

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ON CRIME PREVENTION IN ISIOLO COUNTY, KENYA

Ndung'u Paul Mugo.

Student, Master of Public Policy and Administration, Kenyatta University, Kenya.

Edna Jemutai Moi.

Lecturer, Department of Public Policy and Administration, School of Law, Arts and Social Sciences, Kenyatta University, Kenya.

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ABSTRACT

Economic prosperity of any nation owes its growth to myriads of factors such as political, economic, environmental, and social. Crime has proved to be a major bottleneck to economic growth and development as it causes economic uncertainty, discouraging long-term investment and new employment opportunities as well as eroding the rule of law. The various governments across the globe have devised ways of curbing crime and this includes the establishment of police entities. Past studies have established that these entities exhibit gaps that have called for other alternative approaches to crime prevention. This study focuses on community participation as an alternative to crime prevention. It highlighted various crime prevention strategies with major focus on community involvement. This study was guided by objectives which include determination of how the flow of information affects crime prevention in Isiolo County, establishing the extent to which transparency of security agencies assist in crime prevention in Isiolo County and investigating the community engagement in crime prevention in Isiolo County. It was anchored on Rational choice theory and Routine activity approach. The target population consisted of community, political and religious leaders and the police officers within Isiolo Sub County. The respondents for this study comprised of 20 police officers 3 religious' leaders, 6 group leaders, 3 national government administrators, 1 local elected leader and 18 community cluster heads. Data collection was done by use of questionnaire. The reliability of instrument

was tested using Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.7 philosophy. The collected quantitative and qualitative data were analysed using descriptive statistical tools. The data was organized into various themes guided by the objectives of the study. The data was presented in form of frequency tables. The findings revealed that information shared by the community members allows the security agencies to manage evidence-based, community safety interventions and examine their effectiveness. The study concludes that effect of community participation on crime prevention is undeniable, with significant implications for the flow of information, transparency of security agencies, and community engagement. Firstly, when community members actively participate in crime prevention efforts, the flow of information between residents and security agencies improves significantly. The county government and national government should establish robust channels for the flow of information. Communities should be encouraged to report suspicious activities promptly, and mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that this information reaches relevant authorities efficiently. Establishing accessible hotlines, online platforms, or community centers where residents can relay concerns or observations can greatly bolster the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts.

Key Words: Flow of Information, Transparency of Security Agencies, Community Engagement and Crime Prevention

INTRODUCTION

Community participation is a people centered approach. Placing people at the center of crime prevention is an internationally acceptable way of having dignified way of fighting crime (UN, 2016). Crime reduction requires an interconnected approach that brings on board all stakeholders and actors in the field of crime. Community policing is a perspective that appreciates the shared influence and independence of Police and the Community in maintaining a secure and safe environment. It focuses at creating a live and level partnership amid the public and police over which crime and community peace issues can mutually be addressed and solutions generated and executed.

The shift from main stream security and law enforcement agencies to the community led system is the current focus (Manaliyo, 2016). Government agencies cannot claim to fight crime in isolation. Crime has metamorphosed and advanced with improvement in technology. The same advancements have still not been a complete solution to alleviating crime. The concept has been embraced by different nations and exists in multiple names to community policing.

Any slight provocation on human existence is met with a lot of resistance. Right to life has been entrenched into international treaties, regional and local level through enactment of Kenyan Constitution in 2010 and legislations thereto. The United Nations for over 65 years has been deliberating on crime prevention through the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The most recent was held in the Kyoto, Japan March 2021, amidst biting prongs of deadly Covid-19 Virus.

Crime has been found to affect communities negatively in all facets of life. It is through crime that criminal justice system emanated. Crime is as old as humanity. Criminality is a manner of pivotal conduct characterized by elements of low self-control, self-centeredness and indifference to suffering and needs of others (Hirsch, 2002). Behavior is acquired and nurtured within the community. Therefore, crime and community are inseparable.

Community participation on crime prevention exertion is invariably gaining global rise due to increased crime rates in various parts of the globe bred by ineffectiveness of enforcement of law. The citizens' involvement in crime prevention is regarded as an absolute approach towards crime reduction and prevention. Community participation on crime prevention is founded on belief that ancient enforcement of law cannot effectively combat crime unless they are supported by inhabitants who are aware of their locality (Liebermann and Coulson 2004). This informs the idea that governments are involving and engaging residents into their crime prevention activities and plan as they try to create firm links across ordinary civilians and police. This concept regained its attention in the 1970s (Newham, 2005) and is not a strange component in community policing. Community participation on crime prevention has evolved over time. The engagement of communities in maintenance of peace and security in their locality was practiced in the settlement of America where native communities acted as the initial peace officers securing streets in the capacity of volunteers. This civilians' participation in crime prevention faded its dominance in mid-nineteenth century due to onset of police officers (Ren et al. 2006) that reduced volunteers into ceremonial partners in looking for alternatives to crime issues in their communities.

During establishment of main stream police, it appeared police were charged to be a remedy to lawlessness since such police restrained and reduced crime levels. This phenomenon transformed when system advanced into adopting technology devices in operations: communication gadgets like radios, emergency telephone systems, 911, and movement on vehicles in response to people in need of help, yielded in upsurge numbers of crime. The escalations were ascribed to belief that police handled crimes in offices instead of policing communities. This model constrained relationship in communities and officers as the officers got alienated from suffering communities (Fleissner and Heinzelmann 1996).

