

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC SECURITY  
IMPROVEMENT: A STUDY OF NAIROBI.**

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI  
INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES**

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**A PROJECT PAPER SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
MASTER DEGREE IN GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT.**

**NAIROBI, JULY 2004**

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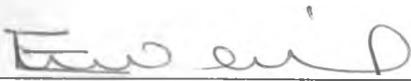


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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project paper is my own original work and has not been submitted to any other University for examination.

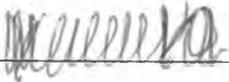
Esther Thaara Muoria



Date 19/12/04

This project has been submitted for examination with my approval as a University Supervisor.

Dr. W. K. Subbo



Supervisor

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> / 1 / 2005

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my three children; Wanjiru, Muoria and Muriithi. They are a great source of inspiration to me, which has encouraged me to want to do more.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Writing this paper has for me been a moment of challenge and new growth. I am grateful for this new height of achievement and hence express my gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. W. K. Subbo for his guidance and patience through it all.

I am grateful to the two Research assistants who patiently administered and collected the questionnaires. Their contribution does not go unnoticed. In addition are all the heads of police stations (OCPP) and various opinion leaders in the three estates who assisted me in locating the various respondents especially the groups.

Further gratitude goes to the Director of the Institute of African studies and members of teaching staff for their good efforts and granting me this opportunity to achieve this level.

I also acknowledge the patience of my husband Engineer C. N. Muoria and his continued support as well as financial assistance in achieving this level.

To you all, I will forever be grateful.

## ABSTRACT

The objectives of this project were to explore and determine the levels of insecurity and community involvement (participation) in improving the same, for both Gender.

Quantitative data was assembled from interviewing a random sample of 102 respondents while qualitative data was drawn from interviewing key informants and focus group discussants. Secondary information was drawn from relevant books and local daily newspapers and journals.

The study found out that there is a lot of insecurity, which affects both gender, but the female gender is affected to a greater extent. It also established the various measures being put in place and the differences these measures have achieved in enhancing security. It concluded that both the community and the residents themselves have to work together to achieve significant levels of security.

The study recommendations are based on the findings and they include the following, greater sensitization for the residents, further studies of women security, better residential planning, enhanced community policing, better equipped Government security personnel and that the residents are their own security.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION.

“For every country, for every people, the road to more rapid advance and progress is obstructed and even blocked by the arms race...for every country, for every people, the struggle for a better life... for development ...for social progress is inextricably linked with the struggle to end the arms race”. (Helsinki, 1976: 5)

Nairobi is the capital city of Kenya and is highly cosmopolitan, consisting of labour migrants from the rural areas. Over seventy percent (70%) of males in 1950s came in search of employment while twenty five percent (25%) came to join their spouses. Acquisition of education as well as joining parents also explain the migrations to Nairobi (Olenja, 1980)

These migrations meant a great deal of change in the organization, structure and functions of Kenyan families and society at large. While the resultant problems of this cosmopolitanism are multiple, this project aims at addressing the problem of insecurity.

Peace and Security is seen as a road to more rapid advancement, better life and development, as well as social progress. (Helsinki, Sept. 23-26,1976:5)  
Security is seen in this study as “Détente”, a necessary change in favour of peace in the world arena. It was and is still the responsibility of the entire

Society and everyone is and should be each other's security, within the community which is “the people living in one place... Considered as a

whole.” (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary) This involves conditions of sharing having things in common and being alike in some ways; having shared feelings of membership. It refers to women, men and their children in the nation or locality who co-exist mutually. Everyone’s needs and contributions therefore play a crucial role in enhancing the entire community.

A community is composed of different individuals, women and men of different ages, temperaments and occupations as well as educational statuses. They may also differ in tribe and race, but there is what brings them together to form this community (Clark, R.F 1974)

People, the world over have desired to live in peace and harmony, and have even gone into great heights to be at the top of their peaceful well being. World super powers such as the United States have fashioned themselves as world prefects and undertaken to struggle to have the World at their foot. Security is therefore of great essence and at times brings about great wars. This study will look at insecurity within Nairobi, how it has permeated the city and community response to the phenomena. This is also in regard to women who are major victims as the so-called “weaker sex” members of the Community.

## **1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The problem of insecurity in Nairobi has become alarming due to various reasons and has to a large extent affected the normal functions within the communities therein. Insecurity in Nairobi is even perpetrated by the Security agents. A 14-year-old girl was raped by a police officer at Kamukunji Police Station in Nairobi. (**Daily nation: Monday Feb. 3, 2003**).

She had gone there to seek her brother-in-law for school fees to enable her join Form one, having come all the way from Marsabit. She had to recuperate at Kenyatta National Hospital after undergoing Surgery. The officers on duty refused to take her statement on her reporting and maintained that her case would not stand, as her attacker was a fellow policeman. The shaken and frustrated young victim was forced to seek protection from a guard in a nearby building where she spent the cold night with the watchman.

Robberies are a common occurrence in Nairobi. Gunmen held bank workers hostage for an hour as they made away with Ksh.36 million. They dumped a further 8.8. Million in the banking hall when the load became too heavy to carry. This was at Consolidated bank on Harambee Avenue at 7 am, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2003.

The robbers held the two Security guards at gunpoint and stripped them of their uniforms. They themselves wore the uniforms and continued to usher in unsuspecting workers. They even knew the two employees who had the keys to the strong room whom they ordered at gunpoint to unlock the strong room. The case was similar to another at ICEA building in 1997, where the robbers fled with Sh.7 million.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August 2001, robbers invaded Paramount Universal Bank for thirty minutes and made away with Ksh.6.5m. In April 2001, robbers raided Transnational Bank, Nairobi making away with Kshs. 11.6 million. The same day they raided Post Bank at Canon House and stole Sh.1 million. **(Daily Nation: Feb 6, 2003)**

The list may go on and on.

The presence of illegal firearms in Nairobi is alarming. The police at the beginning of this year (2003) seized 1,000 live bullets of the 7.62mm – caliber. They are used in the powerful AK-47, G-3 and FN. rifles; a big enough haul to equip a police post. The AK-47 are favoured by robbers and were on their way to the underworld market. The haul was seized from two men and two women in Eastleigh and was suspected to have been purposely diverted from the Eldoret – based bullet factory in August 2002, children unearthed live ammunitions buried in their playground in Gigiri Police Station lines. Police in October 2002 revealed that Jua kali gunsmiths were supplying gangsters with weapons. Two welders and their 12 customers were arrested in Nairobi. On March 15, 2003, President Kibaki presided over the burning of a batch of 1,000 guns, part of the 8,000 illegal guns to be destroyed by the government. (**Daily Nation Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 and March 14<sup>th</sup> 2003**).

The occurrence of illegal firearms in circulation is alarming and the phenomenon grossly undermines security because the common man is at a risk of being attacked with these firearms at any one time. University students too have been found in possession of the said firearms as well as a couple in a city estate. The circulation of these firearms renders insecurity a great concern.

Insecurity in Nairobi City is perpetrated by even the mighty in society, which may also be termed here as violence against women. A KANU legislator attempted to rape a woman in his continental House office. Security personnel who heard her screams and came to her aid rescued the lady. The attacker was eventually named in Parliament and he recorded a statement with the police (**Daily Nation 20 August 2003**).

Similarly, another legislator is reported as having raped and impregnated a young girl who eventually gave birth to a baby boy. The legislator eventually convinced the victim to withdraw the case against him, which had been filed in Court by Fida (**East Africa Standard Feb. 27,2003**).

The list of insecurity concerns is endless. Therefore this study aims at exploring and answering the following questions;

1. What are the major security concerns in the city?
2. What is the community response to this insecurity?
3. Does the community response to this insecurity cater equally and satisfactorily to women security concerns?
4. What are the major constraints in their endeavour to achieve their overall security?
5. Has their response significantly reduced insecurity in Nairobi?

## **1.2 JUSTIFICATION.**

A lot of resources have been spent worldwide in an attempt to achieve security. America, in the year 2002 - 2003 spent billions of dollars in

destroying Saddam Hussein's real or imagined nuclear weaponry in an attempt to curb terrorism and probably achieve world peace. More recently terrorism in Kenya has been witnessed leading to a temporary suspension of American and British Flights to Kenya.

“There is need for you (Wananchi) to be aggressively vigilant and alert in criminal intelligent, information gathering, analysis and dissemination”. (The Vice President and Minister for Home Affairs, Mr. Moody Awori while addressing Wananchi in Nairobi (**East Africa Standard March 11,2003**))

- This is the Government stand in the issue of insecurity. More information should be documented on the subject of insecurity and Community response to the same, because the information currently available is insufficient.
- There is a need to specifically document and probably offer further suggestions on how the problem of insecurity should be approached and dealt with from a broader perspective. There should be more concerted efforts in dealing with the problem.
- The Study will further aim at exploring the involvement of women – their participation and benefits. If crime has to be reduced or done away with such as the ‘Mungiki’ menace which highly afflicts women, a lot of study into women involvement in their own security and how community response to insecurity affects them, should be undertaken and further suggestions offered.

