

Public Perception Study of Community Policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas of Kaduna State

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Abstract

In 2004, the Nigeria Police, an institution saddled with the responsibility of protecting life and property in the country, adopted community policing as one of its reform strategies for effectiveness. Despite the enthusiasm of the adoption in some states, crime rate has continually remained on the increase. This study adopted the cross-sectional method of research to investigate public perception of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas of Kaduna State with special emphasis on its perceived effectiveness as well as factors militating against its implementation. The study made use of a sample of 616 respondents, selected using multi-stage cluster sampling. The questionnaire was the major instrument for data collection while in-depth interview schedule was administered to purposively selected respondents to obtain qualitative data for the study. Data collected with the questionnaire were analyzed using IBM SPSS version 20 for descriptive and inferential statistics while frequency/percentage distribution tables were used to present the analyzed data. Charts were also employed to further illustrate the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents while Chi-Square (χ^2) and t-test were used to test the study hypotheses at .05 significant (α) level. Results of the study have shown that 73.5% of the respondents attested to the effectiveness of community policing while 47% perceived its introduction as necessary because of police ineffectiveness. The findings of the study also show that more than two-third of the respondents who perceived community policing as effective, further opined that it's marked by problems like inadequate funding, absence of reliable information, lack of good training and weapon, the absence of clear legislation on community policing among others. The test of the hypotheses revealed that there is a statistically significant difference in the perceived crime reduction and the effectiveness of community policing in the area compared with the crime-fighting police strategy. In addition, age and education were found to be associated with the perception of community policing effectiveness in reducing crime in the study areas. The study concludes that there is need to urgently adopt community policing comprehensively in the two Local Government Areas in such a way that the identified limitations like inadequate funding and unreliable security information will be addressed through a joint task by government in providing the needed funding and community leaders' in sensitizing its members on how to work with the police to ensure adequate protection of lives and property in their areas.

Keywords: *Nigeria police, Community policing, Crime, Crime fighting*

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Background to the Study

Security is one of the major responsibilities of any meaningful government. It is fundamental to the corporate existence of any nation. It is against this backdrop that this study examined public perception of community policing especially in the context of the rising trend of insecurity in Northern Nigeria generally with specific reference to Jema'a and Jeba local governments of Kaduna state. The insecurity situation in Nigeria is generally exemplified in the increasing incidents of armed robbery, kidnapping, human trafficking, assassinations, terrorism across the country (Osakwe, 2009). Nwaubani, Anyikwa and Azuh (2014) argued that the issue of insecurity is without contention or reserve one of the major problems confronting Nigeria, especially in the last ten years. Such situation according to them is worrisome in the light of the basic responsibility of government and state to protect lives and property of Nigerians as reflected in the 1999 constitution (Nwaubani, Anyikwa & Azuh, 2014).

Observing the central role of police as an organ of the government in maintenance of peace and order and protection of live and property, Imobighe (2003) argued that the police no doubt is the most statutory or constitutional body responsible for the preservation of law and order as well as the protection of the individual in cause of the exercise of his/her legal rights within the society. He however, lamented that irrespective of such constitutional duty of the police, most communities, especially those located in the northern part, still witness a rise in crime rate, which has lead to expressions of fear within members of communities with almost every household being protected with tall walls and fences to prevent criminals from getting easy access to people's houses (Imobighe, 2003).

While Imobighe's (2003) observation of household security measure could be helpful in controlling crimes like armed robbery, burglary, criminal trespass and assault, the contemporary, most disastrous security challenge in the northern part of Nigeria bothers on terrorism. Though the global phenomenon on terrorism in the past two decades was not part of the security challenges facing the northern part of the country, but presently, the increasing activities of the suspected Islamic-jihadist group (Boko-Haram), armed robbery, kidnapping and cattle rustling in mostly northern states with specific reference to Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas, have necessitated the investigation of this study.

Amidst such increase in crime wave mainly in the forms of insurgence and kidnapping especially against the backdrop of the inability of the Nigeria police to deal with the situation, one may be tempted to examine the extent to which the public still believes in the efficacy of the crime-fighting police strategy in the task of protection of lives and property. Based on the foregoing, the idea of a study on community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas becomes necessary. The partnership between the citizens of these local governments and the police is to ensure the safety of their lives and property. The implementation of the strategy is based on the realization that full community safety cannot be achieved without the cooperation and collaboration between various institutions of government and the public. Crime can only be solved with community participation and help, as people living in a community where crime is committed, probably know the

perpetrators or might have seen something suspicious (Trojanowicz & Bucquerox, 1998). In spite of the introduction of community policing in these two Local Government Areas, there has been some observable increase in the rate of crime in these areas. As a result, this study has attempted to appraise public perception of the effectiveness of community policing in these two local government areas of the state.