The active role of residents in crime prevention programmes is warranted because the communities are aware of their crime problems and localities more than outsiders. Community involvement is based on idea of communities' familiarity (Liebermann and Coulson 2004). On this premise, the police could be effective once they partner with locals. In absence of such association, law officers are blind concerning criminal offences in particular sections. According to Friedman (1998) the common citizens participated to the decreased crime statistics in the United States of America. Therefore, police effectiveness in thwarting criminal offences relates with degree which communities are engaged and contribute to crime prevention.

The benefit of community participation undertaking is that common civilians evolve into creators of safety to public with police. The advocates of community participation methods in crime prevention plans believe this model creates opportunity where ordinary civilians and police share functions of enhancing and advancing public peace (Pattavina et al. 2006). Further, Zhao et al. (2002) postulates that states consider the contribution of communities in safety, as a better approach for recompense for human and financial resources shortage, while this concept embraces voluntarism. Botterill and Fisher (2002) points that engaging residents in combating crimes, measures mobilize extra personnel resources for government. Though community involvement subscribes in minimizing expense on crime reduction, people need equipment, and right skills to enable them to get involved appropriately. Extent which local communities are interest to contribute in law maintenance is informed by the social organization and context.

Societies who have elements of common values and understandings have the will in attaining similar interests, also maintaining order and safety (Carcach and Huntley 2002, Fagan and Meares, 2008). Akers (2017), social group is a contemplation of ability for a society in regulating itself. Social grouping is a condition for a community to win beneficial participation in crime prevention programmes. Societal ties at times fail to provide efficient community participation as readiness of community involvement in crime reduction plans may be prevented by features away from societal disorganization. Such features are demographic distribution of the community, fear crime among members and peoples' view of state bodies (Ren et al. 2006). Sherman (2002) and Kane (2005) revealed society member' views of resident enforcement agencies and various state entities within communities' further posses enormous impression on community members' initiative to volunteering.

Strained partnerships with police and mistrust in the police hinder community involvement on prevention of crime. Impoverished participation linked to mistrust in security sector, may be valid due to unwillingness to associate with coworkers who cannot be trusted. Constructive understanding of society

participation had a strong correlation to rises in preventing criminal behavior (Scheider et al. 2003). The South African arena, active role of native members of community in crime reduction is in early stages. The concept gained publicity upon the death of apartheid in 1994. Apartheid period, crime numbers increased among the colored and black communities. Containing crime in areas habited by indigenous communities never a priority in agenda of government. The divisive regime participated in containing crimes in areas lived by white races. Most resources were directed to these areas in promoting their safety unlike in black dominated areas (Shaw, 2002). After apartheid in South Africa, numerous policies were formulated towards crime prevention. Among these policies, 273 of them required partnership between local communities and police. It saw the creation of forums for community policing (CPF) in 1995. The post-apartheid government sent a strong communiqué to international community and the South Africans that it endeared and incorporating community involvement on crime alleviation projects. The inception of CPF was aimed at improving police presence among residents, creating a sense of ownership and full community participation. This organization was formed as a legislative body in accordance with the South African Police Service Act 68 of 1995. It implores police stations to closely engage people through community policing forums (RSA 1995).

In Mozambique and Sierra Leone, Albrecht & Kyed (2015) undertook a study in the African environment. According Albrecht & Kyed (2015) the local communities needed to be involved in crime prevention and social disturbance resolution in order to effectively reduce crime. They found that law enforcement organizations can only obtain informed knowledge and use it to foil criminal plots before they are carried out with the help of the community. This demonstrates the need of prioritizing community participation and involvement in security agenda formulation. Ikuteyijo & Rotimi (2012), in a study in Nigeria, found that community involvement in security agenda setting is crucial for developing better security management strategies for the nation as well as for detecting, preventing, and reporting criminal activities, further support these findings.

Dang (2019) did a study in Tanzania to ascertain how the government employs community involvement to oppose and prevent violent extremism in the context of East Africa. Due to the proximity to Kenya and Somalia, where the al-Shabaab and other gangs have dominated criminal activity, community policing was used as the strategy to combat and prevent violent extremism. In order to empower residents to alert law enforcement of any suspicious activity occurring in their neighborhoods, security enforcement organizations involve communities while establishing security agendas. However, due to a lack of mutual trust, police personnel have a number of difficulties in mobilizing the people to fight crime. It is challenging to combat violent extremism, according to Dang (2019), since local populations are worried about police involvement in extrajudicial disappearances and the killing of criminal suspects while in police custody. In a different study, Godfrey (2012) discovered that community policing is a successful method for managing conflicts and preventing crime in Uganda. This study claims that community involvement in security agenda making aids in the prevention of several crimes in Uganda, including rape, robbery, and murder (Godfrey, 2012).

In the Kenyan context, Nyumba Kumi is a method that the government uses to involve local residents in security-related decision-making and to build enduring relationships across communities and security personnel (National Police Service, 2019). The "Ujamaa" socialism policy, which is embraces social

interdependence and embodied on a proverb "I am because we are and because we are so I am," is the foundation of the Nyumba Kumi philosophy, (Ndonu, Muthama, & Muigua, (2019). Tanzanian context, the Nyumba Kumi leader is in charge of overseeing daily interactions and activities of visitors and people of her or his group as well as local security (Ndonu, Muthama & Muigua, 2019).

