

Strategies Taken by the Government of Kenya to Ensure Better Community Policing in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya

Erick Omwenga Gichana
Tutorial Fellow, Department of Criminology and Social Work
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology
Email Address: omwengaericon@gmail.com

Abstract

Increased cases of insecurity and crime are the major challenges affecting many societies globally. Kenya is not an exception thus community policing was adopted to enhance security and safety, reduce crime, fear and improve social order in the neighborhoods through engagement of the community members and police. However, crime rate in some counties still remains high. For instance, a recent report by National Crime Statistics ranked Kakamega County fourth among Kenya's most crime-prone counties in 2019. The report indicated that most crimes in Kakamega have occurred in Lurambi Sub-County. Consequently, this study sought to identify the strategies taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Lurambi Sub - County. Broken windows Theory and Systems Theory guided the study. The study employed a descriptive research design, and adopted stratified sampling technique and purposive sampling techniques to obtain sample units. The target population of the study was 1182 being community members, *Nyumba Kumi* leaders, police officers and National Government Administration Officers. A sample of 284 community members was used during data collection while 21 *Nyumba kumi* leaders, 19 police officers and 5 National Government Administration Officers were also sampled to take part in the study. A questionnaire was used to collect data from community members, interview schedule was used to collect data from police officers and National Government Administration Officers while a Focus Group Discussion Guide was used to collect data from *Nyumba Kumi* leaders. The quantitative data was processed and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 29.0 for windows while the collected qualitative data was analyzed thematically in line with the study objectives. Results were presented using tables and figures. The study findings revealed that law enforcement officers underwent any training to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the development of community policing and crime reduction. 36.6% responded that police officers had undergone through the community policing training programme. 63.4% however, did not undergo any training. Further still, research findings revealed that significant majority (92.0%) of the respondents were of the opinion that enough awareness has been created about community policing by the government. In light of the findings made, the study concluded that the Police-Community partnership method has a significant and positive effect on the crime reduction hence recommended coordination of the developed national crime reduction strategy in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya.

Keywords: Strategies, Community Policing

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1.1 Introduction

Over the years, there has been a paradigm shift with regards to policing in many countries in the world. This is a result of the developments as well as challenges faced in the security sector. This has necessitated the need for new approaches to deal with insecurity, such as community policing (Radda, 2018). According to Karuri & Muna (2019), criminal actions claim thousands of lives and millions of dollars in property. It is consequently critical to include community people who own and understand their area in comprehensive community policing (Arisukwu & Okunola, 2013). According to Grace *et al.*, (2019), Western states are increasingly favoring collaborative policing in order to improve crime management. People drive development activities around the world, and popular participation has become the norm.

The current state of community policing in Nigeria is a close cooperation between police and members of the public with the goal of protecting lives and property on a local level. However, obstacles such as bribery and corruption, human rights violations, public mistrust and distrust, meddling attitudes of political godfathers in police-community affairs, a lack of visionary schemes, and the unnecessary use of coercion and threats to enforce public compliance with rules have thwarted attempts to improve and stabilize police-public cooperation, which is a precondition for effective community policing (Ordu & Nnam, 2017).

Community policing is not a new concept in Kenya, having been implemented in 2005. Through collaborative problem resolution, the fundamental goal is to decrease the fear of crime and social instability. Neighborhood policing aims to make the police and the general public effective partners in crime reduction and control in a given community. It places a higher value on people-service than on law enforcement. To fulfill its

goals and maintain its focus on the community, it relies on decentralization of police structure, community engagement, collaboration, and problem resolution. The problem is to meet the security priorities of community members who are victims, suspected offenders, residents, visitors, indigenous peoples, settlers, and business owners (Mwangi, 2012).

According to Justus (2017), several governments have suddenly realized that they can no longer monopolize the security market. This viewpoint has resulted in the creation of programs promoting community policing. As a result, the government has solicited the involvement of private security firms, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community people to take the lead in crime management. According to Karuri & Muna (2019), many parts of the country where community policing was successfully implemented have experienced crime reduction, for example Kasarani Sub County in Kenya. However, a few seem not to have adopted this crime reduction strategy, since crime has continued to be waged on the innocent citizens in these parts of the country.

