Available on: https://jefrr.ep-journals.org/ E-ISSN: 3051-3650, P-ISSN: 3051-3642

Journal of Economic Finance Research and Review

Volume: 02 Issue: 10 October 2026

Relationship Between Community Policing Participation and Crime Reduction Among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State

Oluwaseun Segun Adejuwon
Department of Management Technology, Lagos State University (LASU), Lagos State, Nigeria.

Jatau Seikhan Nathan
Department of Social Studies/Criminology and Sociology of Law, College of Education, Zing, Taraba State, Nigeria.

Dr. Ajagun Olusegun Peter
Department of Accounting, Faculty of Management Sciences, Lagos State University, Ojo, Adebisi Gbenga Adejuwon

Adebisi Gbenga Adejuwon
Department of Economics, Lagos State University (LASU), Lagos State, Nigeria.

Published Date: October 28, 2026 **Article DOI: 10.65150/EP-jefrr/V2E10/2026-04**

ABSTRACT: This study examined the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State. Employing a descriptive survey research design, data were collected from 384 respondents using a structured five-point Likert scale questionnaire. Descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, mean) were utilized for data analysis, while Pearson Product-Moment Correlation tested the hypothesis at a 0.05 significance level. Findings revealed a strong, positive, and statistically significant relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction ($r = 0.868$, $p = 0.003$, $N = 384$). Key crime-prevention strategies identified included community education, training, technology utilization, social media information sharing, and institutional collaboration. Conversely, ineffective communication, limited awareness, mutual distrust, low cooperation, and resource deficits constrained public participation. The study concludes that active civic involvement is vital for effective community-based security. It recommends that the LNSC and relevant stakeholders enhance community engagement, foster public trust, improve communication frameworks, and provide adequate logistical and technological support for localized security operations.

KEYWORDS: Community policing, community participation, crime reduction, Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps, Ikorodu, community security.

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Crime is a pervasive global phenomenon that severely threatens public safety, social stability, and sustainable development, with ramifications extending well beyond immediate victims to impact entire communities and institutions. Addressing this challenge aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 16), which highlight the necessity of peaceful societies, strong institutions, and access to justice.

Traditionally, maintaining law and order was viewed as the sole domain of formal law enforcement. However, the rising complexity of modern crime—coupled with the operational limitations of conventional policing—has driven a paradigm shift toward collaborative security models. Central to this evolution is community policing, an approach emphasizing partnership, open communication, and joint problem-solving between security agencies and the public.

Emerging prominently in the United States during the 1970s, community policing reframes citizens from passive recipients of police services into active partners in public safety (Wong, 2019). Globally, governments have increasingly integrated community participation into their national security strategies (Kasali & Odetola, 2016). This shift leverages local intelligence: because residents possess localized knowledge of their environments, they are uniquely positioned to identify suspicious activities and emerging threats early. As defined by the U.S. Community Policing Consortium, community policing operationalizes this dynamic by coupling traditional law enforcement with proactive problem-solving, stakeholder engagement, and partnership-building to enhance overall quality of life (U.S. Department of Justice, 2008; Ratcliffe & Makkai, 2020).

In alignment with global trends, Nigeria has progressively shifted from conventional, reactive policing toward community-oriented strategies. The Nigeria Police Force formally adopted community policing as a framework for institutional reform and public relation enhancement, driven by escalating domestic security challenges (Okiro, 2017; Odekunle, 2021). However, the implementation of this model remains constrained by persistent systemic vulnerabilities, including corruption, delayed justice, institutional impartiality, and deep-seated public mistrust (Rotimi, 2021).

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Furthermore, formal security agencies face acute operational hurdles—notably underfunding, personnel deficits, inadequate training, and logistical shortages (Odekunte, 2020). Consequently, active citizen participation has become indispensable to bridging these institutional gaps.

Community participation manifests through diverse channels, including intelligence sharing, neighborhood watch meetings, local security initiatives, and collaborative conflict resolution. Scholars and criminal justice practitioners emphasize that co-producing safety fosters mutual trust and reframes crime as a shared societal challenge requiring collective solutions (Hills, 2018; Hills, 2019). Despite these theoretical benefits, the execution of community policing across Sub-Saharan Africa often falters due to a limited alignment with local socio-cultural dynamics, weak institutional frameworks, and mutual suspicion between citizens and law enforcement officers (Hills, 2019).

At the localized level, state-level interventions like the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) exemplify community-oriented security management. By leveraging proximity to residents, the LNSC enhances intelligence gathering and neighborhood monitoring. This dynamic is particularly vital in rapidly growing commercial hubs like Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs). In these areas, community engagement spans public awareness campaigns, social media reporting, surveillance, and stakeholder collaboration. Nonetheless, factors such as poor communication, limited public awareness, resource deficits, and weak oversight continue to hinder optimal public engagement (CLEEN Foundation, 2013).

Statement of the Problem While community policing theoretically strengthens local security, its empirical impact on actual crime reduction remains disputed, particularly within grass-roots state apparatuses like the LNSC. Therefore, this study empirically examines the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction within Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State. Specifically, it assesses the crime-prevention strategies deployed by local communities and analyzes the operational challenges restricting public participation in local security governance.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Crime remains a major security concern in many Nigerian communities despite continuous efforts by government and formal security agencies to prevent and control criminal activities. The persistence of both violent and property-related crimes raises fundamental questions regarding the effectiveness of conventional crime prevention strategies and the efficiency of state security resource utilization.

The police and other formal security institutions have traditionally maintained primary responsibility for crime control. However, their effectiveness is severely constrained by inadequate funding, personnel deficits, corruption, poor welfare, limited training, and restricted access to modern crime-fighting equipment (Abdulkadir, 2021; Musa, 2019; Odekunte, 2020). These operational deficits impede the ability of formal security agencies to independently detect, prevent, and respond to criminal activities across diverse neighborhoods.

This problem is further compounded by public reluctance to cooperate with law enforcement personnel. A lack of trust in security agencies, combined with fear of victimization or reprisal, often prevents residents from reporting suspicious activities or volunteering actionable intelligence. This breakdown in communication creates a critical information gap that weakens overall crime prevention efforts.

Consequently, community participation has emerged as a crucial complement to conventional policing. Through proactive involvement, residents can supply vital intelligence, support neighborhood watch initiatives, and collaborate with security agencies to resolve localized security issues. As Hills (2018, 2019) emphasized, building robust police-community partnerships establishes crime and social disorder as shared societal responsibilities requiring collective action.

Despite these theoretical benefits, the implementation of community policing in Nigeria has encountered substantial obstacles, including a poor understanding of community policing principles, weak institutional frameworks, communication breakdowns, and enduring public mistrust. Consequently, establishing community-oriented security structures does not automatically ensure active civic participation or guaranteed crime reduction.

In Lagos State, the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) was established as a localized security mechanism to complement formal policing efforts. Nevertheless, the extent to which community members actively participate in LNSC-led safety initiatives—and whether such participation yields actual crime reduction—remains an open empirical question, particularly in socio-economically growing hubs like Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central.

