



# Role Of Community Policing In Fostering Peace In Rivers State

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigated the role of community policing in fostering peace in Rivers State. The study adopted a descriptive research design. Three (3) research questions and one (1) hypothesis guided the study. The population of the study was population of the study comprised of 1,382,592 residents of Port Harcourt Local Government Area of Rivers State. The sample size for this study was two hundred (200) residents which was determined using the Taro Yamane formula. The study employed the simple random sampling technique to select respondents for the study. Data were generated through the administration of a structured questionnaire titled “Role of Community Policing in Fostering Peace in Rivers State (RCPFPRS)”. The data gathered was analyzed using simple percentage and frequency tables, and the hypothesis formulated for the study was tested using Pearson’s Moment Correlation Coefficient. Findings revealed that there is a significant negative correlation between community policing and increase in crime rate in Rivers State. Further findings revealed that there is a high degree of co-variability between collaboration of police and community members towards effective crime prevention. Based on the findings, the study recommended among others that there should regular training and re-orientation of the individual police man on police duties, especially in the use of police discretion and dealing with members of the public.

**Keywords:** Community policing, fostering peace, Rivers State

## INTRODUCTION

Crime is present in every society, ancient or modern. When informal relationships and sanctions prove insufficient to establish and maintain a desired social order, the government or State may impose more formalized or stricter systems of social control. With institutional and legal machinery at their disposal, agents of the State can compel citizens and non-citizens to conform to codes and can opt to punish or attempt to reform those who do not conform.

The concepts of police and policing, for academic purposes should always be distinguished; Police refers to a particular kind of social institution, while policing implies a set process with specific social functions. The former is a noun, while the latter is a verb. Policing has always been necessary in all societies, promoting social harmony, preservation of order, and social relations. History has it that in pre-modal era policing; maintaining of order and dealing with law breakers had always been a private matter. According to Victor (2010) citizens were responsible for protecting themselves and maintaining an orderly society. Each society employed social control mechanism peculiar to its culture, core believes and cosmopolitan practices. The pre-colonial African and Nigerian societies were no exemption. These societies relied on a number of secular and supernatural agencies to monitor social behaviour and impose sanctions against deviant behaviors. Some of the methods used in policing such societies include; (i) the extended family, (ii) the lineage, (iii) the age

group, (iv) women societies, (v) ancestral cults, (vi) spirit cults, (vii) divination and ordeal, (viii) secret societies. A detailed explanation of these forms of social control mechanisms will be attempted in subsequent sections of this research work.

As societies evolve, culture change and modernization took place. As the quantity and quality of interaction between members of different societies increased, the need to form a uniform and organized mechanism of social control became eminent. Therefore, the necessity of policing became even more evident in modern societies characterized by diversities and contradictions arising from population, heterogeneity, urbanization, industrialization, conflicting ideologies, social-political and economic schisms amongst others. Hence the establishment of a modern police department in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in England, and this subsequently extended to some parts of Africa, Nigeria inclusive.

The police play very important role in the society without which the sustenance of law and order, legality, development and democracy may be difficult. Therefore, any pro-change initiative must take account of the facilitative and inhibitive roles of the Police in the society. Interestingly community policing technique, as this project will attempt to demonstrate, has the propensity over the colonial policing to help the Police perform these roles more effectively. Perhaps a quick retrospect of the reasons for the establishment of the colonial police in Nigeria will give credence to the efficacy of the community policing over the colonial police.