**NB.** The Member of Parliament for Nyaribari Chache Hon. Simeon Nyachae on the issue of insecurity contends that criminals have taken over the running of the country yet they are not from the Sky but live here with us. He accused the police of working in collaboration with the thugs to terrorize Kenyans, which could lead to anarchy. “We feel that appropriate measures should be taken by the government to contain the situation which has spiraled to the rural areas”. (**Daily Nation August 24, 2003**).

Unless the community itself takes to undertaking their own security, the situation may be getting off hand.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY.**

#### **1.3.1 Broad Objective.**

The overall objective of this study was to explore and determine the level of insecurity and community involvement (Participation) in Security Improvement.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives.**

Specifically the study aimed at: -

- i) Describing the problem of insecurity as experienced by both gender in Nairobi.
- ii) Establishing available responses by the security agents especially the police.

- iii) Capturing the gaps in the above endeavour (ii) and community attempts to fill in the same gaps.
- iv) Capturing and determining the extent to which this response has made an impact on the security for both gender.

#### **1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS**

Notably security is a complex issue and cuts right across the societal network; and it is perpetrated from all corners of society. This study will be concerned with the reaction and attempts at being involved in curbing the tentacles of insecurity within Kahawa-Sukari/Githurai area, by the community itself; who are the recipient of the phenomena. The study did not extend to other estates in Nairobi such as BuruBuru, Kangemi among others, but the findings could be generalized to other areas.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW.

As already stated, insecurity is a major threat worldwide, shaking even the super powers. Literature on security / insecurity will be reviewed under the following sub headings;

- General observation of traditional societies' security organizations in Kenya.
- Disruption of these organisations
- Independence and beyond
- International Security Concerns.
- Studies on Nairobi – Does any address insecurity?
- Security and women studies.

#### 2.0.1 General observation of traditional societies' security organizations.

##### Kikuyu

Dr. F. Lugard, visiting the Kikuyu people of Central Kenya as an explorer found them very peaceful, observing each others' well being. He notes that he had "no hesitation in trusting himself almost alone among them, even away from the camp". ( Howarth, A. 1967). This is because the community was based on three (3) important organizations which ensured complete harmony amongst them. These were:

- i) The “Nyumba” a household and whose members were related by blood with several huts belonging to different wives. Due to this consanguinity, it is quite apparent that complete concern and protection for each other was completely observed, actually guaranteed and very little deviation was the case (Clark, R.F 1974).
- ii) Then there was “Maherega” or clan, which joined several households and many shared names so that there was a lot of inherent brotherhood.
- iii) “Mucii” or house or homestead whose core was the patrilineal descent.

Warriors played an important security part, and were said to be a gift from God. They went raiding and took arms incase of an attack. The warriors graduated into “Kiama” or senior elders, which was the “highest authority in the land... passed laws...administered justice in order to keep peace and stability in society”. Compensation was the commonest way of settling disputes and refusal led to a curse, which was highly avoided, hence ensuring peaceful co-existence. (Howarth A. 1967: Muriuki G. 1978).

### **Luo**

Magic was a well-developed feature, which is what may be referred to as black and white magicians. This acted as powerful sanctions on the people to make them live in peace and prevented them from causing trouble for one another. Enmity was not brought out in the open because one could easily be blamed for an enemy’s misfortune. Spiritual and political powers went hand in hand, gained either through lineage or through charisma. In case of any

forms of trouble, the elders acted as intermediaries and even blessed the young warriors before going to war. (Ochieng W. R. 1979)

### **Abagusii**

Similarly were the Abagusii also of Western Kenya who were divided into sub-tribes, clans, sub-clans and lineage. Within the sub-tribe was “the rule of law” where offences such as homicide between clans were sorted out through compensation. Solidarity and communal identity within the sub-tribes was realized and this formed a strong defense against any external threat(s). They had no centralized political institutions, but this was observed at the clan level; and would unite under threat against neighbours.

Negotiations and settlement of disputes between clans of the same sub-tribe was another reason for common action. Elders took charge until disputes were settled.

Within the family, heads of households settled disputes usually the eldest male. Between the families, a council of elders settled disputes and their constitution or membership largely depended on the problem at hand. The council could also be extended beyond the community boundaries to the lineage ties and was now known as the “etureti”. Their authority was legitimized by age so that they never had to forcefully arrest anyone. They had the powers to curse and administer oaths involving the supernatural so that hardly anybody was ready to be subjected to these proceedings, hence maintaining peace and security.

For larger areas such as the entire clan, the “Egesaku” elders sat to settle disputes headed by an “Omogambi” or chief. These played the judicial

functions, possessed political and religious powers leading in religious sacrifices while planting and harvesting crops. It was difficult to separate the ceremonial, political and religious activities, though the chief was just the first among equals. It was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the British entered and disrupted the old power balance, though they were highly resisted. (Ochieng W. R. 1974)

### **Kamba**

Power, authority and general security among the Kamba of Eastern Kenya was also in the hands of a council of elders who, due to their placement in society were highly respected! Peace was made by oath of the “Kithito” which was solemn and binding making a serious covenant. The “Kithito” was a horn, filled in with several paraphernalia and so feared that when carried around, a passerby had to walk on the opposite side from where the “Kithito” was held. The “Kithito” ceremony conducted by the elders was for peacemaking among elders of the warring sides. The elders also forced a wrongdoer to pay compensation and if he/she failed to do so, they ordered young warriors to attack the victim and force him/her to comply. (Hobley, C.W 1967)

### **Embu**

The security system of the Embu of Eastern Kenya was also like that of any other part of Kenya/Africa.

There was generally compensation for injury hence payment of fines or repair for the damage. Even murder was paid back in livestock as adjudicated by native courts, consisting of elder’s councils and formed as need arose from qualified elders – of a certain age. They had to have two

circumcised sons and formed the “Kiama”. There was also the “njama” which consisted of married men and could also include young warriors. The potent elder’s weapon was their curse, “Kirumi” which was believed to be fatal. They also claimed divine intervention, through the “Mundu Mugo”.

There was also the “Muthamaki” or war leader who was generally a seasoned and experienced warrior and defended the community. After any such raids or action for defense from external enemies, the authority would go back to the “Kiama”, just like the Biblical Israelites had fighters like Samson for defense, but the authority easily reverted back to judges like Samuel.

The Embu also performed inter-tribal oaths of peace known as “Kuuna mburi” (to break the goat). The elders of the two warring tribes, in which both sides swore that if any member of the two sides attacked the other he/she would die like the goat, which was soon slaughtered and eaten, by elders also conducted this. Both women and men as the younger warriors watched the proceedings, which they would eventually perform upon succeeding the elders. This ensured peace between the adjacent populations. Source: (Mwaniki, HSK: 1973).

Apparently therefore, security in these societies was everyone’s responsibility, with elders mainly ensuring peace and internal as well as external security. Though there were threats such as internal an external aggression, famine and constant migrations, security was taken care of at whatever stage. Great warriors like Shaka-Zulu of the Zulus of Southern Africa, emerged to ensure security and integrity external of their communities against external attack while elders kept peace, organization and security all the year round.

## 2.0.2 Disruption of these organisations

All these forms of peace and security arrangements were disrupted with the coming of the Europeans colonizers, hence negative and disruptive changes in the community. By 1904, the British had, for example, already entered among the Kikuyu and by 1905 were trying to cross over to Embu, facing a lot of resistance, from their warriors. On their success they ‘ converted’ local warriors into “ chiefs of the European sense”.

Afterwards, the chief’s service was to the Whiteman, not to his or her own people, hence the first step towards disintegration of society’s security. This also meant that the local warriors were disarmed, with all weapons being collected and sent to the Whiteman’s camps, all of them, so that the camps were referred to as “ where the shields are”. (Mwaniki, HSK: 1973). Eventually, the Embu land, as well as the rest of Kenyan communities in this paper or otherwise, was divided into administrative locations under colonial chiefs. They now had to pay tax (homage) to the Whiteman and not to their own people. Forced agreements were to follow and their traditional self-government and security systems were totally lost. The entire Kenyan communities up till 1963, became British subjects – no more “traditional politics, economy, social systems, religious worships and general ways of life” (Mwaniki HSK: 47) Their organizations were said to be savage, primitive and had to be abandoned forever. Was the replacement anything to rely on? Was it sustainable as a jealously guarded as the traditional security organizations of these Kenyan Communities?

### 2.0.3 Independence and beyond

By this time, Nairobi had a population of 266,795 persons, consisting mainly of Africans, Asians and Europeans; with Europeans and Asians being more privileged, a situation that has persisted to the present day Kenya. Their affluence has shielded them from rapid poverty and other consequences of population explosion in the city but to a certain extent. Nairobi generally has experienced severe problems of urbanization orchestrated by apparent better comfort and lifestyle in Nairobi as compared to the rural areas.