Therefore, the primary problem of this study is the need to empirically examine the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State. Additionally, the study investigates the specific crime-fighting strategies adopted by local communities and analyzes the key challenges restricting effective public participation.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Examine the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State;
2. identify the strategies used by the community in combating crime in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State; and
3. examine the challenges of community policing participation in crime reduction and control in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

1. Is there a significant relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State?
2. What are the strategies used by the community in combating crime in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State?

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

3. What are the challenges of community policing participation in crime reduction and control in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State?

1.5 Research Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis will be tested at 0.05 level of significance:

H_o: There is no significant relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to be useful to the Lagos State Government, Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps, security agencies, community members, policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders interested in crime prevention and community security.

For the Lagos State Government, the findings may provide useful empirical information for strengthening community-oriented security policies and improving collaboration between residents and security institutions.

For the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps, the study may provide insight into the extent to which community participation contributes to crime reduction. The findings may also assist the Corps in identifying areas requiring improved communication, community engagement and partnership.

For community members, the study may increase awareness of their role in crime prevention and encourage responsible participation in activities aimed at improving safety within their neighbourhoods.

For security agencies, the findings may demonstrate the importance of developing stronger relationships with residents and creating channels through which relevant security information can be obtained and acted upon.

For policy makers, the study may provide empirical evidence useful for developing policies and programmes that encourage community participation and strengthen community-based crime-prevention mechanisms.

Finally, the study may serve as a useful reference for researchers and students undertaking studies relating to community policing, community participation, crime prevention and crime reduction.

1.7 Scope of the Study

The study focuses on the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

The geographical scope of the study is limited to Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central. The study examines community policing participation in relation to crime reduction. It also considers the strategies used by community members in combating crime and the challenges associated with community participation in crime reduction and control.

The study does not cover all communities in Lagos State or all security agencies operating within the State. Its focus is restricted to the selected areas and the community-based security context associated with the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps.

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Concept of Community Policing

Community policing is an approach to policing that emphasises partnership, cooperation, communication and joint problem-solving between law enforcement agencies and members of the community. It represents a shift from the traditional perception that crime prevention and maintenance of public order are exclusively the responsibilities of the police and other formal security institutions.

The concept of community policing developed partly from the recognition that law enforcement agencies cannot effectively identify and respond to all security problems without the cooperation of members of the communities they serve. Community members possess local knowledge concerning their environment and may therefore provide useful information about suspicious activities, emerging conflicts, criminal networks and other security threats.

In Nigeria, the adoption of community policing reflects the need to strengthen relationships between security agencies and members of the public. Okiro (2017) identified community policing as an important component of police reform and improved police-community relations. The Nigerian experience demonstrates that community policing is particularly relevant in an environment where formal security agencies face limitations in personnel, resources, information and operational capacity.

Recent Nigerian literature continues to support the importance of community policing. Fomnya, Umar and Amshi (2024) described community policing as a concerted effort between the police and members of host communities aimed at reducing crime and criminal activities. Their study in Yola North Local Government Area demonstrated the continuing relevance of community policing as a crime-reduction strategy in Nigeria.

Therefore, community policing within the context of this study refers to an approach through which LNSC personnel and members of the communities in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central cooperate in identifying security problems, sharing relevant information, preventing criminal activities and promoting neighbourhood safety.

2.1.2 Concept of Community Participation

Community participation refers to the involvement of members of a community in activities, decisions and processes that affect their collective wellbeing. It implies that members of the public are not merely recipients of government or security services but are active participants in addressing issues affecting their communities.

Arnstein (1969), in the classic discussion of citizen participation, conceptualised participation as a continuum through which citizens may move from limited involvement to more meaningful forms of participation and influence. Although the framework was originally developed in relation to citizen participation in planning, its central principle is applicable to community security because effective participation requires more than simply informing residents about security decisions.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

In crime prevention, community participation may take several forms. These include reporting criminal activities, providing information to security agencies, attending security meetings, participating in neighbourhood security initiatives, supporting public awareness programmes, assisting in conflict resolution and cooperating with law enforcement personnel.

Participation can also promote collective responsibility. When community members perceive crime prevention as a shared responsibility rather than the exclusive responsibility of security agencies, they may become more willing to support crime-prevention activities.

However, participation must be meaningful and responsible. Community participation should complement the work of formal security agencies rather than encourage residents to take the law into their own hands. The appropriate role of community members is to provide information, cooperate with security agencies, support lawful preventive activities and contribute to problem-solving.

2.1.3 Concept of Community Policing Participation

Community policing participation is the active involvement of community members in activities associated with community-oriented policing and crime prevention. It represents the practical expression of the partnership between security agencies and residents.

Community policing participation may include reporting crimes and suspicious activities, providing information to security personnel, attending community-security meetings, supporting neighbourhood surveillance, participating in security awareness programmes, cooperating with investigations and communicating security concerns to LNSC personnel and other security agencies.

The concept is closely connected with trust. Where residents believe that security personnel are responsive, respectful and capable of acting on information supplied to them, they may be more willing to participate. Conversely, poor relationships, fear, mistrust or previous negative experiences may discourage participation.

In the present study, community policing participation refers specifically to the extent to which residents and community stakeholders in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central cooperate with LNSC and other security personnel in crime prevention and community safety activities.

2.1.4 Concept of Crime Prevention

Crime prevention refers to measures designed to prevent criminal behaviour from occurring or to reduce the opportunities available for criminal activities. It involves actions directed at potential offenders, potential victims, physical environments and social conditions associated with crime.

Crime prevention is broader than the arrest and prosecution of offenders. It includes activities such as public awareness, environmental security, surveillance, information sharing, community engagement, conflict resolution and cooperation between security agencies and community members.

Community participation can contribute to crime prevention because residents can provide information about criminal activities and suspicious behaviour. They can also assist in identifying areas where crime is likely to occur and communicate security concerns to relevant authorities.

Community policing therefore places considerable emphasis on prevention rather than relying exclusively on reactive policing. This is important because preventing crime before it occurs can reduce the human, social and economic costs associated with criminal activities.

Recent Nigerian evidence supports this position. Fomnya et al. (2024) examined community policing as a strategy for crime reduction in Yola North and reinforced the view that cooperation between the police and host communities is central to reducing criminal activities.

2.1.5 Concept of Crime Reduction

Crime reduction refers to efforts aimed at reducing the occurrence, frequency, severity and impact of criminal activities within a particular geographical area. It does not necessarily imply the complete elimination of crime. Rather, it focuses on achieving measurable improvements in community safety and reducing opportunities for criminal behaviour.

Crime reduction may involve police patrols, community surveillance, public awareness, information sharing, environmental security, social intervention, conflict management and cooperation between security agencies and residents.

Similarly, Nkwede, Nwokwu and Nwoba (2024) found that community policing significantly contributed to reducing armed robbery attacks and promoting protection of lives and property in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

These findings suggest that community participation and community-oriented security arrangements may contribute to crime reduction, although the effectiveness of such arrangements may differ across locations.