The county's decentralization mechanisms have been built all the way down to the ward level. There is envisioned creation of community policing authority which is aimed to board the security actors with county governments (National Police Service Act, 2011). Ward Administrators, however, confront a number of difficulties, most notably inadequate facilities and inadequate transportation to reach the citizens in outlying areas of the county. Public engagement has been enhanced through CSOs that support civic education in the county. This includes holding radio programs where community members or sensitized on governance-related topics, and their individual roles.

In Isiolo, community policing was created to prevent terrorism, improve public safety, stop the proliferation of small guns, strengthen ties, and work in tandem with the police. Community enforcement frequently ignores the challenges of execution (Mastrofski et al., 2007). Classic group governance challenges include resistance to organizational change, a lack of financing, as well as strong policing tradition that obstructs the activation of community policing.

Statement of the problem

Crime has been consistently gaining ascendancy across the globe despite governments investing heavily in security. In Kenya, crimes of various descriptions have been on the rise in various counties including Isiolo County. This has resulted to underdevelopment and migration in search of safe environment. In effort to counter this there has been a shift to community involvement in crime prevention. Despite this concept being so relevant and effective, there still exists the challenge of crime prevention.

The Kenyan government has developed a number of neighborhood-based measures over time to reduce crime through Interior ministry and the NPS. The Nyumba Kumi initiative, which is determined to alleviate crime by embracing community policing, has elevated individuals' prospects of what it means to dwell in a peaceful community. In spite all of these measures, the National Crime Research Centre (2018) found that "serious crime" is still prevalent in Isiolo County, Kenya.

Isiolo town has been ear marked as a Resort City by 2030. According to annual crime report (2016), it was noted that Isiolo was among the few counties that had started showing increase in crime. In the same year, the county scooped position four in terms of crime index out of 47 counties, and position five in annual crime report (2018). Isiolo County was listed as one of the most criminally inclined counties in Kenya in the National Crime Research Centre's 2018 report and the Kenya Police Report from 2014. People from the same neighborhood frequently perpetrate these crimes. Compared to the average national crime index, the serious crime rate is greater. This information demonstrates unequivocally that Isiolo County is a region vulnerable to serious crimes. This situation served as the study's main source of inspiration.

Previous research in Kenya has mostly examined this concept by capitalizing the security angle ignoring the preventative element, especially in the multiple ethnic towns. In accordance with this, Andyhoga & Mavole (2017) conducted study named "influence of Nyumba Kumi Community Policing Initiative on Social Cohesion among Cosmopolitan Sub Locations in Nakuru." Elsewhere, Nyumba Kumi Concept of Community Controls and impact on Reducing Crime were the subject of a 2017 study by Lagat and Chepchirir. No researches done in Isiolo on contribution of community involvement on crime prevention.

The aforementioned context, there are a number of gaps that necessitate more research and examination; in contrast, this study evaluates function of community involvement on crime prevention in Isiolo, Kenya. It seeks to reach its goals by establishing the following: the impact of information sharing on crime prevention in Isiolo County, the impact of security agency forum meetings on crime prevention in Isiolo County, and impact of community involvement in crime prevention in Isiolo County.

Empirical studies which have been done on the subject of crime prevention and community involvement have majored on the values that affect establishment of community policing in Kenya. Biwwo (2017) indicated that community participation was the least factor that influence implementation of community policing. This study indicated that community participation has not been given priority in the prevention of crime. This study aims at understanding the effect of community participation on crime prevention in Isiolo.

Objectives of the study

- i. **To determine** influence of flow of information on crime prevention in Isiolo.
- ii. To establish influence of transparency of security agencies on crime prevention in Isiolo County.
- iii. To determine influence of community engagement in crime prevention Isiolo.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This section delves into studies as carried out by other scholars to help bring out existing research gaps that the study would wish to fill. It is organized in terms of theoretical anchorage and empirical literature.

Theoretical Review

This research shall rely on rational choice theory which adopts a belief of utilitarianism where humans are reasoning actors who consider means and ends, benefits and costs, for a rational choice. Further it postulates people are at will to choose their behavior and motivated by pain avoidance and the pleasure pursuit. It was advanced by Cornish and Clarke in explaining situational crime prevention. Proponents argue that people choose whether to commit crime or not after assessing the pleasure and paying associated with committing the crime

According to this theory everybody is in pursuit for power, wealth and personal status in an effort to become rich hence one's commission in an offence is personal choice. Rational choice gives an insight on why people chose to commit illegalities; people are inclined in crimes due to being deemed as satisfying, easy, fun and rewarding. Core premise of this approach is that human beings are reasonable and their behavior can be

modified or modeled by a fear of punishment. To restrain people from committing crimes due to rational choice is by imposing punishment. The pain of punishment should be greater than the pleasure to act as deterrence. Terms of laying standard of punishment, in respect to this theory, vetoes should be restricted to what is necessary to prevent people from choosing crime (Siegel and McCormick, 2006). Community should thus impose very stringent sanctions to deter the offenders from committing crime. Such sanctions include the basic sentencing alternatives of fines, suspended or conditional sentences, community service, supervision, and monitoring by national government administrators.