A number of studies have been conducted to examine the efficacy of community policing. Miharu (2015) investigated the effectiveness of riot prevention through community policing in India. The researcher discovered that during the Hindu-Muslim riot, Indian police have historically been unable to effectively deal with illegal detention and indiscriminate shootings against citizens and participated in arson and looting with the rioters. The result of the study revealed that local police and paramilitary forces were utilized to their limits in conducting security operations. It is imperative that trust is restored between local residents and the police force. The study presents the results of more than four years of research on community policing in the Maharashtra state from March 2010 to March 2013. The researcher attended some meetings and events organized by the Mohalla committees to interview local police and citizens and observe how local issues were settled and, what kind of problems arose. Forty-seven respondents were used for the study. The findings suggested the possibilities for expanding the approach and methods of community policing to all parts of India. The most important factor in community policing is citizen's participation in order to secure the cooperative relationship between police and citizens in solving community problems.

Njiri, Ngari & Maina (2012) carried out a study on assessment of implementation of community policing programme in Nakuru Police Division, Nakuru County, Kenya. The objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of institutional arrangement of community policing programme in Nakuru Police Division. The study was based on descriptive survey design and targeted 330 police officers and community members involved in community policing programme. Stratified simple random sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 330 respondents. Data were collected using questionnaires and analyzed using frequency tables and simple percentages. Considering the results of the study, it is evident that community policing programme lacked adequate human resources as there were no specific police officers assigned to community policing programme. The result also indicates that police officers carrying out community policing activities have not received adequate education and special training in community policing.

Mabunda (2014) carried out a study on the challenges in establishing partnership policing in Soshanguve, using 45 participants in three focus group interviews to obtain their views, opinions and perceptions of partnership in policing. The collected data were transcribed verbatim (using words and phrases of the participants), analyzed and interpreted using manual open coding, with the aim of identifying and examining patterns of similarities or differences in the data. The study indicates that partnerships in policing have been effectively implemented in other parts of the world and can be implemented in South Africa

in general and Soshanguve in particular. The key findings show that participants indicated that lack of trust in the police, poor leadership of the police and a lack of training and resources are some of the challenges in realizing their partnership in policing. It was also found that there is lack of cooperation between the police and most community members who do not provide information about crime to the police. The police, in turn, do not always give feedback on cases reported by members of the community. This has provoked a situation whereby many community members have lost confidence in the police. Another study was conducted by Arisukwu (2012) to examine the efficiency of community policing in solving crime problem in Adatan community in Ogun State. Data collection in the study involved a survey of 500 respondents representing 0.2% of the total population of Abeokuta South Local Government Area. The qualitative data involved an in-depth interview which was conducted with seven police officers and 10 key community leaders in Adatan, all purposively selected. An unobtrusive method was used to observe the general attitudes of the police and the public. Quantitative data were analyzed with simple percentage and chi-square methods, while the qualitative data involved manual content analysis. The research findings revealed that 29.2% of the respondents preferred community policing to the old policing style. The awareness of community policing practice in Adatan was low, with more than half of the respondents (50.8%) not aware of its practice in Adatan. The study concludes that community policing is a desirable strategy for crime control and prevention in Adatan.

Alemika and Chukwuma (2005) carried out a survey on criminal victimization and fear of crime in fourteen Local Government Areas of Lagos State. They maintained that because of incidence and fear of crime in Nigeria, many societies and their members took proactive steps to reduce the feeling of vulnerability and also to reduce the danger of being victimized. Due to this situation, the Police – Community Relations Committee (PCRC) was introduced. The aim for the establishment of the Police-Community Relations in police divisions was to form a relationship between the public and the police (community policing) in order to fight crime and other social vices in the society. The study indicated that about a third (23%) of the respondents were of the view that PCRC existed in their area; while 77% reported that they were aware of the role of Police-Community Relations Committee.