According to the National Crime Research Center (2019), Kakamega County was listed among the top counties with the highest number of criminal cases recorded. This supported Kenya Police records 2014 which rated Kakamega County fourth worst crime prone counties in Kenya. In addition, Lurambi Sub - County was found to be the leading in Kakamega County with the most common crimes in Lurambi being robbery with violence, shop lifting, drug abuse and rape. This is a wake-up call for the government both at County and National levels to take new measures of which community policing is one to control crime in the affected areas, in this case Lurambi. The study therefore sought to identify the strategies taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Lurambi Sub - County, Kenya.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The government of Kenya has inserted several efforts to enhance the implementation of community policing as a result some parts of the country have reported lower crime rates and this was credited to community policing that was found to have a positive impact on crime reduction. This is according to Kenya Police records from 2014 to 2020. However, in spite of successful implementation of community policing in many parts of the Kenya, as several studies have established there is still persistence of crime in the country. This is because over time the initiative has been contradicted sharply with the actual realities and the practical results as a number of studies and reports have been criticizing community policing since its establishment saying that the concept is unsuitable for a modern capitalist Kenya. For instance, KNCRC (2016) indicated that many people were continually losing their lives and property, and organized criminal elements continued to enjoy their freedom as they live freely in the society. Also, recent police criminal reports showed that thousands of lives and millions of properties are being lost through crime activities (Karuri & Muna, 2019). Another report from the National Crime Statistics indicated that from 2011 to 2020 crime cases have increased causing a national security threat. That is, in 2020 the total crime cases recorded were 69,645, which was seen as 25% decrease as compared to 2019 which recorded 93,411 crime cases. In 2018, the National Police Service recorded a total of 88,268 cases which increased by 6% in 2019. The 25% drop in cases witnessed in 2020 can be attributed to the lockdown measures that were implemented by the government in its bid to curb the spread of COVID-19 that was in effect from April 2020 (National Police Service Report, 2020).

Furthermore, according to Kenya Police records 2014, Kakamega County has also witnessed an increase in the levels of criminal activities. This has brought up the question on how applicable and useful community policing initiative is in fighting crime. Thus, the current study was conducted in Lurambi Sub-County. National Crime Research Center (2018) ranked Kakamega County fourth among Kenya's most crime-prone in 2019. Also, the recent police media report indicated that Lurambi Sub-County has significantly high crime rates compared to other sub-counties in Kakamega. According to KPHC (2019) Lurambi is categorized as predominantly rural and this explains the reason as to why the current study was conducted in Lurambi Sub-County since most previous community policing related studies in Kenya focused on urban settings. Therefore, above highlighted gaps necessitated an in-depth research to ascertain the strategies taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya.

1.3 Research Objective

To identify the strategies taken by the government to ensure better community policing in Lurambi Sub - County.

1.4 Research Questions

The study sought to answer the following question;

What strategies has the government taken to ensure better community policing in Lurambi Sub – County?

1.5 Review of Related Literature

Crime reduction includes a range of methods that are accomplished by people, communities, businesses, non-

government organizations and all levels of government to target the various social and environmental factors that increase the risk of crime, syndrome and persecution. Although community policing and the efforts surrounding it may look different in each jurisdiction, there are many examples of community policing strategies at work demonstrating the three key components of organizational transformation, community partnerships, and shared problem-solving (Andrea, 2019).

Eric & Elechi (2010) argues that both formal and informal crime prevention methods prevent people engaging in criminal activities. The scholars further reveal that formal crime prevention greatly depends on provided laws and government authorities to ensure to curb crimes while informal crime prevention methods support or depend on moral or social institutions that consist of the families and churches. A country that has increased crime rates is likely to lag behind in key sectors such as development and growth therefore, crime prevention is supposed to be highly prioritized in every state (Phillip, 2009). The US Department of Housing and Urban Development as reported in 2019 indicated that effective crime prevention enhances speed for improved quality of life, increased employment opportunities, investments and business growth.

Studies in the US on community policing have recommended training on effective community policing initiative for both police and the public. Areas of coverage in the training include change of attitude, skills, and dialogue among the stakeholders. (Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice, 2008). The training should in addition address misconceptions regarding community policing as well as inaccurate information, community needs assessments, and involvement of stakeholders in community policing strategies. There should be continuous monitoring and evaluation of community policing related initiatives for improvement and efficiency. Although these studies were carried out in the US, the dynamics of community policing in Kenya may not be very different.

Konz (2016) argues for building and maintaining community trust by law enforcement officers who must strive to consistently maintain good public image towards citizens. This view is backed up by Noble and Alpert (2009) who argued that although thousands of law enforcement officers in the United States of America can do excellent police work, police misconduct such as corruption and bribery could cause irreparable damage to the service. A more positive partnership between the security sector and the public should be encouraged. However, the issue of police corruption cannot be ruled out as a proximity policing factor in community policing in Lurambi Sub-County.

