INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION IN MERU COUNTY, KENYA

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A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF LAW, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER, 2025

DECLARATION

I declare that this project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any University.

Signature……. Date…….

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This project has been submitted with my approval as the University supervisor.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my beloved family, whose unwavering support, encouragement, and sacrifices have been the foundation of my journey. To my parents, who instilled in me the value of education and perseverance, and to my siblings, whose belief in me never wavered this achievement is as much yours as it is mine. May this work serve as a symbol of gratitude for your endless love and inspiration.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CP	Crime Prevention
CPF	Community Policing Forums
CSP	Community Safety Partnerships
GoK	Government of Kenya
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

ABSTRACT

Evidence on effectiveness of community policing information management system on crime prevention in Meru County is not clearly documented. This study will help to gain insight into role of community policing information management on crime prevention in Meru County. The study sets out to: examine how intelligence gathering affect crime prevention in Meru, Kenya, interrogate data profiling of criminals in relation to crime prevention in Meru County, assess effect of data processing in crime prevention in Meru County and to establish how information sharing affect crime prevention in Meru County. The research will use social disorganization theory. Descriptive research design will be applied. The research will target about 160 residents residing in Meru County Kenya. The piloting was will be conducted using 14 respondents which are 10% of the sample size. Key informants will be drawn from the community policing members in Meru and National Police Service members. The sampling of the respondents will be done by stratified random sampling technique while the informants will be purposively sampled. The study will utilize quantitative and qualitative data collection techniques. Data collection will be done by use of questionnaire and structured interviews. Secondary data will be gathered using a thematic review of related literature on community policing and crime prevention. Consultation between the researcher and the supervisor will ensure content validity and guarantee that the research instrument measure what they intend to. Descriptive statistics will be used in presenting quantitative data in form of tables while qualitative data will be analyzed using content analysis.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

They are debates surrounding community policing an information management. Community policing is as old as law enforcement itself. When Sir Robert Peel was England's Home Secretary in 1829, he established Metropolitan Police. Peel (1829) asserts that fundamental secret to effective policing is that "people are the police, and police are the people." Peel thought it was possible to prevent crime without meddling in people's personal affairs. Peel's philosophy of prevention serves as foundation for community policing, which has been adopted by several law enforcement agencies worldwide (Patterson, 2007).

Metropolitan Police District of London was first to implement community policing. When country's capital was experiencing an increase in crime, British parliament aimed to combat it. It was intended for citizens to get to know one another so they might identify questionable individuals or criminal behavior. When there was an issue, the public might also get in touch with police. This has a significant impact in discouraging criminal activity in immediate area (The Lectric law Library 2018).

America uses intelligence-led policing and predictive policing approaches. Intelligence-led policing combines information sharing, problem-solving policing, and police accountability. Information sharing enables different states to be aware of any threat that may come around. Predictive policing is used to predict when and where a crime may occur in the future. The sharing of this information enables the police to prevent a crime as they all have access to such information. Information sharing among states enables the

police to identify and predict where a particular crime will happen or where a certain criminal will visit next (LeCates, 2018).

In Japan, crime is at the words lowest rate. Knowing prevention efforts requires an analysis of origins and consequences of criminal activity. It is advisable to take into account criteria other than typical number of criminal episodes or perpetrators. In Japan, one of the safest countries in the world, local authorities are implementing crime prevention programs, have received less attention. In the Japanese socialization paradigm of crime control, social and cultural organization and data gathering on offenders encourages civility and a low street crime rate. (Meissner, Michael, Evans, Camilletti, Bhatt, & Brandon, 2014).

According to Daniel (2010), police in Tanzania implemented a unique reform in 2006 with goal of fostering confidence between police departments and community members. Disclosure of senior police officials' private phone numbers was one of the significant actions made in an effort to promote communication between public and law enforcement. One of the biggest successes was the public providing police agencies with important information that helped them comprehend crimes and criminal activity. Despite their successes, police were for a long time plagued by budgetary neglect, a bad reputation, and popular mistrust.

Afolabi *et al.* (2016) examined intelligence gathering and crime prevention in Portharcourt, Rivers state, Nigeria. The use of structured questionnaires was applied for the study and distributed to two hundred (200) respondents through random sampling.

Tables, charts, frequencies and percentages were used for the analysis of the data. The study showed that intelligence gathering impacts crime prevention significantly.

In Nigeria Detection of criminals relies on a comprehensive, methodical investigation and study of the scene of the crime to identify certain characteristics of the perpetrators. In order to be able to foresee the perpetrator, you must acknowledge the warped validity of the culprit's viewpoint. This has a significant impact on preventing crime. Kenya began establishing community policing programs in1990s, with corporate sector leading charge with police. Initially, these initiatives were only available to Nairobi Central business, but subsequently they expanded to other regions of the nation (Ruteere & Pammelle 2003). From the study above, Patterson, (2007), The Lectric law Library (2018), Daniel (2010) Ruteere, and Pammelle (2003), there are various discussions in relation to community policy policing, however, a significant question that arises, the studies explain a similar phenomenon in Kenya to be more specific in Meru County. Examine how intelligence gathering affect crime prevention in Meru, Kenya. Interrogate data profiling of criminals in relation to crime prevention in Meru County. Assess the effect of data processing in crime prevention in Meru County. Establish how information sharing affects prevention of crime in Meru County. Current study is an attempt to fill the gaps.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Kenya's government, working with National Police Service (NPS) and Ministries of Interior and National Coordination has developed a number of community-based crime-fighting strategies over time. The *nyumba kumi* initiative, which aims to reduce crime through community policing, has increased desire of residents to live in an environment

free from crime. Because of this, crime prevention programs have not been implemented as effectively as it could have, and as a result, police personnel and public have little regard for the initiatives. Lawbreakers are now subject to full weight of the law as a consequence of police department's gradual advancement toward reforms, which has weakened community standards and endeavors of law enforcement authorities (Maximino, 2015; McDonald, 2012; Guigon, 2012). A fundamental component of democratic policing, crime prevention is seen as a means of strengthening ties between state police and public, boosting state credibility, lowering crime rates, and, more lately, battling terrorism (Ronoh, 2021).

According to Hendricks (2013), information technology has enabled states to monitor, contain, and discipline the crime rate. Widespread adoption of these technologies is necessary to stop crimes by identifying them before they are committed. This will make things more secure. In light of information management's remarkable achievements across various domains, it is widely held that it will play a pivotal role in resolving Kenya's vexing issue of cyber security (Tanui and Barmao, 2016).

Crime and suspicious human activity have always been a part of society, particularly in Meru County. According to KNBS (2021), law enforcement station has greatest percentage of individuals claimed to have perpetrated crimes in Meru, at 6.7%. Meru county has among highest incidences of crime in the nation. More than 25% of 81,272 crimes recorded in previous year were reported in three counties, according to the Economic Survey (2021). Highest number of offenses on the list was 6,686 in Nairobi, followed by 5,715 in Kiambu County and 5,032 in Meru County. With the majority of

them either not being reported or being reported too late. Such cases go unresolved, and victims have few options for pursuing a case and obtaining justice. With the increase in unresolved criminal activities and complaints, an application for expediting the investigation process of criminal activities and complaints filed in Meru is required. It is critical to have a well-organized and widely accessible method for reporting criminal activities to the appropriate authorities and following up on reported cases.

Meru County stability has been threatened by the most serious threat to peace and development: crime. In order to promote growth and combat all of the vices that are created by crime, there is a pressing need to eliminate it. It is essential to understand the ways in which crime occurs in order to implement effective crime prevention strategies. As long as crime exists, it will continue to do so, and one approach is to identify the pattern in which it happens so that it may be prevented or countered more effectively. (Liu, 2008). There have been limited studies centered around crime prevention in Meru County and other countries in Kenya. There is a literature gap in determining how intelligence gathering, data profiling, data processsing and information sharing can prevent crime.

Afolabi and Nwoke (2016) established the effect of intelligence gathering in crime prevention and established a significant impact, however, the study was based in a Nigerian context. Adebisi and Olanrewaju (2021) in their study revealed that data profiling positively influences crime prevention but was also based in a Nigerian context. Aston, O'Neil, Hail and Wooff (2021) reported a positive influence of information sharing in crime prevention but was carried out in Europe.

In the light of the above background, the link between management of information and crime prevention has not been adequately addressed. There are several gaps in relation to the topic of study which is "information management in the context of community policing and crime prevention in Meru County Kenya, 2001-2021" In attempt to fill the gaps, the study will examine how intelligence gathering affect crime prevention in Meru, Kenya, Interrogate data profiling of criminals in relation to crime prevention in Meru County, assess effect of data processing in crime prevention in Meru County and establish how information sharing affect prevention of crimes in Meru County.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The study will employ the following research objectives;

i. Examine how intelligence gathering affect crime prevention in Meru County, Kenya.
ii. To Interrogate data profiling of criminals in relation to crime prevention in Meru County
iii. Assess effect of data processing in crime prevention in Meru County
iv. To establish how information sharing affect crime prevention in Meru County.

1.4 Research Questions

The study will be guided by the following research question;

i. How does intelligence gathering affect crime prevention in Meru, Kenya?
ii. What is data profiling of criminals in relation to crime prevention in Meru County?

iii. What is the effect of data processing in crime prevention in Meru County?

iv. How does information sharing affect crime prevention in Meru County?

1.6 Justification and Significance

The research topic, information management in the context of policing in community and prevention of crime in Meru County Kenya is significant to the study because it will provide recommendations and suggestions with respect to the subject matter. Advances in Social Sciences asserts that when law enforcement finds out about an offender's influence on politics within the neighborhood, they are more inclined to investigate a victim's allegation or investigation. This suggests that a significant factor in community-police collaboration is community politics.

The study's start in 2001 is noteworthy as Kenyan police began using community policing in 1996 to combat crime. Nonetheless, the creation of community policing units in Kibera, Ziwani, and Isiolo in May 2001 marked the start of community policing in Kenya. This was made possible by Vera, Nairobi Central Business District Association, UN-Habitat, Kenya Police, and "Safer world." The team gained important expertise and experience in organizing and managing community policing forums (CPFs). The creation of a national handbook, which is used to instruct communities in police sites and services, has provided additional assistance for the units (GoK, 2003:10). 2021 is significant to end the study because it is the likely time that the researcher will complete the studies.

Scholars and researchers will find the study useful since it will document theoretical prepositions from theories and empirical evidences as deduced from previous studies.

This study will serve as a guide and foundation for further studies in this important area of study.

1.7 Scope/Limitations and Delimitations

Whereas the study begins in 2001 and ends 2021 any information useful before and after will be utilized. The study will be confined to Meru County. Some of the questionnaires to be given may not be returned. In order to get over this constraint, researcher will complete the questionnaire while speaking with respondents. Furthermore, organization's strict laws and procedures could be a constraint because they might prevent respondents from feeling sufficiently free to divulge information. By asking the university for an introductory letter that will serve to acquaint researcher with organization's management, the study will get over this restriction.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The chapter reviews literature based on study objectives to identify the gaps. As such literature reviewed focuses, the history of community policing and crime prevention, Community policing and information management concerning crime management, how information management sharing affects crime prevention and Mechanisms that can be adopted in information management by community policing. Theory and conceptual framework are also reviewed.

2.1 Empirical Review

2.1.1 Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is accomplished through application of four distinct strategies: criminal justice, situational, social, and developmental methods. Goal of prevention of developmental crime is to address the underlying causes of criminal conduct, which is why it is commonly referred to as early intervention. resulting in a decrease in probability of a network and individual elements and an increase in protective factors, which helps prevent crime later in life. Pre-faculty governments, programs for parents, academic enhancing campaigns, and improvements in faculty procedural alterations are among the most notable instances of developmental crime prevention (Kapur, 2019). In order for people to support and engage with one another in prevention of crime, social method helps to strengthen neighborhoods. Communities with strong ties to one another and where members respect one another's differences are far less likely to engage in criminal activity. A person can also take pleasure in fewer crimes and violent acts when they have

a strong social network. Increasing social capital or interpersonal interactions can help people become more resilient to crime. Because operational social crime prevention may involve numerous unique elements, it is difficult to achieve. Building communities, giving welfare services, and expanding network support companies all contribute to improving network experience and preventing crime (UNODC, 2010).

