# FACTORS AFFECTING COMMUNITY POLICING AS

# A CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGY IN KISII

# CENTRAL SUB-COUNTY, KENYA

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**Abstract**

*The study evaluated factors affecting community policing as a crime prevention strategy in Kisii central sub county. The specific factors explored were: security information, transparency, trust and Integrity. The study adopted a descriptive study design. The target population was 200 i.e. members of community policing, police officers and national administration officers in Kisii Central Sub County. The study sampled 60 respondents. Study found out that the respondents were aware that security information is important for community policing to be effective as a strategy in crime prevention. Respondents rely majorly on news and intelligence gathering to get security information which is critical in the implementation of community policing. The study further found out that transparency leads to increased morale of the community members, and trust promotes community policing member's satisfaction. The study concludes that all security information contributes greatly to community policing success and the source should be credible and therefore, the source of information is critical to the management of community policing strategy. The study recommends that the sub county security and intelligence committee should improve on the training of community policing members and emphasize on the need for the members to enhance trust, integrity and transparency.*

*Keywords: Trust, Transparency, Integrity, Security Information, Public Administration, Kenya*

## INTRODUCTION

Community policing has attracted increasing attention as a strategy to improve public security and safety. It seeks to transform the policing organizations from reliance on criminal law and procedures to adopt consensual extra-legal strategies in problem solving (Brogden, 2002) and emphasizes participation and partnership with the communities in order to address security and other social order problems. This co-production of social order is a key defining characteristic of community policing and is founded on two basic assumptions; one, that positive day-to-day encounters with the police are an important avenue through which the public image of the police can be enhanced and bring changes in the public reservations regarding police trustworthiness (Goldsmith, 2005; Muller 2010; Tenkebe, 2008); secondly, that improvement in the citizen perceptions of police trustworthiness and legitimacy will increase the willingness of residents to cooperate with police and comply with the law.

As an alternative policing strategy, it has been in existence for about three decades and has been widely practiced in North America and Europe (Pommerolle, 2003). Given the adversarial characteristics of the relationship between the police and the public in most developing countries, community policing has been presented as viable strategy to re-build trust between the police and the public and to improve security (Goldsmith 2005; Muller 2010; Rahmawati and Azca 2006; Ruteere and Pommerolle, 2003). It has been adopted in many of the developing countries emerging from different kinds of conflicts or making a transition from years of authoritarian rule characterized by politicization of policing institutions, gross abuse of human rights by the police and lack of accountability (CHRI 2005, Goldsmith, 2005), which created a poor relationship between the police and the public (Goldsmith, 2005). Advocates of community policing regard it as a viable alternative to address the problems of trust and lack of accountability in the police.

Similarly, their functions vary across different countries: the two primary functions replicated widely include sharing criminal intelligence information between police and the public and promotion of dialogue between officers and members of the community, (Brogden, 2004); other functions include ensuring accountability, setting policing priorities and evaluation of policing services though there are variations on the extent to which these are emphasized depending on context (Davis et al. 2003; Frühling, 2007).

Despite its adoption in many developing countries, there is debate on its impact on community police relations, crime rate and police behaviour. Proponents, especially governments and NGOs involved in the program claim it contributes to reduction of fear of crime and crime rates. In South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, it is claimed that there is improvement in co-operation between local communities and police in developing and implementing crime

reduction services for victims of crime, particularly of rape and domestic violence (Brogden, 2004). In Uganda, Davis et al (2003) suggest that community policing has contributed to strengthening of the links between police and the communities and decreased domestic violence. Others have pointed to the change in giving communities powers of accountability in regard to the state police, as a positive development (Sita. Kibuuka and Ssamula, quoted in Brogden 2004).

In Kenya, community policing has been implemented since 1990, although in few isolated projects; however, the report of the National Task Force on Police Reforms formed after the 2007-08 post-election violence has made a strong case that community policing should be strengthened in order to ensure the participation of the public in provision of public safety and security services. It also recommended the fast tracking of a National Community Policing Policy to provide a legal and institutional framework for the implementation of community policing (GoK, 2009).

Community policing takes many forms according to a typology proposed by  Wisler and Onwudiwe (2008) who distinguish between 'top-down' stated led and controlled initiatives from other initiatives 'that originate and are controlled by civil society'. Their typology proposes to analytically distinguish between four forms of community policing as 'vigilantism (associated with use of violence)' 'gated communities (creating safe private zones through physical inaccessibility)' 'china community policing' styles- emphasize policing through the inculcation of social norms by clans, families and other groups, while top-down community policing initiatives are defined as being initiated and controlled by the state.