2.1.6 Relationship Between Community Policing Participation and Crime Reduction

The relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction can be explained through several mechanisms.

First, community participation can improve **information gathering**. Residents may provide information about suspicious persons, criminal activities, conflicts and other security threats.

Second, participation can improve **community surveillance**. Residents who are actively involved in community security may become more attentive to unusual activities within their neighbourhood.

Third, participation can strengthen **trust and communication** between security agencies and residents. Improved communication may facilitate faster reporting and response to security incidents.

Fourth, community participation can promote **collective efficacy and informal social control**. Communities in which residents cooperate and maintain social relationships may have greater capacity to discourage behaviour that threatens community safety.

Fifth, community participation can support **problem-solving**. Residents and security personnel can jointly identify recurring problems and develop responses that are appropriate to local conditions.

The relationship, however, is not necessarily automatic. The mere existence of a community-policing programme does not guarantee effective crime reduction. The quality of participation, level of trust, availability of resources, training, communication and institutional commitment may determine the effectiveness of community policing.

This is supported by Oluwalogbon (2024), who found that the LNSC's community-focused approach was associated with a perceived reduction in crime and that collaboration with other law enforcement agencies supported a coordinated approach to crime control. However, inadequate training, limited public awareness and funding constraints were identified as challenges affecting the effectiveness of the Corps.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

2.1.7 Strategies Used by Communities in Combating Crime

Communities employ different strategies to support crime prevention and reduction. The strategies relevant to the present study include education and awareness programmes, training, information sharing, use of technology and collaboration with security agencies.

Educational and Awareness Programmes

Public education and awareness programmes can improve residents' knowledge of crime-prevention practices and encourage them to report criminal activities. Awareness programmes may also explain the roles and responsibilities of community members and security agencies.

Crime-prevention awareness can be particularly useful in communities where residents may be unaware of appropriate reporting channels or may fear becoming involved in security matters.

Training and Capacity Building

Training can provide community members with knowledge about crime prevention, emergency response, communication, observation and responsible information sharing.

Training is also important for security personnel because community-oriented policing requires interpersonal, communication and problem-solving skills in addition to conventional security skills.

Information Sharing

Information sharing is one of the most important components of community policing. Community members may possess information about criminal activities that is not immediately available to security agencies.

Effective information sharing requires trust and confidentiality. Residents are more likely to provide information when they believe that their identities and information will be handled responsibly.

Use of Technology

Technology can support community security through surveillance cameras, mobile communication platforms, emergency reporting systems and other digital tools.

Technology can improve the speed of communication between residents and security personnel. However, technological tools are most effective when supported by trained personnel, adequate infrastructure and appropriate response mechanisms.

Social Media Platforms

Social media platforms can facilitate rapid communication among residents and security personnel. Community groups may use digital platforms to disseminate security alerts, report incidents and share relevant information.

However, information circulated through social media should be verified because false information can create unnecessary fear, conflict or misinformation.

Collaboration with Security Agencies

Collaboration between residents and security agencies is central to community policing. It involves joint identification of problems, information sharing, community meetings, neighbourhood surveillance and coordinated responses to security threats.

The LNSC model is particularly relevant because its community-oriented role is intended to complement formal security agencies. Research on LNSC has highlighted collaboration with other law enforcement agencies as an important element of its crime-reduction approach.

2.1.8 Benefits of Community Policing Participation

Community policing participation provides several potential benefits to crime prevention and community safety.

One major benefit is **improved information gathering**. Community members can provide information that assists security personnel in identifying criminal activities.

Another benefit is **early identification of security threats**. Residents are often present within their communities and may identify emerging problems before they become serious security incidents.

Community participation can also improve **trust and police-community relations**. Regular communication and cooperation can reduce misunderstanding between residents and security agencies.

Participation promotes **shared responsibility** for community safety. It encourages residents to regard crime prevention as a collective responsibility rather than an issue that should be left entirely to formal security agencies.

Community participation can also strengthen **informal social control**. Residents who maintain positive social relationships and collective responsibility may be better positioned to discourage activities that threaten community safety.

Furthermore, community participation can help security agencies use their resources more effectively because local residents provide information and knowledge about the community.

2.1.9 Challenges of Community Policing Participation

Despite its potential benefits, community policing participation may be affected by several challenges.

Lack of Trust

Lack of trust between residents and security agencies can discourage community members from providing information or participating in security programmes.

Poor Communication

Poor communication may result in delayed reporting, misunderstanding of security initiatives and inadequate coordination between residents and security personnel.

Inadequate Public Awareness

Where residents are not sufficiently informed about community policing programmes, they may not understand how they can participate or the benefits of such participation.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Inadequate Resources

Community policing requires adequate personnel, training, transportation, communication facilities and security equipment. Resource constraints may therefore reduce operational effectiveness.

Limited Training

Inadequate training may limit the capacity of security personnel and community participants to respond appropriately to security situations.

Limited Cooperation

Differences among community groups, leadership structures and individual interests can sometimes make collective security action difficult.

Fear of Retaliation

Residents may be reluctant to provide information about criminals because of fear of retaliation or victimisation.

Institutional Constraints

Community policing requires institutional commitment and appropriate organisational structures. Where security agencies remain heavily dependent on traditional enforcement methods, the partnership component of community policing may be weakened.

Recent evidence on LNSC supports the importance of these issues. Oluwalogbon (2024) identified inadequate training, public unawareness and funding constraints as challenges affecting LNSC's effectiveness in Lagos Metropolis.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework provides the basis for explaining why community policing participation may be related to crime reduction. Three perspectives are considered relevant to the study: Gap Theory, Community-Driven Development Perspective and Skill Acquisition Perspective.

2.2.1 Gap Theory

Gap Theory, as applied to police-community relations, focuses on the relationship and possible distance between security institutions and members of the public. The central idea is that a gap may develop where there is inadequate communication, mistrust, poor treatment, hostility or limited cooperation between security agencies and communities.

Thompson (2006) emphasised the importance of police-public interactions in shaping public perceptions of the police. Where members of the public perceive security personnel negatively, they may be reluctant to cooperate or provide information.

Alemika and Chukwuma (2005) similarly highlighted the importance of police-community interaction in shaping public attitudes towards the police. Positive and regular interactions may improve public confidence and willingness to cooperate, while negative experiences may increase distrust.

The theory is relevant to the present study because community policing participation requires effective relationships between residents and security personnel. If the gap between the community and LNSC personnel is reduced through communication, trust and cooperation, residents may become more willing to participate in crime-prevention activities.

The theory therefore provides an explanation for the expected relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction.

2.2.2 Community-Driven Development Perspective

The Community-Driven Development perspective emphasises the involvement of local people in identifying problems, determining priorities and participating in solutions affecting their communities.

The perspective assumes that community members possess local knowledge and resources that can contribute to solving problems. Participation is therefore considered important for achieving sustainable local outcomes.