Situational strategy, which Kapur (2019) claims involves limiting the times when crimes can occur, is an effective way to prevent crime. There are several ways to prevent crime, such as raising the stakes for being found out, lowering the incentives for disparaging and upsetting others, and stepping up efforts to help and support others. A few simple steps toward preventing situational crimes include installing latches and notifications, increasing light-based research, and making residences more difficult to enter, damage, or hide from. The houses and homes should be constructed such that they cannot be demolished, and at some point, throughout the night, one should keep the doors and windows of the house closed. Criminal justice system's strategy for crime prevention is most widely recognized and is associated with the criminal justice system. Studies typically provide ideas and recommendations, stating that certain actions are only marginally effective. When used in conjunction with the opposing styles, these measurements demonstrate the highest caliber of skills. The concept of "crook justice" refers to the application of severe penalties to individuals who have committed extremely heinous crimes (Clancey, 2017). There is a growing recognition that there are more effective ways to reduce crime. This form of crime prevention works in tandem with other models to enable you to implement the strategies in a practical way.

Mwaniki (2016) looked into Kirinyaga County, Central Kenya, and its usage of community policing as a crime-reduction tactic. This research study was guided by the following goals: to evaluate contribution of community courts to crime reduction in Kirinyaga County; to evaluate efficacy of youth vigilante groups in preventing crime within the county; and to evaluate success rate of joint community-police patrols in preventing crime within the county. The researcher conducted descriptive survey analysis using qualitative and quantitative methodology. Twenty wards in the municipality comprised 50% of study's total population of 200 community members. Respondents included officers controlling county police stations, youth vigilante organizations, administrative officers, and joint surveillance groups. Cluster sampling was employed to choose respondents, who included government security personnel. Results showed that community courts and vigilante organizations, together with combined police and community patrols, have all aided in preventing crime in Kirinyaga County. The study is significant to Kirinyaga County residents because it clarifies the degree to which community policing can contribute to crime prevention.

Ronoah (2021) examined how Mombasa County's crime management was affected by crime prevention. An exploratory research design was employed to conduct the investigation. Sample size of 69 male and female persons over ages of 18 was selected via stratified random sampling among 692 police officers and members of *Nyumba kumi* families in Mombasa County, the focus of the inquiry. First-hand information was gathered through open-ended, structured questionnaires. In order to identify needs and top concerns, the study states that citizen surveys were used to reorient community

policing operations. Additionally, applicants who were qualified for community policing endeavors were targeted for hiring and selection procedures, and staff evaluations were conducted to reinforce community policing and problem-solving skills. The investigation's conclusions also showed that there existed trust between security guards and public, which made it simpler to report crimes, that the community participated in regular forums to discuss crime-related issues, and that police and community members worked together to identify and report crimes. The study also found that property crime, public-private conflict, citizen reports at police station, and public perception of police work were all positively impacted by crime prevention and management.

2.1.2 Intelligence Gathering and Crime Prevention

Many different ways have been used to apply the term "crime prevention" in relation to the topic of crime: it's been used in reference to both activities (such as the implementation of crime prevention programmers and/or strategies) and results (including lower crime rates in communities and/or lower rates of antagonizing by individuals). Researchers have investigated the role of formal and informal social methods of control in crime prevention, with an emphasis on the influence (via mechanisms including connection, dedication, and engagement) of parents, friends, school, work, community, and the role of guilt and beliefs. (Byrne & Marx, 2011)

It is critical to gather data on the experiences of crime victims to better understand impacts of crime on them and the effectiveness of the responses they get. Victims are not included in national crime statistics in several nations. On the basis of crime reporting and legal system data on crimes/criminals charged as well as probation and correctional

service data, the police compile official statistics. (Lysova, Hanson, Hines, Dixon, Douglas, & Celi, 2020)

According to Bryne and Marx (2011), In the US information gathering plays a vital role in crime control. It was determined that the most effective form of questioning for obtaining true confession from defendants and reducing false confessions was a combination of interview and interrogation tactics. It was contrasted to the more non-confrontational approach of acquiring information in US and more aggressive method in US. Many erroneous conviction instances in US have been the result of the use of these procedures, which elevated the chance for false confessions by a medium to high amount.

Miller, Redlich and Kelly (2018) stated that including in India, most nations, have police departments responsible for catching criminals, but certain law enforcement organizations are tasked with catching specific sorts of theft. Chinese government has enforceable privacy safeguards in place. Thus, Chinese government has absolutely history of gathering vast quantities of personal information on its residents, and it is aggressively researching technological advances, including such big data analytics and cloud technology platforms, to more effectively aggregate and mine private details which lead to a reduction in crime. (Hatrick, 2019)

Afolabi*et al.* (2016) examined intelligence gathering and crime prevention in Port Harcourt, Rivers state, Nigeria. The use of structured questionnaires was applied for the study and distributed to two hundred (200) respondents through random sampling.

Tables, charts, frequencies and percentages were utilized for analysis of data. The study showed that intelligence gathering impacts crime prevention significantly.

In Nigeria Rural communities have grown known for a wide range of criminal activity. The Nigerian Police Force has had difficulty detecting and preventing inadequate transportation and communication facilities, which contribute to crime in rural Nigeria. Community policing has been established in Nigerian rural communities as a response to the rise in criminal activity in their area. (Arisukwu, *et al*., 2020).

In Kenya, a variety of crime prevention measures have been implemented that focus on various stages of prevention (basic to tertiary), as well as the importance of individual, parochial, and public acts to prevent crimes. (Wainana, Karomo, Kyalo, & Mutai, 2020)

In Rwanda there is a clear distinction between those who operate under the authority of the public governments and those who act in accordance with the authority of the central authorities. As a consequence, a very effective system of local reported crime is created, with exceptionally clear institutional boundaries. It's the first-time factual data gathered over the course of 18 months has been used to provide a comprehensive picture of the role of local police in Rwanda. (Nsengimana, 2017)

2.1.3 Data Profiling of Criminals in Relation to Crime Prevention

Criminal profiles are the sum total of assumptions about the individual who committed the crime or crimes. Using machine learning, modern data analytics can uncover trends and develop more precise criminal profiles in substantially less time, which can be utilized to apprehend criminals.

Using criminal profiling may help investigators narrow down suspect pools, relate crimes, provide pertinent leads and new investigation tactics, and keep the whole investigation on track. Regardless of the circumstances, criminal profiling has shown to be useful in certain situations. There is still a long way to go before criminal profiling can be considered a useful forensic tool. In airport security, criminal profiling knowledge is used to detect the smuggling habits of smugglers and catch them, thereby prohibiting narcotics from entering a nation. (Naudts, 2019).

In the United States Crime prevention may be achieved via the use of criminal profiling, since most criminals display pre-crime habits that can be predicted. It's possible to determine criminal intent by comparing the conduct of non-criminals with the behaviour of those who have committed similar crimes in the past.

In Japan's fight against crime Criminal profiling was a huge achievement. Compared to other highly developed nations, Japan's crime rate is a wonder to criminal justice professionals. There has been a minor rise in property crimes in recent years, although the number of significant offences has decreased. (Hino & Chronopoulos, 2021)

In India Crime prevention methods are being facilitated by data analytics including criminal profiling, which has been implemented by the government. Preventative actions are critical to preventing crime. It is essential that law enforcement organisations have a flexible strategy in order to keep up with the ever-changing nature of criminal activity. The use of data analytics in crime data analysis has shown to be a successful deterrent.

In China Many years of crime statistics have been kept. A high incidence of crime is not a problem since crime patterns and the characteristics of criminals are similar to those in other developed countries. A growth in violence is not always a result of progress, especially in areas where social and cultural heritage and ideology have a long tradition of crime prevention. (He, 2013)

In Rwandan Forensic DNA evidence is used for criminal justice. Scientific evidence like DNA may be utilized to determine whether or not a person is guilty or innocent if evidence like blood or semen is left at the crime site. It has a dual purpose: either to clear the innocent or condemn the wicked.

Adebisi *et al.* (2021) investigated on Nigerian Criminal Justice System's psychological profile of offenders during criminal activity investigations. The study made use of primary and secondary sources to obtain data through various books, articles, cases, legislations, journals and committee reports. The study concluded that the analysis on criminal investigation should be efficiently inserted into the system of justice and earns recognition as well.

In Kenya in criminal proceedings, the use of profiling evidence is commonplace. We've just started using criminal profiling here. For the previous two decades, it has been a hotly debated instrument (Wilson; Lincoln and Kocsis (1999)). Although many people don't know what it is and the majority of folks have no understanding at all how it's done, it has become a part of the public awareness. Professionals as well as the general people are afflicted by this lack of knowledge.

2.1.4 Data Processing and Crime Prevention

Data Computation and violence prevention are linked in a very direct manner. Data on truancy, unemployment, and vandalism may be combined with crime statistics to reveal both big and subtle links that influence crime. These data points may be narrowed down and used to forecast when and when specific crimes are most likely to happen when they are geo tagged. Similar data analytics have shown to be quite useful in the actual world. (Hassani, Huang, Silva, & Ghodsi, 2016).

Law enforcement organizations from around the country may use data analytics to upload crime scene data into databases intended to uncover correlations between cases. This could enable law enforcement to more effectively identify perpetrators and reduce their lists of potential suspects. The use of data analytics in criminal justice is making a positive impact. (Mburu & Helbich, 2015).

In the United States, National crime statistics data collection was initiated by federal government in 1900. In order to compute homicide rates, mortality data, which identify the manner of death, were employed. During the 1920s, towns and states gathered more statistics, such as incarceration and arrest rates. To gather and distribute crime statistics, the Federal Agency of Investigations (FBI) was established in 1930.For decades, Crime in the U.s was used as the primary source of data for crime analysis models, and the FBI continues to produce this thorough publication every year. (Bachner, 2013)

In Japan Local authorities, one of the world's safest nations, have only published a few studies on crime prevention programs. A major overhaul of Japan's data protection

legislation was completed in 2015, and a second major overhaul is expected to be completed by 2020.

In India detecting and investigating crime has become increasingly dependent on the use of data mining, the technique of extracting information from Big Data. There is a high crime rate in India since the data mining is quite time consuming. (Donoghue, 2014)

In Chinese crime, official crime data are highly constrained and unreliable. In order for Chinese crime statistics to improve in a meaningful way, a change in the normative importance of social science and statistics is likely to be required.... Race and class biases influence crime forecasting in China. (Fishman, 2017)

Singh, Kavareppa and Joshi (2018) researched on data processing `for prevention of crimes. The research analyzed the data received using multiple data techniques for mining and two (2) major approaches namely crime pattern analysis and association rules mining. The result obtained revealed that instances of crime cases occurring in Gujarat are related to theft.

In Nigeria interest in crime is piqued by the seriousness of the repercussions and punishments that it entails. Criminal offenses in Nigeria include rape, abduction, robbery, terrorism, bribery and corruption, and money laundering. Criminal justice reform is a top priority for the Nigerian government since it is a major societal concern. (Oguntunde, Ojo, Okagbue, & Oguntunde, 2017)

Rwanda is on the approach of enacting its first all-encompassing personal data protection legislation. A data security regulator has not yet been formed in Rwanda. Whilst this

Draft Law calls for an agency in charge of data protection and privacy, it does not actually create one. There is a need to gather data in order to prevent criminal activity in this area.