There is on-going debate about the concept of community policing among critical authors interested in policing in the developing countries. The conceptualization has been described as too 'vague as to fit any interpretation' (Ruteere and Pommerolle, 2003) while its practice has been criticized for being a mechanism that perpetuates social inequality by allowing 'paramilitary policing agencies to co-opt local business and political elites', as having 'little operational relevance to local contexts' and for being 'simplistic about very complex problems' (Brogden, 2004). This study understands the concept as concerned with 'bringing the state closer to civil society in co-producing security' (Marks et al., 2009). This involves 'building confidence and partnerships between the public and security agencies, in security management As part of the national reforms, community-policing was initiated in Kisii. Linked to what has been stated above, implementing community-policing in Kisii is not only about quelling crime rates but also to be beneficent for Kisii's overall socio-economic development: curbing crime is believed to enhance people's ability to prosper by empowering them through a safe and secure environment (Project Plan, 2011). The move from Force to Service, guided by the

implementation of community-policing, entails a paradigmatic shift in police officer's professional roles in society (Ransley, 2009). The security situation was at its worst about 35 years ago, when Kebago - Gusii word for organized thugs - had become difficult to contain. The situation improved tremendously until when Kebago reincarnated in Bonchari Constituency, in 2003 sparking much concern among residents and security agents. After causing destruction, the gang would retreat to their hideouts outside Bonchari. This rise in insecurity saw the establishment of an amorphous vigilante group – Kisungu sungu to combat insecurity. But other than Kebago and Kisungu sungu, local politicians maintained their own political thugs, the Amachuma, who could be hired to cause chaos and mayhem to their paymasters' opponents. These militia unleashed terror on the residents. It was against this back drop that community policing was introduced to assist in restoring security.

## Statement of the Problem

Security is a key pillar in realizing vision 2030 and Security is required for the growth of any economy. The police forces are perceived as brutal, corrupt and unaccountable Kinyua, A. (2006) overwhelming lack of resources and low levels of professionalism undermine the organization's efficiency for the officers; this impedes police operations and lowers morale within the ranks. The situation had become unbearable for years, not only for the officers themselves but also for the members of public, who had no trust in the police. The Kenyan Government therefore initiated community policing program in order to mend this poor Police-public relationship thereby addressing the security challenge. Community policing is emerging as a promising complementary approach to more traditional forms of policing by bringing the police closer to the people and developing partner relations with citizens, this approach aims at restoring trust between civilians and the police and at gaining community support for police reform. The community policing program has however not been a hundred percent effective. The purpose for this research is therefore to evaluate the Factors affecting community policing as a strategy in crime prevention in Kisii Central Sub County.

## General Objective of the Study

This study sought to evaluate the Factors affecting community policing as a crime prevention strategy in Kisii Central Sub County.

## Specific Objectives

i. To assess how security information affects community policing in Kisii Central Sub County
ii. To determine the effects of transparency on community policing in Kisii Central Sub County

iii. To assess how trust affects community policing in Kisii Central Sub County

iv. To evaluate the effect of Integrity on community policing in Kisii Central Sub county

## Justification of the study

Police in Kenya has been characterized as corrupt, inefficient, brutal and, at time, criminal. As a result, the trust and legitimacy in the public has been very low. At the same time, public security and safety has increasingly become a major concern for many Kenyans. Not a day passes without disturbing cases of crime and threat to security being reported in the media. While the threat is not limited to any social class the poor remain more vulnerable due to limited opportunities to protect themselves from insecurity. Recently, the partnership between the community and the police under the community policing policy has been seen as viable strategy to address safety and security issues. While Kenya seeks to build its Community policing program, it is suggested that an exploration and understanding of similar efforts in similar contexts would provide important lessons for the expansion and implementation of Community policing policy in Kenya.

## THEORETICAL REVIEW

### Social Capital Theory

This study utilized the social capital theory, crime results from weak informal social controls and low capacity to mobilize such formal external resources as law enforcement agencies (Field, 2003). In attempting to explain why some places have weak informal social controls, and therefore prone to crime than others, researchers have applied the theory of social capital (Field, 2003). In addition, social capital has also been applied to investigate and explain why collective action is more successful in some places than others.

Social capital theory has been defined as consisting "features of social organization, such as networks, norms, and trust that facilitates action and cooperation for mutual benefit and results in high levels of interpersonal trust and interaction, and norms of aid and reciprocity, and high rates of civic participation" (Putnam, as quoted in Howdon, 2009). Two forms of social capital are distinguished: bridging and bonding capital. Bridging capital accounts for civic interaction and engagement; whereas bonding form of capital explains relationship between those we have shared experiences and expectations with a component of hope for future interactions such as family members and relatives.