Applied to community security, the perspective suggests that residents should participate in identifying security problems and supporting appropriate solutions. Residents are not simply recipients of security services; they can become partners in addressing local security concerns.

The perspective is relevant to the present study because residents of Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central possess knowledge of their immediate environment and may contribute to the identification and reporting of security threats.

2.2.3 Skill Acquisition Perspective

The Skill Acquisition Perspective is relevant because effective community policing requires knowledge and skills among both security personnel and community participants.

Community members may require skills in communication, observation, information sharing, conflict management and appropriate reporting of criminal activities. Security personnel similarly require communication, interpersonal and problem-solving skills to engage effectively with communities.

Training and capacity building can therefore improve the quality of participation and enhance the effectiveness of community-oriented security programmes.

This perspective is relevant to the present study because one of the areas examined is the strategies used by communities in combating crime, while training and capacity are also relevant to the challenges affecting participation.

2.2.4 Relevance of the Theories to the Study

The three perspectives provide complementary explanations of community policing participation.

The **Gap Theory** explains the importance of trust, communication and relationships between security personnel and members of the community.

The **Community-Driven Development Perspective** explains the importance of involving local residents in identifying and addressing security problems.

The **Skill Acquisition Perspective** explains the importance of knowledge, training and capacity for effective participation.

Among the three, the **Gap Theory provides the most direct theoretical foundation for the present study** because the principal objective is to examine the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction. The theory provides a basis for understanding how the relationship between security personnel and community members can influence information sharing, cooperation and participation in crime-prevention activities.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

2.3 Empirical Review

2.3.1 Ige and Molade: Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps and Crime Reduction

Ige and Molade examined the influence of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps on crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis. The study adopted a survey approach and administered a 20-item questionnaire to 150 youths in Mainland Local Government Area of Lagos State. Chi-square statistics were used to test the hypotheses at the 0.05 level of significance.

The findings indicated significant relationships between LNSC duties and crime reduction, LNSC performance and crime reduction, and the establishment of LNSC and crime reduction. The study recommended greater diligence among LNSC officials, increased public sensitisation and improved reporting of criminal activities by community members.

The study is relevant to the present research because it provides empirical evidence concerning LNSC and crime reduction in Lagos State. However, it differs from the present study in geographical scope and focus. While Ige and Molade focused on Lagos Metropolis and the duties and performance of LNSC, the present study focuses specifically on the relationship between **community policing participation and crime reduction in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central**.

2.3.2 Ambali and Araba (2020): Community Policing and Human Security in Nigeria

Ambali and Araba (2020) examined community policing and human security in Nigeria using the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps as a case study. The study focused on the capacity of the Neighbourhood Safety Corps to provide security and whether its establishment had contributed to crime reduction and improved human security in Lagos State.

The study is directly relevant to the present research because it focuses on the same security institution. It demonstrates the importance of community policing and LNSC in the provision of neighbourhood security.

However, the study primarily examined LNSC in relation to human security and organisational capacity, whereas the present study focuses specifically on community policing participation and its relationship with crime reduction in two selected areas of Ikorodu.

2.3.3 Oluwalogbon (2024): LNSC and Urban Crime in Lagos Metropolis

Oluwalogbon (2024) examined the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps and urban crime in Lagos Metropolis. The study adopted a qualitative research design and conducted seven key-informant interviews with LNSC officials at the agency's headquarters.

The study found that LNSC's community-focused approach was associated with a perceived reduction in crime, with respondents identifying increased security presence and faster responses to criminal activities. The study also found that collaboration between LNSC and other law enforcement agencies contributed to a coordinated approach to crime control.

However, the study identified inadequate training, limited public awareness and funding constraints as challenges affecting the effectiveness of LNSC. It recommended increased public awareness, improved training and better equipment deployment.

The study is highly relevant to the present research because it focuses specifically on LNSC and crime reduction in Lagos. Nevertheless, its respondents were LNSC officials at the agency's headquarters, whereas the present study examines community policing participation within Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central.

2.3.4 Fomnya, Umar and Amshi (2024): Community Policing as a Strategy for Crime Reduction in Nigeria

Fomnya, Umar and Amshi (2024) examined community policing as a strategy for crime reduction in Yola North Local Government Area of Adamawa State. The study conceptualised community policing as a cooperative effort between the police and members of host communities to reduce crime and criminal activities.

The study contributes to the literature by demonstrating the continued relevance of community policing as a crime-reduction strategy in Nigeria. Its findings provide support for the argument that cooperation between law enforcement agencies and communities is necessary for effective crime prevention.

The study differs from the present study geographically because it was conducted in Adamawa State and focused on the Nigeria Police rather than LNSC. The present study therefore provides additional evidence from Lagos State and a community-based security institution.

2.3.5 Nkwede, Nwokwu and Nwoba (2024): Community Policing and Crime Reduction in Ivo LGA

Nkwede, Nwokwu and Nwoba (2024) investigated community policing and crime reduction in Ivo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. The study examined the extent to which community policing contributed to the reduction of armed robbery and protection of lives and property. The researchers adopted the Community Security Theory of Change and used chi-square statistics to analyse the data.

The findings indicated that community policing significantly contributed to reducing armed robbery attacks and promoting the protection of lives and property. The researchers recommended stronger collaboration between community members and community security structures, as well as prompt reporting of suspicious movements to the police.

The study supports the argument that community participation can contribute to crime reduction. However, the study was conducted in Ebonyi State and focused partly on armed robbery, whereas the present study examines community policing participation and general crime reduction within Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central.

2.3.6 Egbo, Okoli, Adeyemi, Saifullahi and Ilesanmi (2024): Police-Community Relations and Crime Control

Egbo et al. (2024) examined the effectiveness of police-community relations in combating crime in selected communities in Akure South Local Government Area of Ondo State. The study examined how police-community relationships enable residents to provide information about criminal hideouts and other criminal activities, thereby supporting crime detection, prevention and apprehension.

The study is relevant because it demonstrates the importance of communication and cooperation between community members and law enforcement agencies in combating crime.

The study differs from the present research because it focused on police-community relations in Ondo State, while the present study focuses on community policing participation and LNSC in Lagos State.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

2.3.7 Idiong, Okwuchukwu and Babalola (2024): Community Policing in Contemporary Nigeria

Idiong, Okwuchukwu and Babalola (2024) examined the importance of community policing in contemporary Nigeria. The study explored the effectiveness of community policing in crime reduction and the problems faced by the Nigeria Police in implementing community-policing strategies.

The study reported that community members were aware of the importance of community policing but also observed that crime remained a significant challenge even in communities where community-policing approaches existed.

This finding is important because it suggests that the existence of community policing alone may not be sufficient to eliminate crime. The level and quality of community participation, institutional capacity and implementation challenges are also important.

2.3.8 Obah, Nwankwo and Okorie (2026): Community Policing and Crime Reduction in Idemili North

Obah, Nwankwo and Okorie examined community policing and crime reduction in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State. The study adopted a mixed-methods design, using questionnaires and in-depth interviews to examine community policing and crime reduction among adults in the study area. The study further demonstrates the continuing empirical interest in the relationship between community policing and crime reduction in Nigeria.