Kenyan Data Protection Law Act of 2019 establishes regulations for utilization, preparation, and storage of personal data. It also provides provisions for governing handling of personal data, protects rights of data producers, and outlines duties of data administrators and processors.

2.1.5 Information Sharing and Crime Prevention`

In all the countries mentioned above, information management sharing between agencies can reduce or prevent crime. To effectively prevent crimes, officers need to have real-time information. Sharing of information between agencies such as the local government, entrepreneurs, and community members can fasten the process in which criminals are arrested and increase the evidence available for prosecution (Lee, 2019).

Aston, O'Neil, Hail and Woof (2021) sought to determine information exchanged throughout European community policing. Different participants in nine (9) groups from nine (9) European nations participated in structured interviews. Results demonstrated critical roles that distributive, procedural, and interactional justice play in improving public effectiveness and information sharing with police both in person and virtually.

China being a first-world country, uses advanced technology in information management sharing. Outside parties cannot hack the data because they have the best technicians. The technology enables the country to obtain real-time information and share it. Without

leakage, crime prevention is a success because real-time information through cloud computing enables capturing human behavior. A high population characterizes China, and it becomes difficult to monitor criminal activities; hence, extensive data analysis is very effective (Xu et al., 2020).

In the same way, as in China, Japan also uses high-end technology to observe human behavior in-crowd. The technology is integrated into all systems in the country that require the information to prevent criminal activities. This keeps people at a bar and discourages them from engaging in criminal activities since they can be arrested from any part of the country (Nishiyama, 2018).

Steel, Ward and Diamond (2010) conducted a research on information sharing aimed at reducing violent crimes. Questionnaires were administered to several Community Safety partnerships (CSPs). The result depicted that during time frame of the study, use of data sharing was widely used by CSPs concerning matters relating to violence as well as other crimes involved.

In Nigeria, community policing focus is crime prevention through the collaboration of the police and public partners. Information is shared among the partners and the police to promote peace. Nigeria faces a lot of criminal activities as a result of poverty. Developing countries experience higher rates of criminal activities than developed countries. The urban areas characterized by a high population report most criminal activities compared to those in rural areas. People living in rural areas have informal education, and most are related hence fewer criminal activities. Limited access and poor network to rural Nigeria

make it impossible to use advanced technology for data sharing. Therefore, community participation is the most preferred method to prevent crimes. CCTV cameras and drones are used in some urban areas of Nigeria to provide security (Arisukwu et al., 2020). Rwanda also shows the same effects as Nigeria.

Kenya's methodologies have shown that information management sharing has led to crime prevention. Kenya is faced with criminal activities, mostly in urban areas. Bus terminals are one of the most crowded places, especially in the city of Nairobi, experience the most theft. The installation of CCTVs in bus terminals has led to crime reduction. A survey conducted in one of the counties showed that 69.2% of respondents concurred that surveillance helped to prevent crimes (Munyao & Ng'ang'a, 2017).

According to Aston et al. (2021), interactional, procedural, and distributive justice are crucial in contacts between public and police, in real life and online, within framework of information sharing in community policing. In nine European nations, members of youth minority organizations and intermediaries—those who assist law enforcement and minority groups—were interviewed in a structured manner. The importance of interactional, procedural, and distributive fairness in building public trust is emphasized in examination of obstacles and enablers to information sharing with police. It focuses on theoretical and real-world applications of global policing. Results showed that elements of distributive justice, procedural justice, and interactional justice can all be demonstrated to promote public trust and make it easier for people to share information with police personally and online.

2.2 Theoretical Framework.

2.2.1 Social Disorganization Theory

Theory of social disorganization serves as foundation for the planned study. Shaw and McKay (1942) created this theory. It is predicated on the idea that disorderly communities lead to crime because social norms become less formal and criminal cultures take hold. They are ineffective as a group in preventing crime and disturbance. Shaw and McKay found that the home locations of minors submitted to Chicago courts were examined using geographical maps, and that city's crime rates were not evenly distributed over time or area. Rather, crime was more likely to be localized in specific parts of the city and, more significantly, to be relatively constant throughout various areas despite ongoing shifts in the populations residing there. For instance, irrespective of racial or ethnic group residing in a community with a high incidence of crime at any given time, number of crimes continued to be comparatively elevated. As these earlier crime-prone categories shifted to lower-crime regions of the city, the level of illicit activity reduced in accordance with fewer crimes characteristic of those areas. Shaw and McKay came to the conclusion that crime was probably a product of neighborhood dynamics rather than always a reflection of the people living there as a result of these observations.

Nevertheless, in the 1980s, social disorganization theory was “rediscovered”. Scholars including Bursik (1986, 1988), Sampson and Groves (1989), and Wilson (1990, 1996) conducted research that contributed to the revival, partial reformulation, and expansion of the social disorganization tradition. This has answered some concerns directed towards

the idea (Bursik, 1988). For instance, studies have looked into the "reciprocal effects" of social disorganization (Bursik, 1986) and the possible effects that a community's level of social disorganization may have on nearby communities (Heitgerd & Bursik, 1987).

Furthermore, the theory was reinterpreted to encompass constructs other than macro-level elements initially delineated by Shaw and McKay (e.g., poor economic standing, residence movement, and ethnic diversity). Its theoretical utility has increased with the addition of new notions. Specifically, current studies have specifically looked for "mediating mechanisms" or "intervening mechanisms" that could operate between crime rates and conventional social disorganization factors. Researchers have identified several intervening factors, such as how societal disorder affects disruption in families and group effectiveness rates, which in turn have a direct impact on crime rates (Sampson & Groves, 1989; Sampson, Raudenbush & Earls, (1999).

2.2.2 Human Relations Theory

Human Relations Theory was initially introduced by Elton Mayo as well as his associates which are Roethlisberger, Follett and Dixon during their research at Hawthorne Plant of Western Electric at Chicago, United states during the 1920s and 1930s. Human relations theory basically laid emphasis on four (4) key forms which are organizations being viewed as social systems, workers being human beings as well with their humanity characteristics, the germane role of informal elements as it relates to the output of an organization and organizations having their own social ethics rather than individual ethics.

The principle of human relations theory as explained by Ajayi and Ayodele (2011) aims at the classicist causing more issues at various work places instead of providing solutions to the lingering issues on ground. This occurs as a result of the fact that the classicist neglected the recognition of human beings as major keys of the input, ways and preferences of things as crucial elements of all human relations (Monreno, 1953). The inclusion of human relations theory in organizational administrations have proven useful as an element in positioning informal organization and formal organizations side by side for enhanced productivity and effectiveness of an organization. The foundation of human relations theory has however been proven immaterial.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

Independent Variables **Dependent Variables**

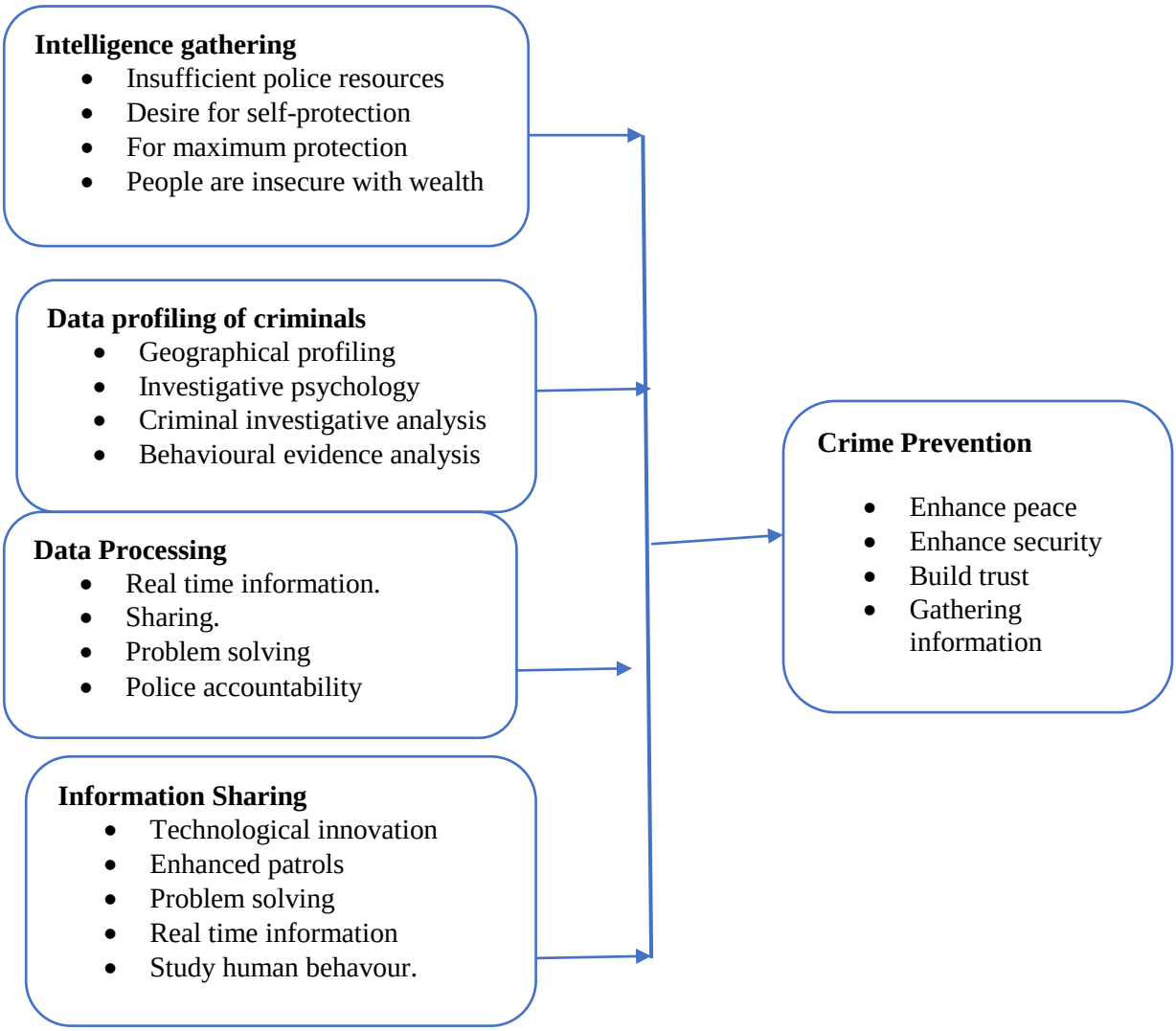

Figure 2:1: Conceptual Framework

Source: Researcher (2022)

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The chapter presents research design, study location the unit of observation and analysis, sampling technique and size, data collection instrument, validity and reliability of instrument, data collection procedure, data analysis and ethical considerations

3.1 Research Design

In this study, descriptive research design will be suitable as it offers the chance for a thorough examination of several particular details that are frequently missed by other approaches. The case study method is a way to investigate a social phenomenon by carefully examining a single case. Finding the contributing elements behind the study's behavior is the main goal of the case study (Mugenda 1999). This study examined information management in Meru County, Kenya, with a focus on community policing and crime prevention.

In order to make extensive analyses that may be applied to other instances of the same kind, this approach is predicated on the idea that the case under study is typical of situations of particular types (Kumar 2005).

Case studies provide excellent internal validity, i.e., that the occurrences being observed are true representations of reality, and they aid in development of old views. A case study can be customized for researcher and situation (Gagnon 2010). Descriptive research design and case study method will be used in this study because they are less costly and require a lower sample size, which saves time. .

3.2 Study Location

The research will be conducted primarily in larger Meru County, which is located on chilly tropical highlands east of Mount Kenya and Nyambene Ridges. The region was recently divided into counties of Tharaka-Nithi and Meru (Ministry of Agriculture Maara Office, 2017). This study will be carried out majorly in Meru County Kenya.