Based on the findings that communities that depict greater cohesion and shared expectations also tend to have lower rates of crime and disorder, it is claimed that such strong networks of communities do have the potential for deterring crime (Field, 2003). This is

attributed to the fact that where such cohesion exists members of such communities share a responsibility to intervene before behaviour gets out of hand but also because such environments provide its young members 'with a sense of status and self-esteem, which supports their integration in the society'. Thus communities that have strong social controls are thought to have lower levels of crime and conversely, weak social capital is associated with high levels of social disorder. It is suggested that public institutions such as the police will encounter more support in places where social capital is high, which provides rationale for policy support for programs that increase levels of bridging capital.

## EMPIRICAL REVIEW

It is generally agreed that the meaning of the concept of community is contested (Minar and Greer, 1969; Shaw, 2008; Warbuton, 1998), evoking 'different meanings in different contexts and to different people'. This implies that there are different perspectives in defining the concept of community. There are perspectives that use community to refer to a physical concentration of individuals in one locality, and/or social organization among a concentration of individuals that possess a particular quality of relationships (Minar and Greener, 1969; Warbuton, 1998). Other perspectives perceive the community not just as empirically descriptive of a social structure but also as normatively prescriptive concept; that refers not just to the unit of a society as it is, but also to the aspects of the unit that are valued if they exist or desired in their absence (Shaw, 2008; Warbuton, 1998)indeed matter as programs are designed to take into account localities as the units of interaction between the police and the community, while working towards strengthening social relations.

### Security Information

Law enforcement officers know too little about community policing. For example, when they speak about first responders; they refer to themselves, fire-fighters, and emergency medical technicians. There is no mention community policing. There is a lack of awareness of what community policing is and what it does. Partly this is due to an absence of cohesion in security. For example, security is not always organized as a functional group within an organization. Security organizations tend not to train in mutual aid and usually lack communications interoperability.

The lack of direct leadership from any of the official authorities on how community policing should be engaged is a lament from police and some call for greater direction from central government. Moreover, a number of police feel that the best way to encourage the use

of community policing in policing was to make money available for that purpose Lernihan et al (2008).

**Accountability**

The lack of accountability of the community policing industry is a barrier to closer partnership working. There is a general lack of awareness of the current regulation regime for the community policing sector. And where there is a good understanding of the existing regime there is often scepticism of it, which leads to reservations about working with the industry. However, there is a belief that some parts of the security industry had improved significantly, particularly door supervisors. Many from the police call for a governance structure that ensures that staff are properly vetted and trained. Some police feel that if they are expected to have faith in the regulation regime then they should have a role in it. Opposing public and private sector principles also presents a barrier to closer working.

Overall, the nature of interactions between police officers and community policing members are based on daily activities which are complicated within the context of hierarchical relationships shaped by supervisory authority and legal regulations. These contexts can create tension and animosity and become barriers to cooperative and cordial relationships. One of the issues in partnership policing is the form such partnerships should take, and the type of relationship that is built with each partner, for example equal sharing partnerships, or one partner dominant.

**Trust**

One of the other main stumbling blocks to establishing partnerships are police fears of a loss of autonomy and the implied association of community policing personnel with private. Allied to this approach was the break with the narrow interpretation that crime prevention was the sole preserve and responsibility of the (public/state) police.

The structure of the police organization also influences the level and quality of decentralization, which is fundamental to enhance working relations between the police and citizens (Davis et al., 2003). Pelser (1999) discusses the significance of decentralization as critical in unleashing the creative potential of officers at the local level. Adopting community policing doesn't seem to have led to more delegation of actual management authority to the local level operational commands, which does curtail their capacity to creatively respond to the needs and priorities of the community.

The human, material, and organizational resources requirements and it implications for the extent to which community policing can be realistically implemented has been highlighted as

another critical factor. For many authors, developing countries cannot realistically implement community policing because of the difficulty in mobilizing resources necessary for its implementation. To transform the police requires huge resources to meet the demands for on-going training, provision of equipment and technology, improving salaries for police officers, cost of supporting community policing forums activities, monitoring and evaluation among others, which resource constrained countries are unable to meet (Frühling 2007).

## Transparency

The ideal community policing is where the police and the community are working together in harmony. This perspective seems prevalent in much of the literature, where the dynamics of relations in these forums are not the focus of analysis; however, examples from practice, suggest that this is far from the practice. Mottiar and White observe that the relationship between the police and the community in the community policing is characterized by tensions over the extent to which the community should be allowed into 'police affairs'. The police want community policing to be restricted from 'intruding into the discretionary domain of the police' while the community demands more involvement in decisions such as choosing police personnel (2003). There is thus a 'tension and ambiguity' between the language of partnership as used by the police and 'their desire to maintain their established monopoly of the policing enterprise' (Marks, et al., 2009).