As any good strategic security policy, CP in Kenya was intended to provide a framework for community members to assist the police and security agencies in protecting their life and property, mainly through sharing information relating to insecurity with the police, chiefs and other officers of the government. It was a break away from traditional policing which for a long time patronizes the society into believing that the police were the only experts who have the monopoly of knowledge and solutions to criminals' acts from detection to prosecution of criminal elements. It is a break away from policing in which police moves in after the damage is done also known as traditional policing, which was based on incident occurrence to a policing that is a problem based and premise community as the central pillar (Bullock, Erol & Tilley, 2006).

A study by Rakgoadi (2019) confirmed resources are an important issue in community policing and even more so in crime prevention efforts. The study found that most of the police facilities that could be used in community policing and other projects run down and poorly managed, resulting in a lack of confidence in the effectiveness of crime prevention, a situation very similar to community policing efforts in Lurambi Sub-County. In addition, the study recommended the availability of resources for renovations and better service delivery. In Kenya, most police structures are poorly maintained, although there have been efforts to reform the sector. It would be interesting to find out the government's strategies to ensure better community policing in Lurambi Sub-County.

A study done in Nigeria (Onyeozili, 2018) found a training gap in community policing initiative. The study recommended a well-trained police sector to deal with conflict situations in addition to public awareness on the same. This is likely to create interest among the public and the police to ensure community policing were successful. In addition, the police must also improve their attitudes and behaviour towards the public and the vice versa. According to Patterson, (2017) if communities were empowered then they would have quality life and the need to present crime through community participation would be much easier. A study undertaken by Bucqueroux, (2017) observed that there were no priorities and nor local input in community policing and that policing officer were driving the initiative without the community involvement which made community policing not to be very effective. There was also the barrier where police officers' performance in community policing could not be clearly determined or measured and therefore not able to appreciate the good work by some of the officers involved in community policing.

Effective community policing according to Tilley (2014) must go beyond building partnerships between citizens, law enforcement and government security agencies. Intergovernmental and inter-governmental partnerships are also critical for exchanging information, identifying threats and sharing resources on security issues, particularly terrorist attacks. According to Singh (2016), approaches to community policies emphasize

community police trust and mutually beneficial links. Furthermore, citizens should also be involved in the prevention of crime and disorder.

According to Bush and Dodson (2014), one of the main problems affecting community policing is the lack of a good relationship between the police and the community. In some cases, citizens do not want any close links with the police and on the other hand the police are not friendly with citizens. As a result, citizens become suspects targeted by the police and the police on the other side become enemies, creating suspicion in the public as well as lack of professionalism. This makes it difficult for community policing programs to achieve meaningful crime management results.

Sikhulekile (2018) established that many criminal incidents in East Timor have been addressed at the community level through traditional approaches. However, some incidents required registration in order for available resources to be used consistently in monitoring the effectiveness of community policing in reducing crime. The effectiveness of traditional approaches to refugee community policing has yet to be scientifically established in Kenya. This gap has motivated the current study to examine the strategies that need to be put in place by the government to improve community policing in an effort to curb crime in the Lurambi sub-county.

The philosophy behind community policing is that the community must be empowered in ways that could help them tackle crime (Diehr and McDaniel 2018). The approach should allow police access to community information that could help prevent or reduce crime among the targeted communities. The approach could also be useful in helping police fight terrorism and other serious crime. On the community side, there are challenges such as different values and expectations, some community members involved in conflict, lack of social capital, lack of ownership of the process, and poor community involvement. Furthermore, the community has no voice when it comes to discussions involving community policing (Osse, 2016). In most cases the police fail to involve the community in addressing crimes within the community. Police may also suffer from lack of adequate training in how to work with communities. In Nigeria, for example, community policing challenges include scarce manpower, lack of resources, poor infrastructure, lack of information and equipment.