3.3 Target Population

The researcher targets a key informant who includes 60 security personnel from NPS within Meru County. It will also comprise of 40 village elders and 40 community policing members bring to a total population of 140.

3.4 Sampling Technique and Sample Size

3.4.1 Sampling Technique

This research will utilize purposive sampling method to select respondents for the questionnaire which are 60 key informants which includes security personnel from NPS within Meru County. Purposive sampling technique enables the researcher to use discretion especially due to the limited number of sources that can contribute to the study (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). Also; stratified random sampling will be used to select village elders and community policing members for the interview session. Stratified random sampling avail the opportunity to divide a target population into smaller groups based on shared characteristics (Ott&Longnecker, 2015). The Taro (1967) stratified random sampling method will be used:

$k = s/ (1+s (e2)$

Where; k = desired sample size

e = probability of error (i.e., desired precision, e.g., 0.05 for 95% confidence level).

s= estimate of the population size

$k = 100/ (1+100(0.05^2)$

k = 80

3.4.1 Sample Size

Using purposive and stratified random sampling technique, the sample size will comprise of 60 key informants which includes security personnel from NPS within Meru County, and 80 village elders and community policing members bringing to a total of 140 sample size

Table 3:1: Sampling Distribution

Respondent categories	Target population	Percentage (%)
Security Personnel from NPS	60	42.86
Village Elders	40	28.57
Community Policing Members	40	28.57
Total	**140**	**100.00**

Source: Researcher (2024)

3.5 Data Collection Instrument

The data will be collected using semi-structured questionnaires and interview schedules. This is due to the fact that it offers consistent information that ensures data comparability (Kumar 2011). The key informants for the interview will be village elders and

community policing members while the respondents for data collection through questionnaires will be NPS. The instruments used for data collection translate study goals into particular item and response questions, which yields information needed to meet the goals of study (Kumar 2008). These instruments will be employed to gather data that will be used to describe traits of subjects or phenomena being studied. Furthermore, data collected will be helpful in determining study's factors (Kumar 2005).

The investigator is going to note down inquiries pertaining to every goal of the investigation. The questions designed are intended to collect broad data on data management as well as particular challenges pertaining to security management in Kenya. The questions will not be strictly closed or open-ended; rather, they will be combined to ensure that the focus is appropriately on study's goals and prior knowledge gained regarding research topic.

3.6 Pilot Testing

A Pilot Study will be conducted to further certify validity and reliability of questionnaire. 14 individuals not included in sample size constituting 10% of total sample size will be administered questionnaire and responses generated will be used to determine if questionnaire measures what it ought to measure.

3.6.1 Validity

Validity refers to extent to which investigators have collected data on objectives that have been established. In terms of measurement techniques, it concerns whether a research tool is measuring intended object (Kumar 2005). Questions and data collection tool will make sense in relation to study's goals in order to assure validity in this research. Validity will

further be enhanced by reviewing literature and evaluating the concepts and content of previous researches. Supervisor will also contribute to enhancing the validity by providing opinions and comments where necessary.

3.6.2 Reliability

Reliability is a gauge of how well a research tool produces data or outcomes that are continuous after several tries (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2013). Study's reliability will be assessed by making sure that data gathering techniques are correctly translated to yield reliable outcomes and by double-coding to verify any errors made throughout procedure for analyzing data.

3.7 Data Analysis

Data analysis is essential to any research project since it aids in accomplishment of goals, answering of research questions, and testing of research hypotheses (Awang 2010). Initial stage of data processing is known as editing, during which raw data is checked for mistakes that could have happened during sample or data collection procedure. Data editing is carried out to guarantee content accuracy and to eliminate any room for interpretation or judgment by researcher (Kumar 2005). To make data entry easier, data will be coded after it has been edited. Quantitative data will then be entered into SPSS platform in which descriptive statistics and multiple regression analysis will be conducted. Qualitative data will be analyzed using content analysis which involves categorizing and summarizing data. Results of analyzing quantitative and qualitative data will then be presented in a tabular form. Regression model is as follows:

$$CP = \beta_0 + \beta_1 IG_1 + \beta_2 DP_2 + \beta_3 DPP_3 + \beta_4 IS_4 + \varepsilon$$

Where:

CP = Crime Prevention

IG = Intelligence Gathering

DP= Data Profiling

DPP = Data Processing

IS = Information Sharing

$B_1 – \beta_4$ = Parameters

ε= Error term

β0= Constant

3.8 Ethical Considerations

Researcher will follow established code of conduct in the investigation. Researcher will request an introduction letter from Kenyatta University Graduate School prior to starting actual data gathering. Researcher will be able to submit an application for a permit to conduct research from National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) with help of an introductory letter. Before beginning data collection, researcher will properly announce himself to appropriate authorities upon arriving at research site. Given that, it is inappropriate to obtain data without being acquainted with respondents and their acknowledged readiness and informed approval, explicit permission from the participants will be obtained. Additionally, researcher will

guarantee respondents' privacy regarding data they submit. They will have researcher's word that nobody who is not participating in the study will have access to information they supply. However, during the study, respondents will stay unidentified, even from researchers (Kumar 2011).

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines findings of the survey as well as provision for the discussion compared to existing results made public by other researchers. The chapter summed up the outcome based on the comparison of the number of participants who responded to the questionnaire to those who did not. This survey analyzed the data both descriptively and inferentially so that the outcome can be compared with that of existing scholars works presented therein.

4.1.1 Response Rate

This section of the survey sought to describe the responses obtained from interviewees with a focus on how many respondents had actually taken their time to complete the questionnaire by giving their opinion on the research phenomenon. These responses were put into comparison with unretrieved questionnaires later during the investigation by the researcher. The outcome from these responses is shown in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Response Rate

Response	Frequency	Percent
Retrieved	107	76.4
Unretrieved	33	23.6
Total	140	100

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.1 demonstrates that the response rate of 76.4%, that is, responses from 107 of the 140 questionnaires, indicates a high participation level in the study on information management in the scenario of community policing and crime prevention in Meru County, Kenya. Such a relatively high response rate increases the generalizability and credibility of the research results since the sampled data adequately represents the target population. Whereas the 23.6% non-responding rate is relatively significant, it is an acceptable situation in social science studies and hence imposes a negligible non-response bias. This kind of response rate is probably good enough to consider almost all possible perspectives and experiences of stakeholders in community policing; hence, it puts the study in a better position to make reasonable inferences about the performance and challenges of information management systems in crime prevention within the county.

4.2 Descriptive Analysis

In giving such a representation of how many people and what type of people responded to the survey, the survey comprised the socio-demographic features of the respondents. It includes gender, age and level of education of the respondents. The outcome thereby describes the personal characteristics of those who participated in the survey. The evaluation of the degree of agreement or disagreement reached by the respondent concerning the variables considered in the study is then carried out according to means and standard deviations or query measures.

4.2.1. Gender of the Respondents

Knowledge of the gender makeup of the subjects is required for understanding their representation and viewpoints in a sample population. This survey section sought for clarification with regard to the gender distribution of the subjects involved and to check for differences or patterns based on gender in the responses identified in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Gender of the Respondents

	Frequency	Percent
Male	70	65.4
Female	37	34.6
Total	107	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.2 shows that while 65.4% of the respondents were male, 34.6% were female, thus displaying significant male domination in terms of participation. The imbalance could therefore be attributed to the traditional gender roles in Meru County, whereby men are more likely to participate in formal community policing structures and security-related activities and public discourse surrounding crime prevention. Gender-based stereotypes could limit women's participation in activities like intelligence sharing or public meetings on security, leading to their underrepresentation in such surveys.

4.2.2 Age of the Respondents

Age analysis of the participants provided insight into the age-related patterns, experiences, or perspectives affecting crime prevention in Meru County. Different age cohorts exhibit different amounts of experience, skill sets, approaches to crime prevention, or awareness as demonstrated in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Respondents Age

	Frequency	Percent
20 - 30 years	13	12.1
31 - 40 years	11	10.3
41 - 50 years	41	38.3
51 years & above	42	39.3
Total	107	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.3 indicates that the majority of respondents fall within the age brackets of 41–50 years (38.3%) and 51 years and above (39.3%), while very few are aged 20–30 years (12.1%) and 31–40 years (10.3%). This demographic observation points to these individuals' being older as perhaps the more exposed to community policing and crime prevention programs in Meru County. The outcome could be that the older members of the community are in leadership positions, have known local authorities for longer, and have a better sense of civic responsibility. The other reason why the youth may not be interested could be that there has been a brain drain, with the youth going to urban centers for education and employment, or perhaps they are not aware and not participating in any structured community security mechanism.

4.2.3 Respondents Educational Qualification

An analysis of the respondents' educational qualifications was performed. This is usually a measurement for a section which has questions or options enabling participants to state their greatest level of education completed or exactly what their education qualifications are. The result associated with this is illustrated in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Respondents Educational Qualification

	Frequency	Percent
Primary	2	1.9
Secondary	19	17.8
Diploma	79	73.8
Degree	7	6.5
Total	107	100.0

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.4 reveal a heavy concentration of the respondents on diploma level with 73.8% of the sample, while secondary education accounted for 17.8%, degree holders made up of 6.5%, and primary education 1.9%. The educational level distribution of respondents indicates that most of those involved or knowledgeable about the community policing and crime prevention initiatives may hold middle-level formal education, with potential positive or negative influence on the conduct of information management practices. The high frequency of diploma holders could be attributed to the recruitment and training mechanisms in local policing and community-based organizations that tend to favor vocational and technical qualifications more than academic qualifications. Thus, the educational profile could result in less sophisticated and flexible information management systems that would have embraced advanced analytical tools and strategic approaches requiring postgraduate training.

4.2.4 Intelligence Gathering

Intelligence gathering in crime prevention constitutes a systematic process of collecting, evaluating, and analyzing information to identify, anticipate, and mitigate criminal threats effectively. This process relies on advanced data collection technologies, collaboration

among multiple law enforcement agencies, and community engagement to produce actionable intelligence that supports proactive policing strategies such as intelligence-led policing. The outcomes of the respondents in view of this are displayed in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Intelligence Gathering

Statement	**Percentage**					**Mean**	**Std. Dev.**
	SD	D	N	A	SA		
There are effective measures in place to enhance intelligence gathering in crime prevention.	3.7	6.5	7.5	49.5	32.7	4.0093	1.00466
Measures employed by police enhanced crime prevention	1.9	3.7	12.1	55.1	27.1	4.0187	.84654
Strategies employed by police reduced crimes in Meru county	1.9	10.3	8.4	56.1	23.4	3.8879	.94497
There Is strong cooperation between the residents and police in Meru county	4.7	4.7	4.7	49.5	36.4	4.0841	1.01052
Police activities and operations of criminals in Meru county	2.8	5.6	5.6	50.5	35.5	4.1028	.94104
Intelligence gathering by police has reduced crimes in Meru county.	2.8	2.8	8.4	57.9	28.0	4.0561	.85596
Information gathering is the only way to reduce crimes in Meru county.	2.8	2.8	4.7	59.8	29.9	4.1121	.83922
I am satisfied with how intelligence gathering is being conducted in Meru county.	1.9	0.9	3.7	66.4	27.1	4.1589	.70242
After information gathering police warn criminals before arresting them	1.9	3.7	0.9	62.6	30.8	4.1682	.78291
Police do not have a right to arrest criminals	1.9	1.9	2.8	67.3	26.2	4.1402	.71965
Information given to police is mainly given by members of the pubic	1.9	4.7	10.3	57.9	25.2	4.0000	.84675
Community members freely report criminals to police.	1.9	2.8	12.1	64.5	18.7	3.9533	.76950
Average Mean						**4.0576**	**0.85534**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.5 demonstrated the mean and standard deviation of intelligence gathering. Regarding the statement that effective measures are in place to enhance intelligence gathering in crime prevention attained a high mean of 4.0093 with a standard deviation of 1.00466. This means that there was wide agreement among respondents that mechanisms exist to strengthen intelligence efforts, though their opinions varied somewhat. The assertion that measures employed by the police enhanced crime prevention yielded a mean of 4.0187 and a relatively low standard deviation of 0.84654. This means that, across Meru County, there is strong consensus that present police practice is effective in preventing crime. For the declaration that strategies employed by police reduced crimes in Meru County, the mean was 3.8879 and the standard deviation was 0.94497. This shows moderate to strong agreement on the crime-reduction impact of police strategies, albeit with a slightly wider spread in opinions.