Alemika and Chukwuma (2007) carried out a survey on criminal victimization, safety and policing in Nigeria. The study clearly indicated that 48% of Nigerian populace agreed that police are doing everything that can help people and to be of good service to the people. 29.9% of respondents responded that the police are not doing anything to render good services to the people but 22.1% maintained a neutral position. These researchers are of the opinion that people need a strong synergy between them and the police in order to fight crimes in the community. Crime control strategies in traditional Nigerian societies were carried out by age-grades, masquerades, extended family, secret cults, adult males and other local organizations (Igbo, 2007; Ugwuoke, 2015; Zumve, 2012). These groups can give any of these sanctions: fines and compensation, ritual cleansing, confinement, ostracism, banishment, capital punishment to any defaulter of the law of the community.

Apart from these preventive strategies, there are also reactive strategies that were used in controlling crime in traditional societies, rural communities and even contemporary societies. Remnants of some of them that are specifically used in controlling crime in traditional societies are still seen in rural societies and few contemporary societies. These are as follows: oath taking, cursing, ridicule, banishment, trial by ordeal and capital punishment (Mbiti, 1969; Odetola & Ademola, 1985; Odedele & Egotanwa, 2002; Olaoba, 2002; Ugwuoke, 2002, Igbo, 2007).

In contemporary Nigeria, there are a number of crime control measures. These include imprisonment, fine and death penalty (Igbo, 2007; Dambazau, 2009; Ugwuoke, 2015). According to Carney (1977), only formal repressive and punitive strategies were approved and used in controlling crime in contemporary societies, including Nigeria that adopted some of the traditional crime control strategies such as confinements, reconciliation, conflict resolution and death penalty to control crime in the present time (Ugwuoke, 2015). The formal agencies that are responsible for crime control in modern Nigeria time are the criminal justice system which includes the police, courts and the correctional institutions (Bohn & Haley, 2005; Igbo, 2007; Inciadi, 2007; Ugwuoke, 2015). These institutions (police, court and the correction centres) established by the colonial masters in Nigeria used these institutions to enforce regulations.

Bohn & Haley (2005) maintained that for many years, professional model like quick response time, preventive patrol and follow-up investigation did not always operate as efficiently and effectively as they could, criminal justice researchers set out to review procedures and evaluate alternative programmes for effective crime control. It is a fact that good police-public relationship is very important to a successful policing. Without an enabling environment created for the police and the public, there would be no effective policing (Maguire, Morgan & Reiner, 2002). In order to have an effective crime control mechanism, community policing as a new strategy was adopted to identify the problems of crime and disorder and develop solutions within the community, making the police more responsive and connected to the communities they serve. This was well confirmed from the report of Presidential Committee on police reforms in Nigeria that “Nigeria police should establish strategic partnerships with all segments of the society, including the traditional institutions in order to build the necessary public support for its crime prevention efforts” (CLEEN Foundation, 2008:12). Nigeria like other nations of the world equally adopted the control strategy by receiving some United States experts for a two-day conference on community policing. The programme aimed at training senior police officers and area commanders in charge of community policing in the 36 states.

Methodology

This study employed a cross-sectional survey research design. The cross-sectional design ensures that the researcher collects data at a particular point or period from the selected sample. The population of the study consisted of 301,450 adults of the two local governments (source: projected figure from national population census at 3.5% growth rate of United Nations formula). The multi-stage cluster sampling and the purposive

sampling techniques were employed to select 616 respondents which constituted the sample for the study. The instruments used for the study were the questionnaire and the interview guide. The analyses of data involved t-test and chi-square statistics. The three hypotheses of the study were tested at 0.5 level of significance.

Findings and Discussion

Substantive Hypothesis (H₁): There is a significant difference in the perceived effect of crime reduction of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas of Kaduna State compared with the crime fighting strategy of policing.

Null Hypothesis (H₀): There is no significant difference in the perceived effect of crime reduction of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas of Kaduna state compared with that of crime fighting strategy of policing.

Test Statistics

In testing the above hypothesis, data presented in Row 5 and 6 of Table 1 below were used. The data contained a four point score from 'Strongly Disagree' at '1' to 'Strongly Agree' at '4'. The data measured perceived effect of community policing in crime reduction compared to that of crime fighting police. One sample t-test was used to test the hypothesis at .05 level of significance and the result is presented below.