The study is relevant because it provides more recent evidence from Nigeria. However, the geographical setting and institutional context differ from the present study, thereby reinforcing the need for location-specific research.

2.3.9 Fajemirokun: Evidence-Based Review of Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Nigeria

Fajemirokun reviewed evidence concerning the influence of community policing on crime prevention in Nigeria, drawing on studies conducted in Lagos, Bauchi and Adamawa. The review considered the effectiveness of community policing, its impact on crime, the degree of cooperation between communities and law enforcement agencies, and the challenges affecting community policing.

The review concluded that community policing can contribute to security and crime prevention but that cooperation, resources and implementation challenges remain important factors affecting outcomes.

The study is useful to the present research because it demonstrates that the evidence from different Nigerian locations generally supports community-oriented approaches, while also indicating that contextual conditions influence outcomes.

2.4 Gap in the Literature

The literature reviewed demonstrates considerable scholarly interest in community policing and crime reduction in Nigeria. Previous studies have examined police-community relations, community participation, community policing strategies, LNSC and crime reduction.

However, several gaps remain.

First, many previous studies have focused on **community policing generally** without specifically examining community policing participation as a distinct construct in relation to crime reduction.

Second, some studies have focused on **LNSC generally at the Lagos Metropolis or Lagos State level**. For example, Ige and Molade examined LNSC and crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis, while Oluwalogbon examined LNSC and urban crime through interviews with LNSC officials.

Third, previous studies have been conducted in other Nigerian locations such as Yola North in Adamawa State, Ivo in Ebonyi State, and Akure South in Ondo State. Their findings provide useful evidence but cannot automatically be generalised to Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central because community characteristics, security challenges and institutional relationships may differ across locations.

Fourth, existing studies have not sufficiently addressed the specific question of whether **community policing participation is significantly related to crime reduction among LNSC within Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central**.

Finally, there is a need to identify the **strategies used by community members in combating crime** and the **challenges affecting community policing participation** within the selected communities. These areas are important because participation may be influenced by awareness, communication, trust, training, resources and cooperation.

The present study therefore seeks to fill this contextual and empirical gap by examining the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among LNSC in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted a **descriptive survey research design**. The descriptive survey design is considered appropriate where a researcher seeks to collect information from respondents concerning their opinions, perceptions, experiences and practices relating to a particular phenomenon.

The design was considered appropriate for this study because the researcher sought to obtain information directly from residents of Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central concerning their participation in community policing activities and their perceptions of crime reduction within their communities.

The survey design also provides an appropriate basis for examining the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction without manipulating the variables under investigation. It enables the researcher to obtain standardised responses from a relatively large number of respondents using a structured questionnaire.

The adoption of the descriptive survey design is therefore consistent with the purpose of the study, which is to examine community policing participation and crime reduction within the selected communities.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of the study comprises residents of **Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State**. The study area was selected because of its relevance to the investigation of community policing participation and crime reduction and the role of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps in neighbourhood security.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

The population of the study consists of adult members of the selected communities who are considered capable of providing relevant information concerning community security, interaction with security personnel, crime-prevention activities and perceived changes in crime within their communities.

The selection of residents as the study population is appropriate because community policing places considerable emphasis on the involvement of residents in identifying security concerns, sharing information, reporting suspicious activities and cooperating with security agencies.

3.3 Sample Size of the Study

A sample is a portion of a population selected for the purpose of collecting information that can be used to address the objectives of a study. In the present study, a total of **384 respondents** constituted the sample for the research.

The 384 respondents represent the valid respondents whose completed questionnaires were available for the final analysis presented in Chapter Four. The demographic analysis and inferential analysis in Chapter Four are therefore based on **N = 384** respondents.

The use of 384 respondents provided a sufficiently broad basis for obtaining information from residents across the two selected study areas. The respondents were drawn from Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central in accordance with the scope of the study.

3.4 Sampling Technique

The study adopted a **simple random sampling technique** in selecting respondents from the study population. Simple random sampling provides eligible members of the population with an opportunity of being selected for participation in the study.

The technique was considered appropriate because the study seeks to obtain the views of community residents rather than restricting the respondents to members of a particular organisation or group. It also reduces the possibility of deliberately selecting respondents based on personal preference.

In administering the questionnaire, efforts were made to obtain responses from residents across the selected communities to ensure that the data reflected different community experiences and perceptions concerning community policing participation and crime reduction.

3.5 Research Instrument

The major instrument used for data collection was a **self-structured questionnaire** developed by the researcher. The questionnaire was designed based on the objectives, research questions and hypothesis of the study.

The questionnaire was structured to obtain information concerning community policing participation and crime reduction in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

The questionnaire consists of two major sections:

Section A: This section contains items relating to the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The information obtained includes relevant characteristics such as gender, age, marital status and occupation.

Section B: This section contains statements relating to the major areas covered by the study. It consists of items measuring:

1. Community policing participation and crime reduction;
2. Strategies used by the community in combating crime; and
3. Challenges of community participation in crime reduction and control.

The questionnaire adopted a **five-point Likert scale** to measure the respondents' level of agreement with the statements. The response options and their corresponding numerical values are presented below:

Response Option	Score
Strongly Agree (SA)	5
Agree (A)	4
Undecided (U)	3
Disagree (D)	2
Strongly Disagree (SD)	1

The five-point scale was adopted because it provides respondents with the opportunity to indicate varying degrees of agreement or disagreement with the questionnaire statements, including a neutral or undecided position.

3.6 Validity of the Instrument

Validity refers to the extent to which a research instrument measures the concepts it is intended to measure. For this study, **content validity** was adopted.

The questionnaire was developed directly from the objectives and research questions of the study to ensure that the items adequately covered the subject matter under investigation. The instrument was subjected to review before the main administration.

The researcher also sought the opinion and guidance of the research supervisor to ensure that the questionnaire items were relevant, clear and properly aligned with the objectives of the study. Corrections and necessary modifications arising from the review were incorporated into the final instrument.

The validation process helped to ensure that the questionnaire adequately captured the dimensions of community policing participation, crime reduction, community crime-combating strategies and challenges affecting community participation.

3.7 Reliability of the Instrument

Reliability refers to the degree to which a research instrument produces consistent results when measuring a particular construct.

A pilot test of the questionnaire was conducted before the main data collection. The pilot exercise involved respondents who were not included in the final study. The purpose was to assess the clarity, consistency and suitability of the questionnaire items.

The internal consistency of the instrument was assessed using **Cronbach's Alpha coefficient**. Cronbach's Alpha is appropriate for assessing the consistency of items measured using Likert-type response scales.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

The pilot test enabled the researcher to identify unclear or ambiguous items and make necessary corrections before the final administration of the questionnaire. The reliability assessment provided assurance that the instrument was sufficiently consistent for collecting the data used in the study.

3.8 Procedure for Data Collection

The study relied primarily on **primary data** collected through the administration of the structured questionnaire to respondents in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central.