Empirical Literature

Information flow and Crime Prevention

Community intelligence led policing is tactic used in proactive policing. Intelligence-led and results-informed custom are embedded in the soul of Community Partnerships. It is the effective means handling criminal offences. Information sharing involves transfer of information from the community to security agency and vice versa. Sharing is key to providing collective knowledge of issues and achieving collective resolutions. Right information allows shareholders manage evidence-based, community safety interventions and examine their effectiveness. Advanced results of intelligence-led, problem-solving approach to community safety is achieved when key players can access relevant, active, and recent information from wide range of sources with community members being at the center, (Home Office, 2007).

Dibwale (2021) conducted a study on intelligence sharing on crime prevention in Mogandishu. He concluded that sharing intelligence, its utilization in investigations and in surveillance had greatest impact on preventing crime in Mogadishu City, Somalia, while intelligence data collection had the least impact. According to Mashiloane (2013), the South African Police Service used intelligence-led policing to reduce crime. There is still a belief that only the SAPS's crime intelligence unit (structure) oversees gathering crime data, and that "Intelligence collection is not seen as everyone's job." The study found that there is insufficient information in the intelligence products used to plan and carry out crime prevention and/or crime fighting operations, which has an impact on the operations' success. Information analysis, non-integrated crime, and noncompliance with criminal information/intelligence flow policy, are blamed for inadequate information on products of intelligence.

Based on a case study of Kakamega County, Mabia, Iteyo, and Were (2016), the efficiency of intelligence-led policing in managing domestic offenses in Kenya, showed that criminal informants, targeting of criminals in contrast to specific crimes, and comprehensive investigation of crimes utilizing results-oriented techniques and strategies were characteristics of intelligence-led policing in Kakamega County. The study focused on the effectiveness of information flow and did not look at how the flow of information helps in crime prevention.

Transparency of security agencies and Crime Prevention

Transparency makes police and players in the criminal justice system accountable. It comes with accountability at whatever stage of information sharing that may be relevant in crime prevention both from the authorities and community members. Accountability builds trust in the entities of criminal system. If there is no trust in the police and court system, then people lack stake in these systems and no legitimate reason to obey rules that govern them, (Cordell LaDoris, 2015). The intuitive meaning of transparency is that nothing is hidden from anyone.

According to Wekesa (2016), flow of information is critical in getting security intelligence and information. Transparency in the community policing increases the morale of the community in participating in the community policing and also increased satisfaction.

Community Engagement and Crime Prevention

The community engagement is a paradigm shift from the reactive model of policing. This cojoins consultation of community members, response to security needs, shared problem solving to assess the best means of fulfilling these needs, and mobilization of public to achieve, (Bayley,2006). In contrast, law enforcement agencies operate as they know the preference for the communities is usually not the case. Police knowledge of people’s expectations has not been at par with citizen preferences, (Grabosky, 2009).

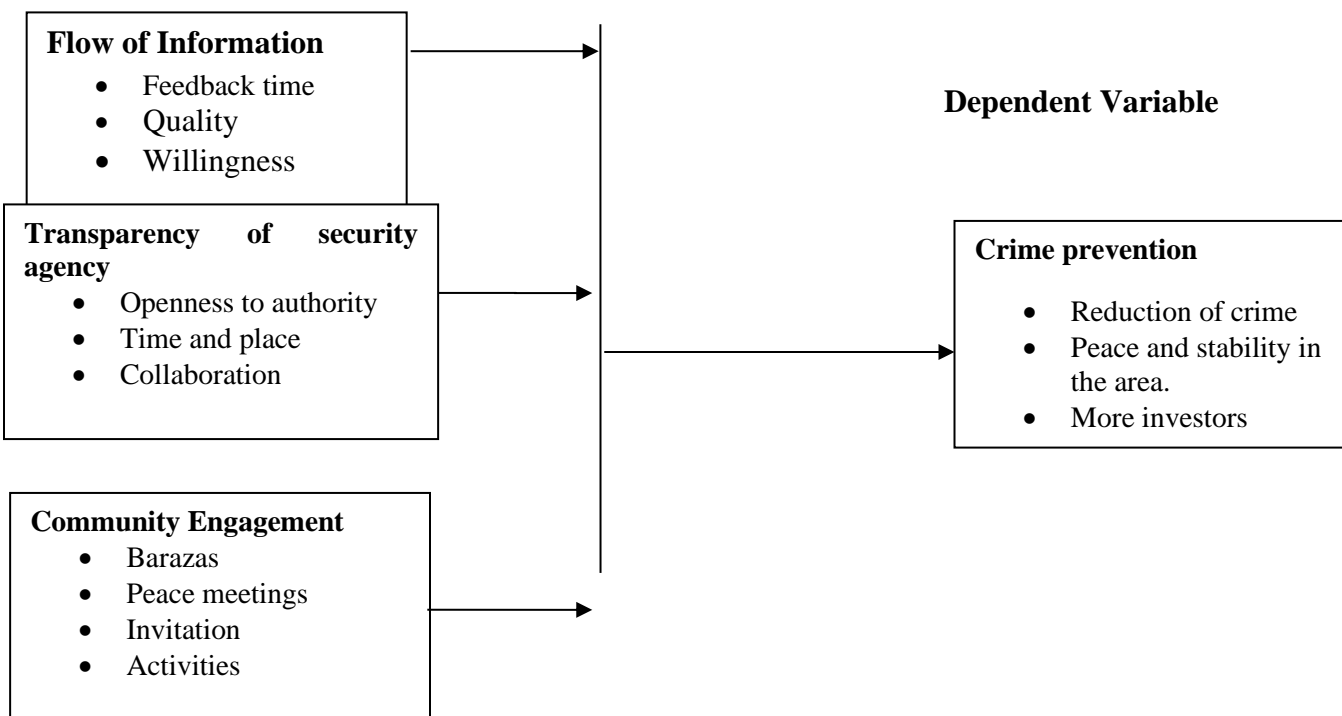
Wanjohi (2014) found out a positive correlation between partnership of community and police on crime reduction. He focused on community as the variables of partnership, problem solving and crime reduction strategies.