This tension and ambiguity fuels the debate, which though inconclusive appears sceptical about the community policing capacity and room to influence policing goals. Brogden after reviewing experiences of community policing in a number of developing countries, including Uganda, Kenya, Pakistan, India and South Africa finds that police do not regard the aspect of co-production as important, but instead expect that the public should serve the goals set by the police. For example, in Pakistan, the police expected village communities to help them nab culprits and restore normalcy in cases of violence, while in Uganda 'they tended to regard community policing primarily as a means of instructing local populations, rather than of listening to them' (Brogden, 2004). He therefore concludes that community policing are '…dominated by the police organization and [as such] come to promote police goals not community goals'.

## Integrity

Davis et al. are also sceptical about the extent to which community priorities discussed in the community policing inform policing strategies. Discussing experiences of community policing in Sao Paulo in Brazil they note that 'although the public is asked to share information on local

concerns the police do not consult them when it comes to 'definition of priorities' or strategic planning (2003). Similarly, Frühling commenting on the evaluation of community policing in Latin America, finds that 'citizen participation does not define policing priorities and that citizens are poorly prepared to interact with the police and to take action to resolve the security issues that affect them'.

Where community policing have influence over policing goals, Brogden suggests that these are likely to be the interests 'of the local business or socio-economic elite rather than those of the wider community' (Brogden, 2004). Muller in the study of community policing in Mexico makes similar findings when he observes that program implementation tends to be determined by existing structures of clienteles rather than the needs of the poorer members of the community.
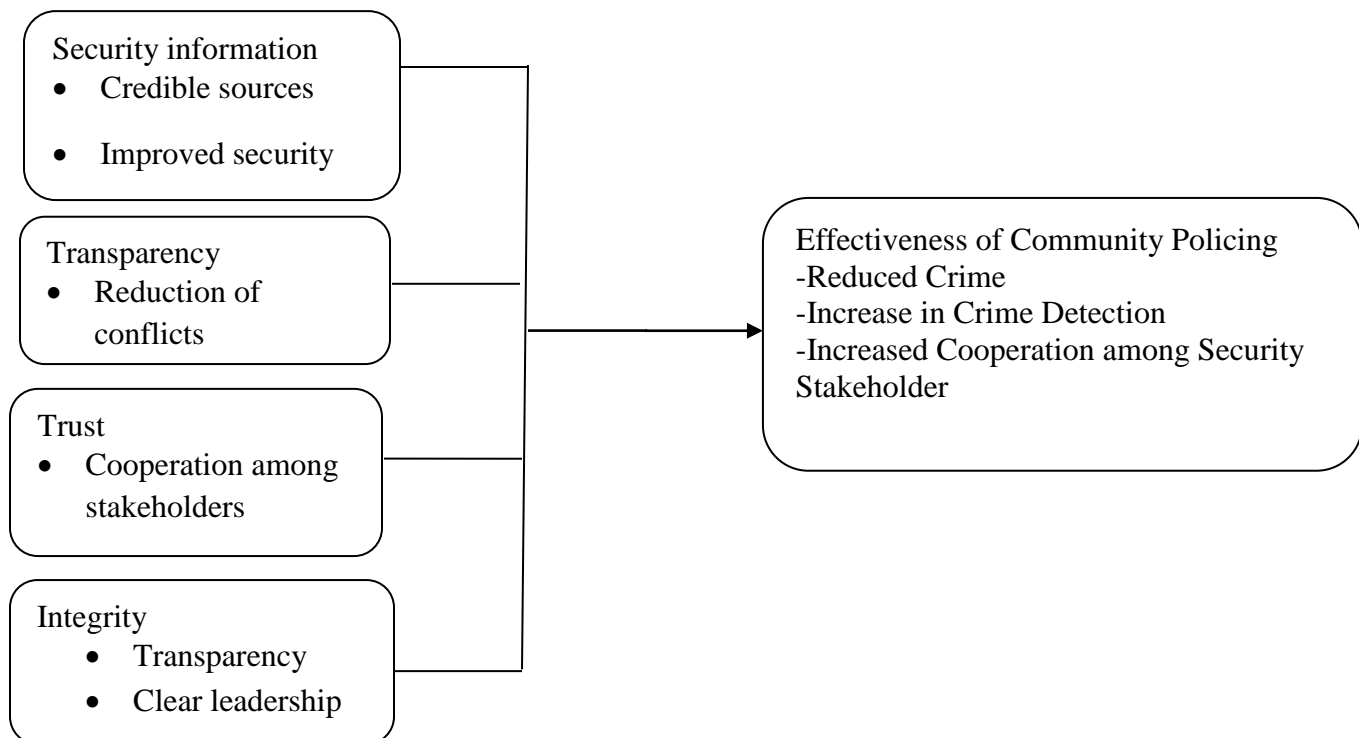
Related to organization structure is the question of the prevailing subculture and the way it influences the attitude of the police towards community policing. Frühling suggests that when the dominant view is that strict application of the law is sufficient to control crime, resistance to adopt community policing among the police was greater. Moreover, there was less enthusiasm to apply the community policing principles when officers on the street are not convinced that it can have an impact on crime (Frühling, 2007).

