "…. female police officers do not keep confidentiality when the secret information is shared to them as majority share the information with civilians…female police officers easily share information to their husbands, most of whom are civilians, and in the process such information reaches suspect...leakage of security-related information negatively affects investigation and even makes some suspects to escape…." Business Person (27/8/2021).

The sentiment indicates that male police officers can be trusted more when it comes to confidential information as compared with female police officers. Issues of confidentiality in security matters are important as it ensures that the informant's identity is hidden. Leakage of security-related information is a threat to free information sharing, which is critical under the operationalization of community policing. Community members freely share security-related information when they know that their identity cannot be known.

The issue of gender is essential and has been ignored for a long time since community policing was implemented. A village elder in Shikoti said the following regarding the issue of gender on community policing;

> "…. male police officers keep confidentiality but one important thing to be noted with female police officers is that they easily blend with community members due to their hospitality…male police officers respond to the crime scene as compared to female police officers who have a poor record…male police officers are approachable …. female police officers require reinforcement from male officers when called to respond…." Village Elder Shikoti in Butsotso East (2/9/2021).

The sentiments here point out that female police officers have an integral role in the police force. Having a blended police service is important as it gives options in terms of sharing security-related information. With a blended police force, some police officers can be freely and therefore more approachable to community members.

Police play an important role in enforcing the law. The order encourages people to expand businesses and attracts potential investors. Police play an essential role in preventing and controlling crime. Community policing is crime prevention and problems solving strategy which is critical. Participation is crucial, and police and community members are key players. A teacher in Shirere had to say the following while sharing on the role of gender under community policing;

> "...having a police service that is balanced in terms of gender is essential since there are those that find it easy to share information with male police officers and others female police officers…social problems are solved easily when both male and female police officers are available in the community… people share information to police officers who are approachable and who they feel that they will keep secret when shared..." Teacher (30/8/2021).

The argument lays bare that, having a balanced police service is important in terms of information sharing. Community members share security-related information to the police officers with whom they feel that they have

a greater understanding. There are police officers who are very keen and always ready to listen to community members' whole others do not care neither take it seriously when an issue is reported to them. I believe that is why the community members argued that, there are police officers who are approachable as compared to others.

The findings from Chiefs' of Lurambi Sub-County and other key informants who participated in the study all agreed that gender diversity in community policing is significant in the operationalization of community policing. According to the religious leader interviewed in Shirere ward;

> "…the type of information to be shared is highly influenced by gender…apart from gender, the aspect of socialization is also important…there are those that are comfortable sharing information with female police officers, and there are those that are comfortable sharing information to make police officers… diversity in police service increases the positive relationship between police and community members and promotes sharing of security-related information…"
> Religious leader (30/8/2021).

The argument here is that the type of information to be shared sometimes requires specific gender. Sharing information that relates to domestic violence on sexual offenses requires female police officers if the victim is a female.

Female police officers tend to concentrate, take information with the seriousness it deserves and follow up the matter since they are affected more than female police officers.

Considering upper, middle, and lower-class people, most respondents supported middle-class people as the people who participate easily in community policing. A farmer in Nyayo Tea Zone shared the following when asked about the majority who participate in community policing and the underlying reason;

> "... middle-class people play an integral role on community policing as they mostly share accurate information as compared with the lower class who sometimes tend to share inaccurate information…the upper class do not care since most of them have security guards and even have a direct connection with senior police officers and therefore feels that they are protected…some lower class do not care about security and even some have given up in life …" Farmer (30/8/2021).

At this juncture, it can be said that middle-class people help the police in terms of patrols or sharing security-related information. The reason could be because they can easily sacrifice for security reasons. Unlike the upper class, the middle class rarely has a connection with senior police officers compared with the upper class and must do what they can to ensure that they are safe. Because of harsh economic conditions, the lower class tends to have hard time finding an opportunity to participate in patrol and engage with police officers.

> "... middle-class people are mostly concerned about security, and when they have information, they easily share with the police officers to ensure there is order and peace for them to continue with their routine activities...the upper class are inaccessible and even reaching out to them is extremely hard...there are strained relations with the upper class, and the worst is that majority of them do not work even with the village elders…" Businessman in Eshisiru under Butsotso Central ward (31/8/2021).