Skilling (2016) found that community policing seeks to prevent crime and, as such, police should be better informed for the purpose of sharing data with the public in a way not only to reduce but also to prevent crime. However, the police in the contemporary world are still using traditional approaches of deterrence, protection of civilians and property from criminals, as well as trying to identify possible actors of crime. However, these traditional methods have been limited in terms of security management and crime prevention. (Office of Community Oriented Police Services, 2017). A performance and measurement system can be created to give specific operational meaning to community policing by specifying values such as trust, teamwork, dialogue, creativity, honesty, commitment and hard work, among others (Whitelaw, Parent & Griffiths, 2014; Schanzer, Kurzman, Toliver and Miller, 2018). A mission statement may be needed that co-operates all of these values to guide community policing initiatives as noted by (Boettke, Lemke & Palagashvili, 2016). The origin of the community police was in the west, where it seems to have been better received than in Africa. Philosophy, consequently, is foreign and as such there have been some resistances also linked to poor domestication. There was also a lack of commitment from politicians and other stakeholders. In addition, there was a low allocation of resources to community policing initiatives, while the community was concerned and skeptical about the police commitment to community policing. There has also been a lack of 23 economic and social support regarding police reforms to fully accommodate community policing (Kungu, 2015). Matsuda 2017 and Tilley (2014) Sherman and Eck (2016), which could also affect proximity police in Kenya.

Unlike the traditional police model, community policing recommends that the knowledge of field officers be taken into account in the decision-making process. The base should therefore be involved in the decision-making process. The need to consult so-called NCOs during the decision-making process cannot be overemphasized as they are always on the ground. (Weisburd, 2018). The need to have the free will of police officers to maintain contact with the local community on security needs should be allowed and encouraged through the decentralization of the police structure. Police work in this case should be non-discriminatory and non-partisan. The need to create community substations is essential for community policing to be more effective. Such stations should be equipped with the necessary resources and capabilities to solve community-related problems (Rosenbaum, 2016). More effort should be made to develop an organizational culture based on mentoring and guidance, values and practices in contrast with rules and orders.

Finally, police accountability must be maintained at all costs for effective collaboration with the community and other stakeholders. In addition, a police department engaged in community policing with better accountability measures should be established. If this does not happen, it will be very difficult for the community and the police to cooperate in security management strategies. In addition, the police service should adopt problem solving approaches which may be more effective. (Boettke, Lemke and Palagashvili, 2016). From the above literature review, it's clearly established that National security involves mapping out an area, specific security issues, and devising ways to contain the security situation. There are a number of strategies that can be employed in an area by the government to ensure better community policing and to control crime. This study

focused on four strategies namely; community policing, security meetings, peace *Barazas* and intelligence gathering and the effects of incorporating these strategies in the fight against crime in Lurambi Sub - County.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

There are numerous theories regarding the efficiency of law enforcement and crime reduction. This study was based on the Systems Theory, and its applicability to the study is explained. Systems Theory, which formed the theoretical basis of the research, holds that the whole is larger than the sum of its parts. Talcott Parsons, the founder of systems theory, developed this view of society in 1960. According to Parsons, if any of society's subsystems were to fail, the entire system would collapse. The idea explains how information flows between different social subsystems (Ritzer, 1988). According to the author, citizens feel more empowered when they have a say in matters affecting their daily life, such as crime prevention initiatives like community policing. There's a lot of room for creativity when it comes to involvement, but it's hard to put into practice. The community's input is often inconsequential to the outcome of the decision-making process or the policy that is enacted as a result. According to systems theory, in order to accomplish the intended outcomes, it is necessary to successfully integrate the following four components: decision making; civic education; awareness and advocacy; and advocacy. Since each goal of the study is explained below, it is clear that this theory was crucial to achieving those goals. Systems theory comprises a collaborative effort amongst all organizations impacted by crime to lessen the impact of that crime on the community as a whole. When it comes to fighting crime, community policing means combining the efforts of the state with those of the community. The public has the right and is encouraged to carry out its constitutional duty to apprehend criminals and turn them over to law enforcement. To reduce crime, community policing aims to strengthen social ties and foster harmony (Fitzgerald, 1989). As a result, investigating the effect community policing has on reducing criminal activity is crucial.

Community policing in Lurambi Sub-County was evaluated using Systems Theory. There has been a detrimental impact on the implementation of community policing in Kenya due to a lack of human, material, and organizational resources, as claimed by Awino and Kimani (2017). They note that Kenya is only one of several developing nations that struggles to implement efficient community policing due to a lack of funding for necessary equipment. So, adequate financing for crime prevention methods and the required packages to implement, monitor, and evaluate community policing is required, as are training resources, equipment, and supporting technologies. According to this research, the community policing initiatives in Lurambi Sub-County have been largely successful thanks to the commitment and cooperation of both law enforcement and community members. Since the implementation of Community Policing, safety measures and police reactions to crime reports have improved. The purpose of systems theory is to shed light on the complex web of interconnections and feedback loops that exist between an organization and its external environment. The system's foundation is laid in the structure and patterns of the relationships among the components as a result of their interactions. Every system is unique because of the emergent patterns and relationships inside it. That is to say, unlike biological systems, the parts of social organizations have their own volition and goals.