According to Ogoti (2018), police- community partnerships, crime reduction strategies and problem-solving skills are effective in community policing. Mwaniki (2016), indicated joint community and police patrols and use of vigilant teams have helped in combating crime in Kirinyaga county.

There are well laid community policing structures (Kungu, 2016). Community members are involved in the community policing as they are required to provide information on security concerns. The policing structures need to create avenues through which the community involvement can be achieved with minimal levels of mistrust.

Conceptual Literature Framework

Independent Variable



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The researcher employed the descriptive research design. This design allows analysis of facts and aids in providing a deep comprehension of research problem. Design enabled researcher assess the subjects over big area while coming up with data that were utilized in exploring how well community members can participate in combating crime within their localities.

The research was conducted in Isiolo. This is a county in Kenya as per the constitution of Kenya (2010). Its county code 11. According to Annual Crime Report (2016), it was noted that Isiolo was among the few counties that had started showing increase in crime. In the same year, the county scooped position four in terms of crime index out of 47 counties, and position five in annual crime report (2018). This informed selection of the area. According to Kenya Household Population Census (2019), the county had a population of 268,002 distributed across the three sub counties with Isiolo Sub County having a population of 121,066. Further Isiolo Sub County is divided into five divisions. Each division is subdivided into locations and sub locations.

The target population for this research is 510 drawn from religious (Muslims and Christians)/cultural leaders, local politicians, security officers, community group representatives, National Administrators and community cluster heads.

The study focused on police officers within Isiolo Sub County, national government administrators and community opinion leaders and Nyumba Kumi cluster heads. The study employed stratified simple random sampling to identify respondents from each stratum. The study will 10% of the target population as the sample size as (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003) recommends 10% as a sufficient sample for research. A representative sample of 51 respondents was chosen.

The study used quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis. Quantitative data was analyzed utilizing measures of central tendency (mean, standard deviation, frequency) and percentages and at the same time using regression and correlation analysis for inferential statistics. The presentation of data was carried out in form of frequency tables, and percentages.

Results and Findings

The researcher dispersed 51 questionnaires to selected respondents. However, 45 questionnaires were dully filled and returned to the researcher. This gave a response rate of 88.2% which is deemed sufficient for the study. Mugenda and Mugenda (2008) contend that a response rate of 50% is acceptable for analysis, response rate of over half is good while over 70% is very good.

On demographic information, majority of the respondents were male as demonstrated by a proportion of 57.8%. However, it was noted female respondents constituted 42.2% of the respondents. On age distribution, 18(40.0%) of the respondents were aged between 35 and 50 years, 12(26.7%) were aged above 50 years

9(20.0%) were aged between 25 and 45 years while 9(13.3%) were aged between 18 and 24 years. This implies that different age groups participated in the study hence distinct perspectives, need and priorities were captured.

Data on marital status indicated that majority of the participants were married as presented by 27(60.0%). Further, 7(15.6%) were widowed, 6(13.3%) were separated or divorced and 5(11.1%) were single. Marriage provides stability and emotional support, which may reduce stress and serve as a protective factor against engaging in criminal behaviour.

Flow of Information

Understanding the types and frequency of crimes witnessed by respondents provides crucial context for assessing community safety concerns. This includes identifying whether incidents involve property crimes, violence, vandalism, or other offenses, as well as their locations and times of occurrence. In this case, the study aimed to determine whether the respondents have ever witnessed crime in their area. The findings were presented in figure 4.2

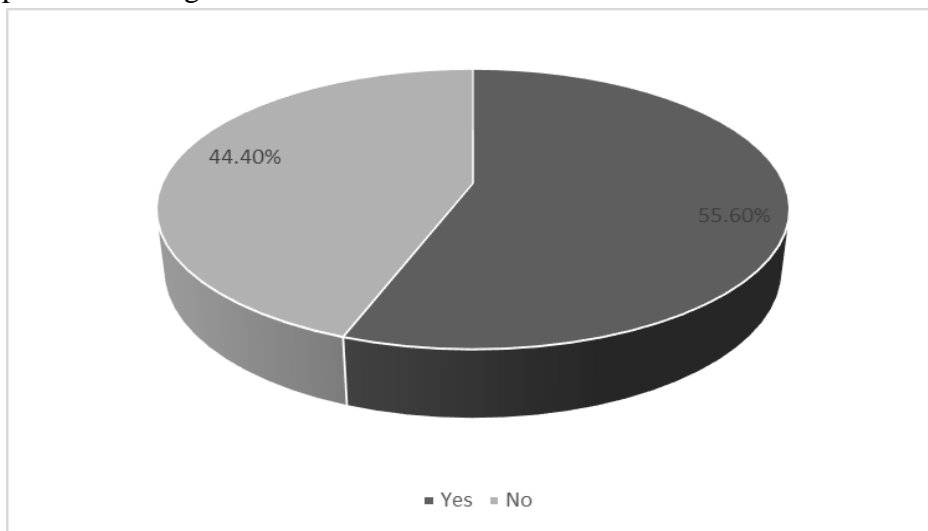


Figure 4.1 Witness on crime activities

Source: Field Data (2024)