The Nigeria Police as we know today is a product of colonial administration. It was born out of consular guards of 30 members formed in 1861 in the former Lagos colony, which later transformed into the Hausa constabulary in 1879. The British established a force in her colonial territory using two options; (i) to extend the existing British fostered police forces over the territory or (ii) to develop the local African way for maintaining law and order in each locality. While the British colonial government adopted the first option in eastern Nigeria due to the Igbo decentralized traditional community system, it chose the second for the northern and western parts of Nigeria, because these regions had centralized local administration with formalized system of traditional policing. According to Dambazua (1999), the Police served as agency of “socialization” through which “colonized people could be brought close to civilization” in terms of the accepted norms of order. From the beginning the norms of behaviour were purely colonized and alien to the African way of life, and in total disregard to the traditional requirements. This fact was reflected in the colonial police training programmes which members were expected to use in making the members of their communities subservient. In addition, Chukwuma (1997) stated that this enabled the British colonialists to be able to subject the estimated 400 Nigerian nationalist to their domination. Also, Bowden (1978) observed that the police are established not only to monitor, but also to discourage and destroy challenges to the existing order of things. If the order was repressive the police enforced it, if it were a colonial administration the police enforced it, and served as a containment agency. Neiderhoffer and Bumberg (1976), reinforced the idea of the police as a containment agency when they observed that the police serve as a “controlling radar” to keep a society within structural confines. From the discussion above we can therefore capture the essence of the British imperialist effort to establish a Police Force in Nigeria mainly for easy colonial administration and in serving the colonial government’s interest.

But however, in today’s changing world quite a revolution is reshaping many countries’ policing. It is worthy of note that the face of policing has changed and will continue to change. Community policing and problem-solving policing had been practiced among some citizens, academics, politicians, and police chiefs. Many believe that community policing could be the best strategy in policing our nation. These two ideas emphasized community involvement and the building of partnership between the community and the Police. Reports have shown that in many areas where community policing and problem-solving police have been implemented, crime rates have gone down, quality of life have been improved and people have felt safer.

### **Statement of the Problem**

The Role of Community Policing in Fostering Peace in Rivers State is the title of this research paper. The obvious problem that this study project aims to address is crime and its negative impact on peace. According to Lawrence and Marcus (1979), crime is triggered by three factors, one of which is the lack of capable guardians such as police, home owners, neighbors, friends, and relatives. Crime is a concern because it impacts everyone and every group in some manner. Crime has a negative impact on society. This is due to

the fact that only a calm and secure society can be enjoyed. When crime occurs, whether in its violent or sophisticated form, it undermines the peace, safety, and security of people and property. As a result, members of society will live in constant terror. Crime represents the unknown, and when it is prevalent at a high degree, it leads citizens to be anxious and terrified.

Owing to the above stipulations, the research problems are stated thus: Crime has serious negative consequences on societies; The Police have failed in their duty to curb crime; As a result, crime has been on the increase in Nigeria as a whole and in Rivers State in particular and to this effect, there is need to bring in alternative strategies which will enhance more effective policing.

### **Objective of the Study**

The aims of this study will among others include:

1. to proffer community/problem solving policing as a workable solution to Police inefficiency and the escalating rate of crime in the society
2. to x-ray the benefits that will be accruable to the society, and the results which the police will record when community members and the police perceive each other as stake holders in the fight against crime, and the promotion of public safety.

### **Research Questions**

To this end, this study intends to address the following questions:

1. What are the community/problem solving policing as a workable solution to Police inefficiency and the escalating rate of crime in the society?
2. What are the benefits that will be accruable to the society, and the results which the police will record when community members and the police perceive each other as stake holders in the fight against crime, and the promotion of public safety?

### **Hypotheses**

#### **Hypothesis One:**

Ho: there is a significant negative correlation between community policing and increase in crime rate in Rivers State.

Hi: there is no significant negative correlation between community policing and increase in crime rate in Rivers State.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Concept of Crime and its Facilitating Factors**

The prevalence of crime in the society can be traced to several factors. The influence of home factor cannot be over emphasized. The home/family is the primary and crucial agent of socialization and character molding. Parents and suitable guardians are supposed to give adequate moral training to their children/wards. They supposed to teach them what is right and wrong and instill the spirit of discipline in them. When parents fail in this regard, this can lead the children to crime in the future. Charity according to the wise saying begins at home.