In systems theory, the environment, the social structure, and the individuals that make up the system are all significant points of study. Systems theory takes a multidimensional approach in order to facilitate dialogue between distinct academic disciplines. Success in this quest can be achieved in a variety of ways, according to one school of thinking. Searching for phenomena that can be seen in various settings is one example. Examples of universal features of social systems include the fact that individuals and communities are inextricably linked to one another and to their physical surroundings. The biological ideas of population change and the role of the person in their environment have applications for human organizations.

The term "population" is used to describe groups of people who share certain characteristics and who exhibit dynamic growth and reductions in various parts of their makeup. Individual populations also exhibit dynamic patterns and interact with one another in dynamic ways. They will provide as an overview of the major tenants of the evolutionary and ecological viewpoints. The alternative method involves looking at the empirical fields through a hierarchical framework with nine levels that correspond to increasing levels of behavioral complexity. The nine tiers are as follows: framework, clockwork, thermostat, cell, plant, animal, human organism, social structure, and transcendental system (Boulding, 1956).

Systems on or above level four (cells) are considered to be more transparent and intricate since they rely on semi-permeable borders and self-sustaining mechanisms (Schneider & Somers, 2006). This latter technique, in the form of a hierarchy, has the benefit of illuminating knowledge gaps between disciplines, both theoretical and empirical. It has been demonstrated, for instance, that the theoretical frameworks necessary to make sense of open systems and social organizations were not yet fully created in the 1970s. The extent to which systems exhibit features of agency is also explained using this hierarchy. Determined systems, reactive systems, goal-driven systems, problem-solving systems, self-aware systems, and multivocal systems are the first five levels of the continuum (Poole, 2014). In level one, determined systems, agency is not taken into account because the systems operate in a preset manner, but in level six, multivocal systems, agents can dynamically construct

numerous selves in diverse settings involving problem solving and monitoring procedures. Simply put, the more agency a system has, the more likely it is to be malleable and open to modification.

It is a central tenet of systems theory that the parts of any given system exist inside a hierarchical framework and are so mutually dependent on one another that the whole would collapse without them. Parts of a system can be either strongly coupled, in which case their functioning is highly dependent on every other part, or loosely coupled, in which case the subsets of the firmly coupled parts have only a slender connection to one another. The study's findings support this theory, showing that peace and order in Lurambi Sub - County and the country as a whole have benefited from community participation in community policing projects. Community policing, in which members of the public actively help police maintain order, is another crucial tactic for ensuring national safety.

1.7 Methodology

This study utilized a descriptive research methodology. The research was carried out in Lurambi sub-county, Kakamega County, Kenya. Residents of Lurambi Sub-County who have benefited from community policing initiatives like Nyumba Kumi were surveyed, as were the area's administrative heads and National Police Service (NPS) personnel stationed at local community police units. The target population included 984 community members that are actively involved in community policing as per the records from the Lurambi Sub-County police commander's office, 107 police officers deployed to support community policing activities across the 4 police stations and posts in Lurambi Sub-County, 86 *Nyumba Kumi* leaders and the 5 National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs) currently serving in Lurambi Sub-County (1 Deputy County Commissioner and 4 Assistant County Commissioners). This brings the study population to 1182. Probabilistic and non-probabilistic sampling methods were utilized to obtain information for this investigation. Community members and Nyumba Kumi authorities were drawn at random from each of the six wards in the Lurambi Sub-County using a combination of stratified and basic random selection. This guaranteed that no part of the research region was underrepresented. Saunders, Lewis, and Thornhill (2016) claim that stratified random sampling is a form of probability sampling approach in which a researcher divides the total population into numerous non-overlapping, homogenous groups (strata) and randomly selects the study's final responders from the various strata in order to save money and increase efficiency. Members in each of these strata should be distinct so that every member of all groups gets an equal opportunity to be selected using simple probability. Purposive sampling was used to select police officers and National Government Administration officials who took part in the study. With regard to police officers, the inclusion criterion was based on the decision-making authority and scope vested in the officer in matters relating to community policing. Consequently, only officers in the ranks of corporal and above were included in the study given their leadership and coordination roles in community policing. Out of the 107 police officers deployed to support community policing activities across the 4 police stations and posts in Lurambi Sub-County, there were 9 corporals, 5 sergeants, 3 inspectors, 1 chief inspector and 1 superintendent of police. This gave the actual sample of police officers as 19. Given the small number of National Government administrators in Kakamega County, all the 5 officers will be purposively selected to take part in the study. As regards *Nyumba Kumi* leaders, 21 leaders were identified as holding coordination roles at locational level and were purposively selected to take part in the study. The tools that were used include Questionnaires with structured and unstructured questions, Key Informants Interview (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGD). The data collected in the field was edited and cleaned to guarantee precision, completeness, and readability, and it was coded to facilitate analysis. Quantitative data was summarized and analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics with the help of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 29.0 for windows. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically in line with the research objectives.