The organizational structure and the attitude of the police towards community policing are further reflected in the way community policing has been adopted by police organization. Community policing in many organizations is not integrated into the operational policing strategies; instead it is taken as an 'add-on' function marginally influencing day to day police practice (Pelser 1999). A limited role for community policing '… Is detrimental to the development of alternative local mechanisms and, importantly, to "...the empowerment of individual police officers to practice community policing as part of their day-to-day responsibilities" (South Africa Department of Safety and Security, quoted in Pelser 1999, his emphasis). Examples from countries such as South Africa, Mozambique, Mexico, Brazil and Uganda show that activities under community policing are confined to specific department rather than mainstreamed into the operations of the police(Frühling 2007; Mottiar and White 2003; Muller 2010). Such piecemeal implementation of community policing has led a number of studies to conclude that community policing programs should be interpreted as symbolic gestures rather than serious commitments to reforming the way police deliver services (Mottiar and White, 2003; Muller 2010).

**Conceptual Framework**

This conceptual framework shows the relationship between the independent variables- community policing attributed by police and community partnership in provision of information and sharing security risks and depended variable of enhanced security characterized by reduced crime, reduced fear of police and increased investment.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework Factors Affecting the Effectiveness of Community Policing as a Crime Prevention Strategy

Security information
- Credible sources
- Improved security

Transparency
- Reduction of conflicts

Trust
- Cooperation among stakeholders

Integrity
- Transparency
- Clear leadership

Effectiveness of Community Policing
-Reduced Crime
-Increase in Crime Detection
-Increased Cooperation among Security Stakeholder

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**Research Design**

The study adopted a descriptive research design because it assessed the nature of prevailing conditions. It involved the collection of data in order to answer research questions (Orodho, 2003).

**Target Population**

This refers to the total population that was targeted for the study. The study targeted members of community policing, police officers, and National Government Administrators in the three

administrative divisions of in Kisii Central Sub County. That is, Keumbu, Kiogoro and Mosocho as shown in table 1

Table 1: Target Population

| Division | Population |
|----------|-----------|
| Mosocho | 80 |
| Kiogoro | 70 |
| Keumbu | 50 |
| Total | 200 |

Source: County Commissioners' office, Kisii County (2015)

## Sampling Design and Sample size

The study sampled 60 respondents representing 30% of the target population for the purpose of this study. This is because the greater the sample size, the smaller the sampling error and the more representative the sample becomes (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003) a sample of 30% is representative.

Table 2: Sample Size Design

| Division | Sample |
|----------|--------|
| Mosocho | 24 |
| Kiogoro | 24 |
| Keumbu | 15 |
| Total | 60 |

The study used stratified random sampling techniques whereby the respondents were stratified into three strata according to the geographical divisions in Kisii Central Sub County and respondents picked purposively using the duty register. Stratified sampling technique was preferred because of giving more detailed and reliable results from each stratum to ensure that every respondent has an equal chance of participating in the study.

## Data Collection Tools and Procedure

Questionnaires were used to collect primary data from respondents. The questionnaires were both closed and open-ended. The questionnaires were hand delivered to the respondents and picked after two weeks. This was appropriate because it gave the respondents enough time to fill the questionnaires. However, the researcher made clarification in case of unclear issues. The questionnaires were administered using drop and pick later methods. A period of 2 weeks was given for response and an extra week for late respondents.

**Data Processing and Analysis**

The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. The mean scores, frequency distribution, percentiles, the standard deviations and percentages were used to show the extent to which the respondents agreed or disagreed with the statements in the questionnaire. Results were summarized and presented in tables and charts.

**EMPIRICAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Descriptive statistics was used to discuss the findings of the study. The study targeted a sample size of 60 respondents from which all the 60 respondents filled and retuned the questionnaires making a response rate of 100%. This response rate was satisfactory to make conclusions for the study as Cooper and Schneider (2003), states that a response rate of between 30 to 80 % of the total sample size can be used to represent the opinion of the entire population.