The value system of the society can also encourage crime. In many countries today, capitalist system of government is in vogue. The rich people are celebrated and worshipped notwithstanding the source of their wealth. In view of the importance being attached to wealth making, many youths are now desperate to make money at all cost and by whatever means.

Negligence of the educational system also promotes crime in the society. There is no doubt that an institution functions to inculcate the right attitudes in pupils and students and make them highly disciplined. However, when an institution fails in this regard, this can lead pupils/students to crime.

Poverty is another issue that is responsible for crime prevalence in the society. There is no gainsaying that there is harsh economic situation in many countries today, particularly in Africa and in Nigeria as the case may be. Many households and families are living below standard due to the high cost of living occasioned by poor economy. Income of many households cannot sustain them until the end of every month. The situation is affecting the children who may take to crime to survive the hardship.

### **Police and Policing**

Police refers to a socio-political and quasi-legal institution – State agencies charged primarily with the enforcement of criminal law and the maintenance of order. Many quasi-police agencies such as the Custom and Immigration Organizations and economic regulatory agencies are also involved in public policing. Analytically, policing refers to measures and actions taken by a variety of institutions and groups (both formal and informal) in society to regulate social relations and practices in order to secure the safety of members of community as well as conformity to the norms and values of society. It is therefore a “sub-set of control processes” which involves “the creation of systems of surveillance coupled with the threat of sanctions for discovered deviance – either immediately or in terms of the initiation of penal process or both (Reiner, 2000).

State agencies designated as Police as well as community groups are involved in policing. But community policing groups who carry out activities aimed at safety and social order do not constitute Police.

### **History and Philosophy of Policing in Colonial Nigerian Society**

The origins, development and role of the European type of Police Forces in Africa are traceable to the nature of European interests in the continent and the reactions of the indigenous people to their activities. With the advent of colonialism came the distortion of the traditional institutions and values, which had from time immemorial sustained harmonious relationship, peace, and security of lives and property in the pre-colonial African communities. Thus, the legacy of Western plantation (and in some cases racist) ideology is the portrayal of African societies and cultures as lawless and disorderly (Onoge, 1993). This negative image had its roots in the long ordeal of the slave trade, and later colonialism, which mediated modern Africa’s interaction with the West.

Following conquest, colonial rule was consolidated through a system that subjugated the existing traditional informal law enforcement mechanism with the forceful imposition of the Western idea of policing. Thus, the colonialists introduced new laws, which replaced, or seriously threatened the efficacy of native laws and customs, traditional religions and other sanctions, as well as indigenous tribunals and justice. Achebe (1959) recounted a colonial demonstration of this assertiveness in his legendary Umuofia village:

.... the white men had also brought a government. They had built a court where the District Commissioner judged cases in ignorance. He had court messengers who brought men to him for trial.... They guarded the prison, which was full of men who had offended the white man’s law. .... Some of these prisoners were men of titles who should be above such mean occupation (p. 160).

Where the Africans were slow in accepting the new ways, the colonial “master” made it a duty to militarily make mincemeat of the community as an example for other communities who may be contemplating resistance. Thus, Achebe (1959) summarized this belligerence in his account of the arrogance exhibited by the colonial District Commissioner in addressing some Umuofia elders reminiscing over their hero’s (Okonkwo) suicide. Thus:

... Obierika with five or six others led the way. The Commissioner and his men followed with their firearms held at the ready. He had warned Obierika that if he and his men played any monkey tricks they would be shot (p. 189-190).

Since public safety, maintenance of peace and enforcement of legitimate laws are the chief responsibilities of the civil Police Force as stated by Adedipe (1965), this review will endeavour to trace the origin of this force in Nigeria.

For shortness of space, what is known and would be said about Nigeria is that beginning in 1845; the British were getting themselves much involved in the affairs of Lagos. According to Tamuno, (1970), the British were also experiencing some serious law-enforcement problems in their self-imposed task of protecting the lives and property of the indigenous people, the European merchants, other businessmen, and Christian missionaries.