The argument that there is strong cooperation between the residents and police in Meru County" received a mean of 4.0841 and a standard deviation of 1.01052. This highlights a solid endorsement of collaborative relations in intelligence work, though responses varied more significantly. For the report that police actions and activities in monitoring criminal activity in Meru County, a mean of 4.1028 was reported, with a standard deviation of 0.94104. Respondents generally agreed that police are adequately engaged in monitoring criminal activity, with fairly moderate variability in their views. The proclamation that intelligence-gathering by police has reduced crimes in Meru County recorded a mean of 4.0561 and a standard deviation of 0.85596. This affirms the perceived effectiveness of intelligence efforts in curbing criminal behavior, with relatively consistent responses.

For the account that information gathering is the only way to reduce crimes in Meru County, the mean stood at 4.1121 and the standard deviation at 0.83922. This indicates a strong agreement with the centrality of intelligence in crime prevention, with responses very closely clustered around the mean. The assertion that I am satisfied with how intelligence-gathering is being done in Meru County rated a mean of 4.1589 and a low standard deviation of 0.70242. This suggests a high as well as a consistent level of satisfaction with intelligence processes among the respondents. Respondents agreed strongly to the statement that after the information-gathering police warns criminals before arresting them mean of 4.1682 and standard deviation of 0.78291; indicating near unanimity on procedural fairness as part of intelligence practice.

The declaration that police do not have a right to arrest criminals had a mean of 4.1402 and a standard deviation of 0.71965. This result, framed ambiguously, likely reflects respondents' understanding that police do have the right to arrest based on gathered intelligence, shown by strong but not universal agreement. The item that information given to police is mainly given by members of the public obtained a mean score of 4.0000, with a corresponding standard deviation of 0.84675. This illustrates the level of agreement regarding community involvement as being pertinent to intelligence efforts. The outcome regarding the statement that community members report criminals to police without fear recorded a mean of 3.9533 and a standard deviation of 0.76950. This reflects general confidence among respondents that community members are open to cooperating with law enforcement.

The average mean response of 4.0576 together with a relatively low average standard deviation of 0.85534 indicates that the respondents seemed to uniformly view intelligence gathering in Meru County as a strong and effective collaborative strategy toward crime prevention. These outcomes align with the outcomes from Afolabi *et al* (2016) who identified that intelligence gathering impacts crime prevention significantly. It's the first-time factual data gathered over the course of 18 months has been used to provide a comprehensive picture of the role of local police in Rwanda. (Nsengimana, 2017).

The key informants noted that collecting intelligence is vital for crime prevention because it allows police to proactively prevent, monitor, and intervene before criminal activities get out of control. It has proven to be a significant contributor to crime reduction in Meru County through early actions against criminal networks and targeted operations. With confidence built between the police and the public, appropriate information is collected, compiled, analyzed, and processed, resulting in better decision-making, increased efficiency in deploying police resources, and more reporting of suspicious activities by residents. This would improve trust and cooperation between police and the public. Consequently, crimes are quickly combated, sometimes even avoided altogether, increasing the safety and security of the area. The outcome conforms to the findings of Bryne and Marx (2011) who argued that the most effective form of questioning for obtaining true confession from defendants and reducing false confessions was a combination of interview and interrogation tactics.

4.2.5 Data Profiling

Data profiling is a critical process in data management that involves examining, analyzing, and summarizing datasets to assess their quality, structure, and content. It supports the validation and enhancement of intelligence databases, facilitating more precise decision-making and effective resource allocation. The respondents' responses in view of this are disclosed in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Data Profiling

Statement	Percentage					Mean	Std. Dev.
	SD	D	N	A	SA		
Data profiling of criminals is aligned to police mandates	1.9	1.9	0.9	61.7	33.6	4.2336	.73433
Data profiling of criminals has effective strategies to reduce crimes in Meru county	1.9	2.8	3.7	53.3	38.3	4.2336	.80774
Monitoring of criminal suspects by police is effective in crime prevention	1.9	0.9	0.9	58.9	37.4	4.2897	.71387
Investigating criminal conduct and actions by police enhances crime prevention	1.9	1.9	3.7	64.5	28.0	4.1495	.73720
Police strategic plan of data profiling of criminals address criminal misconduct and actions	1.9	2.8	2.8	55.1	37.4	4.2336	.79597
Inspection of suspected criminals' premises by police reduces criminals	18.7	14.0	6.5	48.6	12.1	3.2150	1.35304
Handling of complaints against criminals by police enhances discipline among the community members	1.9	0	1.9	67.3	29.0	4.2150	.65916
I am satisfied with the activities of police uses to reduce crimes	3.7	4.7	8.4	65.4	17.8	3.8879	.88304
There is a good working relation between the community members ad police in crime prevention	3.7	3.7	6.5	56.1	30.8	4.0654	.92421
Documents inspection by police helps to improve discipline	11..2	29.9	17.8	33.6	7.5	2.9626	1.18102
Police reports to the public helps reduce crimes	1.9	0	0.9	59.8	37.4	4.3084	.67867
Average Mean						**3.9813**	**0.86075**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

As contained in Table 4.6, The acceptance of the statement that data profiling of criminals is aligned to police mandates is said to have high agreement among

respondents: 4.2336 with a standard deviation of 0.73433, thus, indicating that criminal profiling is effective in reducing crimes in Meru County. The assertion that data profiling of criminals has effective strategies to reduce crimes in Meru County yielded a mean of 4.2336 and a standard deviation of 0.80774. Perceptions generally view data profiling efforts as well structured and effective in dealing with criminal activities within the county. For the statement that monitoring of criminal suspects by police is effective in crime prevention, a mean of 4.2897 and a standard deviation of 0.71387 were yielded. This point towards a strong level of agreement among respondents declaring that surveillance of suspects significantly contributes to the prevention of crime.

The claim that investigating criminal conduct and actions by police enhances crime prevention had a mean of 4.1495 and a standard deviation of 0.73720. It was, however, the general view of respondents that investigation procedures could act as one of the most important tools against crime and public safety. According to the statement that police strategic plan of data profiling of criminals address criminal misconduct and actions, mean score was 4.2336 with a standard deviation of 0.79597; thus endorsed highly as to the police's strategic profiling role as one of addressing and alleviating criminal conduct. With regard to the statement that inspection of suspected criminals' premises by police reduces criminals; the mean was 3.2150 with a standard deviation of 1.35304. This suggests more moderate agreement with a lot of disagreement on whether police inspections would be justified or effective.

The statement that handling of complaints against criminals by police enhances discipline among the community members had a mean of 4.2150 and a standard deviation of

0.65916. Respondents strongly and consistently believed that responding to complaints about criminals positively fosters social discipline and deters misconduct. The assertion that I am satisfied with the activities of police uses to reduce crimes recorded a mean of 3.8879 and a standard deviation of 0.88304. This suggests that there is, on the whole, a good opinion about police interventions, but with a moderate spread. The declaration that there is a good working relation between the community members and police in crime prevention scored a mean of 4.0654 and a standard deviation of 0.92421, indicating a firm level of consensus that the collaboration of police with the public is well established and advantageous for crime prevention.

For the proclamation that documents inspection by police helps to improve discipline, the mean score was 2.9626 with a standard deviation of 1.18102. That reflects a fairly neutral to slightly disagreeing position among respondents while considerable variations existed regarding the useful nature of document checks as a disciplinary measure. The declaration that police reports to the public help reduce crimes", received the highest score of 4.3084 with a standard deviation of 0.67867, indicating very strong and consistent agreement on the effectiveness of crime reduction through transparency and communication by police reporting. With an overall average mean of 3.9813, it indicates that study subjects are generally of the opinion that data profiling is a very good and effective crime prevention intervention in Meru County, except for the source practices of physical inspections and document checks that pose some reservations. The findings are in agreement with Adebisi *et al.* (2021) who found that the analysis on criminal

investigation should be efficiently inserted into the system of justice and earns recognition as well.

The views of the key informants noted that data profiling plays an important role in crime prevention in Meru County by helping law enforcement agencies identify, monitor, and analyze patterns of crime in a systematic way that enhances focused and proactive policing. The accurate profiling of individuals and groups based on history of offenses, behavior patterns, and geographical data gives police better chances to predict possible criminal acts and preempt crimes. Therefore, this strategy enhances the effectiveness of resource allocation and greatly improves public safety outcomes, as high-risk individuals was closely monitored. Respondents expressed that data profiling helps narrow down investigative focus, reduce recurrence of crimes, and increase accountability; thus, solidifying its importance as a modern policing tool in Meru County. The alignment with the findings, Naudts (2019) established that criminal profiling knowledge is used to detect the smuggling habits of smugglers and catch them, thereby prohibiting narcotics from entering a nation.

4.2.6 Data Processing

Data processing in crime prevention involves the systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of large volumes of data from diverse sources to identify crime patterns, predict potential criminal activities, and optimize resource deployment. The responses of the respondents with regard to data processing are contained in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Data Processing

Statement	Percentage					Mean	Std. Dev.
	SD	D	N	A	SA		
Police has improved compliance by residents to rules and regulations.	2.8	3.7	6.5	66.4	20.6	3.9813	.82395
Investigating crimes committed by criminals has ensured accountability among residents.	11.2	1.9	7.5	50.5	29.0	3.8411	1.19866
The mere presence of police is making crimes reduce significantly.	3.7	11.2	27.1	43.9	14.0	3.5327	.99354
Without the presence of police, it is impossible to hold criminals accountable for crimes committed.	5.6	20.6	12.1	43.9	17.8	3.4766	1.16834
Monitoring of criminals' operations by NPS has not helped in making criminals accountable for their actions.	5.6	14.0	18.7	51.4	10.3	3.4673	1.03994
Police has been effective so far in holding criminals accountable.	5.6	27.1	26.2	24.3	16.8	3.1963	1.17713
By providing a forum where residents can report one another for misconduct to police is reducing crimes.	7.5	21.5	11.2	41.1	18.7	3.4206	1.22888
Knowing that the public will complain to relevant authorities obligates police to perform their duties professionally	0	4.7	14.0	47.7	33.6	4.1028	.81188
Formation of National Police Service has made complaints against crimes to reduce	1.9	9.3	22.4	50.5	15.9	3.6916	.91539
Police makes criminals accountable for their actions	1.9	25.2	13.1	32.7	27.1	3.5794	1.18987
Average Mean						**3.6289**	**1.05476**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.7 reveals the outcomes from the respondents regarding data processing where a statement that police increased compliance by citizens to laws and regulations (mean=3.9813, sd=0.82395). This entails high and consistent agreement among respondents that police enforcement has resulted in increased compliance with both law and regulations by the community. The item that investigating crimes committed by criminals has ensured accountability among residents" produced a mean of 3.8411 and a standard deviation of 1.19866. This reflects a generally positive perception, although not without variance, that police investigations foster accountability within the community. As for the statement that the mere presence of police is making crimes reduce significantly, the average was 3.5327, and the standard deviation was found to be 0.99354. Moderate consensus is assumed regarding police visibility being a deterrence to criminal activities, and importantly, mixed arguments defined it.