According to scholars such as Franz Fanon 1975, Ghartey J. B 1986, G. S. Were 1981, among others, African countries inherited, at independence, an unfortunate and unprepared for situation that the then governments were completely unable to deal with. There were no experts to man the technical services and development programs. Worse still as the imperial bounds were broken, African Countries by 1970, fell unto “inadequate accountability...inappropriate policies, abuse of power, fraud, corruption, oppression, violence, inefficiency and other social economic hardships”. (Ghartey J. B. (1986).

Africa inherited a class of brainwashed middle class intermediaries who could not face up to the challenges of nation building and degeneration was the result. The values formally guarded and jealously held together were no more. The emergent executive arm of the Government that was meant to ensure security for citizens was incompetent, coupled with massive rural-urban migration then witnessed further leading to blossoming of shanties which did not harbor any of the community values. The assumption that the government holds the primary function of ensuring internal and external security, so that the individuals is free to persue their businesses

uninterrupted, could no longer hold. The present-day Government challenges of modern state building are over whelming.

Industrialization, its involvement in either economic political and social spheres of life coupled with mismanagement and corruption leaves little room for advancement of security systems in any given Community. According to Chinua Achebe, 1993, the trouble with Nigeria is not it's populations character, it's land, climate, water or air. It is "unwillingness or inability of it's leaders to rise to the responsibility, to the challenge of personal example which are the hallmarks of true leadership" (Achebe C. 1983)

With this abstaining from it's responsibility or is it inability, crime continues to sore. Over-crowding in cities has meant that Government attention is turned to health schemes (mainly AIDS and Malaria in Kenya), education and housing. Personal rights and protection take a peripheral position coupled with lack of money to train Security Personnel. According to the United Nations(UN) there should only be four hundred and fifty (450) persons for a police officer. In Kenya today the numbers are well over a thousand. G.S Were (1981) observed that "development processes have been severely hampered and disrupted by insecurity, instability and lack of peace over much of Africa". The situation is made worse by the presence of millions of refugees, mostly political, and due to their idleness, possession of illegal firearms and lack of any forthcoming security from the Government. The situation is a scare, especially in Nairobi. The people themselves have had to rise up and be their own security.

## 2.0.4 International Security Concerns.

Simon and Schuster (1982), writing on common world security, contend that the world is interdependent and security of one nation is equally as important as that of another. The world is highly interrelated in economics and politically and hence peace cannot be obtained through military confrontations but through “tireless process of negotiations, rapprochement, and normalization with a goal of removing mutual suspicion and fear”. (Ibid: 12.) Common threats and dangers also mean that common approaches to world security must be promoted.

Modern weaponry has outdone, completely, traditional ones, quantitatively and qualitatively. In the event of war, even the winning nations would suffer a lot. It therefore; becomes necessary to develop a process of disarmament rapidly; and establish political and economic cooperation to gain an equitable and important stake and continuation. This will lead to the population urge for true security, worldwide. “The well-worn path of military competition is a blind alley; it cannot lead to peace and security” (ibid: 100) The above adoption will lead to a world where people can lead better lives, free from fear of war and the threat of annihilation. Toward these ends we urge the nations to rethink their security policies. Hopefully political leaders and ordinary people throughout the world will come to recognise that security can only be achieved in common, in cooperation with one another.

Arms should be limited to achieve true security. Of utmost concern where security is concern is the US- USSR who account for more than 95% of world nuclear weapon. They influence the world and the two must lead the world towards arms limitations and have peace. Their cooperation is essential as any possible engagement in nuclear war would render the entire humanity endangered. The relations with the rest of the world would also improve tremendously if their arms relations were improved. It is essential for the two superpowers to come together to contain the competition and stabilize the balance between them.

Border disputes have been widespread in the third world, causing wars; or fears of attacks from neighbours. The solution is also seen here in the commitment by the international community to evoke collective security procedures, which gives an expression of international norms of mutual respect and mutual national integrity. Instruments like Organisation of African Union (OAU) Charter and the Helsinki Conference as well as the Non-Aligned Movement reaffirmed this.

The initiative toward collective security mechanism would be a decision to ensure that settlement of disputes by force was wrong. Active cooperation is significant in dealing with threats of international peace and security.

International communities, the UN recognizes, are vastly different but it is incumbent that all states should see themselves as components of an interdependent society and should come with a voluntary mechanism towards harmony and interdependence in and armed world.

Mutual cooperation is the proposal of the writers towards security. If a framework of cooperation between powers is undertaken, insecurity would be diminished lower levels of defence expenditure would be achieved and prospects of economic development anticipated. (Simon & Schuster 1982)

### **2.0.5 Studies on Nairobi and other cities – Does any address insecurity?**

Several studies have been carried out on Nairobi addressing various issues.

Gikenye W. M. (1994) studied parent's influence on daughter's aspirations in Ngumo Estate, Nairobi. He addressed the issues of chores allocated to children by adults, parent's expectations on both boys & girls, and parents' attitudes to the age of marriage among other issues. He concluded that school and media play a vital role in the socialization of their children as opposed to parents. That was his concern.

Mburu S. P. (1976/77) writing on Mathare Valley contended that the evils found in Mathare valley are divorce, drunkenness and prostitution and only on a presumption. "This may not always be true" – (ibid: 65) He also agreed with an earlier writer, Rosalind Steel that the poor reputation on the Valley is an exaggeration. It was also assumed that the drunkenness and illegal brewing was an economic situation, which may explain some criminal behaviour. No serious endeavour into the issue of insecurity was necessary at the time (1976) because the problem was not as grave as it is today. Stealing in other places such as Kirinyaga Road, Nyamakima, Tea Room, Uhuru Park and Ngara among others was attributed to lack of employment, parent's negligence and increase in commodity prices. "But we have to survive come what may" (ibid: 72) was the defence. Prostitution was also

cited as a problem and associated with “shiftas” or women who want it the easy way. The phenomena was also associated with men leaving their wives in the rural areas, new fashions, high cost of living, shallow mindedness, overcrowding, unemployment among others. This was the form of criminality being addressed then.

Were and Mutiso (1972) studying Nairobi and the problem of slum development stated that in 1962, the problem of housing was already an issue with 100,000 persons living in 28,287 rooms (ibid: 165). The problem of overcrowding has worsened. They also contend that the growth of Nairobi has been faster than any other part of the society. East African development has tended to centralize in Nairobi, drawing people from the countryside, foreign capitals and light industries abroad. Nairobi has been a centre of East African economic systems.

The resultant vices seen by the writers are population explosion, land shortage and development of capital intensive industry. Africans were never accorded comfort in Nairobi as they were seen as temporally workers, hence pushed to Eastleigh, Pumwani, Pangani & Mathare Valley, leading to urban poverty, squatting unemployment and violent crimes which have become endemic with time, as influx to towns accelerate.

However, the writers dwell on the problem of housing and poverty in Nairobi at large. The municipal solutions to African problems in Nairobi then was that of providing housing (controlled) social amenities and lodging houses; hence solving native urban problem. The problem of insecurity and

crime, though mentioned as a problem, was not adequately addressed then, which this paper seeks to.

Similarly, Opinya, Nicholas O. (1982) deals with the problem of rise in population in Nairobi in relation to housing. He contends that due to the volume of rural-urban migration, the need for satisfactory housing has outstripped the capacity of the building institutions to supply new houses. He sees the problem of urbanization as aggravating housing problem and so, again, the problem of resultant insecurity remains unaddressed.

Lusaka, Zambia. Here, similarly, the problem being addressed has everything to do with housing needs in response to the rapid growth in population. Due to this rise, many people have lived in unserviced settlements and the community is heavily involved in the implementation of the housing schemes. The community was involved by first educating them with films, radios, posters and visits to complete areas. Meetings were held so that everyone was involved without having to get second-hand information.

In the 1980's due to the poor performance of the copper industry, the government started to mobilize under-used community resources, small scale industry and agriculture. This promoted community organization and entrepreneurship and formed mediation between the people and Government. This refers to community participation in making changes, though none of this addressed insecurity.

## Addis Ababa – Ethiopia

Community based integrated development approach here is divided into sections known as “Kabeles”. Their interest is towards physical upgrading dealing with housing, latrines, communal kitchens and buildings. The other concern is preventive health programmes, building social awareness and participation of the community, to ensure continuity and smooth running of the programme.

Again here no attention is given to the issue of security. (Turner, B 1988)

In New York, there is what is referred to as street neighbourhoods such as neighbourhood of Hudson Street, with self-government functions undertaking public surveillance to protect both themselves and strangers. They develop networks of small-scale daily public life hence encouraging trust and social control. Children are integrated into a responsible and tolerant city life. This is a function of the central Government and they draw effectively on help when there is trouble too big for the street to handle, but is only seen as a loose end. The original response to trouble must come from within. Their own self- government is humble but indispensable. There is no substitute for this.