Table 1: t-test table of perceived crime reduction effect of community policing to crime fighting policing

N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean	t value	Df	Mean Difference	Sig (2-tailed)
616	2.85	.801	.032	88.204	615	2.846	.001
616	2.97	.901	.036	81.804	615	2.972	.000

Decision Rule

Reject H₀ if $p \leq \alpha$.

Table 1 above shows that the two items (30v and 30 vi) used to measure crime reduction effect of community policing compared to that of crime fighting police on a four point scale have mean scores of 2.85 and 2.97 respectively. This indicates an average positive affirmation to the items. Also given that the *p*-values .001 and .000 respectively, are less than .05, the H₀ is rejected. As a result, the study concludes there is a statistically significant difference in the perceived crime reduction effect of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas of Kaduna State compared to that of crime fighting police. The implication of this finding is that community policing is perceived in the Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas of Kaduna State as more effective in reducing crime than crime fighting police. Thus the need for efforts to be directed at ensuring successful operation of community policing as such will help checkmate the growing incidence of crimes in the areas.

Hypothesis Two

Substantive Hypothesis (H_1)

There is a significant relationship between age of respondents and public perception of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas.

Null Hypothesis (H_0)

There is no significant relationship between age of respondents and public perception of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas.

Test Statistics

Data presented in Table 2 on respondent's age was cross tabulated with data presented in Table 16 on the respondents' perception of community policing to test the above hypothesis. The young category comprised of respondents within the age range of 18-28 years while respondents above 38 years were grouped as older. Also the data presented in table 16 were grouped into positive response which comprised of "excellent", "very good" and "fair" responses while "poor" responses were grouped as negative. Chi-square test was performed using SPSS at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the test is presented below.

Table 2: Cross Tabulation of Respondent's Age and their perception of Community policing in their areas

Perception of Community Policing	Age of Respondents		Total
	Younger	Older	
Negative	41 (6.7%)	96 (15.6%)	137 (22.2%)
Positive	340 (55.2%)	139 (22.6%)	479 (77.8%)
Total	381 (61.9%)	235 (38.1)	616 (100)

$$\chi^2 = 76.1, df = 1, p = .000$$

Decision Rule

Reject H_0 if $p \leq \alpha$.

From the contingency table, 22.2% of the respondents have negative perception of community policing out of which 15.6% are older respondents. Also, out of 77.8% of the respondents that have positive perception of community policing, 55.2% are younger respondents while only 22.6% are older respondents. It can also be deduced from the table that the obtained Chi-square value is 76.1 with a p -value of .000 that is less than .05. As a result, the null hypothesis (H_0) which states that there is no significant relationship between age and perception of community policing is rejected. The study therefore concludes that there is a significant relationship between age and perception of community policing as younger people in the area more likely to have a positive perception of community policing than older people. This implies that young persons have positive perception of community policing than older persons in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas.

Hypothesis Three

Educated members of Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas are likely to have a positive perception of community policing than the less educated ones.

Substantive Hypothesis (H₁)

There is a significant relationship between education and perception of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas.

Null Hypothesis (H₀)

There is no significant relationship between education and perception of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas.

Test Statistics

Data presented in Table 3 on respondent's education status was cross tabulated with data presented in Table 16 on the respondents' perception of community policing to test the above hypothesis. The education status of the respondents was categorized into less educated which comprised of respondents whose education status is below National Certificate of Education (NCE) and National Diploma (ND) while respondents with NCE or ND and above were categorized as more educated. Also the data presented in table 16 were grouped into positive response which comprised of “excellent”, “very good” and “fair” responses while “poor” responses were grouped as negative. Chi-square test was performed using SPSS at 0.05 level of significance. The result of the test is presented below.

Table 3: Cross Tabulation of Respondent's Education and their perception of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas.

Perception of Community Policing	Education of Respondents		Total
	Less Educated	Educated	
Negative	70 (11.4%)	67 (10.9%)	137 (22.2%)
Positive	165 (26.8%)	314 (51%)	479 (77.8%)
Total	235 (38.1%)	381 (61.9)	616 (100)

$$\chi^2 = 12.513, df = 2, p = .001$$

Decision Rule

Reject H₀ if $p \leq \alpha$.