**The Effect of Transparency on Community Policing**

Table 3: Respondents on the Effects of Transparency in Community Policing

| Module | Strongly Disagree | disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly Agree | ∑f | ∑fx | ∑fx/∑f |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | |
| Improved information gathering | 5 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 15 | 60 | 215 | 3.58 |
| increased morale of community policy members | 8 | 0 | 5 | 22 | 25 | 60 | 236 | 3.93 |
| Better communication | 20 | 0 | 5 | 20 | 15 | 60 | 190 | 3.16 |
| Improved security | 20 | 5 | 8 | 23 | 4 | 60 | 166 | 2.76 |
| Reduced conflicts/disagreements | 5 | 20 | 5 | 20 | 10 | 60 | 190 | 3.16 |

The study sought to find out the effect of transparency on community policing as a strategy in crime prevention and the results are presented in table 3 below. The results in Table 3 indicate that transparency effect community policing strategy by increased morale of community policy members score was 3.93. The respondents also observed that trust improve information gathering in the community policing indicated by 3.58, however, the respondents were torn between trust contributing to better communication or reduce conflicts/ disagreement in community policing member's 3.16 each. The ideal community policing is where the police and the community are working together in harmony (Marks, et al., 2009) This tension and ambiguity

fuels the debate, which though inconclusive appears sceptical about the community policing capacity and room to influence policing goals.

**Effect of Trust on Community Policing in Enhancing Security**

Table 4: The Effect of Trust on Community Policing in Enhancing Security

| Variables | Strongly disagree 1 | Disagree 2 | Neutral 3 | Agree 4 | Strongly agree 5 | ∑f | ∑fx | ∑fx/∑f |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Increased cooperation among stakeholders** | 5 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 15 | 60 | 215 | 3.58 |
| **increased community members satisfaction** | 3 | 0 | 10 | 22 | 25 | 60 | 246 | 4.10 |
| **Reduce betrayal to criminals** | 0 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 60 | 235 | 3.91 |
| **Improve communication** | 10 | 5 | 20 | 5 | 20 | 60 | 200 | 3.33 |
| **Contribute to harmonious coexistence** | 5 | 20 | 10 | 5 | 20 | 60 | 195 | 3.25 |

The study sought to establish the effect of trust on community policing in enhancing improved security and the results are as shown in the table 4 which  indicates the response on the effect of trust on community policing in enhancing improved security 4.10 observe that it will lead to increased community members satisfaction, 3.91 observe that it reduces betrayal to criminals, 3.58 Increased cooperation among stakeholders 3.33 indicate that it improves   communication while trust contribute to harmonious coexistence is indicated by the mean score of 3.25. This implies that the trust promotes community policing member's satisfaction. One of the other main stumbling blocks to establishing partnerships are police fears of a loss of autonomy and the implied association of community policing personnel with private. Allied to this approach was the break with the narrow interpretation that crime prevention was the sole preserve and responsibility of the (public/state) police. The structure of the police organization also influences the level and quality of decentralization, which is fundamental to enhance working relations between the police and citizens (Davis et al., 2003). Pelser (1999) discusses the significance of decentralization as critical in unleashing the creative potential of officers at the local level.

Adopting community policing doesn't seem to have led to more delegation of actual management authority to the local level operational commands, which does curtail their capacity to creatively respond to the needs and priorities of the community.

**The Effect of Integrity on Community Policing Strategy**

Table 5: Showing the Effect of Integrity on Community Policing Strategy

| | Strongly disagree 1 | Disagree 2 | Neutral 3 | Agree 4 | Strongly agree 5 | $\sum f_i$ | $\sum f_i w_i$ | $\dfrac{\sum f_i w_i}{\sum f_i}$ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Promotes transparency** | 4 | 5 | 8 | 18 | 25 | 60 | 235 | 3.91 |
| **Promotes clear leadership** | 5 | 4 | 22 | 11 | 18 | 60 | 257 | 4.28 |
| **Promotes information gathering** | 13 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 23 | 60 | 204 | 3.40 |
| **Increases trust** | 5 | 40 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 60 | 145 | 2.41 |
| **Reduces Corruption** | 8 | 5 | 20 | 13 | 14 | 60 | 200 | 3.33 |
| **Increases professionalism** | 4 | 9 | 18 | 15 | 14 | 60 | 206 | 3.43 |
| **Increases observance of law** | 15 | 25 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 60 | 140 | 2.33 |

The study sought to determine the effect of integrity on community policing strategy in Kisii Central Sub County.  Table 5 indicates the response obtained from the respondents.