The neighbourhoods are also interwoven, and sizes differ from street to street, with no definite end or beginning. Their strengths depend on the overlapping and interweaving. For example, Residential Park Avenue of New York turns from corner to corner hence a set of inter weaving neighbourhoods with great diversity, not just a strip.

Separate street neighbourhoods fail in being a separate world of their own, with own culture and no concept of the rest of the neighborhood. They loose

the capacity for collective action and hence loose even the appeal to the government and the social agencies; observes Dr. Dodson.

Therefore successful neighbourhoods are physical, social and economic continuities but on a small scale. (Raynor and Harries, 1977)

This is the kind of scenario this paper would envisage for Nairobi where neighbourhoods or communities; hereby described as “the nodally organized network of spatial influences radiating from key institutions like work, school, recreation centre and others...” hence outward orientations and interdependence. (Raynor & Harries: 167). This is a scenario where the communities organize themselves into interwoven concerns to ensure not just the security of the whole, but of the individuals therein.

#### **2.0.6 Security and women studies.**

Lots of studies on women indicate that like any other member of society, women require security and protection especially as far as issues of violence in general, domestic violence, property rights among others is concerned.

Studies indicate that violence against women take the forms of wife-beating, rape, as already indicated in this project and other forms of physical and psychological violations. These attacks leave women physically injured as well as with health and psychological traumas. These forms of violence also traumatize the children as well as costing the community huge sums of money in police and court cases, health and welfare services, women’s emergency housing and social security benefits. For example in 1980, Canadian taxpayers spent thirty two million dollars in police intervention to

wife beating cases, support and administrative service. A Similar scenario in Australia exists where one million dollars were spent in aiding twenty victims of violence. The scenario can be duplicated across the continent. (Davis M., 1994)

In India, girls and women have over the years been discriminated against. It has been a risk there to be conceived and born a female. Foreigners, writing about the inherent discrimination in that country was dangerous to them. Discriminatory practices take the form of female foeticide, dowry and early marriages. In the west, this takes the forms of property ownership in marriage and teenage sexuality. Marriage for Indian women is an experience that they dread; eating after males have finished eating, hence eating inferior and less nutritious food. They labour long on heavy and invisible chores and cook in unhealthy environments. When they go out in search of paid engagements, it is in gender biased garment industries, packaging in drug companies and clearing all forms of rubbish. The jobs are low paying and done under poor conditions.

Again, this is applicable across Asia and the third world countries and women require protection against these forms of discrimination and insecurity. (Wallace, T., 1991)

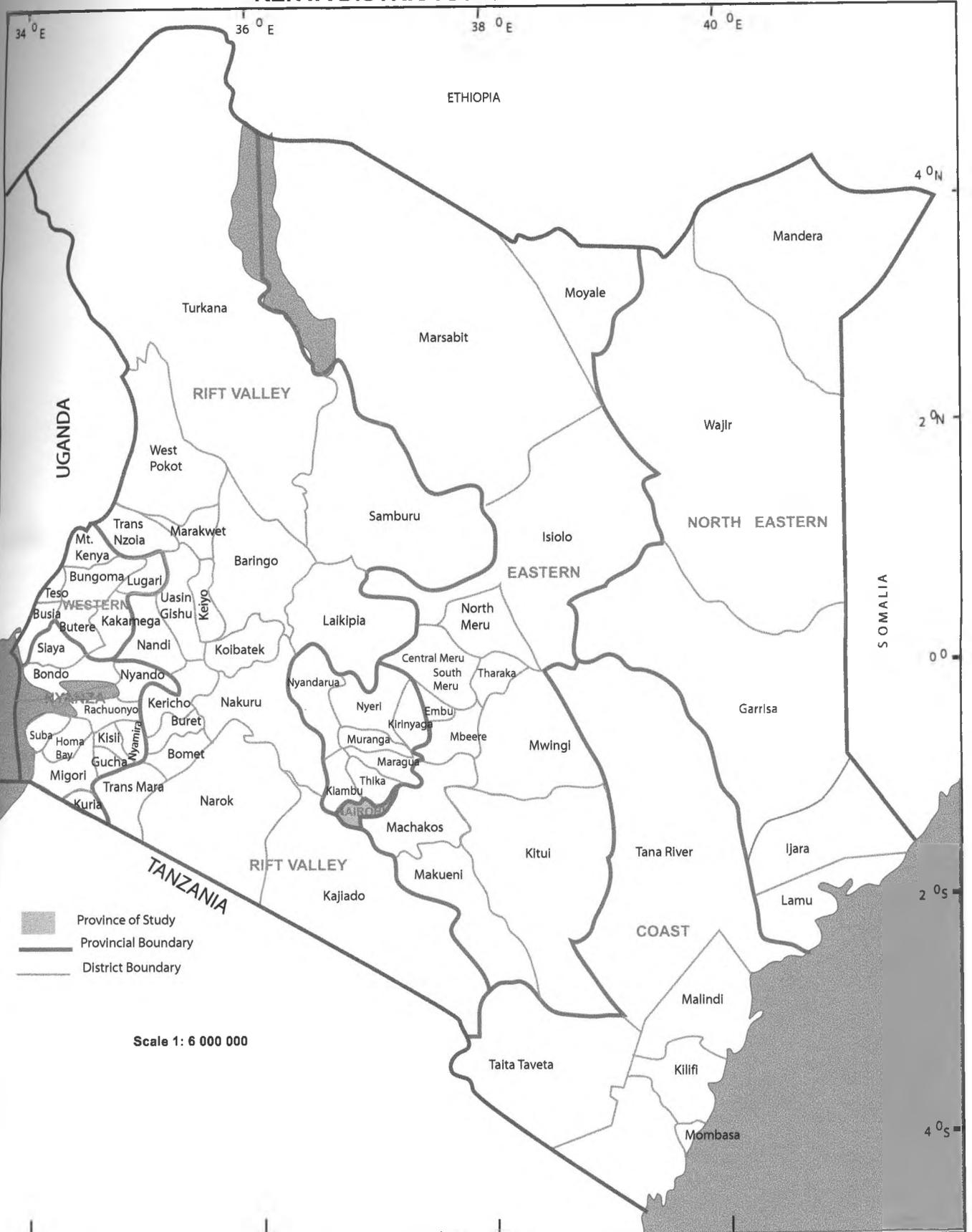
Closer home, in Kenya and Nairobi, Anne Gathumbi and Tom Ondicho among others talk (write) extensively on violation of women which take the form of wife – beating, rape, wife- inheritance, female genital mutilation, early child marriages and child brides. These are even said to be part of our culture affecting rich women, poor women and women of all walks of life. Women lack economic freedom and security and therefore remain in

vulnerable relationships. Economically secure women do not leave too because they fear being stigmatized.

In law, women lack legal protection and redress for several reasons. This includes unpleasantness and hostility from the police, who ask for monetary and sexual favours from the desperate women. Action is taken after death is reported (Ondicho 2000), the women having been encouraged to go back for reconciliation with the hostile partners. Violence on the women reduces their self-esteem leaving a sense of helplessness which makes them even more vulnerable within the premises that they are supposed to feel most secure. (Ondicho T. 2000 and Kern. E., 2001)

This study has already cited insecurity for women even in the wider circles as reported in the press; as well as her insecurity within the domestic front. Is she also a victim of all other forms of insecurities and is the available community response favouring her? What she herself is doing towards her own security, will be some of the issues to be addressed in this paper.

# KENYA DISTRICTS AND PROVINCES



## CHAPTER THREE

### 3.0. METHODOLOGY

#### 3.0.1 Research Site.

The selected site for the study is Githurai location of Ruiru division. The area has three major residential estates thus Kahawa, Githurai 44 and Githurai 45 (see preceding 2 pages), and is densely populated; 9,385 persons per square kilometer for Githurai and 2171 persons per square kilometer for Kahawa. (1999 population census) the selected site has a coverage area of about 19.8 square kilometers with an estimated population of 79780.

Nairobi as a whole has a population of about 2,143,254 and covers an area of 696.1 square kilometers. The density as a whole is 3,079 persons/km<sup>2</sup>. The study site is therefore an appropriate representative of Nairobi, with an average density of 6778 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. (1999 population census – population studies library University of Nairobi)

Situated on main Nairobi-Thika Highway, the site has continued to attract several businesses as well as residents away from the busy central business district and it's immediate environs such as Mathare, Eastleigh and Langata among others. As a result of the increasing number gravitating in the area, crime and insecurity have hiked. Recent statistics indicate that guns have been recovered from the area and a Member of Parliament was recently gunned down there (Kasarani Police Station Occurrence Book). This has forced residents to re-think their position security wise, as the security forces no longer

seem sufficient. Their interventions to any form of insecurity have remained wanting.

### **3.0.2 Study Population**

The study basically focused on the community in these areas. These are the residents, vigilante groups and the security agents, from whom the major units of analysis were drawn. Special preference was given to the areas where the residents have organised themselves in response to the spates of crime. It was of study interest to assess whether this response has impacted positively on the rate and trend of crime. Local administration and heads of police stations will be captured as key informants on the security situation and any possible responses. Local leaders, the councilors and welfare organization leaders and other organised groups such as women groups, provided information on the general crime trends in form of Focus Group Discussions. Together with other local leaders, they provided information on organised responses and the success rates. Interviews were also conducted where no organised interventions have come up for comparison purposes and the same opinion leaders provided the crucial information as key informants.