### **Factors Militating against Police Efficiency**

Noting the fact that citizens' image about the Police is very crucial to the success of effective discharge of their policing duties, any effort aimed at forging any collaboration between the police and members of any particular community must first of all, seriously consider the issue of reconciling public perception of the Police. A good public-police perception engenders community-police collaboration, while a poor public-police perception will only create a "we" vs. "them" feeling about the Police. Enumerated below are some of the factors that can contribute to poor police public perception.

**Police Brutality:** Reobuck and Barker (1973) defined police brutality as the excessive or unreasonable use of force in dealing with citizens, suspects, and offenders. Police brutality or charges on police violence are topical issues in the media, although the verbal abuses by the police seem not to be properly reported by the media. This position was reaffirmed by Albert Reiss (1992) when he wrote that verbal abuse of citizens by officers is more common than the use of excessive force that result in police brutality. This negative tendency of the police largely alienates members of the community from the police, thereby creating a feeling of "we" vs. "them".

**Violation of Human Right by the Police:** All over the world, Police organizations have come under constant and severe criticisms for their perceived knack for human right violations. However the level of abuses which varies from one country to another is largely dependent on the degree of democratic governance in each country. Poor police image/perception arguable will adversely hinder proper community policing effort. This is because a community that losses confidence in the will be unwilling to render assistance or give the polite information that will help in the fight against crime and improve public safety.

Despite continuous attempts by successive police administrations to change the human rights image of the Force, the notion persists among members of the general public that the Nigeria Police has very scant regards for the civil rights of the average citizen. This perception is borne out by the place of law enforcement in public administration. The police, as the coercive arm of the state, have borne the brunt of the blame for all the excesses of military and civil administrations in Nigeria

Several reasons have been adduced for the seeming recalcitrance of police operatives to turn a new leaf and show greater respect for the right of citizens, which has had adverse effect on police image. Some of the often-cited reasons include that:

- The police is a colonial invention, hence it was not created to respect the rights of citizens but to advance the cause of colonialism.
- Many Policemen have minimal education and are incapable of appreciating the value of civil liberties to the entire society.
- Long years of military despotism have made most citizens, the police included, to have regards for basic rights of all citizens.
- Sometimes, the police violate citizens' rights out of anger, frustration and low self esteem resulting from their poor pay and welfare packages.

The factors stated above may be responsible for the seeming intractability of human rights situation in Police Stations and offices around the country.

Also Femi O. (2005) adduced other plausible causes of Human Rights violation in police stations and offices around the country. The reasons adduced include;

**(i) Conceptual** – In several Nigerian languages, there is no direct transaction for the word "suspect". So, it is often misconstrued to mean that the arrested person is already guilty of the offence; hence the suspects are treated with indignity, crudity and brutality.

**(ii) Cultural** – The Nigeria Police operates in a paternalistic society, where authority is rarely questioned, so police personnel do not expect citizens to argue for themselves out of any situation and any attempt to challenge their authority usually leads to all manner of abuses.

**(iii) Social** - The bulk of policemen and women come from the lower classes of society and are educationally and materially disadvantaged. They tend to express frustrations and their authority through abusive behavior.

**(iv) Environmental** – The poor training of Police recruits exposes them to brutalization of their psyche, with inadequate welfare packages such as feeding and other facilities to make their training easier and more humane. Beyond the Police Training schools, the Police in Nigeria operate in a social milieu that is

characterized by a legacy of civil war and military rule, political mismanagement and economic adversity that have contributed to a culture of lawlessness and violent crimes. The Nigeria Police is therefore confronted daily by a relentless army of lawbreakers created by this polluted social

### **Community Policing**

Sholmek et al (1988) referred to community-oriented policing as a proactive and forward-looking policing technique, which balances relative responses to calls for service with problem solving centered on causes of crime and disorder. This concept emphasizes the need to reduce or curb crime and anti-social behavior through the delivery of police services through the active community engagement and partnership.