The argument here is that, the middle-class people are the one's who are highly concerned with security issues as compared with the upper class. The reason could be, the higher class people are mostly guarded by the Administration police, General Service Unit, while the private security guards guard others. Some middle-class people are involved in business and therefore concerned about human security. The higher class people tend to concentrate more on their progress, and having the capability to employ private security guard makes them concentrate on their issues other than security issues that concern other members of society.

> "…. middle- and lower-class people play a key role in sharing security-related information since they value security and majority of them are not in a position to hire private security guards…. accessing middle and lower class on face to face is easy as compared to upper class who mostly preferred mobile phones to communicate…patrol is vital under community policing…." Community Policing Member in Bukura under Buytsotso South ward (1/9/2021)

This assertion indicates that lower and middle class people have an integral role in community policing. The lower and the middle-class people are people who struggle to ensure that they provide basic needs to their dependents, and them afford to hire private security guards could be harder. The upper class rarely interacts with lower or middle-class people since they value privacy. Both lower and middle-class people easily respond when a call to help in the operationalization of community policing.

Neighborhood characteristics influence community policing, as indicated by most of the study respondents. Community characteristics are vital predictors of the success of community policing. That is why the

government needs to ensure that policies that support equal distribution of resources and equal employment are supported and implemented fully to safeguard the gains made in community policing so far. A farmer from Bukura and Kakamega Central Sub-county commander shared the following information on whether neighborhood characteristics have an impact on community policing;

> "…. people from impoverished neighborhoods tend to participate higher as compared with those from affluent neighborhoods…People from impoverished neighborhoods and the middle class tend to report crime and even share security-related information compared to affluent neighborhoods. "Farmer (1/9/2021).

In a nutshell, this means that people from impoverished neighborhoods are more productive when it comes to the operationalization of community policing than those from affluent neighborhoods, yet participating in community policing is highly crucial to everyone in society.

> "…neighborhood characteristics have any influence in the operationalization of community policing...neighborhood characteristics influences community policing since the police tend to increase the level of patrol in places where there are schools, hospitals, businesses, upper social class resides, and government buildings as compared to rural areas with most rural areas where the level of patrol is lower." Sub-locational Community Policing Chairman (1/9/2021).

The sentiments indicate that neighborhood characteristics play an integral role in the operationalization of community policing. The level of patrol tends to intensify where there are schools, hospitals, and people belonging to the higher class reside. The level of patrol in impoverished societies tends to be lower.

Age is significant under community policing. According to the responses provided, there were mixed reactions on who performs best when included in the community policing. Others shared supported those between 35-45, others 35-65- and others 25-35. According to a former teacher in Shirere;

> "….35 to 50 years are mature people and vibrant and therefore plays an active role on community policing when actively involved…they value security since majority strive to ensure they have acquired sufficient resources and that is possible when security is guaranteed…." Former Teacher (30/8/2021).

The argument lay bare that middle-aged adults play an important role in the operationalization of community policing. Active involvement in human security issues is because most middle-aged people value resources, and the majority of them strive to ensure human security is achieved.

The findings from those interviewed to determine if age was an essential factor indicate that all agreed that age was critical in community policing. According to a Religious leader;

> "…people who aged between 25-55 are most resourceful people under community policing… Age is critical under community policing as it influences the operationalization of community policing," Religious leader. (30/8/2021).

The sentiments shared shows that age is critical factor to consider in the operationalization of community policing. It is clear that middle aged adults are key in proper functioning of community policing.

1.8.4 Correlation Results for Community Characteristics on community policing

Correlation analysis was done to determine the effect of community characteristics on community policing in Lurambi Sub-County. Pearson correlation was found ideal since scatter plots revealed linearity in the data, absence of outliers and presence of related pairs, i.e community characteristics and community policing. Findings are presented in Table 4.6.

Table 4: Pearson Correlation Results for Community Characteristics on community policing (n=322)

		Community Characteristics	Community Policing
Community Characteristics	Pearson Correlation	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
	N	322	
Community Policing	Pearson Correlation	.519*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	322	322

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).
Source: Research Data (2021)

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was computed to determine the degree of linear association between community characteristics and community policing in Lurambi Sub-County. As presented in Table 4 revealed a statistically significant relationship between community characteristics and community policing Lurambi Sub-County (r= 0.519; P<0.05). This implies that community characteristics significantly influence community policing outcomes in Lurambi Sub-County. The findings of this study agree with findings

from empirical studies on the role of community characteristics on community policing. A study by Kangaria (2019) revealed that social investments such as a sense of belonging to a neighborhood and the act of relying on the neighbors in times of need foster willingness to participate in community policing.