### **3.0.3 Sampling**

The sampling procedure employed was probability and non-probability techniques. The area of study, that is Githurai and Kahawa Sukari residential areas were purposively sampled because they are highly populated and crime prone areas. The entire study covered the

entire area. The population was stratified according to their homogeneity such as the residents, the police, vigilante groups, women groups and samples drawn from each stratum using simple random sampling technique. Care was also taken so as to draw samples proportional to the populations under consideration. The sample size for the study will be 100 - 150 respondents.

### **3.0.4 Methods of Data Collection**

Both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection were used. The quantitative or survey method was the primary method and was supplemented by the qualitative method. In the primary method (survey) face to face interviews were carried out to enhance clarity and quality of data collected.

In this method, a standardized questionnaire were prepared and administered to respondents. Before the actual study, the questionnaires were pre-tested by administering them to a few selected respondents. Any resident within who could respond was selected randomly. In the actual study, forty (40) questionnaires were administered in each of the three estates. Out of these, one hundred and two (102) were returned.

The high rate of success in getting the questionnaires back could be attributed to the purposive administration of the questionnaires. The researcher hired the services of two (2) university students and together, administered the questionnaires to the respondents in person. It was their duty to collect them after they had been responded to.

In addition to the questionnaires, thirty (30) interview guides for key informants were prepared ten (10) for each of the estates. The researcher herself personally administered the same and the level of success was one hundred percent. It was possible to identify respondents and administer all the thirty (30) interview guide schedules successfully. The researcher further identified six (6) groups from the estates. Three (3) women groups and one vigilante group. This was for the purposes of capturing their corporate security concerns, and the success rate was one hundred percent. However, the researcher would have wanted to interview a few more groups but the task proved fruitless, because vigilante groups meet as late as midnight and disband as early as five- (5.00 a.m). in the morning.

The qualitative method, in-depth interviews was administered to the key Informants using a well-prepared interview guide. This was mainly to assess the responses to insecurity and how effective the responses are. The principle researcher led and guided the research team through the process.

### **3.0. 5 Theoretical Framework.**

A conflict is a confrontation of two or more people or between groups of people over scarce resources. It may arise over means of obtaining the scarce resources. It is a process or event leading to overt interaction of varying degrees of violence between at least two parties. To Marxists, the Central problem is class struggle and exploitation, where the lower class is exploited by those in control of the means of survival. To them problems such as overpopulation and insecurity

would end when the real problem, capitalism, is dealt with (Bailey, K 25). There are various strata in Kenya, differentiated between the rich and the poor. The gap has been widening over time, creating a feeling of the 'need' by the 'have-nots', to acquire what they perceive that the 'haves' have 'denied' them. The unfortunate and frequent presence and occurrence of illegal firearms have worsened the situation. This renders the escalation of conflict quite serious.

Coupled with this, on the international scene, is the threat of terrorism and the planning for the implementation of the terrorist activities. The presence within the communities in the cities of the pending implementers of terrorist activities renders the situation very volatile. The formal or Government security has had to be extremely alert, even calling on international community especially. American support in the fight against terrorism. Terrorism is seen in the light of one super power attempting to subdue another, hence a high-level form of conflict and the local communities have little choice but to get involved. M. Francis Abraham (1981) points at the existence of social classes of the ruler and the ruled, or the oppressor and the oppressed, hence the attempt at controlling the poor man.

The conflict theory guided this study. Also referred to by Naila Kabeera as the social relations theoretical approach, the theory seeks to take into account relations of production and other interrelated relations through which people's needs are met. Material irregularities are significant aspects of social differentiation. (Kabeera, N. 1992)

The theory assumes that in most relationships, there is potential competition for the perpetually scarce resources.

The unequal allocation of resources results in societal inequalities and conflict. The term 'social relations' is used to describe the different structural relationships that create and produce systematic differences in the positioning of different groups of people. This in turn produces cross cutting inequalities that ascribe an individual a position in the structure of society. Social relations give rise to who we are, what our roles and responsibilities are and what claims we can make, our rights and what control we have over others. Though other factors / issues bring about conflicts, such as power struggle, ideological differences, cultural diversity and religious differences, this study will dwell on the theory relating to unequal distribution of rewards in society as the leading cause of conflict. Karl Marx, Lewis Coser and Ralf Dahrendorf are key leaders in this school of thought. They see the social classes as inevitably and continuously causing conflicts. (Francis, M Abraham 1981).

### **3.0.6 Relevance of the Theory.**

The theory explains the prevailing sense of insecurity as those structurally placed on the lower structure locally or internationally, tend towards achieving what is available up the ladder. This will usually be through force hence creating conflict and insecurity for the perceived occupants of the upper ladder (structure)

### **3.0.7 Hypothesis**

1. The problem of insecurity is as a result of laxity of the formal security agents
2. Security improvement depends on the working relationship between the community and the security agents.
3. Community involvement influences security improvement.

### **3.0.8 Operationalization of terms**

#### **Security: -**

Security is freedom from danger or anxiety, a necessity transcending time and place. It is having an environment that is conducive for enjoyment of social, economic and political activities without any form of interference. (Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary). It was and still is the responsibility of the entire society and everyone is and should be each other's security. Insecurity refers to the exact reverse.

#### **Community**

A community is "the people living in one place...Considered as a whole." (Oxford Learners Dictionary). This involves conditions of sharing, having things in common and being alike in some way; having shared feelings of membership.

The community here refers to women, men and their children in the nation or locality who co-exist mutually. Everyone's needs and

contributions therefore play a crucial role in enhancing the entire community, which may also, secondly, refer not just to the locals drawn together as above, but also to a specific group within a country. In Kenya for instance, we could refer to the Asian Community, hence referring to a minority group spread across the country. A clan or an extended family may also be referred to as a community.

A community could be said to be composed of different individual women and men, of different ages, temperaments and occupations as well as educational statuses. They may also differ in tribe and race, but there is what brings them together to form this community.

### **Community involvement**

The role-played by the community or its individuals, whether physically verbally in providing information or taking personal interest in their own cover. There should be a lot of cooperation where people are encouraged to give the best of their specifications, while at the same time be self-reliable in maximizing their talents and resources for their own good; having as little to ask from without as possible. The community should be able to network with enthusiasm and cooperation hence the said need for integrated participation by all members of the community. (Clark, R. F. 1967).

### **Security Agents**

Refers to police, reservists, Security guards and police informers.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

#### 4.0.1 Introduction

The raw data collected from the field was then systematically organized, interpreted and presented. Qualitative data was analyzed descriptively, while quantitative data was analyzed descriptively and using tables.

#### 4.0.2. Sample Characteristics

##### (i) Age of respondents

The study divided the age of respondents into three main categories; young adults, middle age and mature adults. The results are as shown in the able below.

**Table 1:Age of respondents**

<b>Respondents age in yrs</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
18-25 (young adults)	34	33
26-35 (middle age)	37	36
36 and above (mature adults)	31	30

The young adults are active and agile and would therefore have diverse knowledge of the situation within the area of study.

The Middle age are the investors and have upcoming families and would therefore have keen interest of the situation of their area of investment and settlement.

The mature adults are the custodians of the situations in the area of study and the researcher would gain from their experience.

## **ii) Residency in years**

The researcher assumption in studying the length of residency was that this would have a direct influence on the accuracy of the information to be derided.

**Table 2: Residency in years**

<b>Residency in the year</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
1	9	9
2	16	16
3	11	11
4	26	25
5 <sup>+</sup>	40	39

From the above table, the respondents that have lived in the area of study for more than four years were the majority, meaning that they would understand the empirical situation quite well. Therefore the information obtained could be said to be, to a large extent, reliable.

## **iv) Level of education**

The level of education and the ability to understand and potentially analyze a situation are directly co-related. It was therefore necessary to look into the level of education of the respondents, which would

hence point to the authenticity of the study. The assumption here is that on average, secondary level of education and above would mean well thought out and reliable responses.

**Table 3: Level of Education**

Level	No. of respondents	%
Primary	16	16
Secondary	31	30
University	30	30
Other	25	24

From the table above 84% of the respondent had at least secondary level of education hence the assumption that the study was reliable.

**v) Specific Occupation**

The diversity and hence the different exposures, experiences and trends of thoughts arising, was of interest to the study. This was sought through the occupational involvement of the residents as shown in the table below. The contention here is that a homogeneously occupational group would influence each other's responses while diversity introduces uniqueness and independence of thought.

**Table 4: Specific Occupation**

Occupation	No. of respondents	%
Teacher	15	15
Civil servants	20	20
Private sector	17	17
Farmer	9	9
Businessman	25	25
Others	7	7

#### 4.0.3 Major Security Concern in the City

Security was the central concern of this study and was hence paramount that the manifestations of the same are brought out. The table below shows the major forms of insecurity in the city.