According to Victor et al (2010) Community policing is an attempt to involve the community as an active partner with the police in addressing crime problems in the community. In addition, Peak and Glenor (1999) described community policing as a workable partnership with the community where the community plays a more proactive role in helping develop crime prevention strategies. Also, Skolnick and Bayley (1988) pointed out the following in regard to Community Policing among the world's industrial democracies; community-oriented policing represents what is progressive and forward – looking in policing.

### **The Need and Benefits of Community Policing in Nigeria**

Crime generates substantial costs to society at individual, community and national levels. Direct economic losses are suffered by crime victims, including medical care costs, lost earnings, and property loss/damage as a result, it is imperative to find solutions that will help curb the problem of crime in any society.

Again, the present negative perception of the Nigeria Police by its citizens rightly informs the need for a community based and problem-solving policing. Community policing is a very broad term often used to describe many aspects of the process by which the police engage with the community in the prevention of crime. At its core is the recognition that by working with the community, law enforcement agencies can find local solutions to local problems. Engaging the community in crime reduction and prevention allows a more targeted approach to local concerns.

There are many benefits that will accrue from the proper implementation and practice of community policing in Nigeria as a whole, and in Rivers State in particular as advocates of community policing have highlighted many reasons why community policing is beneficial to society, these arguments were broken down into three areas by Segrave and Ratcliffe (2004):

#### **Community-Specific Advantages**

- Mobilization and empowerment of communities to identify and respond to public concerns.
- Improved local physical and social environment.
- Increase in positive attitude towards police.
- Reduces fear of crime.

#### **Police-Specific Benefits**

- Improved Police-Community relationship.
- Improved community perception of police 'legitimacy'.
- Increase in officer satisfaction with their work.

#### **Shared Benefits**

- Decreased potential for police-citizen conflict.
- Reduction in crime rates.
- Better flow of information between the police and community.
- Better implementation of crime prevention and crime control activities, as a result of both parties working towards shared goals.

It is said that community policing can play a vital role in reducing three important kinds of violence in the community such as:

- a) Individual violence ranging from street crime and domestic abuse to drug – related violence.
- b) Civil unrest, which can often include gang violence and open confrontations among various segments of society, specifically the police and
- c) Police brutality.

Also, Herman Goldstein (1987) offers the following list of the most important benefits of community policing:

- A more realistic acknowledgement of police functions.
- A recognition of the interrelationships among police functions.
- An acknowledgement of the limited capacity of the police to accomplish their jobs on their own and of the importance of an alliance between the Police and the public.
- Less dependence on the Criminal Justice System and more emphasis on new problem-solving methods.

### **Towards Effective Police/Community Partnership in Crime Prevention**

Stake holders play a vital role in community policing. Its role includes the managing and encouraging the formation of local partnership with various community groups in various police divisions. According to NPF, vision statement (2011) a stake holder is simple any member of a community or local Agency who has a 'stake' or interest in the community and is willing to participate in a partnership for the benefit of that community. It is important to consult, interact and involve a wide range of people from different backgrounds, professions and interest who collectively will represent a broad range of community views. Austine (2008) recommended the following type of partnership for effective community policing:

#### **Police Community Relation Community (PCRC)**

Austine (2008) defined PCRC as 'an organization or a committee of patriotic persons in the community who, work in conjunction with the police, to build a consolidated body to support the achievement of the duties of the police in the area'. Therefore, they are an important body, which should be included in partnership in support of developing and monitoring community policing. However, segment of a community that can be incorporated into the PCRC include;

**(i) Religious Leaders:** According to Austine (2008), the religious leaders can constitute part of the PCRC because of the following reasons:

- They have a strong influence/authority over their members and can encourage cooperation with the police.
- Religious leaders have a responsibility to contribute towards the needs of their societies.
- They have access to buildings that may be used for community meetings.
- They have potential to either inflame or reduce community tensions.