The statement that without the presence of police, it is impossible to hold criminals accountable for crimes committed revealed a mean score of 3.4766 and a standard deviation of 1.16834. There seems to be a division among them, as there is general agreement that the enforcement of accountability largely depends on the police presence. The response to monitoring of criminals' operations by NPS has not helped in making criminals accountable for their actions gave a mean score of 3.4673 with a standard deviation of 1.03994. Mild agreement, however, indicates that some respondents have reservations regarding whether the national police service actually maintains effective monitoring efforts. Police has been effective so far in holding criminals accountable produced a mean of 3.1963 and a standard deviation of 1.17713. A fairly neutral position

is signified, although variance is significant in terms of respondents holding views about police effectiveness in the surety of accountability.

For the item that by providing a forum where residents can report one another for misconduct to police is reducing crimes, the average value was 3.4206, while the standard deviation was 1.22888. In addition, it reflects medium understanding that community reporting mechanisms resulting in crime reduction differ as experiences appear to vary. The statement that knowledge of the fact that the public will complain to authorities obligates the police to do their work efficiently receives the highest mean of 4.1028 and standard deviation of 0.81188 with an indication of a very strong and consistent confidence that public oversight influences professional conduct in the police. With a mean of 3.6916 and a standard deviation of .91539, the statement that formation of National Police Service has made complaints against crimes to reduce represents a fairly strong belief that institutional reforms would contribute to reducing complaints against crimes.

The phrase that police makes criminals accountable for their actions was scored by a mean of 3.5794 and a standard deviation of 1.18987. While this consensus reflects widespread agreement on the accountability role of police, views among respondents varied significantly. An average mean of 3.6289 with a standard deviation of 1.05476 means that the respondents were generally in agreement that data processing mechanisms—police visibility, investigation, community reporting, and institutional reforms—have positively contributed to crime prevention and accountability efforts in Meru County. That information-driven processes in policing are effective in structuring

law enforcement and boosting public confidence is supported by this, though perceptions of effectiveness vary depending on the functional area considered. These outcomes corroborate with Singh, Kavareppa and Joshi (2018) who acknowledged the significance of data processing crime detection and prevention.

The key informant respondents alluded that processing data for crime prevention is understood to mean the organized collection, analysis, and interpretation of crime-related information for enabling informed decision-making on the part of law enforcement agencies. This is the process whereby information is gleaned from community reports, surveillance, and agro-intelligence, processed, and translated into actionable insights in the identification of crime patterns, tracking suspects, and the efficient allocation of resources. Therefore, the relevance of data processing to crime prevention tends to increase the accuracy and timeliness of police response, instills accountability in investigative work through evidence-basis, and enhances strategic planning within community policing programs. It also strengthens by far the overall public-safety framework for Meru County through the processing of data that helps the National Police Service to detect emerging threats, prioritize high-risk areas, and track the effectiveness of interventions. These responses align with Hassani, Huang, Silva, and Ghodsi (2016) who observed that data analytics have shown to be quite useful in the actual world. Mburu and Helbich (2015) also pointed out that the use of data analytics in criminal justice is making a positive impact.

4.2.7 Information Sharing

Information sharing among law enforcement and public safety agencies is a critical component of effective crime prevention, as it facilitates the timely exchange of intelligence and operational data necessary for identifying and disrupting criminal activities across jurisdictions. Table 4.8 displays the responses of the respondents as thus.

Table 4.8: Information Sharing

Statement	Percentage					Mean	Std. Dev.
	SD	D	N	A	SA		
Information sharing aids police cooperates with residents	1.9	15.9	22.4	43.0	16.8	3.5701	1.01044
Community has a very good working relationship with the officers of the national police service.	0	14.0	21.5	37.4	27.1	3.7757	1.00291
There is no conflict on information sharing between community members and officers in the National police service.	0	6.5	16.8	57.9	18.7	3.8879	.78099
Police officers notify community members of any serious crime committed.	0	1.9	1.9	52.3	43.9	4.3832	.62412
Information sharing feedback to the police on the information collected.	0	5.6	33.6	43.0	17.8	3.7290	.81923
Police officers provide necessary information to community members.	5.6	1.9	22.4	41.1	29.0	3.8598	1.04112
Community members conduct inspections on suspected criminals' premises.	1.9	22.4	40.2	26.2	9.3	3.1869	.95296
Community conducts investigations on complaints against criminals.	0	15.0	29.0	42.1	14.0	3.5514	.91356
Community investigated complaints reported by national government administrators against criminal suspects.	11.2	16.8	37.4	32.7	1.9	2.9720	1.01366
The relationship between community and national government administrators is excellent.	5.6	3.7	5.6	52.3	32.7	4.0280	1.02293
Community members are not biased in conducting investigations on crimes committed.	6.5	24.3	29.0	34.6	5.6	3.0841	1.03815
Average Mean						**3.6389**	**0.92909**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

As indicated in Table 4.8 This statement indicates that people would moderately agree that information sharing facilitates cooperation with police by indicating a mean of 3.5701 and a standard deviation of 1.01044, meaning that among the respondents, it is moderate agreement that information sharing has been a source of collaboration between police and residents. This means there is a form of collaboration, but it seems to lack uniformity in practice or perception. The statement that community has very good working relationships with officers in the national police service had a mean of 3.7757 and standard deviation of 1.00291, indicating strong perceptions concerning the working relationship. The relatively low standard deviation implies that this sentiment is fairly consistent among respondents. For the statement that there is no conflicting information sharing between community members and officers in the National Police Service, a mean range of 3.8879 and a low standard deviation of .78099 was observed. This shows a higher consensus that information sharing was essentially without conflict.

The highest level of agreement was shown in saying police officers inform community members of any serious crime committed, having a mean score of 4.3832 and a standard deviation of 0.62412. This indicates overwhelming and consistent agreement that police communication on serious crimes is effective and also trustworthy. Again, with respect to information sharing feedback to the police about information collected, the mean was 3.7290, while the standard deviation was 0.81923, which implies that the level of agreement amongst respondents is that communities generally feedback reports to the police. This reflects an active and reciprocal flow of information between the community and law enforcement. The statement reads that police officers give community members

the necessary information was reported to feature a mean of 3.8598 and standard deviation of 1.04112, indicative of strong perception regarding police information dissemination to the community. However, the higher standard deviation suggests some variability in how this is experienced.

In the cast for community members visit suspected criminals' premises to inspect, a mean of 3.1869 and a standard deviation of 0.95296 were recorded. This represents slight agreement, although significant variance, possibly due to the informal and irregular operation of such community actions. The item that community investigates complaints against criminals gave rise to mean score of 3.5514 and standard deviation of .91356, suggesting moderate agreement on whether community members are involved in investigatory roles. Positive but with variations, it does suggest differences in the manner of implementation across areas. The statement that community investigated complaints referred to them by national government administrators against suspects of crime had the lowest mean of 2.9720 and a standard deviation of 1.01366. This general neutrality or slight disagreement indicates that people are not particularly engaged in terms of community involvement in these formal types of investigations.

The high mean of 4.0280 along with a high standard deviation of 1.02293 for the statement "the relationship between community and national government administrators is very good" signified strong avowal concerning the relationship but the variation indicates that this truth may not be shared uniformly. The statement that community members are not biased in conducting investigations on crimes committed, recorded 3.0841, standard deviation 1.03815. The low mean and relatively high standard deviation

indicate skepticism or uncertainty in how impartially community-conducted investigations into crime are held to be. The average mean of 3.6389 with a standard deviation of 0.92909 indicates a generally favorable assessment of information sharing practices, particularly in fostering cooperation and transparency between the police and the public. The outcomes are consistent with Steel, Ward and Diamond (2010) who identified that the use of data sharing was widely used by the CSPs concerning matters relating to violence as well as other crimes involved. Aston *et al* (2021) revealed that demonstrating aspects of interactional justice, procedural justice and distributive justice play a role in fostering public trust and facilitating information sharing with police both online and in person.

Different responses from key informants believed that information sharing contributes more toward crime prevention than against it. If timely and accurate information is exchanged among the police and the community, criminal activities can be detected early, the position can be well informed, and shared responsibility for security can be brought on. Information sharing builds a foundation of trust as well as transparency-critical elements of community policing efforts. In their opinion, it bridges the gap of understanding between law enforcement and the public by bringing both parties to be in the process of identifying threats, suspicious reporting, and responsive measures. Thus, effective information flows greatly strengthens intelligence collection, response time, and in creating a much safer and integrated society. These outcomes are in line with the findings of Lee (2019) who identified that sharing of information between agencies such

as the local government, entrepreneurs, and community members can fasten the process in which criminals are arrested and increase the evidence available for prosecution.

4.2.8 Crime Prevention

Crime prevention encompasses a range of strategies and policies aimed at reducing the incidence of criminal activities by addressing their root causes and mitigating risk factors. Effective crime prevention requires a multidisciplinary approach, integrating law enforcement, community engagement, social services, and urban planning to create environments less conducive to criminal behaviour. Outcome from the respondents are displayed in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Crime Prevention

Statement	**Percentage**					**Mean**	**Std. Dev.**
	SD	D	N	A	SA		
Intelligence gathering has help in crime prevention	8.4	26.2	27.1	29.0	9.3	3.0467	1.12756
Data profiling has enhanced the security situation in Meru County	5.6	27.1	35.5	28.0	3.7	2.9720	.96601
Information management in the context of community policing has enhance trust in Meru County	1.9	7.5	25.2	51.4	14.0	3.6822	.87522
Information management in the context of community policing has brought about increased peace and unity	5.6	7.5	38.3	42.1	6.5	3.3645	.92545
Information management in the context of community policing has enhanced the security situation in Meru County	2.8	11.2	26.2	43.0	16.8	3.5981	.98919
Data processing has helped in the gathering of information aimed at improving the security situation in Meru County	1.9	5.6	25.2	46.7	20.6	3.7850	.90103
Average Mean						**3.4080**	**0.96408**

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Analysis of crime prevention perception responses provided in Table 4.9 observed that of specific interest, data processing has helped in the gathering of information for improving the security situation in Meru County, which had the highest mean of 3.7850, with relatively minimal variation in the form of a standard deviation of 0.90103, representing a strong consensus of opinion on the critical role of processing in improving security outcomes. Similarly, the statements that information management in the context of community policing has increased confidence in Meru County and information management in the context of community policing has improved the security situation in Meru County had mean scores of 3.6822 and 3.5981, respectively, reflecting near-consensus opinion of the beneficial impacts of information management on security and confidence. Conversely, the items that pertained to intelligence gathering and profiling showed considerably lower average means of 3.0467 and 2.9720, respectively, with high standard deviations of 1.12756 and 0.96601. This indicates greater variability in the respondents' expectations on the effectiveness of the strategies in crime prevention. Specifically, the relatively low mean with high variability in data profiling is a clear indicator of doubtfulness or diverse experiences with its effectiveness in providing improved security for Meru County. Generally, the overall mean of 3.4080, with a standard deviation of 0.96408, is a general but moderate agreement of the beneficial impact of management of information in community policing, but specifically, indicates that items like the processing of data and dissemination of information are viewed positively and favourably in preventing crime in the study area. The findings align with Mwaniki (2016) and Ronoah (2021) who recognized that joint police-community patrols,

as well as the participation of vigilante groups and community courts, have all contributed to crime prevention.