**Table 5: Forms of Insecurity**

Forms of Insecurity	No of respondents	%
Carjacking	16	16
Burglary	28	27.4
Mugging	20	20
Sexual abuse	5	4.9
Stealing	23	22.5
Others	10	0.98

From the table above, burglary, stealing, mugging and car jacking were identified as the leading forms of insecurity. These four forms of insecurity are perpetrated by use of force, pointing to the proliferation

of illegal firearms and other forms of weaponry. Idlers especially on the bus termini steal and sexually molest commuters.

The respondents generally said that the security situation is bad. Seven vigilante group leaders said that before the formation of the same groups, the situation was very bad. "There are many things here" a vigilante group leader at Wendani said. He admitted that even guns are available with these thugs. The eight women leaders interviewed described the security situation as bad "Our children are used to sounds of guns. Around 7 p.m. there are cases of rape by youngsters. Bags and mobile phones are snatched and we feel very insecure". They admitted cases where houses go without tenants because they leave due to burglary and stealing especially in Githurai 44 and 45.

Six (6) police officers interviewed maintained that in Kahawa Sukari, the situation is not very bad, not alarming, of late. They said that there is a lot of mugging in Wendani and beyond. At Githurai bus stages and "Manambas" (touts) cause a lot of insecurity where they strike and steal from unsuspecting victims. They admitted that there is a lot of burglary, car jacking and rape cases being reported to the stations. Nine (9) other leaders such as councilors were interviewed and they admitted to the high state of insecurity. The residents complain to them about burglary, stealing, rape and attempted rape among other forms of harassment and they are, from time to time forced to liaise with the police to address the situation or even help take victims to hospital as well as bail them out financially.

#### 4.0.4 Community responses to insecurity

The study sought to look into and document the existing forms of security arrangements and their effectiveness or otherwise. This would lead to the justification or the reason for the prompting of the community responses available in the area of study.

**Table 6: Existing forms of security agents**

Agents	No of respondents	%
Policemen	44	43
Police reserve	24	23.5
Administration police	22	21.5
Police booths	7	6.8
Army officers	3	2.9
Others	2	1.96

From the table above formal (government employed) security agents were said to be in existence and the residents are aware of one form of the agents or the other. This ranged from the police officer, administration police to police posts and booths.

On the question of how effective the security agents are in responding to insecurity alarms, eighteen and a half percent (18.5%) said they respond, sixty percent (60%) said sometimes and twenty-one and a half percent (21.5%) said they don't respond at all. On the rate of responses, whether fast, moderate or slow, thirteen and a seventh percent (13.7%) said the response was fast, thirty seven percent (37%) called the response moderate while forty nine percent (49%) respondents said the response was slow. This meant to the residents

that the formal security agents were rated ineffective and the victims themselves have responded by various measures, as shown in the tables below.

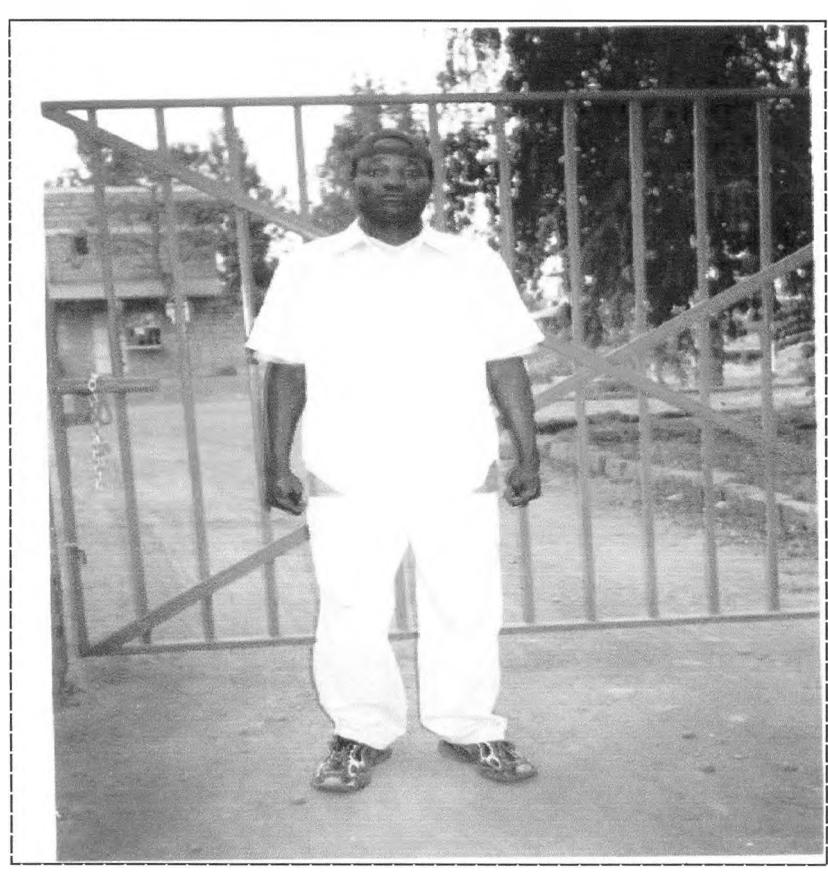
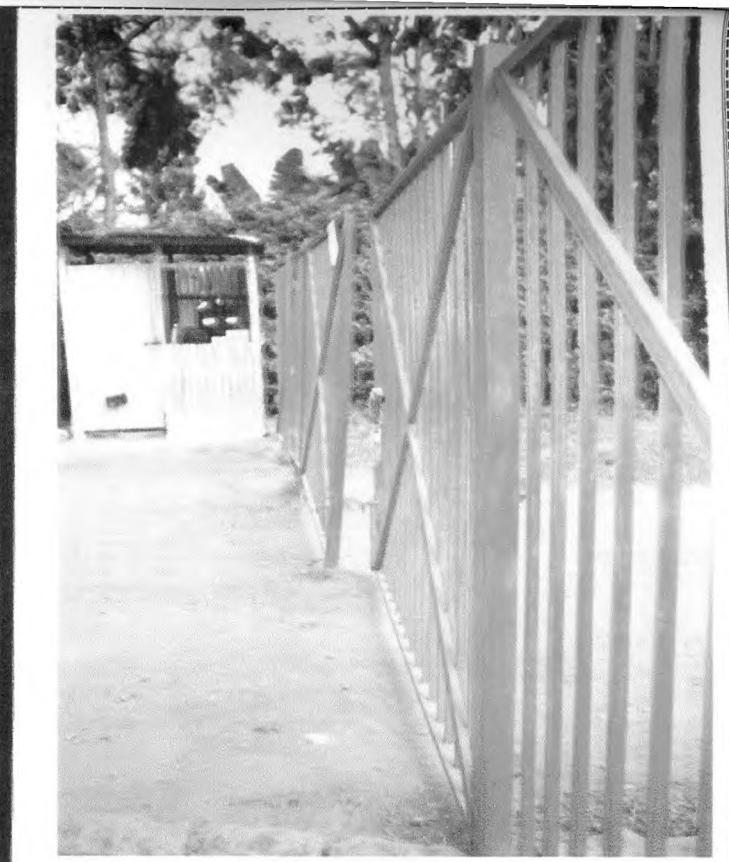
**Table 7: Community responses to insecurity**

<b>Response</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Reporting to superiors	13	12.7
Employing own security	44	43.1
Forming group vigilantes	35	34.3
Remaining indifferent	7	6.8
Others	3	2.9

**Table 8: Women response to insecurity**

<b>Roles</b>	<b>No of respondents</b>	<b>%</b>
Informers	39	38.2
Formation of women action groups	38	37.2
Use of organizations	17	16.6
Others	8	7.8

According to the vigilante group leaders interviewed, the security situation went out of hand because either the police have no vehicles, that they are few and had no morale. The leaders got residents to come together and make arrangements with their youth to form security groups to guard the residents at a fee from the residents themselves. They also acquired watchmen to guard the area. The groups have been able to net a lot of thugs who are handed over to the police.



A security measure in Kahawa Sukari : Guarded gates

The women leaders interviewed also cited participation in the formation of vigilante groups to guard their residences. They do not mostly go out themselves but they allow their husbands and sons out and contribute money for their payments and food. They have also encouraged women victims to seek redress from the courts or organizations such as Fida and Maendeleo ya Wanawake. At Githurai 44, they cited the case of one Njeri who was impregnated by a local leader, who raped her, to report to Fida and she is receiving redress.

The police admitted that there is need for the residents to join in the address of the menace. They have encouraged and supported employment of vigilante groups, reinforcing doors, clearing bushes, communicating to the police, (public welfare desks), encouraging informers especially on drug trafficking, illicit brews and installing alarm systems which are activated when there is trouble. They have also encouraged the blocking of all exit routes and installing court gates. This way, they concede, their arrests and patrols are made easier. In Kahawa Sukari, this has gone a long way but they are still encouraging the other two estates.