The findings presented in Figure 4.2 show that 25(55.6%) of the respondents have ever witnessed crime in their area. The flow typically begins with the reporting of a crime to law enforcement authorities. This could be done by the victim, a witness, or any concerned individual. The findings are supported by the findings of a study by Dibwale (2021) who established that right information allows shareholders manage evidence-based, community safety interventions and examine their effectiveness. Advanced results of intelligence-led, problem-solving approach to community safety is achieved when key players can access relevant, active, and recent information from wide range of sources with community members being at the center.

The study also aimed at determining the various form of crime which participants witnessed. The findings were presented in Table 1

Table 1 Form of Crimes

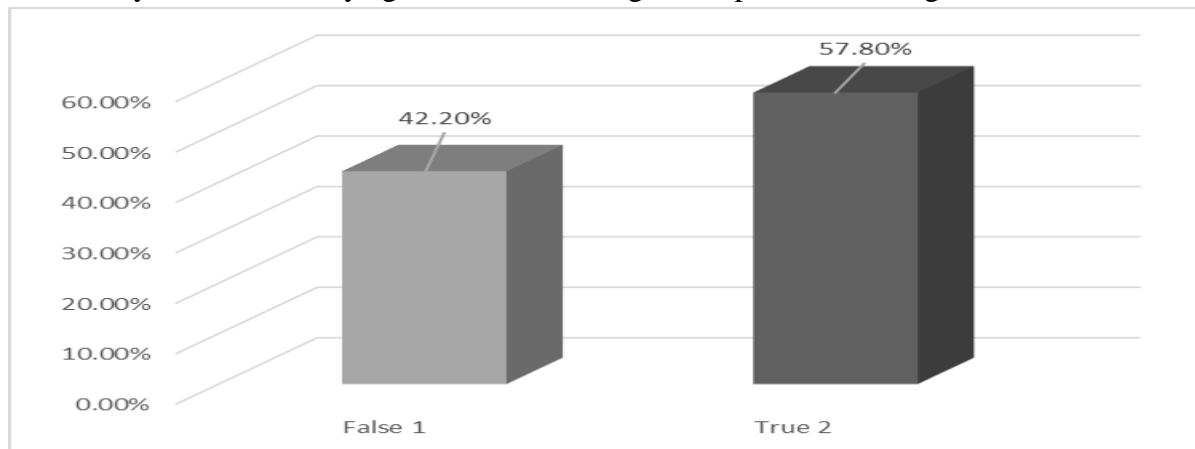
Form of crime	Frequency	Percentage
Violence	12	48.0%

Robbery	8	32.0%
Incitement	6	24.0%
Cattle rustling	6	24.0%
Hate speech	5	20.0%
Tribalism	4	16.0%
Recruitment into terror groups	3	12.0%
Murder	2	8.0%

The findings presented in Table 1 revealed that 12(48%) of the participants have witnessed violence in their locality. Further, other forms of crimes witnessed include robbery, incitement, cattle rustling, hate speech, tribalism, recruitment into terror groups and murder. Criminal gangs engage in a myriad of illicit activities, including robbery, extortion, drug trafficking, and acts of intimidation. The proliferation of gang-related violence not only instills fear within local communities but also undermines efforts to foster a conducive environment for investment and economic growth. The findings are supported by the findings of a study Mabia, Iteyo, and Were (2016) who established that one prominent challenge facing the region is the persistent issue of cattle rustling. This form of crime, deeply rooted in traditional pastoralist livelihoods, involves the brazen theft of livestock, including cattle, camels, and goats. These acts of theft not only result in substantial economic losses for the affected communities but also engender deep-seated tensions and conflicts among ethnic groups vying for control over scarce resources.

Transparency of security agencies on crime prevention

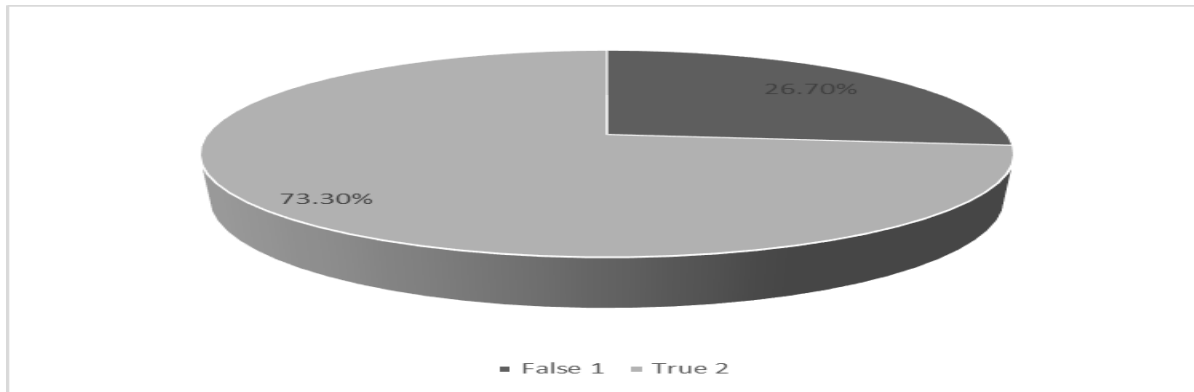
The study first aimed at determining whether there existed effective communication channels between the community and the security agencies. The findings were presented in Figure 1