Neighborhoods have attractions or services that are part of the fabric. The availability of schools, hospitals, shopping areas, religious facilities, and local business increases the population of an area (Barton, Grant & Guise, 2020). The increase in population with few resources available makes some engage in criminality and, at the same time, reduces participation under community policing. Sidewalks are neighborhood connectors and increase interaction between community members and the police (Hassen & Kaufman, 2016).

Findings with regard to the first objective are in line with the social capital theory to the extent that the composition of the community policing team in terms of gender diversity, age, social class, and neighbourhood characteristics are critical factors in guaranteeing the success of community policing outcomes. The diversity in the mix of community policing teams presents itself as a social capital factor for the success of community policing in Lurambi Sub-County.

1.8.5 Regression results for Community Characteristics and Community Policing

Regression analysis was done to establish how much variation in community policing outcomes was a function of community characteristics. Regression analysis was found ideal since the research data was normally distributed, there was uniformity in the distribution of the error term (absence of heteroskedasticity), data was quantitative and scattered plots showed that the data was linear. Research data relating to Community Characteristics was used to predict the effectiveness of Community Policing in Lurambi Sub-County, and findings are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Model summary for Community Characteristics and Community Policing (n=322)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.351[a]	.235	0.228	.91077	1.741

a. Predictors: (Constant), Community Characteristics
b. Dependent Variable: Community Policing.

Source: Research Data (2021)

The study sought to investigate whether community characteristics influence community policing in Lurambi Sub-County. Regression analysis was conducted to determine the variation in community policing that was a function of community characteristics. The study findings revealed a coefficient of determination (R^2) was 0.233, implying that community characteristics accounted for 23.3% of the variance in community policing in the Lurambi Sub-County. The study used regression analysis to examine how much change in the dependent variable as a result of the independent variable. It was safe to use regression analysis since the study data conformed to the condition for regression analysis, including normality in data distribution and the absence of multicollinearity.

1.8.6 ANOVA for Community Characteristics and Community Policing

The ANOVA for Community Characteristics was computed to determine how well the model of the study was fitted to predict Community Policing in Lurambi Sub-County, and the findings are presented in table 6:

Table 6: ANOVA for Community Characteristics and Community Policing

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.142	1	.174	.141	.001[a]
	Residual	246.362	297	.624		
	Total	246.536	298			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Community Characteristics
b. Dependent Variable: Community Policing

Source: Research Data (2021)

A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) to predict levels of variability within the regression model and which formed a basis for tests of significance, was done. ANOVA for the linear model presented in Table 6 above for Community Characteristics and Community Policing revealed an F - value = 0.141, which was statistically significant with P value = 0.001, meaning that the overall model was significant in predicting community policing outcomes in Lurambi Sub-County based on community characteristics. Therefore, the study has revealed that community characteristics had an effect on community policing in Lurambi Sub-County.

1.9 Conclusions

The study sought to investigate the effect of community characteristics on community policing. Results revealed a statistically significant relationship between community characteristics and community policing Lurambi Sub-County. Based on the study findings, a conclusion is made that community characteristics significantly influenced community policing in Lurambi Sub-County.

1.10 Recommendations

In light of the study findings and conclusion, the following recommendation is made;

There is a need to include male and female police officers and male and female community members in community policing activities. This study revealed that such a mix motivates participation in community policing. Community members play a significant role in keeping an eye on what is happening in the neighborhood. Protecting property values, safety from crime, and realizing and promoting actions are recommended since neighborhood watch programs have been found to enhance security. Good transportation is critical to community policing, and roads facilitate the continuous interaction between police officers and community members in remote places. Even if police officers have more patrol vehicles, they cannot pass through remote areas and urgently respond to security emergencies without good roads. Roads facilitate easy movement from one location to another within a good locality. It is recommended that road networks be improved to facilitate easy and quick movement of police officers to respond to security threats in Lurambi Sub County.

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