



## ABSTRACT

This research is set out to examine the role Community policing as a catalyst of fighting terrorism in preventing and controlling crime in Nigeria, using Gwale local government as a case study. The research is aimed to examine the factor that predisposes the emergence of in Community policing as a catalyst of fighting terrorism in controlling crime, to identify the strategies used by community in fighting crime, to examine the effectiveness of community policing in controlling crime and to find out the challenges of community policing in crime prevention

# COMMUNITY POLICING AS A CATALYST OF FIGHTING TERRORISM, CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN KANO STATE, NIGERIA

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## Introduction

One of the major challenges in our communities is the increasing high rate of crime. Government and law enforcement agencies, trying to control this phenomenon but have focused mostly on the efforts in combating it through repressive or police force related methods. Barreto (2003) believe that, the adequate solution for crime related problems must be based on community policing and the effort of citizens that is involvement with each other and with their communities. The increasing public concern about crime in recent times has resulted for the role of community policing in crime prevention. Presently, criminal activities seem to be on the increase while the police force appears to become dysfunctional despite government huge expenditure on crime control.

This study is therefore set out to examine community policing as a catalyst of fighting terrorism, crime prevention and control in Kano state, Nigeria.

## Statement of the Problem

In recent years, many communities in Nigeria have witnessed crimes of various descriptions and Kano State is not an exception. Thus,



*and control. The study employed survey design method. Five wards out of ten were selected to serve as clusters and in each of the clusters 20 respondents were selected using simple random sampling (SRS) the total of 100 respondents. For the qualitative data, 6 respondents were selected purposively; this comprise of 2 community leaders, 2 religious leaders and 2 police officers. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 24 was used to process the quantitative data and the qualitative data collected through interview were transcribed and used to complement the quantitative data. The study revealed that, community policing emerges as a result of the ineffectiveness of the formal security to protect lives and property. However, low turn up from the side of community members, lack of awareness of the community members, lack of funding from government, lack of logistics and lack of recognition from the police are the major problems confronting community policing in controlling crime. The study therefore, recommends that there is need for establishing mutual understanding between the community leaders, the police and the government, the enlightenment of the public through the media and workshops will help to improve community policing in controlling crime. It is expected that the findings of this research should be used by both the police, community leaders and any other agency for compiling of crime in other communities in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** *Community policing, Catalyst, Terrorism, Crime Prevention and Crime Control*

crime is becoming a problem in contemporary Nigeria. The police who are the primary agent in the fight against crime are ineffective. Their ineffectiveness may be as a result of low man power, under-equipped, corrupt and lack of public cooperation. These have created problem of under policing in Kano State, Nigeria. Thus, violent and property crimes are committed on daily basis without detection and prosecution in Kano State Alemika (2011). Many people are being dispossessed of their valuable property and others are killed or maimed for life by armed bandits. The increase in crime wave and the inability of the Nigeria police to deal with the situation effectively have given rise to the community policing as a complementary measure to the conventional policing. Against this background, community policing seems more prominence as an alternative strategy for crime prevention and control in Gwale Local Government Area.

#### **Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The aim of this paper is to assess the role of community policing in crime prevention and control in Gwale Local Government Area of Kano State. Specifically, the objectives of the paper were to:

To examine the factors that predisposes the emergence of community policing in combating crime in Gwale Local Government Area of Kano State.

To identify the strategies used by community in combating crime in Gwale Local Government Area of Kano State.

To examine the effectiveness of community participation in combating crime in Gwale Local Government Area of Kano State.

To find out the challenges of community participation in crime prevention and control Gwale Local Government Area of Kano State.



### **Literature Review**

**Catalyst:** Anything that can causes a rapid change on something (English Oxford Advanced learner dictionary 9<sup>th</sup> Edition).

**Terrorism:** the practice of coercing governments to accede to political demands by committing violence on civilian targets or any similar use of violence to achieve goals.

**Concept of Crime Prevention:** Crime prevention refers to the range of strategies that is implemented by individuals, communities' businesses, non-government organizations and all levels of government to target the various social and environmental factors that increase the risk of crime, disorder and victimization (Dijk and Waard, 1991).

**Community Crime Prevention:** Community crime prevention refers to actions intended to change the social conditions that are believed to sustain crime in residential communities Hope (1995). It concentrates usually on the ability of local social institutions to reduce crime in residential areas.

### **Strategies of Community Crime Prevention**

What will be attempted here is to examine three different strategies which can be classified by virtue of the nature of the claims made regarding participation of local residents.

**Neighborhood surveillance:** being organized around a relatively limited concept of resident participation.

**Community mobilization:** maximum feasible participation of residents employed in increasing the competence of the community to reduce crime.

**Community integration:** This strategy, goes somewhat farther in that in not only asks that local residents be mobilized in the effort to reduce crime, but that this mobilization be carried out in such a way to maximize the bringing together of groups which are likely to have become isolated and segregated from each other as a result of the workings of deleterious economic and social trends in contemporary community life.

### **Effectiveness of Community Policing in Crime Prevention and Control**

Alemika (2019) conducted one of the first evaluations of the effectiveness of neighborhood watch in Nigeria. The evaluation, based in Kasina, Kano and Jigawa, included a telephone and door-to-door surveys of residents. The results showed that the rate of burglary decreased by substantially greater amount in the experimental areas.

In Kano state members of Anti-Social Vices Committee popularly known as (Yan Komiti) tackle the upsurge of criminal activities by complimenting the efforts of security agencies especially the police to protect lives and properties and prevent crimes. Community policing groups assisted the police in suppressing Yan Sara Suka criminal activities of kidnapping young girls. Burglaries, duping, raping and kidnapping of children.

### **Challenges of Community Policing in Crime Prevention and Control**

CLEEN Foundation (2019) observed the following as challenges to the effectiveness of community policing: Low turn up from the side of community members, Lack of awareness of the project in some communities, Lack, of funding from government, Lack of monitoring and evaluation from the police, Lack of logistics, and lack of recognition by the police.

### **Methodology**

The study employed survey design method. Six wards were selected to serve clusters. And in each of the clusters 20 respondents were selected using simple random sampling (SRS). The total is 100 respondents from 5 words in Gwale Local Government Area. Comprise 2 community leaders, 2 religious leaders and 2 police personnel. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 24



was used to process the quantitative data and the qualitative data collected through IDI were transcribed and used to complement the quantitative data.

### **Findings**

- I. The study revealed that, community policing emerges as a result of the ineffectiveness of the formal security to protect lives and property.
- II. The study revealed that the emergence of community policing in combating crime facilitated toward reducing crime and criminality in Kano State.
- III. The study also revealed that community policing challenges ranges from lack of government support, lack of logistics, manpower shortage, and lack of recognition by the police.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the current events in Kano local government area and the arguments presented in this paper, it is clear that criminality has remained one of the serious security challenges facing the state in particular and the country in general. It could also be understood that the security agencies involved in combating crime alone cannot fight the problem without the involvement of the community members; hence, the need for community policing program as an appropriate measure to complement the efforts of the conventional policing. The major problems confronting community policing in combating crime.

### **Recommendations**

The study therefore, recommends that there is the need for establishing mutual understanding between the community and the police, enlightenment of the public through the media, organize workshops will help to improve community policing in combating crime. It is expected that the findings of this study could be utilize by the leaders, police authorities or any other law enforcement agency for reassessments of crime prevention programs in the communities of Kano Nigeria.

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