The findings presented in figure 1 established that 26(57.8%) of the participants noted that there exist effective communication channels between the community and the security agencies while 19(42.2%) noted there is no effective communication channels between the community and the security agencies. The community policing initiatives promote direct interaction and partnership between law enforcement officers and community members. Community policing forums, often organized at the grassroots level, provide opportunities for residents to engage with local police officers, discuss security challenges, and collectively devise solutions. These forums encourage open dialogue, enhance mutual understanding, and enable residents to actively contribute to shaping law enforcement priorities and strategies. The findings are supported by the findings of a study by Manaliyo (2016) who established that community-based organizations and civil society groups

play a crucial role in facilitating communication and collaboration between the community and security agencies. These organizations often serve as intermediaries, advocating for community interests, raising awareness about security issues, and organizing joint initiatives with law enforcement agencies. By fostering partnerships and facilitating dialogue, these organizations help build trust and strengthen the relationship between the community and security stakeholders.

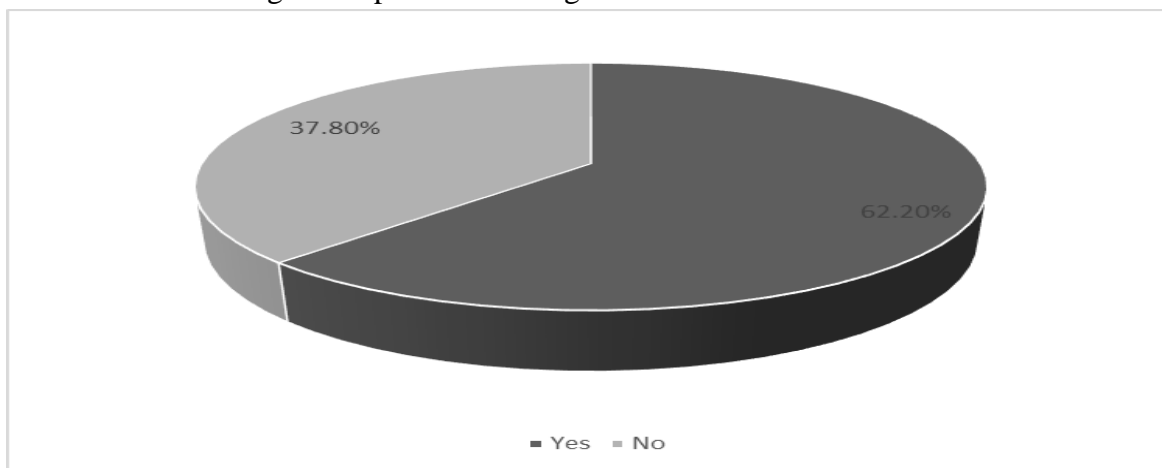
Also, the study aimed to determine whether they have been contacted by security agencies to assist in giving information in case of crime within their area. The findings were presented in Figure 2.



The findings presented in Figure 2 established that 33(73.3%) noted that they have never been contacted by security agencies to assist in giving information in case of crime within their area. This is an indication that security agencies have failed in collaborating with residents in keeping peace within the area. Reach out to community leaders, elders, or representatives of local organizations to inquire about any communication they may have received from security agencies regarding crime reporting or information sharing. These individuals often serve as intermediaries between the community and law enforcement and may have valuable insights into recent outreach efforts. According to Wekesa (2016), flow of information is critical in getting security intelligence and information. Transparency in the community policing increases the morale of the community in participating in the community policing and also increased satisfaction.

Community Engagement in Crime Prevention

The study aimed to determine whether the participants have ever participated in any community peace activities. The findings were presented in Figure 3



The findings displayed in Figure 3 show that 28(62.2%) of the respondents have participated in community peace activities while 17(37.8%) have not. Community participation in community peace activities is crucial for fostering sustainable peace and harmony in the region. Isiolo, like many other areas in Kenya, has experienced inter-communal conflicts primarily fuelled by competition over resources, ethnic tensions, and political rivalries. Engaging the community in peace-building efforts not only helps in resolving existing conflicts but also in preventing future conflicts from arising. The findings are supported by the findings of a study by Wekesa (2016) established that conducting peace education and awareness programs in schools, mosques, churches, and community centers can help in promoting a culture of peace and tolerance among the youth and adults alike.

Community policing initiatives play a vital role in crime prevention. Neighbourhood watch groups, comprised of vigilant residents who monitor their surroundings and report suspicious activities to law enforcement, are commonly formed. These groups act as the eyes and ears of the community, deterring criminal behaviour through their presence and prompt reporting of incidents. Regular patrols and collaboration with local police further strengthen the effectiveness of community policing efforts.