**(ii) Traditional Rulers and Elders:** Are often the first resorts for the public when crimes occur.

- The public may have more confidence in traditional rulers and elders than the police.
- The public often accepts the authority of traditional rulers and elders.

**(iii) Schools:** Provide the most obvious point with children and young persons. Given that young people often have a more negative impression about the police than their elders; it is essential that Police officer(s) seek to build good relationships with them.

- Schools have resources that may be used to provide meaningful activities that will keep children out of trouble during school holidays.

**(iv) Vigilante groups:** according to Adegoke N et al (2008), vigilante groups are one of the most visible forms of private security due to weak state capacity and the concomitant security vacuum in large part of Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. The demand for security and the inability of the state (public security agents) to meet the security needs of various segments of the public have necessitated the formation of vigilante groups. However, police officers should work cooperatively with vigilante groups in their division. They (police officers) should endeavor to identify when new vigilante groups will be formed and as well identify any problems associated with vigilante groups located on their division and seek to resolve them.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework that will be used to explain the relationship between community policing and crime prevention in this study will be the Social Resource Theory as developed by Kam C. Wong (2008). The Social Resource Theory looks at Police as a resource for solving people's problems (including crime)

through empowerment and self-help. The theory starts with a basic observation that in a democratic State, we must understand people’s conception of the nature of crime and the role of the police.

According to Cyril (1987), crime is a legal violation from the perspective of the State and police power is a political resource to secure control, maintain order and command obedience (Austin John, 1995). It is defined coercively, structured legally, organized bureaucratically and imposed unilaterally; but from the perspective of the people, crime is a set of life experience, and a multi-faceted personal problem and police power is a social resource made available by the State and drawn upon by the citizens to handle personal problems of an emergency nature or crisis kind. More significant, in the eyes of the people, police power is not reconstructed in political image, structured by law, organized with reference to police needs (Peter K. Manning, 1983), but dictated by the people and negotiated to fit the personal circumstances and situational needs the problem calls to mind.

Social Resource Theory marks a shift of focus from a State centered community (oriented) policing to a people’s-oriented policing (Daniel, 1998), it asks of the police to be responsible and accountable to the people as individuals and as collectives. Again, according to John (1989), the theory gives “social” meaning and lends “emotional” content to police – people activities, which is what policing is all about, i.e., dealing with personal issues, human problems, relationship difficulties of one form or another. In so doing it socializes and humanizes the police – people interface, making police business a truly peoples’ business. By so doing, the theory liberates the police from the sterile confine of the law and stifling restraints of the bureaucracy.

## METHODOLOGY

This study employed the descriptive research design and was conducted in Port Harcourt is the capital city of Rivers State. The population of the study comprised of 1,382,592 residents of Port Harcourt Local Government Area of Rivers State, (NPC, 2006). The sample size for this study was two hundred (200) residents which was determined using the Taro Yamane formula. The study employed the simple random sampling technique to select respondents for the study. Data were generated through the administration of a structured questionnaire titled “Role of Community Policing in Fostering Peace in Rivers State (RPFPRS)”. The questionnaire was prepared and distributed to the respondents; the researcher ensured that most of the questionnaires were returned by closely monitoring the respondents and to that effect, only twelve questionnaires were lost or not filled properly. The statistical tools used for analysis of the data collected from the field include the simple percentage for presenting the indices used in the study and in answering some of the research questions. Data collected were presented in frequency tables, the results were edited, coded and analyzed. For testing the two hypotheses formulated for the study, Pearson’s Moment Correlation Coefficient was employed.