Table 3 above shows that out of 22.2% of the respondents that have negative perception of community policing, 11.4% are less educated while 10.9% are educated. This further show that 29.8% of less educated respondents have negative perception of community policing compared to 17.6% of the educated respondents that have negative perception of community policing. Also given that the obtained p -value (.001) is less than .05, we reject H₀; as a result, the study concludes that there is a significant relationship between education status and perception of community policing in Jema'a and Jaba Local Government Areas. This implies that more of the educated members of the society have positive perception of community policing than the less educated ones.

The substantive findings of this study are discussed below in relation to existing literatures. The demographic data of respondents which shows that more males participated in the study does not reflect the proportion of male and female population in the area as contained in National Bureau of Statistics (2011). This could however be as a result of dominant cultural practice in the area that makes it easy for an outsider to have more access to the males than the females. Nevertheless, the female population constituted over one-third of the sample. It can also be deduced from the research findings that younger persons participated in the study more as they constitute the literate segment of the population that can attend to the questionnaire. Consequently the singles in the study are more than other marital categories. The study findings also showed that most of the respondents are Christians. This is similar to the religious data of the area which contend that Southern Kaduna is dominantly inhabited by Christians. The respondents' education status also showed that over one-third of the respondents have NCE and OND as their highest education qualification, while trading dominated the entire occupations with 32.5% followed by Civil Servants with 24.5%.

Substantively, the study found that there were cases of crimes committed in the two Local Government Areas as opined by 98% of the respondents and more than half of the respondents (51.5%) also perceived the rate at which such crime occurs to be high while more than one third of the respondents (43.2%) were of the view that the crime rate is low. A statistical report by Shunanum (2014) on the rate of crime in Jema'a Local government area of the state also held a similar view as it shows that crime rate in the area increased within 2012 to 2014. Same was also the case with Jaba Local Government Area in which crimes like assault, theft/stealing, criminal trespass, armed robbery, housebreaking/burglary and other forms of crimes increased from a total of 300 cases in 2012 to 800 cases in 2014. However, 70% of the respondents believed that crime in the areas reduced since members of these communities started collaborating with the police to control crime, which further indicates the need to formalize the collaboration in the form of Community policing programme.

Secondly, with regards to how members of the public in the two Local Government Areas perceive community policing, the study found that the public perceive community policing as good because 73.5% of the respondents accepted the establishment of community policing in their areas. Such wide range of acceptance according to the data obtained from the in-depth interviewed is because it creates a situation where all join hand with the police to fight crime and that is yielding results. Furthermore, 49.7% of the respondents perceived community policing as an encouraging strategy in combating crime while 33.3% were of the view that it needs to be improved. A study by Arisukwu (2012) in Adatan community of Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun state also found that community policing is a desirable strategy for crime prevention in the area.

Among the various factors that are perceived as necessitating the establishment of community policing strategy in the areas, the study found that police ineffectiveness is the most perceived factor as expressed by 47.2% of the respondents. Also one of every four of

the respondents believed that high rate of crime in their areas is the main reason that required the establishment of community policing. Other reasons include police brutality, the need to strengthen relationship between the police and members of the community, high level of insecurity, lack of sufficient manpower in the police and inadequate police funding. Such perceived factors for establishing community policing though in line with the focus of Nigeria Police reform launched in 2004 which creates the basis for community policing, is however more detailed on the specific needs that justifies the adoption of community policing. For example, Okeshola (2013) has argued that the Nigerian Police reform was with a focus to engage members of the community who are direct beneficiaries of a secured environment to be actively involved in the policing of their environment. Also while not specifically appraising community policing, Nwaubani, Anyika and Azuh (2014), observed that the issue of insecurity is one of the main challenges facing Nigeria. This observation explains why insecurity was perceived by the respondents in the current study as one of the factors that necessitated the adoption of community policing strategy.

The study also found that over one-third of the respondents each perceived police effectiveness in combating crime as fair and poor, while only 17% perceived it as very good. This shows a high lack of confidence by members of the public in the capacity of the police to combat crime in their areas. Such lack of confidence is despite the fact that most of the respondents (51.1%) were of the opinion that there is an existence of a cordial relationship between the police and members of their communities. However, not all the respondents perceived the relationship between members of their community and police as cordial as 34.8% of the respondents perceived a non-cordial relationship between the two. But the fact that more than half of the respondents perceived the relationship as cordial demonstrates a change from the traditionally perceived conflicting relationship between the police and member of the public argued by Alemika and Chukwuma (2004) which according to Okafor (2006) is due to the colonial link of Nigeria police.