1.8 Findings

Under this section, the study presented the response rate as recorded by the respective data collection instruments/tools used as illustrated on the previous chapter section 3.6. The study targeted 284 respondents being community members in Lurambi Sub-County. Following a recommendation by Remler and Van Ryzin (2021), that administering an extra 30% of questionnaires over and above the target sample ensures adequacy of the returned questionnaire, the study administered 355 questionnaires. Following the process of data cleaning before coding for analysis, the researcher identified 284 well filled questionnaires in accordance with the predetermined study sample for purposes of analysis. Besides, study targeted 21 Nyumba Kumi leaders, 19 police officers and 5 National Government Administration officers, out of which the study managed to interview 18 Nyumba Kumi leaders, 15 police officers and 4 National Government Administration Officers as the key informants.

The findings are presented under the following subthemes: training of police officers on crime reduction, counseling centers for citizens, level of deployment of police officers and creation of awareness on the existence of community policing as strategies used by the government to ensure better community policing in Lurambi

Sub-County, Kenya.

1.8.1 Training of police officers on crime reduction

The study assessed the training of the police officers on crime reduction in the Lurambi Sub - County. Asked whether the police officers and law enforcement officers underwent any training to acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the development of community policing and crime reduction. 36.3% responded that police officers had undergone through the community policing training programme. It was also found that 63.7% did not undergo any training. These findings conform to Taket & Edmans (2003) who recommended that staff training is very important for better results in community interactions for purposes of crime prevention. Table 1 shows the detailed information.

Table 1: Training of police officers on crime reduction

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	181	63.7	63.7	63.7
Yes	103	36.3	36.3	100.0
Total	284	100.0	100.0	

Further, the study sought to establish how effective the training was in enhancing crime reduction, the researcher asked police officers who were trained to state how the training has impacted on crime reduction. The results were illustrated on Table 2:

Table 2: Impact of the Training on crime reduction

Area of Training	Frequency	Percentage %
Understanding of the concept of community policing and crime reduction	119	41.9
Understanding of the legal framework of community policing	91	32.0
Enhanced knowledge on objectives of community policing	106	37.3
Enhanced officers' capacity to plan for community activities that greatly prevent crime.	88	31.0
Enhanced police-community partnership	95	33.5
Gained knowledge on community needs identification and resolution	59	20.8
Gained more knowledge on reduction of crime and violence and reduction of public fear of crime	76	26.8
Gained understanding on building sustainable confidence and mutual trust between community members and police officers.	43	15.1

The study findings show that 41.9% of respondents said that training on crime reduction had enhanced their understanding of the concepts of community policing and crime reduction. The study established that 32.0% of the respondents said the training had enhanced their understanding of the legal framework of community policing and its role in crime reduction. The study findings also showed that 31.0% of the respondents said the training had enhanced officers' capacity to plan for community policing activities that greatly prevent crime in the region, 20.8% said they acquired more knowledge on community needs identification and resolution while 26.6% said they had gained more knowledge on reduction of crime and violence and reduction of public fear of crime.

The findings further indicated that 15.1% of the respondents said they gained understanding on building sustainable confidence and mutual trust among community members and police officers. The findings are an indication that training the police officers on crime reduction has significantly ensured effective crime reduction.

These findings conform to Sadd and Grinc (2016) who were of the opinion that training the police on community policing has been minimal, a view also shared by Duman, Ali (2017) who argues that training among the police with regard to partnerships and community empowerment has been minimal if not absent all together. Consequently, the police are likely not to perform well in community policies strategy as observed by Mastroski (2016) who established that basic training in the United States lacked community policing curriculum.