## DATA PRESENTATION

A total of two hundred (200) questionnaires were distributed to various respondents, who formed the research population sample. The questionnaire consists of twenty-four (24) questions divided into two sections, section one comprises of the personal information of the respondents comprising of sex, age, occupation and educational qualifications which they were required to supply. The main questions, as contained in questions one to 20 were embedded in section two and contain the phenomenal facts which were used to test the hypotheses and answer the research questions. Below is an analysis:

**Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age and Sex**

Categories	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
18 - 25	22	25	47	23.5
26 - 35	33	26	59	29.5
35 - 45	30	32	62	31
46 and above	17	15	32	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 4.1 shows that a total of 102 males and 98 females representing 51% and 49% of the total respondents respectively are involved in the study; and for age, respondents that fall within the age bracket of 18- 25



were 47, representing 23.5%, those within the age bracket of 26-35 were 59 that is 29.5%, 62 respondents representing 31% were within the bracket of 36-45 years while 32 respondents representing 16% fall within the bracket of 46 and above.

**Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification**

Categories	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Primary	15	11	26	13
Secondary	39	51	90	45
Tertiary	48	36	84	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 2 shows that educationally, only 13% representing 26 respondents obtained primary education, 90 respondents representing 45% have secondary education and 42% representing 84 respondents obtained university education.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Occupation**

Categories	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
Security agents	50	50	100	50
Students	13	12	25	12.5
Civil servants	13	12	25	12.5
Public servants	13	12	25	12.5
Business people	13	12	25	12.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows that security agents from the different stations used for the research constitute 50% of the total respondents which represents 100 respondents; while members of the general public chosen from different occupational sectors constitute 100 respondents representing 50% of the total respondents also, with students, civil servants public servants and business occupying 12.5% each.

**Test of Hypotheses**

**Hypothesis One:**

Ho: there is a significant negative correlation between community policing and increase in crime rate in Rivers State.

Hi: there is no significant negative correlation between community policing and increase in crime rate in Rivers State.

To test this hypothesis, questions 4 and 11 were used and Pearson’s Moment Correlation Coefficient and Chi-square were employed.

**FORMULA**

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(oi - ei)^2}{ei} = \frac{(oi - ei)^2}{e1} + \frac{(o2 - e2)^2}{e2} + \frac{(o3 - e3)^2}{e3} + \frac{(o4 - e4)^2}{e4}$$

X = Male

Y = Female

X<sup>2</sup> = Chi-square

∑ = Summation

oi = Observed Frequency

ei = Expected Frequency

Cal = Calculated X<sup>2</sup> value

Tab = Calculated X<sup>2</sup> value

∞ = Significant Level

At a significance level of 0.95 = 0.05

**Question 1:** Community participation in policing will reduce crime and foster peace in Rivers state

OPTIONS	X	Y	oi	Probability	ei
Strongly agree	41	45	86	¼	50
Agree	55	43	98	¼	50
Disagree	6	8	14	¼	50
Strongly disagree	-	2	2	¼	50
			200	1.0	200

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum(o_i - e_i)}{e_i} = \frac{(o_1 - e_1)}{e_1} + \frac{(o_2 - e_2)}{e_2} + \frac{(o_3 - e_3)}{e_3} + \frac{(o_4 - e_4)}{e_4}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(86 - 50)}{50} + \frac{(98 - 50)}{50} + \frac{(14 - 50)}{50} + \frac{(2 - 50)}{50}$$

$$X^2 = 0.72 + 0.96 + 0.72 + 0.96$$

$$X^2 = 3.36$$

$$V = (C - 1) + (R - 1) = N = (4 - 1) + (2 - 1) = 4$$

At  $\infty$  0.05, V = 4, Cal  $X^2 = 4.13$ , Tab = 9.49.

**RESEARCH FINDINGS**

The Cal  $X^2 = 3.36$  is less than the Tab  $X^2 = 9.49$ . In essence, the difference between the observed frequency and the expected frequency is not statistically significant this establishes the fact that community participation in policing will reduce crime and foster peace in Rivers State.