Local leaders interviewed observed that residents have done a lot. They have employed watchmen, youth wingers but some fail to become highly effective especially in Githurai, because they lack the support of the local security personnel, the police. In Kahawa Sukari, leaders have encouraged many meetings with other leaders, have elected gates with security guards, (see facing page) and a new police post has been proposed as a local initiative to address insecurity.

Similarly in the focus group discussion addressing responses to insecurity, two women groups were interviewed in the estate. The first consisted of sixteen (16) women who meet every month in the chairperson's house. Their main agenda is to bring their contribution to the chairperson, who together with the treasurer banks the money. The members then borrow as need arises. They have been in the group for five (5) years now. Their security situational experience is not a good story to tell as well. "It is a bad situation. We complain to the police about it all the time but what do they ever do about it? In February all the money we had collected was stolen here at gun-point". Revealed the Chairlady. "What happened was that the ladies brought the money and left as usual. We don't spend a lot of time together. We bank the money on Monday morning. At around 7.00 p.m. three (3) young men came and said they knew there was money in that house and they wanted it. One of them had a small gun, and I think I have seen him with one of our group member's son. I dared not scream. I gave them the money, which they even took time to count; then left. I reported to the police and no arrests were ever made."

On whether they think women are more vulnerable to insecurity, the response was on the negative. "No, these people will target anybody who they think could be prey to them. All they want is to get things out of people and even harass them". Another member went on "after all the police are hardly available or is it vehicles they never have". So, what do they want or intend to do about this bad situation the police are not dealing with?

“We have asked for a new police post and we have agreed to contribute money to build one, and then the government will bring us officers. Secondly there are many groups now contributing money to employ groups of good youngsters who can keep track of the bad ones because they know them. Those people know very well who is doing bad things and they can be disciplined or handed over to the police. The problem is they are released back and they continue to disturb us. We wish the police would work well with these people because we are ready to spend our money, build small shelters for their vigil at night and pay them. It would then be possible to reduce the problem since this information will get to them”

**Githurai 45; Cianda Women group.**

This is a group of very aggressive women. Their issue, among others is centrally, local brews which they contend has ruined many families. They have been together now for about two and a half years (2½ yrs) and they find themselves with no security to talk about. “It is like everybody is for themselves and does what they like. We have complained long enough, until we decided to be our own salvation. Our primary aim is to do away with these “Kumi-kumi”, which has ruined both husbands and sons. Our daughters may follow suit and we won’t allow it”. Then another respondent picked up; “the police seem to be part of it. We even see them drunk, so who are they for us to depend on? They are given money and they continue to protect this cheap brew. The District Officer only talks about it in the “baraza” but do you think these chief and Administration Polices do anything or they are just bribed.”

So exactly what are you doing about what you are calling bad situation? “We meet every month and each gives an update on what is happening in their locality. When we meet, we ask the assistant chief, the police and Administration Police to come, we call them in advance and they know we shall “report ahead” if they don’t come. When we meet, we decide on the most affected areas and we move there with twigs and placards. We turn all those brewing cans upside down. Many of them run away, both men and women, and some are arrested”. Are they ever taken to court? “Yes, and then they pay fines and are back, so we shall not rest”.

Do you think your intervention is better than that of the police?

“Yes, yes, these government officers look tired, or is it that the work is too much. We have to do these things for ourselves otherwise the situation gets worse. Their help comes in their taking them to court and getting them charged. We have to work hard to improve our own lot, though the Government is stronger and should give much more”.

### **Wendani Vigilantes.**

This is a group of young men, operating between Wendani and Kahawa Sukari Estate. They have been in operation for a little over one year and came together to improve security in the area, which they concede has been bad. “This is because there is a lot of influx of bad people from Githurai 44 who come right across through the bridge to harass us here. We decided no, we have to come together to defend ourselves and ask the old men to support us. They readily agreed. Women were getting raped in these houses you see here which are yet to be completed. The other day we rescued a woman here just

on time”. So did they think women are more vulnerable. “Yes” one replied; “when they leave the matatu here and start walking, they are easy targets. Their bags are snatched and if they shout they are pushed into these houses and threatened with rape and other forms of harassment. So they loose their belongings and have to shut up”.

What about the security agents? “*Hawa wezi ni sisi tunawajua*” (these thugs are known to us). “We know the ones who come from other areas to way-lay people here and those who belong here. The police help because we hand these people over to them. But it is us who know them. The other day they shot two (2) thugs dead here and it was we who informed them that they were way-laying people here. For sure they were wearing all sorts of clothing. One had a pistol”.

How can security be further enhanced? “We have to work hard, give a lot of information to the police especially in identifying these thugs because those who are bad, we know them. We have to be here also because that way they know the area is covered and they cannot just behave the way they want” Are there other modes of security interventions” “Yes, there is”. In Kahawa Sukari all exit routes have been sealed, which is very good. They have also erected gates all over and car jacking is now less. If these other areas could be a little bit more organized also, we would flush out these people from this area. They are a burden to everybody. This issue should be a concern for all, both the Government and we. We are willing to work together because we are on the ground”.

#### 4.0.5 Community responses verses women insecurity

The study sought to first document vulnerability to insecurity for both gender and the forms of insecurity that affect women and then find out whether the available responses address these forms of insecurity.

These insecurity types are represented in the tables below

**Table 9: Vulnerability to Insecurity**

Victims	No of respondents	%
Males	31	30.6
Female	27	26.7
Both	43	42.5

**Table 10: Insecurity type on Women**

Types	No of respondents	%
Mugging	31	30.3
Physical abuse	40	39.2
Carjacking	6	5.8
Rape	21	20.5
Others	4	3.9

The respondents said women were common victims of insecurity. Thirty percent (30%) respondents further said that women are victims of mugging, thirty nine percent (39%) said physical abuse, six percent (6%) said car-jacking, twenty and a half percent (20.5%) said that they were victims of rape while four percent (4%) said they were victims of other forms of insecurity.

## **Genderization of Insecurity**

Four (4) vigilante group leaders said that both males and females are victims of insecurity because thieves do not choose as long as they get hold of the victim. Three (3) said that they receive reports from their group members to the effect that women are easier victims. Their bags are easier to reach and they are easily intimidated. Their houses are easily broken into as they are seen as the easier targets. Five (5) women said that both gender are victims of insecurity, depending on the form of insecurity in question. In Kahawa Sukari, four (4) women said that women are easily dragged as they cross the Nairobi – Thika highway into the trenches where they are raped. In Githurai 45, four (4) women said that as early as seven- (7.00 p.m.) cars are hijacked from both men and women driving towards St. Anne Keriri. They cited rape cases as well. In Githurai 44, three (3) women leaders said that the occurrences depended on the forms of crime, which would point at the victim. Generally, women felt insecure but they conceded that both are largely exposed.

The police respondents said both genders are targets. Thugs will go for an easy victim of either gender and will endeavour to harm the women further because of their sex roles, not necessarily as a victim of insecurity. They however said that the woman remained easier targets and they have to be more careful of their own security, by, for example going home early. Six (6) local leaders said that women are obviously more vulnerable because they are an easy prey. The youth, who form a large part of the thugs, way-lay them and frighten them out of their properties; and sometimes go ahead to sexually assault

them. However, three (3) leaders said that both are victims, though women drivers will be targeted for car jacking. They however noted that it is men who drive most cars and are therefore the most victims. Men are assumed to carry more money and are hence attacked for the same reason.

#### **4.0.6 Major constraints in achieving overall security**

The seven (7) vigilante group leaders interviewed basically felt that the security agents do very little, either due to their numbers, level of morale or simple inefficiency. Three (3) vigilante group leaders said that the police sometimes do arrest the offenders and take them to courts though they are released back to the society sooner than later. Two (2) respondents said that the police officers are hardly there anyway. They do very little. The women interviewed revealed that the police officers are quite lax. Two (2) women said that at Githurai Kimbo post, the police have been there but doing very little. They are especially rude and seem to enjoy listening to reports of rape cases about which they do nothing. “ It is of no fruitful gain reporting to them. They just sit there and talk. The task seems to be too much for them”. According to some of the women, police especially in Githurai are overwhelmed by the population, they lack working tools and the thugs within are also armed and in big numbers. The police officers admitted that the residents complain but they are doing their best in taking control even of noise pollution in areas where there are local bars. They have intensified patrols, beats (night patrols) and mobile patrols when vehicles are available. However, four (4) police officers admitted that theirs is an uphill task especially in Githurai 44 and 45.

Five (5) local leaders interviewed said that the security agents, mainly police, are the worst because they are even known to collaborate with the thugs. “They are given money to release the thugs”, one conceded. “They give them their guns for a fee and we are consequently thoroughly harassed”, said a bitter councillor, who also said that they, as leaders, have to bear with the high number of victims due to police carelessness. The police stay in their stations for long and learn to collaborate with the thugs. The situation sometimes degenerates seriously.