In a study by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice (2008), inadequate training among the police was seen to be lacking towards community policing efforts. It was noted that effective community policing requires training for both police personnel and community members as it aids the development of new police attitudes, knowledge, and skills and facilitates reorientation of perceptions and refinement of existing skills.

The study recommended that training must similarly target misconceptions about community policing including conducting accurate community needs assessments, including all the stakeholders in collecting data to develop community policing strategies; assuring appropriate resources are available for community programs; and finally, evaluating and modifying programs as needed. This will be a pull factor towards community members engaging in community.

1.8.2 Counseling centers for citizens

Asked whether there were counseling centers for citizens in order to develop reduction, diminish fear of crime, detect citizens' problems, provide support during their resolution and establish positive relations with citizens. The results were illustrated in the Table 3:

Table 3: Counselling Centres for citizens

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No	160	56.3	56.3	56.3
Yes	124	43.7	43.7	100.0
Total	284	100.0	100.0	

Results in table 3 show that 43.7% (124) responded that there were counseling centers for citizens while 56.3% (160) however, responded that there were no such services for citizens in their areas. The study established that the few counseling centers offered appropriate information and advice to citizens, and undertook other activities in accordance with law to prevent crime in Lurambi Sub - County. The findings concur with Belgrade, (2017) that information centers for crime reduction are intended for all citizens, with the aim to inform them about different ways of safety self-protection.

1.8.3 Level of Deployment of Police Officers in Lurambi Sub - County

The study sought to know the level of deployment of police officers in Lurambi Sub - County. The level of deployment of police officers refers to whether the existing number of officers in the Sub-County is sufficient or not sufficient to maintain law and order. The study findings were illustrated on the Table 4.

Table 4: Level of Deployment of Police Officers in Lurambi Sub - County

Level of deployment	Frequency	Percent
Very adequate	56	19.7
Adequate	196	69.0
A little adequate	32	11.3
Total	284	100.0

From the findings in table 4, the level of deployment of police officers in Lurambi Sub - County was found to be generally adequate whereby 19.7% (56) of the respondents indicated that it was very adequate, 69.0% (196) said it was adequate while 11.3% (32) of the respondents said it was a little adequate. It can be deduced that the level of deployment of police officers is adequate due to community policing which has ensured that residents assist the police with information and also participate in patrols. This makes the work of the police to be manageable and the result is better control of crime.

From the findings of KII, the Lurambi Sub-County OCPD stated;

"Members of Community Policing Committees should be rewarded financially while the public should be sensitized on the importance of community policing. Monitoring and evaluation of the programme should be done while monthly reports should be sent to the Community Policing Unit (CPU)." (KII in Shieywe on 17/11/2020).

Osse (2016) in addition recommends that the police have to develop positive attitude and fully involve communities in crime control and management. Both the police and the community must also pull resources together to address the most urgent security needs. Bennett, Newman and Gray (2016) concur with Osse (ibid) when they observe that community policing policies have never been articulated well incorporating the 64 citizens and as such the approach has been affected. There is therefore need for a clear policy to guide community policing. (Thurman & McGarrell, 2014).

1.8.4 Creation of awareness on existence of community policing

The first research question was designed to assess if the respondents were aware of community policing in the area and whether the government had rolled out programmes to educate the public on the importance of community policing. The results were presented on Table 5.

Table 5: Awareness on the existence of community policing

Statement	Non-existent	Very inadequately	Inadequately	Adequately	Very Adequately
1. Awareness about community policing	21 7.4%	41 14.4%	49 17.3%	140 49.3%	33 11.6%

The above table indicates that 7.4% (21) of the respondents were of the view that community policing was not existent, denoting that they lacked awareness about community policing as an approach to crime control by the police. The study also found that 14.40% (41) of the respondent felt that awareness about community by police authorities was very inadequate while 17.3% (49) of the respondents viewed that it was inadequate.

From the analysis, 49.3% (140) of the respondents were of the view that adequate awareness has been created by the government through police authorities about community policing while 11.6% (33) of the

respondents felt that the awareness was very adequate. Thus, it has been revealed that a significant majority of the respondents were of the opinion that enough awareness has been created about community policing by the government.

A senior police officer from Shinyalu police station made the following comments regarding the strategies to improve community policing;

"The County government should budget and offer some incentives for community policing. This will assist in resources such as vehicles and allowances for members. Public image of the police should be improved through better relations while mutual trust should be encouraged. The relationship between the police and the APs together with chiefs should be improved through joint meetings and the later reporting to the OCPD on crime matters and community policing forum meetings should be held more frequently including in churches and other public areas." (KII in Shinyalu police station on 18/11/2020).