The researcher administered the questionnaire to the selected respondents and explained the purpose of the research and the appropriate method of completing the instrument. Respondents were encouraged to provide honest responses based on their experiences and perceptions of community policing and crime reduction within their communities.

The completed questionnaires were collected, screened and prepared for analysis. Questionnaires that were sufficiently completed were retained for the final analysis.

A total of **384 valid responses** were used in the statistical analysis reported in Chapter Four. Consequently, all statistical results presented in Chapter Four are based on 384 respondents.

Secondary information was obtained from relevant books, journal articles, research publications, government documents and other scholarly materials relating to community policing, community participation, crime prevention, crime reduction and the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps.

3.9 Measurement of Variables

The study contains two principal variables: **community policing participation** and **crime reduction**.

Community policing participation constitutes the major explanatory variable, while crime reduction constitutes the outcome variable.

Community policing participation was measured through items relating to community involvement in security activities, communication with security personnel, reporting of suspicious activities, information sharing, cooperation with security agencies and participation in community security initiatives.

Crime reduction was measured through respondents' perceptions concerning the prevention and reduction of criminal activities, improvement in neighbourhood security, reporting and response to security incidents, and the general effectiveness of community-oriented security activities.

The questionnaire also contained items relating to strategies used by community members in combating crime. These include community awareness, information sharing, training, community surveillance, use of communication technologies and collaboration with security agencies.

The questionnaire further examined challenges affecting community participation in crime reduction and control, including lack of trust, inadequate communication, limited awareness, insufficient cooperation and inadequate resources.

3.10 Method of Data Analysis

The data obtained from the completed questionnaires were coded, organised and analysed using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical techniques.

Descriptive statistics, including **frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation**, were used to summarise the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and describe responses to the research questions.

For the first objective, which examines the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction, the **Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC)** was employed.

Pearson correlation was considered appropriate because the objective of the study is to determine the direction and strength of the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction.

The hypothesis was tested at the **0.05 level of significance**.

The decision rule was as follows:

- If the p-value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis will be rejected.
- If the p-value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis will not be rejected.

The second objective, which identifies strategies used by the community in combating crime, was analysed using descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, mean and ranking.

The third objective, which examines the challenges of community participation in crime reduction and control, was also analysed using descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, mean and ranking.

This approach ensures that the statistical methods correspond with the nature of each research objective.

3.11 Decision Rule for the Likert-Scale Items

For the interpretation of responses to the five-point Likert-scale items, the response categories were assigned the following values:

Strongly Agree = 5

Agree = 4

Undecided = 3

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 1

The criterion mean was determined by dividing the total of the scale values by the number of response categories:

Criterion Mean = (5 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 1) / 5 = 3.00

Therefore, a mean score of **3.00 and above** indicates agreement with the statement, while a mean score below **3.00** indicates disagreement.

This criterion provides a consistent basis for interpreting the responses to the questionnaire items relating to community policing participation, crime reduction, strategies and challenges.

3.12 Test of Hypothesis

The study tested the following null hypothesis at the 0.05 level of significance:

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

H_{01}: There is no significant relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

The hypothesis was tested using Pearson Product-Moment Correlation analysis.

The hypothesis was rejected where the calculated p-value was less than 0.05 and was not rejected where the p-value was greater than 0.05.

3.13 Ethical Considerations

The study observed basic ethical principles in the collection and use of information from respondents.

The purpose of the research was explained to the respondents before the administration of the questionnaire. Participation was voluntary, and respondents were not compelled to participate.

Respondents were assured that the information supplied would be treated confidentially and used strictly for academic purposes. The researcher also ensured that information obtained from respondents was handled responsibly.

The study avoided unnecessary disclosure of respondents' personal identities, and respondents were allowed to provide their opinions freely without fear of negative consequences.

3.14 Summary of Methodology

This chapter presented the methodology adopted for the study. The study employed a descriptive survey research design and focused on residents of Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

A total of **384 valid respondents** constituted the sample used for the final analysis. Data were collected using a self-structured questionnaire containing socio-demographic items and statements relating to community policing participation, crime reduction, community strategies for combating crime and challenges affecting community participation.

The questionnaire used a five-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree. Content validity was adopted to establish the validity of the instrument, while Cronbach's Alpha was used to assess its internal consistency.

Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the respondents' characteristics and the descriptive research objectives, while Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was used to examine the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction. The hypothesis was tested at the 0.05 level of significance.

The methodology therefore provides the basis for the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the results in Chapter Four.

CHAPTER FOUR
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis, presentation and discussion of data for the study on the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

The chapter presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, analysis of the research objectives, test of the hypothesis and discussion of the findings. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and the responses to the research objectives, while Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was used to examine the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction.

The analysis is based on 384 respondents.

4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents in terms of gender, age, marital status and occupation.

Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Socio-Demographic Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	293	76.3
	Female	91	23.7
	Total	**384**	**100.0**
Age	18–27 years	117	30.5
	28–37 years	147	38.3
	38–47 years	73	19.0
	48 years and above	47	12.2
	Total	**384**	**100.0**
Marital Status	Single	143	37.2
	Married	201	52.3
	Separated	40	10.4
	Total	**384**	**100.0**
Occupation	Civil Servant	143	37.2
	Business	122	31.8
	Artisan	65	16.9
	Farming	37	9.6
	Others	17	4.4

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Socio-Demographic Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
	Total	**384**	**100.0**

Source: Field Survey, 2026

Interpretation of Table 4.1

Table 4.1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the 384 respondents. The result indicates that 293 respondents, representing 76.3%, were male, while 91 respondents, representing 23.7%, were female. Male respondents therefore constituted the majority of the respondents.

In terms of age, 117 respondents (30.5%) were between 18 and 27 years, 147 respondents (38.3%) were between 28 and 37 years, 73 respondents (19.0%) were between 38 and 47 years, while 47 respondents (12.2%) were 48 years and above. Respondents aged 28–37 years constituted the largest age category.

Regarding marital status, 143 respondents (37.2%) were single, 201 respondents (52.3%) were married, while 40 respondents (10.4%) were separated. Married respondents constituted the largest category.

With respect to occupation, 143 respondents (37.2%) were civil servants, 122 respondents (31.8%) were engaged in business, 65 respondents (16.9%) were artisans, 37 respondents (9.6%) were farmers, while 17 respondents (4.4%) belonged to other occupational categories.

The distribution indicates that the study obtained responses from respondents with varied demographic and occupational backgrounds.

4.2 Analysis of Research Objective One

Objective One: To examine the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

Pearson Product-Moment Correlation was used to determine the relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction.

Table 4.2: Correlation Analysis of Community Policing Participation and Crime Reduction

Variables	Community Policing Participation	Crime Reduction
Community Policing Participation	1	0.868**
Crime Reduction	0.868**	1
Sig. (2-tailed)	—	0.003
N	384	384

Note: Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).
Source: Field Survey, 2026

Interpretation of Table 4.2

Table 4.2 indicates a strong positive relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction. The Pearson correlation coefficient is **r = 0.868**, indicating that higher community policing participation is associated with higher levels of crime reduction.