4.3. Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis is the core of examining the relationship between information management and crime prevention in Meru County, Kenya. By using correlation analysis, the researcher is able to determine not just the strength of the relationship but also the directional impact of information management on crime prevention. The findings from this statistical technique are as shown in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10: Correlation Analysis Results

		Crime Prevention	Intelligence Gathering	Data Profiling	Data Processing	Information Sharing
Crime Prevention	Pearson Correlation	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)					
Intelligence Gathering	Pearson Correlation	-.075	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.442				
Data Profiling	Pearson Correlation	-.107	.787**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.272	.000			
Data Processing	Pearson Correlation	.669**	.002	-.083	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.987	.398		
Information Sharing	Pearson Correlation	.750**	-.064	-.100	.774**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.511	.307	.000	

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.10 depicts that intelligence gathering and crime prevention have a weak and negative correlation ($r = -0.075$, $p = 0.442$) that is not statistically significant. This, in turn, indicates that the methodology currently being applied for intelligence gathering in Meru County is not expected to have positive impacts on crime prevention. The findings are inconsistent with Afolabi *et al* (2016) and Bryne and Marx (2011) who identified significant relationship. Moreover, the analysis reports a weak but not statistically significant negative correlation between data profiling and crime prevention ($r = -0.107$, $p = 0.272$), suggesting that efforts in this direction may not have preventive impacts in Meru County. The findings are contrast with Adebisi *et al.* (2021) and Naults (2019) who noted significant relationship. In direct comparison, there is a strong positive correlation of data processing with crime prevention to a high level of statistical significance ($r = 0.669$, $p < 0.001$). This result supports that the capacity for processing, analyzing, and managing crime-based data dramatically increases the effectiveness of crime prevention in Meru County. The outcomes align with that of Singh et al (2018) and Hassani et al (2016) who uncovered a significant relationship. In addition, information sharing shows the highest positive correlation with crime prevention ($r = 0.750$, $p < 0.001$), indicating a high level of statistical significance. This result emphasizes the need for two-way exchange of information by respondents, law enforcement agencies, and stakeholders as a critical aspect of crime prevention in Meru County. The outcomes align with Aston *et al* (2021) and Lee (2019) who acknowledged significant connection between these factors.

4.5 Regression Results

Regression analysis is useful in examining the relationships between different variables and determining the impact of certain elements of information management on crime prevention in Meru County, Kenya. Regression analysis enables the examination of the impacts that are exerted by information management on the reduction of crime. The outcomes of this analysis are shown in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.764[a]	.584	.567	.43465

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.11 presents a high positive correlation between intelligence gathering, data profiling, processing of the data, and dissemination of the data in relation to preventing crime in the context of community policing in Meru County, with a multiple correlation coefficient of 0.764. The R Square value is 0.584, meaning that around 58.4% of the variation in crime prevention is explained by the interaction of intelligence gathering, data profiling, processing of the data, and dissemination of the data. In addition, Adjusted R Square of 0.567, in accounting for the number of predictors in comparison with the complexity of the model, further increases the reliability and explanatory power of the model. The findings relating to the combined effect of the variables on the dependent variable are shown in the analysis of variance in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12: Analysis of Variance

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	27.021	4	6.755	35.757	.000[b]
	Residual	19.270	102	.189		
	Total	46.291	106			

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.12 shows results that attest to the adequacy of the model in explaining the function of information management in crime prevention in the context of community policing in Meru County, Kenya. The F-statistic is noted as 35.757, with a p-value of .000, indicating the model's significance at the 5% level. This result supports the hypothesis that a combination of predictor variables, i.e., intelligence gathering, profiling of the data, processing of the data, and exchange of the information, together explain the variation in crime prevention outcomes with higher reliability compared to chance alone. The survey therefore proceeded to examine individual coefficients of the predictors, premised on the hypothesis that the variables in combination explain the variation in the dependent variable, as shown in Table 4.13.

Table 4.13: Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.408	.442		.923	.358
	Intelligence Gathering	-.035	.101	-.036	-.347	.729
	Data Profiling	-.004	.133	-.003	-.026	.979
	Data Processing	.219	.100	.224	2.198	.030
	Information Sharing	.647	.114	.574	5.662	.000

Source: Field Survey (2025)

Table 4.13 shows that information sharing is the most significant factor, as shown by a coefficient of 0.574 with a related p-value of 0.000, and that it has a positive and significant effect on crime prevention. Specifically, this means that for every one-unit increase in information sharing, there is a corresponding increase by 0.647 units in crime prevention. In the second place, processing of data has been shown to have a positive but relatively weak and significant impact on crime prevention ($\beta = 0.224$, $p = .030$). This means that processing of one unit of data leads to an increase in crime prevention by 0.219 units. Conversely, intelligence gathering ($\beta = -0.036$, $p = .729$) and data profiling ($\beta = -0.003$, $p = .979$) both have weak and nonsignificant coefficients, meaning that all else being equal, intelligence gathering and data profiling have little impact on crime prevention in the study region. This means that an increase in intelligence gathering by one unit and in data profiling by one unit would be associated with decreases of 0.036 units and 0.003 units of crime prevention in Meru County, Kenya.

4.6 Discussion of Findings

The survey's main objective was to explore the impacts of information management in the context of community policing and crime prevention in Meru County, Kenya. In particular, the survey revealed a lack of positive and existence of negative effects related to intelligence gathering on crime prevention initiatives in Meru County, Kenya. The finding implies that the intelligence-gathering activities in Meru County might not contribute significantly to the attainment of desirable results in community policing. It might also indicate inefficiencies within the established procedures of collecting, processing, or acting on intelligence. These could be due to a lack of adequate incorporation of community-sourced intelligence into the established policing structures, leading to the underutilization of or suspicion regarding intelligence from the grassroots levels. The findings are inconsistent with Afolabi *et al* (2016) who identified that intelligence gathering impacts crime prevention significantly. Bryne and Marx (2011) who argued that the most effective form of questioning for obtaining true confession from defendants and reducing false confessions was a combination of interview and interrogation tactics. The contextual variation and uniqueness could the reason for these outcomes.

The evidence presents that profiling of data has an insignificant and negative impact on the effectiveness of crime prevention in Meru County, Kenya. This is an indicator that the tool has limited effectiveness or applicability in the current crime prevention model. The result suggests that the activities of profiling could be inaccurate or unethical, leading to generalized or stereotypical datasets that do not contribute to effective intervention. A

possible reason for this is that there are limited advanced profiling software or methods that are specifically designed for the sociocultural environment of Meru County, thus compromising its effectiveness in focused policing activities. The outcome are in disagreement with Adebisi *et al.* (2021) who found that the analysis on criminal investigation should be efficiently inserted into the system of justice and earns recognition as well. Naudts (2019) established that criminal profiling knowledge is used to detect the smuggling habits of smugglers and catch them, thereby prohibiting narcotics from entering a nation. The methodological differences could be the result of these findings.

The findings also show that the analysis of data has significant and positive impacts on crime prevention activities in Meru County, Kenya. This means that advances in technology on the matter of analyzing and applying crime data have direct implications for improving the effectiveness of community policing strategies. This implies that proper examination of systematically collected data allows for timely, evidence-based decision-making. This can be attributed to the availability of a proper minimum of digital infrastructure or expertise that is able to refine raw data into usable intelligence for proactive planning by law enforcers. The outcomes are consistent with the findings of Singh, Kavareppa and Joshi (2018) who acknowledged the significance of data processing crime detection and prevention. Hassani, Huang, Silva, and Ghodsi (2016) who observed that data analytics have shown to be quite useful in the actual world. Mburu and Helbich (2015) also pointed out that the use of data analytics in criminal justice is making a positive impact.

The findings further show that the dissemination of information has a positive and significant impact on Meru County's crime prevention. The findings show that there is a serious need for open communication, mutual trust, and partnership between law enforcement authorities and the residents of the local community. The mentioned effect originates from the effective dissemination of information that instills widespread awareness, encourages the use of early warning systems, and promotes collaborative problem-solving components of efficient community policing in Meru County. The findings are in alignment with the outcome of Aston *et al* (2021) revealed that demonstrating aspects of interactional justice, procedural justice and distributive justice play a role in fostering public trust and facilitating information sharing with police both online and in person. Lee (2019) who identified that sharing of information between agencies such as the local government, entrepreneurs, and community members can fasten the process in which criminals are arrested and increase the evidence available for prosecution.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a brief summary of the main findings, along with conclusions, recommendations, and proposals for further research that are relevant for the study. The summary has been designed in accordance with the study objectives, thus forming the basis for well-defined conclusions. The conclusions and recommendations developed were directly shaped by the findings obtained during the research. In addition, this chapter clarifies the contribution of the study in further understanding the subject, and, as a result, provides improved insight in this field.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The research focused primarily on managing the dissemination of information in the context of crime deterrence and community policing in Meru County, Kenya. The investigation specifically assessed the impacts of intelligence gathering, data profiling, processing of data, and dissemination of information on preventing criminal activities. Human relations and social disorganization theories were the guides for this research, serving as the foundation for the correlation and regression analysis methods that were used in the analysis.

The outcome of the regression and correlation analysis was that there was slight negative correlation and a statistically insignificant negative regression coefficient in relation to intelligence gathering and crime prevention. The two findings suggest that the current

intelligence gathering mechanism in Meru County does not play a significant role in reducing crime. This therefore supports the argument that intelligence systems are poorly incorporated in actual policing or are of little practical use, and as a result, are hindering their effectiveness in ensuring citizens' security in the context of community policing.

Data profiling had a weak negative correlation with crime prevention but a statistically insignificant relationship. This finding is supported by the regression analysis that reported a non-significant effect. Together, the findings infer that data profiling is not an effective tool in crime prevention efforts in Meru County. This ineffectiveness is due to the use of random or contextually irrelevant profiling approaches that fail to effectively identify individuals or risk-prone areas, consequently diminishing its effectiveness in community policing.

The data processing analysis showed a statistically positive correlation with crime prevention, and regression analysis confirmed its significant predictive power. The findings' consistency implies that efficient data processing systems are vital in ensuring evidence-based decision-making and timely interventions. In terms of implications for community policing in Meru County, upgrading local data processing capacity—through capacity development in education, technology, and institutional structures—can greatly improve the effectiveness of crime prevention initiatives.

The dissemination of information had the strongest positive correlation with crime prevention, and this was supported by regression analysis, with the highest unstandardized and standardized coefficients. The findings clearly show that the

provision of information forms the most significant aspect of managing information in the context of community policing. It is therefore necessary that there is open, timely, and bi-directional communication of information between law enforcement and the community since this is essential for developing trust, improving coordination, and allowing for collective efficacy in crime prevention programs in Meru County.

5.3 Conclusion

The study explored the function of information management in the context of community policing and its effectiveness in reducing crime in Meru County, Kenya. Particularly, the findings show that intelligence gathering in the context of community policing in Meru County does not have any significant impact on outcomes linked with crime prevention. This result emphasizes the need for all-round reforms that enhance the effectiveness, accuracy, and implementation of intelligence for the enhancement of proactive policing.

The research findings are that the impact of profiling on crime prevention aspects of community policing programs in Meru County is minimal. This is a reflection of the inherent limitation of profiling methods, and therefore, the need to design new, improved, ethical, and context-based profiling systems that are capable of informing focused crime prevention strategies.

The research corroborates the argument that the processing of data is necessary for the formation of crime prevention programs in harmonization with community policing models. This reinforces the need for developing skills in managing complex data and

applying analytics necessary for turning raw data into useful intelligence that can guide effective law enforcement strategies.

The findings of the research reveal that information exchange is the most important element towards successful crime prevention in the context of community policing in Meru County. The proposition highlights the imperative of fostering open, collaborative, and trust-based communication channels between law enforcement agencies and society that are crucial towards facilitating collaborative efforts in crime detection and prevention.

5.4 Recommendations

Several recommendations are made based on the findings of the carried-out survey. Since intelligence gathering contributes relatively insignificantly in crime deterrence, policymakers are recommended to undertake holistic reforms aimed at improving the intelligence function of community policing. Reforms should include programs aimed at institutionalizing structured methods of organized intelligence gathering, broadening programs for the analysis of intelligence for law-enforcement officers, and streamlining the inclusion of community-based intelligence in traditional policing efforts. In addition, resource investments in the use of real-time feedback verification of intelligence was critical in maximizing the impact of gathered intelligence in proactively preventing criminal enterprise.