Furthermore, the study found that community policing is largely perceived as helpful in controlling crime in the areas as demonstrated by 77.8% of the respondents. Alemika and Chukwuma (2005) in their study on criminal victimization and fear of crime in selected Local Government Areas of Lagos State also found that 77% of their respondents were aware of the existence of Police-Community Relations Committee as that of forming a relationship between the public and police and that such has helped in controlling crime. Mihara (2015), also reported the effectiveness of community policing in riot prevention in India. Such effectiveness for Mihara was due to a high level of citizens' participation in the policing of the area.

Despite the perceived potency of community policing in crime reduction, the study also found that there are perceived problems militating against community policing in the areas as expressed by 48.8% of the respondents. Such problems according to 32.6% of the respondents bothers on inadequate funding while 27.9% of the respondents opine that the problem is due to lack of training and weapon. Other identified problems include absence of orientation, absence of reliable information, and absence of clear legislation on

community policing, police bureaucratic bottle neck that limit their speed of intervention and poor remuneration to police officers. Njiri, Ngari and Maina study on implementation of community policing programme in Nakuru police division in Kenya also reported that lack of adequate human resources and poor education/special training in community policing activities hinder community policing programmes in the area. Also Mabunda (2014) found that part of the challenges confronting community policing in South Africa include lack of trust to the police, poor leadership of the police and lack of training and resources.

The dominance of lack of manpower training as one of the challenges militating against community policing in the areas also reflected in the perceived strategies that could help address the problems hindering effective performance of the police. For example, among the different perceived strategies, 29.5% of the respondents suggested manpower training and encouragement, followed by 27.2% of the respondents who perceived adequate funding as a way of helping improve the performance of community policing. Other suggested strategies include youth employment, provision of adequate crime fighting facilities, adequate crime investigation and proper orientation of the masses.

Furthermore, the study found that community policing is largely perceived as helpful in controlling crime in the areas as demonstrated by 77.8% of the respondents. Alemika and Chukwuma (2005) in their study on criminal victimization and fear of crime in selected Local Government Areas of Lagos State also found that 77% of their respondents were aware of the existence of Police-Community Relations Committee as that of forming a relationship between the public and police and that such has helped in controlling crime. Mihara (2015), also reported the effectiveness of community policing in riot prevention in India. Such effectiveness for Mihara was due to a high level of citizens' participation in the policing of the area.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are considered relevant based on the findings of this study.

1. There should be more effort towards tackling the factors militating against community policing in the two Local Governments Areas studied to help formalize the already existing collaboration between members of the community and the police. Such effort should emphasize the integrative approach by creating an effective synergy between informal security operatives like vigilante groups and the police in a bid to guarantee efficiency in security of lives and properties in the region.
2. Police visibility in the areas needs to be improved through strengthening of the mobile police division to address the challenges faced by 25.2% who opined that they hardly see police in their areas. The improved presence is necessary to enable the police familiarize with the terrain and also have good rapport with community members which will invariably facilitate efficient community policing in the area.

3. The government should create an enabling environment to help the various stakeholders in community policing contribute meaningfully towards the onerous task of crime control. The enabling environment on the part of the government includes equipping the police adequately with sophisticated weapons and modern communication gadgets. Community leaders would on the other hand be required to sensitize and educate their members on the need to cooperate with the police through the provision of reliable information on any form of crime or security threat. Thus an awareness campaign is imperative in this light so as to educate community members about the objective of community policing. Though such awareness was observed in the present study it was however more of the young and educated members of the two local government areas that had this knowledge. So there is a need for the elderly and uneducated members of the community to be enlightened on what community policing is and the channels through which they can take part in the security of their environment.
4. The Nigeria police through its public relations unit should work towards building a more viable and cordial relationship between the institution and members of their community. This stems from the fact that more than one-third of the respondents perceived a non-cordial relationship between members of their communities and the police while 14.1% opined that the relationship is hostile. The implication of such perceived non-cordial relationship is that it will hamper effective community policing as members of the community will be reluctant in working with the police if the atmosphere is perceived as hostile.
5. Law and policy makers should enact clear legislation regarding community policing in a way that citizens by the provisions of the legislation will take full part in their own security. Such legislation should stipulate the specific roles expected from both parties. It should also make provisions for incentives and rewards to members of the public who provide relevant information to the police.

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