Community education and awareness campaigns are crucial for empowering residents with knowledge about crime prevention strategies. Workshops, seminars, and public meetings are organized to educate community members on topics such as home security, personal safety, and the importance of reporting crimes. By raising awareness and providing practical tips, these initiatives help residents to become more proactive in safeguarding themselves and their neighbourhoods against criminal activities.

Youth engagement programs offer constructive alternatives to crime. Youth centers, sports clubs, and recreational activities provide young people with opportunities for skill development, mentorship, and social interaction. By keeping youth positively engaged and connected to their communities, these programs reduce the likelihood of becoming involved in criminal behaviour.

Community-based rehabilitation and reintegration programs support individuals who have been involved in crime to reintegrate into society and lead law-abiding lives. Counselling, vocational training, and job placement services are provided to help offenders address the root causes of their criminal behaviour and acquire the skills needed to pursue lawful livelihoods. By offering support and opportunities for rehabilitation, these programs contribute to breaking the cycle of crime and reducing recidivism rates.

Lastly, community partnerships and collaboration with local authorities are key to the success of crime prevention efforts. Community leaders, religious institutions, schools, and businesses work together with law enforcement agencies to develop and implement comprehensive crime prevention strategies tailored to the specific needs of their neighbourhoods. By fostering trust, communication, and cooperation among stakeholders, these partnerships enhance the effectiveness of crime prevention initiatives and promote a collective response to keeping communities safe.

The study also aimed in determining the reasons why participants were not involved in community peace activities. The findings were presented in Table 2

Table 2 Reasons why participants were not involved in community peace activities

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
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Lack of awareness	14	82.4%
Such activities have never happened in my locality	9	52.9%
Ignorance	6	35.3%

The results displayed in Table 2 revealed that majority (82.4%) of the respondents did not participate in community peace activities due to lack of awareness, 52.9% indicate that such activities have never happened in their locality and 35.3% were due to ignorance. Limited access to information, especially in remote or marginalized communities result in a lack of awareness about peace-building efforts and how community members can contribute. The findings were supported by the findings of a study by Mwaniki (2016) who established that lack of awareness or understanding about the importance of community peace activities and the potential benefits of participation can contribute to low engagement levels. Without adequate information, education, or awareness-raising efforts about the value of community-led peace initiatives, residents may not recognize their own agency or role in fostering positive change within their communities.

Also, the study aimed at establishing how effective the security agencies in crime prevention in their locality are. The findings were presented by Table 3

Table 3 Effectiveness of the security agencies in crime prevention

Effectiveness of security agencies	Frequency	Percentage
Very effective	6	13.3%
Effective	12	26.7%
Not effective	27	60.0%
Total	45	100

The results presented in Table 3 revealed that 27(60.0%) of the respondents noted that security agencies were not effective, 12(26.7%) were effective and 6(13.3%) were very effective. Security agencies play a vital role in crime prevention by providing a visible deterrent, responding promptly to security threats, conducting surveillance, managing access control, and handling emergencies. Their presence and proactive measures create a safer environment for individuals and businesses alike. By leveraging their expertise and professionalism, security guard agencies play a crucial part in deterring criminals, maintaining order, and ensuring the overall safety and security of society.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusion

The effect of community participation on crime prevention is undeniable, with significant implications for the flow of information, transparency of security agencies, and community engagement. When community members actively participate in crime prevention efforts, the flow of information between residents and security agencies improves significantly. Through channels such as community meetings, hotlines, and digital platforms, individuals can report crimes, suspicious activities, and concerns promptly, enabling law enforcement to respond effectively and address emerging threats in a timely manner.

Moreover, community participation fosters transparency within security agencies by promoting accountability and responsiveness to the needs of the community. When residents are actively engaged in crime prevention initiatives, they become stakeholders in ensuring the effectiveness and integrity of law enforcement efforts. This fosters trust and confidence in security agencies, as community members perceive them as responsive to their concerns and committed to addressing local security challenges in collaboration with residents.

Furthermore, community engagement in crime prevention not only strengthens the effectiveness of security interventions but also promotes social cohesion and resilience within neighborhoods. By mobilizing residents to work together towards common goals, such as reducing crime and improving safety, community participation builds solidarity, trust, and mutual support networks. This sense of collective responsibility and belonging not only deters criminal behavior but also empowers communities to address underlying social and economic factors that contribute to crime.

Recommendation

From the findings, the study recommends that;

- i. The county government and national government should establish robust channels for the flow of information. Communities should be encouraged to report suspicious activities promptly, and mechanisms must be put in place to ensure that this information reaches relevant authorities efficiently. Establishing accessible hotlines, online platforms, or community centers where residents can relay concerns or observations can greatly bolster the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts.
- ii. The government should foster transparency between security agencies and community they serve as it enhances trust. This can be achieved through initiatives such as regular public meetings, open forums, or informational sessions where security agencies communicate their strategies, challenges, and successes to the community. By being transparent about their procedures and decision-making processes, security agencies can build credibility and foster stronger partnerships with community members.
- iii. Community engagement initiatives should be prioritized and diversified. Beyond traditional policing methods, collaborative efforts such as neighborhood watch programs, youth outreach initiatives, and community policing projects should be encouraged and supported. These initiatives not only empower residents to take an active role in safeguarding their neighborhoods but also promote a sense of ownership and collective responsibility for crime prevention.

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