Also, the Shieywe Police station OCPD stated;

"Members of community policing committees should be rewarded financially while the public should be sensitized on the importance of community policing. Monitoring and evaluation of the programme should be done while monthly reports should be sent to the Community Policing Unit (CPU)." (KII in Shieywe on 18/11/2020).

A leader of a Nyumba Kumi in Mahiakalo ward made the following observation regarding challenges that obstruct the key role of community policing in reducing crime in the area;

"The roles of police and public are not clearly defined, that is, there is no policy to guide the community policing partnerships which may lead to blame game. The appointment of community policing forums members should also be done under a clear policy so that only dedicated and persons of integrity are given the opportunity to serve the community. Persons such as village elders should also undergo interviews and vetting." KII in Mahiakalo ward on 15/11/2020.

Another Nyumba Kumi leader made the following comments on the challenges that obstruct effective application of community policing;

"Some cases of insecurity originate from the original inhabitants who attack newcomers and accuse them of coming to kill their children by reporting them to the police. Some of the original inhabitants claim that community policing came with newcomers as they had protected themselves well before it came. Ethnicity and cultural differences are the other impediments to effective implementation of community policing. These separate people hence unity is affected." KII in Mahiakalo ward on 15/09/2020

Another Nyumba Kumi official from Butsotso East area made the following comments on the challenges that obstruct community policing;

"Some chiefs are not ready to serve ordinary members of the public and when such people report crime to them, they ask who they are? Some community policing forum members do not come out at night for patrol and this causes discouragement for the other members. It is also not easy to identify community policing forum members because we do not have identification cards and this may pose a risk to the members. Training is also lacking in community policing and in other areas such as sign language which may assist in incorporating the disabled members of the society into community policing forums. From the time the County government was put up, community policing has been ignored". KII in Shirere ward on 18/11/2020.

A former chief and presently a Nyumba Kumi official commented as follows;

"Lack of proper coordination between the police and the public also affects community policing. For example, a police vehicle may not be utilized in assisting community policing forums to patrol. Witch hunting of hard-working police officers may result in officers being transferred or demoralized hence eroding all the gains made so far. Community policing is dedication since we are not paid any money or given any benefits. When we come for meetings, we usually come with our own means which is not encouraging. Those who lack transport do not attend the meetings". KII in Mahiakalo ward on 15/11/2020

Butsotso South OCPD also commented as follows;

"Lack of laws to protect informers has negatively affected implementation of community policing. Informers are afraid to release information hence crimes have gone unpunished. Lack of resources for example, for phones and transport has also negatively affected implementation of community policing and resulted in low motivation among both police and public, and even made some members withdraw." (KII in Butsotso South on 16/11/2020).

Patterson (2017) notes that in community policing, the full engagement of the concerned community members is a requirement. As such therefore, the community members require equipment with regard to the practice of community policing as a way of crime prevention. In order for everyone to benefit, the community

must be aware of what is expected of them regarding community policing approach, which is likely to benefit them as well as the security 59 agents in the area of operation. In most cases, however, this is not the case.

Usually, the community is ignorant on the role of the police in community policing as well as their own role. There is therefore need to create awareness on community policing among the citizens through education. (Patterson, 2017). According to the study findings the researcher established that the available strategies will however only succeed if both police and public are willing and ready to work together to achieve improved security. Therefore, fear of retaliation is an important factor that affects the public in making the decision of whether to report crime or not.

1.9 Conclusion of the Study

From the findings of the study the study concludes that training of police officers on crime reduction, counseling centers for citizens, level of deployment of police officers and creation of awareness on the existence of community policing were the strategies employed by the government of Kenya to ensure better community policing in Lurambi Sub-County, Kenya.

1.10 Recommendations

From the foregoing findings and conclusions, the following recommendation is;

In addition, the study recommends that police service officers should be trained specifically on community policing and residential leaders be inducted on how to work with the police service officers through more modern communication technology and on how to relate to prevent crime. Also, the study recommends recruiting, training and deploying more police officers to meet the demand. It was apparent that the current police service is inadequate in offering sufficient service to all the Kenyans especially in rural areas. There is therefore a need to step up the recruitment and training processes within the service with the aim of meeting the security demands of not only the slum areas but also the entire country. This is because an adequate level of deployment of police officers improves the level of security at sub-county, county and national levels.

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