The results in Table 5 indicate the effect of integrity on community policing strategy in Kisii Central Sub County and the respondents indicated that integrity Promotes transparency is indicated 3.91, integrity Promotes clear leadership was indicated by 4.28. The respondents indicated that integrity Promotes information gathering with a score of 3.40, Increases trust  with 2.41, Reduces Corruption had 3.33, Increases  professionalism information 3.43 and advice from friends had 2.25, independents research had 2.23, Information and Increases observance of law with 2.33. This implies that the respondents indicated that integrity promotes clear leadership in community policing strategy in Kisii Central Sub County. Furthermore because community policing is accountable to those who pay many questioned whether it could be trusted to be impartial (Isima, 2007). There is a strong view among the police that certain tasks should not be delivered by community policing, specifically policing public space where there is the potential for conflict. There are a number of reasons for this, and many related to those

already mentioned; the lack of accountability of the community policing members to the public, the potential for inequity of service, and the lack of credibility of community policing that could rub off on the police. However attempting to determine which police tasks are core, whether they need to be delivered by sworn police officers or other police staff and how police work can best be organized remains a challenge. Although some progress has been made in this area, there is a need for greater clarity.

**The Perceptions of Residents on the Contribution of Community Policing Strategy in Enhancing Security**

Table 6: The Perceptions of Residents on the Contribution of Community
Policing Strategy in Enhancing Security

| Variables | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Moderate | Agree | Strongly agree | ∑f | ∑fx | ∑fx/∑f |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | |
| **Bringing police forces closer to the people** | 20 | 5 | 10 | 20 | 5 | 60 | 165 | 2.75 |
| **increased satisfaction with police services** | 0 | 20 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 60 | 200 | 3.33 |
| **contribute to fear reduction** | 5 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 30 | 60 | 215 | 3.58 |
| **identify local problems and concerns** | 10 | 25 | 0 | 10 | 15 | 60 | 175 | 2.91 |
| **developing the capacity of both officers and community** | 25 | 20 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 110 | 1.83 |
| **the development of problem solving techniques** | 30 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 0 | 60 | 130 | 2.16 |

The study sought to establish the perceptions of residents on the contribution of community policing strategy in enhancing security in Kisii Central Sub County as shown in the table below.

Table 6, indicates that the respondents on the  perceptions of residents on the contribution of community policing strategy in enhancing security in Kisii Central Sub County, 2.75 mean was indicated as Bringing police forces closer to the people 3.33 indicated it

increased satisfaction with police services, 3.58 indicate that it contribute to fear reduction, 2.91 identify local problems and concerns. They further indicated developing that it leads to capacity of both officers and community indicated by 1.83, the development of problem solving techniques with a mean score of 2.16. This implies that respondents perceive the community policing reduces fear among the community policing members. The ideal community policing is where the police and the community are working together in harmony. This perspective seems prevalent in much of the literature, where the dynamics of relations in these forums are not the focus of analysis; however, examples from practice, suggest that this is far from the practice. Mottiar and White observe that the relationship between the police and the community in the community policing is characterized by tensions over the extent to which the community should be allowed into 'police affairs'. The police want community policing to be restricted from 'intruding into the discretionary domain of the police' while the community demands more involvement in decisions such as choosing police personnel (2003). There is thus a 'tension and ambiguity' between the language of partnership as used by the police and 'their desire to maintain their established monopoly of the policing enterprise' (Marks, et al., 2009).

## Factors Affecting the Implementation of Community Policing Strategy

Table 7: Factors Affecting the Implementation of Community Policing Strategy

| Features | Very Little 1 | Little 2 | Moderate 3 | Large 4 | Very Large 5 | ∑f | ∑fx | ∑fx/∑f |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lack of transparency | 30 | 10 | 25 | 5 | 0 | 60 | 145 | 2.41 |
| Lack of clear leadership | 20 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 60 | 145 | 2.41 |
| Misuse of information | 30 | 20 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 60 | 106 | 1.76 |
| Mistrust | 20 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 100 | 1.66 |
| Local politics | 0 | 20 | 16 | 4 | 20 | 60 | 204 | 3.40 |
| Corruption | 20 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 60 | 190 | 3.16 |
| Lack of funds | 15 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 60 | 120 | 2.00 |
| Lack of professionalism | 20 | 30 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 60 | 185 | 3.08 |
| Minimal technology | 25 | 20 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 60 | 110 | 1.83 |
| Lack harmony | 20 | 30 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 60 | 120 | 2.00 |
| Low observance of law | 15 | 5 | 25 | 0 | 15 | 60 | 160 | 2.66 |

The study sought to establish the factors affecting the implementation of community policing strategy in Kisii Central Sub County as shown in the table below.