**Question 11:** Effective crime prevention requires the collaboration of police and community members

OPTIONS	X	Y	XY	X <sup>2</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>
Strongly agree	60	41	2460	3600	1681
Agree	36	57	2052	1296	3249
Disagree	6	-	6	36	0
Strongly disagree	-	-	0	0	0
N = 4	$\sum X$	$= \sum Y =$	$\sum XY =$	$\sum X^2 =$	$\sum Y^2 =$
	102	92	4518	4932	4930

$$r = \frac{n\sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[n = \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2 (n\sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

$$n\sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)$$

$$4(4518) - (102)(92)$$

$$r = \frac{\sqrt{[4(4932) - (102)^2][4(4930) - (92)^2]}}{18072 - 9384}$$

$$18072 - 9384$$

$$r = \frac{\sqrt{(19728 - 10404)(19720 - 8464)}}{8688} = \frac{8688}{\sqrt{104950944}}$$

$$8688$$

$$= 8688$$

$$r = \frac{\sqrt{(9324)(11256)}}{\sqrt{104950944}}$$

$$\sqrt{104950944}$$

$$r = 0.083$$

The result shows that there is a high degree of co-variability between collaboration of police and community members towards effective crime prevention. This means that as people cooperate more with the police, police work will be more result oriented.

### **Decision**

From result findings obtained from testing hypothesis one, we establish that there is a significant negative correlation between community policing and increase in crime rate in Rivers State. This establishes the fact that community cooperation with the police will reduce crime significantly, we therefore accept the null hypothesis.

### **DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

Findings establish that there is significant negative correlation between community policing and increase in crime rate in Rivers State and in Nigeria as a whole. This is true and reiterates the Social Resource Theory ideology which looks at Police as a resource for solving people's problems (including crime) through empowerment and self-help. The theory states the need to observe basic democratic principles through the implementation of community policing; this, according to them will help the Police and community understand the need for collaboration in crime prevention and ultimately achieve the aim of community policing which is to reduce crime and foster peace.

Also, Sholmek et al (1988) referred to community-oriented policing as a proactive and forward-looking policing technique, which balances relative responses to calls for service with problem solving centered on causes of crime and disorder. This emphasizes the need to reduce or curb crime and anti-social behaviour through the delivery of police services through the active community engagement and partnership.

### **CONCLUSION**

One hypothesis was formulated to guide the study. The findings obtained from the tests were striking, the results revealed that establishing and maintaining mutual trust between the police and members of a community will aid in reducing Crime and Fostering Peace in Rivers State, this is the main goal of community policing. Police should therefore recognize the need for cooperation with the community and encouraged members of the community to come forward with crime fighting information.

Under community policing, Police must form a partnership with people in the community allowing average citizens the opportunity to have input into the police process in exchange for their support and participation. Community rests on the belief that contemporary community problems require a new decentralized and personalized police approach that draws citizens into the process of policing themselves.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The necessity the community/private involvement in policing has grown in recent times. Community policing which emphasizes proactive and problem-solving policing evidently provides a panacea to the growing rate of crime, insecurity and public safety.

Findings from this research work has, therefore necessitated the following recommendations that should aid in reducing crime and fostering peace in Rivers State in particular and Nigeria in general:

- i. Community policing department should identify when new vigilante groups will be formed and endeavor to work with them.
- ii. Community policing department should identify any problem associated with vigilante groups located on their division and seek to resolve them.
- iii. There should regular training and re-orientation of the individual police man on police duties, especially in the use of police discretion and dealing with members of the public.
- iv. Some percentage of funds from security votes from local and state government should be used to empower citizens to act in partnership with the police on issues of crime and more broadly defined social problems, for example, quality-of-life issues.
- v. Emphasize geographical decentralized models of policing that stress service tailored to the needs of individual communities rather than a one-size-fits-all approach for the entire jurisdiction.
- vi. Police department should build community trust on the foundation of a strong police culture that values integrity and holds individuals accountable for their behaviours and actions.
- vii. The police department should ensure that a transparent internal affairs process is built by ensuring that commands staff properly supervises officers.

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