The significance value is **p = 0.003**, which is less than the 0.05 level of significance. The relationship is therefore statistically significant.

The result suggests that active participation of community members in community policing activities is associated with improved crime-reduction outcomes in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central.

4.3 Analysis of Research Objective Two

Objective Two: To identify the strategies used by the community in combating crime in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

The questionnaire examined several strategies through which members of the community participate in combating crime. These include educational programmes, training, the use of technology, social media information sharing and collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

Table 4.3: Strategies Used by the Community in Combating Crime

S/N	Strategies	Mean.	Decision
1	Educational programmes within the community effectively raise awareness about crime prevention.	4.21	Agree
2	Training sessions on crime prevention strategies are beneficial for community members.	4.08	Agree
3	The use of technology, such as surveillance cameras and neighbourhood applications, enhances community safety.	4.16	Agree
4	Social media platforms are effective tools for disseminating information about local crime.	4.03	Agree
5	Collaborative efforts between community members and law enforcement agencies are essential for effective crime prevention.	4.38	Agree
	Grand Mean	**4.17**	**Agree**

Interpretation of Table 4.3

Table 4.3 indicates that respondents generally agreed that the identified strategies contribute to community-based crime prevention. The grand mean of **4.17** exceeds the criterion mean of 3.00, indicating overall agreement.

Collaboration between community members and law enforcement agencies recorded the highest mean score of **4.38**, suggesting that cooperation between residents and security agencies was perceived as an important strategy for combating crime.

Educational programmes recorded a mean of **4.21**, indicating that community awareness and education were also considered important. The use of technology recorded a mean of **4.16**, suggesting that technological tools such as surveillance cameras and neighbourhood applications can support community safety.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

Training sessions recorded a mean of **4.08**, while the use of social media for disseminating information about local crime recorded a mean of **4.03**. Although these items had relatively lower mean scores than the other strategies, both remained above the criterion mean.

The overall result suggests that community-based crime prevention may benefit from a combination of awareness, training, technology, information sharing and cooperation with formal security agencies.

4.4 Analysis of Research Objective Three

Objective Three: To find out the challenges of community participation in crime reduction and control in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

The questionnaire examined challenges that may hinder effective community participation in crime reduction and control. These include ineffective communication, insufficient awareness, lack of trust, limited cooperation and inadequate resources.

Table 4.4: Challenges of Community Participation in Crime Reduction and Control

S/N	Challenges	Mean	Decision
1	Lack of effective communication within the community hinders participation in crime-prevention efforts.	3.91	Agree
2	Insufficient awareness about crime-prevention programmes and initiatives discourages community involvement.	3.84	Agree
3	Lack of trust among community members poses a significant obstacle to collaborative crime prevention.	3.76	Agree
4	Limited cooperation between different groups within the community affects the effectiveness of crime-control efforts.	3.88	Agree
5	Lack of resources, such as manpower and technology, hampers the implementation of effective crime-reduction strategies.	4.12	Agree
	Grand Mean	**3.90**	**Agree**

Interpretation of Table 4.4

Table 4.4 shows that all the identified factors were perceived as challenges to community participation in crime reduction and control because all the mean scores exceeded the criterion mean of 3.00.

Inadequate resources, including manpower and technology, recorded the highest mean score of **4.12**. This indicates that resource constraints may constitute an important obstacle to effective community participation in crime reduction.

Lack of effective communication recorded a mean score of **3.91**, while limited cooperation among different groups within the community recorded **3.88**. Insufficient awareness recorded a mean of **3.84**, while lack of trust recorded **3.76**.

The grand mean of **3.90** indicates overall agreement that the identified factors constitute challenges to effective community participation in crime reduction and control.

The finding suggests that strengthening community participation requires more than encouraging residents to participate. Attention must also be given to communication, awareness, trust, cooperation and the availability of resources necessary to support community-based security activities.

4.5 Test of Hypothesis

The following null hypothesis was tested at the 0.05 level of significance:

H_{01}: There is no significant relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

Decision Rule

The null hypothesis is rejected where the p-value is less than 0.05. Where the p-value is greater than 0.05, the null hypothesis is not rejected.

Decision

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation result in Table 4.2 produced **r = 0.868**, **p = 0.003**, and **N = 384**.

Since **0.003 < 0.05**, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion on the Hypothesis

The study therefore concludes that there is a **significant positive relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction among Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State**.

4.6 Discussion of Findings

The major finding of the study is that community policing participation has a strong, positive and statistically significant relationship with crime reduction in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.

The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation result produced **r = 0.868** and **p = 0.003** based on 384 respondents. Since the p-value is less than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected.

The finding indicates that greater participation of community members in policing and security activities is associated with improved crime-reduction outcomes. Community members may contribute to crime prevention through reporting suspicious activities, sharing information, participating in community security activities and cooperating with security personnel.

The finding supports the central principle of community policing, which emphasises partnership between security agencies and members of the communities they serve. Residents possess local knowledge concerning their neighbourhoods and may therefore contribute valuable information concerning suspicious activities and emerging security threats.

The finding is also consistent with previous studies that have identified cooperation between communities and security agencies as an important component of crime prevention. Effective communication and community engagement can facilitate information sharing and strengthen collective responses to security challenges.

The result concerning the strategies used by the community indicates that community-based crime prevention involves several complementary approaches. Educational programmes, training, technology, social media and collaboration with law enforcement agencies can collectively strengthen community security.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

The finding concerning the challenges further indicates that community participation may be constrained by communication problems, insufficient awareness, lack of trust, limited cooperation and inadequate resources. Addressing these challenges is therefore important for improving the effectiveness of community-oriented crime-prevention initiatives.

However, the correlation result should be interpreted as evidence of a significant **association**, rather than proof that community policing participation alone causes crime reduction. Other social, economic, institutional and environmental factors may also influence crime levels within communities.

4.7 Summary of Findings

The findings of the study can be summarised as follows:

1. There is a strong positive relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State.
2. The Pearson correlation coefficient of **r = 0.868** and significance value of **p = 0.003** indicate that the relationship is statistically significant at the 0.05 level.
3. The null hypothesis stating that there is no significant relationship between community policing participation and crime reduction was rejected.
4. Community education, training, technology, social media information sharing and collaboration with law enforcement agencies were identified as important community-based strategies for combating crime.
5. Communication problems, insufficient awareness, lack of trust, limited cooperation and inadequate resources were identified as challenges that may hinder effective community participation in crime reduction and control.
6. Overall, the findings suggest that strengthening cooperation between community members and security agencies may enhance community-based crime prevention and contribute to improved security outcomes in the selected areas.

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that community policing participation is significantly related to crime reduction in Ikorodu West and Ikorodu Central, Lagos State. The strong positive correlation obtained in the study indicates that increased community participation in policing and security activities is associated with improved crime-reduction outcomes.