Table 6, indicates that Lack of transparency 2.41, Lack of clear leadership 2.41 Misuse of information 1.76 Mistrust 1.66. The respondents indicated that Local politics 3.40 Corruption by the mean score of 3.16 and Lack of funds 2.00 respectively. Lack of professionalism 3.08, they strongly disagreed Minimal technology with mean score of 1.83, Lack harmony 2.00, Low observance of law 2.66. This implies that community policing members are challenged most by corruption. The human, material, and organizational resources requirements and it implications for the extent to which community policing can be realistically implemented has been highlighted as another critical factor. For many authors, developing countries cannot realistically implement community policing because of the difficulty in mobilizing resources necessary for its implementation. To transform the police requires huge resources to meet the demands for on-going training, provision of equipment and technology, improving salaries for police officers, cost of supporting community policing forums activities, monitoring and evaluation among others, which resource constrained countries are unable to meet (Frühling 2007).

## SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

The respondents indicated that they were aware security information affects community policing as indicated by 35 respondents represented by 58.33 % while 25 respondents (41.67%) indicated that they were not aware security information affect community policing. This implies that the respondents were aware that security information is important for community policing to be effective as a strategy in crime control and prevention. This concurs with Lernihan (2008).The security information hampers the operation of community policing, lack of direct leadership from any of the official authorities on how community policing should be engaged is a lament from police and some call for greater direction from central government.

The source of the security information shows that 36 (60% ) of respondents get security information through news and intelligence gathering and  11 (18.33%)  get security  information from the police authorities while 13 (21.67% ) get security information from the community members who volunteer. From the study this implies that respondents rely majorly on news and intelligence gathering to get security information which is critical in the implementation of community policing strategy

The study established that transparency affects community policing strategy by increased morale of community policy members score was 3.93. The respondents also observed that trust improve information gathering in the community policing indicated by 3.58, however, the respondents were torn between trust contributing to better communication or

reduce conflicts/ disagreement in community policing members 3.16 each. The respondents also indicated that trust improved security as indicated by 2.76. This implies that transparency lead to increased morale of the community members. The ideal community policing is where the police and the community are working together in harmony  (Marks, et al., 2009) This tension and ambiguity fuels the debate, which though inconclusive appears sceptical about the community policing capacity and room to influence policing goals.

We observe that it will lead to increased community members satisfaction, 3.91 observe that it reduces betrayal to criminals, 3.58 Increased cooperation among stakeholders 3.33 indicate that it improves communication while trust contribute to harmonious coexistence is indicated by the mean score of 3.25. This implies that the trust promotes community policing member's satisfaction. One of the other main stumbling blocks to establishing partnerships are police fears of a loss of autonomy and the implied association of community policing personnel with private. Allied to this approach was the break with the narrow interpretation that crime prevention was the sole preserve and responsibility of the (public/state) police. The structure of the police organization also influences the level and quality of decentralization, which is fundamental to enhance working relations between the police and citizens (Davis et al., 2003).

The respondents of this study indicated that integrity Promotes transparency is indicated 3.91, integrity Promotes clear leadership was indicated by 4.28. The respondents indicated that integrity Promotes information gathering with a score of 3.40, Increases trust  with 2.41, Reduces Corruption had 3.33, Increases  professionalism information 3.43 and advice from friends had 2.25, independents research had 2.23, Information and Increases observance of law with 2.33. This implies that the respondents indicated that integrity promotes clear leadership in community policing strategy in Kisii Central Sub County. Furthermore because community policing is accountable to those who pay many questioned whether it could be trusted to be impartial (Isima, 2007).

## CONCLUSION

The study concludes that security information contributes greatly to community policing success. The source of this information should be credible since it is critical to the crime prevention. The study further concludes that transparency improves information gathering, boosts morale of community policing members, reduces disagreements, thereby leading to better communication and improved security.

Through the findings of this study, the researcher concludes that where trust exists, there is cooperation by stakeholders, improved communication and minimal cases of betrayal to criminals. This fosters community policing in crime prevention hence ensuring security.

This study concludes that integrity promotes transparency, clear leadership and improves professionalism. All these contribute towards the success of community policing strategy in prevention of crime.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends establishment of clear and credible means of gathering and disseminating security information, and management of proper channels of communication between the security organs and members of community policing

The study recommends the need to foster transparency and accountability among security officers and members of community policing.

The study recommends ensuring trustworthiness of community policing members by vetting them when they are voted in and also taking them through necessary training.

The study recommends for initial and further regular trainings and meetings of community policing members. This will ensure that there will be competent community policing members.

In addition the Kisii central sub country security committee should address the challenges the community policing members are facing by availing the necessary equipment.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

This study focused on the Factors affecting community policing as a crime prevention strategy in Kisii Central Sub County, Kenya. Further research should be carried out to find out the effectiveness of community policing strategy in crime management. Future research should consider a similar study in other regions in Kenya.

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