Given the inbuilt limitations of current data profiling methods, there is a need for law enforcement organizations to adopt cutting-edge, evidence-based profiling practices

founded on ethical principles and finely tuned for situational contexts. This calls for the creation of strict protocols for protecting human rights and for minimizing prejudice, complemented by the use of modern analysis tools capable of managing complex socio-demographic data. In addition, there is a need to create programs for upgrading officers' skills in applying profiling in predictive policing while, in parallel, promoting community engagement in order to improve transparency and legitimacy.

The significant beneficial effect of data processing calls for a strategic commitment to technological infrastructure investment and human resource development to advance data analytics competencies. Policymakers must prioritize the development of integrated data management systems that facilitate efficient collection, storage, and analysis of crime data. It is also necessary to institutionalize continuous professional development and technical training initiatives to equip law enforcement officers with the necessary competencies to effectively use data intelligence for timely and evidence-based decision-making in community policing initiatives.

Given the paramount importance of information sharing to effective crime prevention, policies need to be developed that entrench robust communication frameworks between law enforcement agencies, residents of the community, and other stakeholders. This should include the establishment of secure and readily available avenues for timely sharing of information and measures to build trust that encourage active participation of the community. In addition, official feedback and accountability procedures need to be put in place to ensure that the sharing of information leads to cooperative and transparent crime prevention efforts in Meru County.

5.5 Contribution to Knowledge

The current study is an important contribution to the literature on information management, community policing, and crime prevention methods in Meru County, Kenya. Through an in-depth examination of the individual and cooperative impacts of intelligence gathering, profiling of data, processing of data, and exchange of information on crime prevention outcomes in an empirical model, the current study clarifies the relative effectiveness of the components in the context of a developing country. Notably, in contesting prevailing assumptions, the findings of this study show that, while both the exchange of information and processing of data are essential to the improvement of the prevention of crime, the functionalities of intelligence gathering and profiling of data have little or no impact. This study adds theoretical insights into the field of information management by highlighting contextual conditions that support or undermine the effectiveness of information systems in the community policing setting.

The study informs policy by providing empirical evidence that underscores serious gaps in intelligence operations and profiling methods, while at the same time accentuating the need for efficient information exchange and regulation in governance of the data. The findings act as an important resource for scholars, practitioners, and decision-makers looking to improve community policing through better methods of managing intelligence. Thus, the study sets the foundation for research on tailored intervention and cutting-edge technology that is supportive of the Meru County's socio-cultural and institutional contexts, with the overall objective of informing the creation of efficient and sustainable

models of crime prevention applicable in similar contexts in the wider Sub-Saharan Africa region.

5.6 Suggestion for Further Research

Given this body of research, it is recommended that future research endeavors identify and examine the inherent barriers that undermine the effectiveness of intelligence gathering and profiling within the context of Meru County's community policing. Future research could employ qualitative approaches examining the organizational, technological, and socio-cultural barriers impeding the effective use of these information management approaches. Further, there is a notable need for longitudinal research determining the long-term implications of increased efforts in processing data and disseminating information, including the use of emerging digital tools like artificial intelligence and big data analysis. Research efforts such as these would allow for a deeper understanding of how the systemic processing of information can be improved in order to support enhanced community policing and crime prevention, not just in Meru County but in similar contexts region-wide.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: INRODUCTION

Dear Sir/Madam

This interview is meant to collect data for study leading to a Master of Arts degree in Public Policy and Administration Kenyatta University. The title of Research is Information Management. In The Context of Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Meru County Kenya, 2001-2021. You are nominated to participant. Please note that any information you will give was treated with confidentiality. You have the right to withdraw from the survey at any time,

I thank you in advance for your acceptance.

1. Gender: _____
2. Age:_____
3. Highest level of Education: _____

Intelligence Gathering

5a. Kindly comment on the importance of intelligence gathering

b. How do you think intelligence gathering affect crime prevention in Meru County, Kenya?

Data Profiling

6a. How does data profiling of criminals relate to crime prevention in Meru County?

b. What do you think about the importance of data profiling in crime prevention?

Data Processing

7a. What do you understand by data processing?

b. What is the importance of data processing in crime prevention?

Information Sharing

8a. Do you think information sharing prevents crime prevention, kindly expatiate?

b. Kindly comment on your view regarding the importance of information sharing and crime prevention.

APPENDIX II: QUESTIONAIRE

Part 1: Demographic Factors

1. Name: ---------- (Optional)
2. Indicate Gender; Male [ ] Female [ ]
3. Indicate your age
4. 20 - 30 years [ ] 31 - 40 years [ ] 41 - 50 years [ ] 51 years & above [ ]
5. Respondent's highest level of education

   Primary [ ] Secondary [ ] Certificate [ ] Diploma [ ] Degree [ ] Others [ ]

Section A: How does intelligence gathering affect crime prevention in Meru, Kenya?

Please indicate your response by circling or ticking in the appropriate box. KEY. 1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Not sure 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree. Kindly participate in discussing the following statements

	Statement	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
1.	There are effective measures in place to enhance intelligence gathering in crime prevention.				
2.	Measures employed bypolice enhanced crime prevention				
3.	Strategies employed by police reduced crimes in Meru county				

4.	There Is strong cooperation between the residents and police in Meru county				
5.	Police activities and operations of criminals in Meru county				
6.	Intelligence gathering by police has reduced crimes in Meru county.				

7.	Information gathering is the only way to reduce crimes in Meru county.				
8.	I am satisfied with how intelligence gathering is being conducted in Meru county.				
9.	After information gathering police warn criminals before arresting them				
10.	Police do not have a right to arrest criminals				
11.	Information given to police is mainly given by members of the pubic				
12.	Community members freely report criminals to police.				

Section B: To Interrogate data profiling of criminals in relation to crime prevention in Meru County

Please specify the degree to which you approve the following declarations KEY. 1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Agree 5. Strongly agree.

	Statements	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
1.	Data profiling of criminals is aligned to police mandates				
2.	Data profiling of criminals has effective strategies to reduce crimes in Meru county				

3.	Monitoring of criminal suspects by police is effective in crime prevention				
4.	Investigating criminal conduct and actions by police enhances crime prevention				
5.	Police strategic plan of data profiling of criminals address criminal misconduct and actions				
6.	Inspection of suspected criminals' premises by police reduces criminals				

7.	Handling of complaints against criminals by police enhances discipline among the community members				
8.	I am satisfied with the activities of police uses to reduce crimes				
9.	There is a good working relation between the community members ad police in crime prevention				
10.	Documents inspection by police helps to improve discipline				
11.	Police reports to the public helps reduce crimes				

Section C: Assess effect of data processing in crime prevention in Meru County

Please indicate your response in the appropriate box. 1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3.

Agree 4. Strongly agree. Kindly participate in discussing the following statements

	Statements	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
1.	Police has improved compliance by residents to rules and regulations.				
2.	Investigating crimes committed by criminals has ensured accountability among residents.				
3.	The mere presence of police is making crimes reduce significantly.				
4.	Without the presence of police, it is impossible to hold criminals accountable for crimes committed.				

5.	Monitoring of criminals' operations by NPS has not helped in making criminals accountable for their actions.				
6.	Police has been effective so far in holding criminals accountable.				
7.	By providing a forum where residents can report one another for misconduct to police is reducing crimes.				
9.	Knowing that the public will complain to relevant authorities obligates police to perform their duties professionally				
10.	Formation of National Police Service has made complaints against crimes to reduce				
11.	Police makes criminals accountable for their actions				

Section D: To establish how information sharing affect crime prevention in Meru County.

Please indicate your response by circling or ticking in the appropriate box. KEY. 1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Agree 4. Strongly agree. Kindly participate in discussing the following statements

	Statement	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
1.	Information sharing aids police cooperates with residents				
2.	Community has a very good working relationship with the officers of the national police service.				
3.	There is no conflict on information sharing between community members and officers in the National police service.				
4.	Police officers notify community members of any serious crime committed.				
5.	Information sharing feedback to the police on the information collected.				

6.	Police officers provide necessary information to community members.				

7.	Community members conduct inspections on suspected criminals' premises.				
8.	Community conducts investigations on complaints against criminals.				
9.	Communityinvestigated complaints reported by national government administrators against criminal suspects.				
10.	The relationship between community and national government administrators is excellent.				
11.	Community members are not biased in conducting investigations on crimes committed.				

Section E: Crime prevention in Meru County

Please indicate your response in the appropriate box. 1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3.

Agree 4. Strongly agree. Kindly participate in discussing the following statements

	Statements	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**
1.	Intelligence gathering has help in crime prevention				
2.	Data profiling has enhanced the security situation in Meru County				
3.	Information management in the context of community policing has enhance trust in Meru County				
4.	Information management in the context of community policing has brought about increased peace and unity				
5.	Information management in the context of community policing has enhanced the security situation in Meru County				
6.	Data processing has helped in the gathering of information aimed at improving the security situation in Meru County				

Thank You

APPENDIX III: RESEARCH APPROVAL LETTERS

KENYATTA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL

E-mail: dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke
Website: www.ku.ac.ke

P.O. Box 43844, 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA
Tel. 810901 Ext. 4150

Internal Memo

FROM: Executive Dean, Graduate School

DATE: 5th November, 2024

TO: **Philib Boen**
C/o Public Policy and Administration Dept.

REF: C153/OL/CTY/38889/2017

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL

This is to inform you that Graduate School Board at its meeting of 16th October, 2024 approved your Research Project Proposal for the **M.PPA** Degree Entitled, **"Information Management in the Context of Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Meru County, Kenya."**

You may now proceed with your Data Collection, Subject to Clearance with Director General, National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation.

As you embark on your data collection, please note that you will be required to submit to Graduate School completed Supervision Tracking and Progress Report Forms per semester. The Forms are available at the University's Website under Graduate School webpage downloads.

Also, please ensure that you publish article(s) from your project before submitting it to Graduate School for examination as per the Commission for University Education and Kenyatta University guidelines.

Thank you.

ELIJAH MUTUA
FOR: EXECUTIVE DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL

c.c. Chairman, Public Policy and Administration Department.

Supervisors:

1. Dr. Wilson Mutta
C/o Department of Public Policy and Administration
Kenyatta University

Transforming Higher Education... Enhancing Lives
Kenyatta University is ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Page 1 of 1

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P.O. Box 43844, 00100
NAIROBI, KENYA
Tel. 8710901 Ext. 57530

Our Ref: C153/OL/CTY/38889/2017

DATE: 5th November, 2024

Director General,
National Commission for Science, Technology
and Innovation
P.O. Box 30623-00100
NAIROBI

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION FOR PHILIP BOEN – REG. NO. C153/OL/CTY/38889/2017

I write to introduce **Philip Boen** who is a Postgraduate Student of this University. The student is registered for **M.PPA** degree programme in the **Department of Public Policy and Administration.**

Philip intends to conduct research for a **M.PPA** Project Proposal entitled, **"Information Management in the Context of Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Meru County, Kenya."**

Any assistance given will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

PROF. ELIUD NJAGI
EXECUTIVE DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL

EM/ann

APPENDIX IV: RESEARCH PERMIT (NACOSTI)

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE,TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Ref No. 125007

Date of Issue: 26/November/2024

RESEARCH LICENSE

This is to Certify that Mr.. PHILIP KIPKURUI BOEN of Kenyatta University, has been licensed to conduct research as per the provision of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013 (Rev.2014) in Meru on the topic: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION IN MERU COUNTY, KENYA for the period ending : 26/November/2025.

License No: NACOSTI/P/24/41458

125007

Applicant Identification Number

Director General
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Verification QR Code

NOTE: This is a computer generated License. To verify the authenticity of this document, Scan the QR Code using QR scanner application.

See overleaf for conditions