The study therefore concludes that crime prevention should not be regarded exclusively as the responsibility of formal security agencies. Community members possess valuable local knowledge and can contribute to crime prevention through information sharing, reporting of suspicious activities, participation in community security initiatives and cooperation with security personnel.

The findings further indicate that community-based crime prevention can be strengthened through a combination of public education, training, appropriate technology, social media communication and collaboration between communities and law enforcement agencies.

However, community participation cannot be effective when important structural and relational challenges remain unresolved. Communication deficiencies, inadequate awareness, lack of trust, limited cooperation and insufficient resources can reduce the effectiveness of community-based crime-prevention initiatives.

Consequently, the study concludes that strengthening the relationship between communities and security agencies should constitute an important component of crime-reduction policy in Ikorodu West, Ikorodu Central and other communities with similar security challenges.

It is important to clarify that the significant correlation identified by the study demonstrates an association between community policing participation and crime reduction; it does not, by itself, establish that community policing participation is the sole cause of crime reduction. Other institutional, economic, social and environmental factors may also influence crime outcomes.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Strengthening Community-Security Partnerships

Security agencies should strengthen structured partnerships with residents, community development associations, traditional institutions, religious organisations, youth groups and other relevant community stakeholders. Regular community-security meetings should be organised to identify emerging security concerns and develop coordinated responses.

2. Community Crime-Prevention Education

Regular community education programmes should be introduced to improve residents' knowledge of crime prevention, early warning signs, appropriate reporting procedures and responsible engagement with security agencies. Such programmes should be designed to reach different groups within the community.

3. Improved Communication and Information Sharing

Effective communication channels should be established between community members and security agencies. Residents should have accessible and reliable channels through which security information can be reported and followed up. Appropriate digital platforms and community communication structures can complement existing communication mechanisms.

4. Increased Use of Technology

Security agencies and relevant community stakeholders should explore appropriate technologies that can support community safety. These may include surveillance systems, emergency communication channels, digital reporting mechanisms and other technology-based tools that facilitate timely information sharing and response.

5. Capacity Building and Training

Community representatives and relevant security personnel should receive regular training in areas such as conflict management, crime prevention, intelligence gathering, emergency response, communication and community engagement. Training should emphasise lawful, ethical and responsible participation.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/

6. Building Trust Between Communities and Security Agencies

Security agencies should promote transparency, professionalism and respectful engagement with residents. Community members are more likely to share relevant information when they have confidence that their concerns will be treated appropriately and confidentially.

7. Provision of Adequate Resources

Government and relevant security authorities should provide adequate manpower, communication facilities, mobility, technological equipment and other resources required for effective community-oriented security activities.

8. Protection of Community Informants

Appropriate mechanisms should be developed to protect residents who provide information about criminal activities. Confidential reporting systems can encourage residents to report suspicious activities without unnecessary fear of retaliation.

9. Regular Monitoring and Evaluation

Community policing programmes should be regularly monitored and evaluated. Security authorities should establish measurable indicators for assessing community participation, information sharing, response time, crime trends and stakeholder satisfaction. Evidence generated from such monitoring should be used to improve future interventions.

10. Replication in Other Communities

The principles of community participation demonstrated in this study should be considered for application in other parts of Lagos State and comparable urban communities. However, implementation should take account of the social, economic and security characteristics of each community.

REFERENCES

1) Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods approaches (5th ed.). SAGE Publications.
2) Fomnya, H. J., Umar, S. T., & Amshi, K. A. (2024). Community policing as a strategy for crime reduction in Nigeria: A case study of Yola North Local Government Area of Adamawa State. International Journal of Police Science, 3(1). https://doi.org/10.56331/2.25.2024/1
3) Hills, A. (2012). Lost in translation: Why Nigeria's police don't implement democratic reforms. International Affairs, 88(4), 739–755. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2346.2012.01099.x
4) Hills, A. (2014). Partnership policing: Is it relevant in Kano, Nigeria? Theoretical Criminology, 14(1), 79–97. https://doi.org/10.1177/1748895812454860
5) Hills, A. (2018). Making Mogadishu safer. The RUSI Journal, 163(3), 6–23. https://doi.org/10.1080/03071847.2018.1484627
6) Ige, L. O., & Molade, K. (2020). Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps (LNSC) and crime reduction in Lagos Metropolis, Lagos State, Nigeria. Nigerian Community Development Journal, 10, 1–13.
7) Kasali, M. A., & Odetola, R. G. (2016). Alternative approach to policing in Nigeria: Analyzing the need to redefine community policing in tackling the nation's security challenges. African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies, 9(1), 98–115.
8) Nkwede, V. I., Nwokwu, P. M., & Nwoba, M. O. E. (2024). Community policing and crime reduction in Ivo Local Government Area, Ebonyi State, Nigeria. South East Journal of Political Science, 10(1), 42–58.
9) Oluwalogbon, L. A. (2024). The Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps and urban crime in Lagos Metropolis. Kashere Journal of Politics and International Relations, 2(2), 133–145.
10) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. (2012). Community policing defined. U.S. Department of Justice. https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter?item=cops-p157
11) Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2019). Research methods for business students (8th ed.). Pearson.
12) U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. (2009). Community policing defined. U.S. Department of Justice. https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/community-policing-defined-0
13) Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches (5th ed.). SAGE Publications.
14) Hills, A. (2019). Monitoring Mogadishu. Surveillance & Society, 17(3–4), 338–351. https://doi.org/10.24908/ss.v17i3/4.8604
15) Ige, L. O., & Molade, K. (2020). Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps (LNSC) and crime reduction in Lagos metropolis, Lagos State, Nigeria. Nigerian Community Development Journal, 10(1), 116–129.
16) Musa, A. (2019). The role of community in combating crime like drug trafficking/abuse, kidnapping and one chances in FCT, Abuja [Seminar paper]. University of Abuja.
17) Nkwede, V. I., Nwokwu, P. M., & Nwoba, M. O. E. (2024). Community policing and crime reduction in Ivo Local Government Area, Ebonyi State, Nigeria. South East Journal of Political Science, 10(1), 42–58.
18) Odekunle, F. (2004). Overview of policing in Nigeria: Problems and suggestions. In E. E. O. Alemika & I. C. Chukwuma (Eds.), Crime and policing in Nigeria: Challenges and options (pp. 22–34). CLEEN Foundation.
19) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. (2012). Community policing defined. U.S. Department of Justice. https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter?item=cops-p157
20) Okiro, M. M. (2007). Foreword. In Community policing: Nigeria Police Force operational handbook. "F" Department and Nigeria Police Printing Press, FHQ Annex.
21) Oluwalogbon, L. A. (2024). The Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps and urban crime in Lagos Metropolis. Kashere Journal of Politics and International Relations, 2(2), 133–145. https://journals.fukashere.edu.ng/index.php/kjpir/article/view/322
22) Saunders, M. N. K., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2019). Research methods for business students (8th ed.). Pearson.

License: This is an open access article under the CC BY 4.0 license: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/