#### **Githurai 44; Wendo Women Group.**

“We meet monthly in any of our members’ houses. We are fifteen in number but today, only eleven members have come. Our major task is to meet together and socialize, eat, talk and then contribute money for the member that we are currently visiting (amount not disclosed). This is our major point of reference”. The three interviewers then posed various questions to them as precisely as possible.

On the question of how long they had been in the area, the women said that they had been here for as long as three, five, ten to even seventeen years. The range was between three and eighteen years.

On the question of the security concerns, their treasurer took the lead: “Here we are perpetually afraid of the security situation, be it during the day or night.” (The rest of the group nod vigorously). “There are so many idle people here, especially youngsters and they attack us at will. You can’t walk freely or carrying your property because they will snatch it and run through these murky areas and they are gone.

When alighting from the Matatus, one has to be very careful, The situation is not good.” What about the police? What are they doing about it?

“Which policemen?”, was the response, almost in unison. “They are part of the thugs. They give them guns and even when they know they are hiding some, they do little about it. The police are doing little to protect the residents for whatever reason”.

So, what should you as residents do about it or what are you doing about the situation? One of the group members raised her voice thus: “We encourage the men as the stronger sex to form groups to enhance the security situation. We pay for their services and make sure they are well fed while out there. We cook for them in shifts and attend all the meetings. While there, we volunteer the information about who we suspect is a security issue. This way, they fear and become less problematic to us. Otherwise silence would mean they continue to mete violence on us as they wish”.

What would the best way to improve the situation?

“Both working together”, was the almost unanimous answer. You know that these thugs fear the police because they are armed and they will be taken away, even to court. The local security only beat them up and at times release them. Sometimes they take them to the police. What is crucial here is that we want these crooks identified and we are best at doing this. The police should also be more active in listening to our problems and acting accordingly. The problem is their reluctance for whatever reason”.

#### 4.0.7 Effectiveness of community response

Since the residents have resulted to coming up with their own security intervention measures the study sort to find out the effectiveness of the security types and the findings are represented in the table below

**Table 11: Effectiveness of security types.**

Type	Rate	%
Formal security agents	9	8.8
Community intervention	20	19.6
Both	73	71.5

Eight and an eighth percent (8.8%) of the respondents contented that the formal security agents are more effective in responding to various forms of insecurity. Nineteen and sixth percent (19.6%) said the community intervention such as vigilante groups and court gates are more effective in curbing and discouraging perpetrators of insecurity. Seventy-one and a half percent (71.5%) said that both forms of interventions have to be employed to achieve maximum security.

#### **Comparison in interventions to security strategies.**

Generally residents conceded that security has greatly improved due to the involvement of the vigilante and youth groups in observing security. At night, they said the groups walk together with the police or at certain distances to circle in the criminals. However, a lot still needs to be done by both the local security arrangements as well as this police themselves. The women too basically said that the two

forms of security measures largely need to be put in place for effective security achievement.

“Collective responsibility involving all stakeholders is more effective” concedes the officer in-charge of Kahawa Sukari police post. The officer in charge Ruiru District office complained that while the two forces should work together, residents do not volunteer information which is very vital in curbing insecurity. According to him the residents know the perpetrators of insecurity and should come forward. This would create a much better environment

They too conceded that people just have to come up with their own security arrangements that will help the police to fight crime. They agreed that it is the residents who know where the thugs hide and the information has to be brought out by the residents themselves. However, one leader said that the police themselves fail to join the residents, they are reluctant, so the initiatives of the residents fail. They are the armed and authorized security arm, and must therefore be seen to take centre stage in providing security, which, according to the local leaders, they failed to do.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

#### **5.0.1 Conclusions**

This project (study) aimed at exploring and determining the major security concerns in the city of Nairobi, community responses to the insecurity and whether their responses cater for and involve women security. It also sought to explore and document the major constraints in the community endeavour to achieve their overall security and whether community responses have significantly reduced insecurity in the city. The study focused on the resident's and leader's actual concerns and confrontations with insecurity and their attempts to address the issue with a view to improve the situation or achieving a certain level of their own security, since they are the victims of this insecurity. This was the major assumption of this study, that the community itself has to get involved in security (insecurity) issues if significant differences in security levels are to be realized, or achieved.

From the responses given, the study concluded that there are major security concerns in the city of Nairobi. Lay-bys who harass, rob, snatch and rape are a common phenomena and were said to be quite prevalent in matatu termini in the evenings. These were described as a dangerous lot and a big source of insecurity. The presence and availability of small (and sometimes big) guns, what may be called the

proliferation of small firearms is another major concern. These are used to freely harass “Wananchi”, who then feel helpless and totally insecure.

It is also clear that car jacking and house breaking are a threat to the respondents, a factor that was again highly associated with the apparent availability of the firearms. Some respondents even blamed the police officers themselves for this phenomenon, and did suggest that they at times lease out their guns to these perpetrators of insecurity. Added to this is the failure by the security officers to respond to the alarms that are raised by victims either on time or at all.

This was associated to either

- i) Pure corruption where the officers are bribed into silence by the perpetrators of insecurity.
- ii) Reluctance; where the police officers fail to take responsibility or respond to alarms raised.
- iii) Lack of adequate personnel to handle the situations.
- iv) Lack of working tools such as vehicles, fuel or communication gadgets.
- v) Simply that officers get overwhelmed by the numerous and unruly thugs.

Insecurity in the city of Nairobi, the study established, is of utmost concern, including the Mungiki sect members who harass Githurai residents even at the stage, at will. The study further established that the community itself has had to come up with various measures aimed at achieving their own security. Amongst these, is coming up with

their own vigilante groups to guard themselves. These consist of young men and middle aged ones who are then supported in material and wages by the rest of the residents.

Secondly, the residents have had to be more vigilant in reporting to the authorities, especially the police, those who are dissidents living among them. A case in point was a drug peddler at Githurai 44 who was apparently a landlord living in one of his flats. On realizing he was a drug trafficker, the residents handed him over to the Kahawa Sukari Police post. By giving this kind of information, it becomes possible and easier to weed out the perpetrators of insecurity from within themselves.

The residents further want to enhance security by coming up with more police posts, to bring community policing closer to themselves. They have contributed material to build the posts while it is then the responsibility of the government to man the posts. Numerous security meetings have been held, some in Kahawa Sukari, attended by the local Member of Parliament; and a call to bring community- policing closer to the residents echoed.

Another form of intervention towards security achievement has been the erection of gates and barriers, rendering escape routes fewer. This is a phenomenon highly notable in Kahawa Sukari estate and the same is being encouraged elsewhere. It is now more difficult, the study established, to easily escape by vehicle from one estate studied; (Kahawa Sukari) to Githurai. Many of the crooks, it is feared,

proliferate from Githurai and their escape routes sealed renders them contained elsewhere. Car jacking and accompanying shootings has been considerably lessened especially as reported or established from Kahawa Sukari police post.

The security agents established group campaign as another form of response to insecurity where women march to the administration officers and beer dens to protest failure. Politicizing insecurity is hence a major step towards the refusal to condone the phenomena. The various security meetings called involving both politicians and security agents further serve to enhance the need for security concerns and achievements.

The study concluded further that the measures being undertaken cater for both gender equally, to an extent, because insecurity is not partial. It affects both gender. Some respondents did indicate that women are more vulnerable to insecurity due to societal attitudes that women are the weaker sex. They are therefore easier to way-lay and rob. The study hence found out that the measures have addressed the plight of women to the extent where the society in general is concerned. They still fear when they walk to their destinations and when they have assets like money at their disposal. They are still regarded an easier target, hence a level that remains un-addressed and requires a different level and form of address, and /or study.

The study established that there are major constraints in trying to achieve overall security. As stated, women were said to be victims due to their gender. Secondly, the population itself was cited as one

- major handicap. The two Estates of Githurai 44 and 45 are quite sprawling. The population is simply too large and the security forces at times find themselves inadequate. The hideouts are numerous for these perpetrators of insecurity and it becomes difficult to flush them out.

The other handicap was the reluctance and /or failure of the government security agents to cooperate with the community. Some respondents said they (police) are sometimes part of the problem.

Community members (some), were said to condone and hide perpetrators of insecurity. They do not volunteer the information to the authorities.

The terrain and poor planning of housing in Githurai estates in general was cited as contributing to the difficulty in the movements of security agents. Finally, was the general attitude of the population (residents). Some do not think it is their problem to work towards achieving a more secure environment for themselves.

Despite the various constraints, however, the measures have significantly improved security in the area of study.

## 5.0.2 Recommendations

This study recommends the following: -

- a) Further sensitization for the community should be carried out on the need to be custodians of their own security.
- b) Further studies on the security of women and their concerns should be carried out. That it is not enough to assume that measures currently being undertaken cater pragmatically for the plight of women.
- c) Residence planning and construction is crucial where security is concerned. This should always be well addressed by planners and developers if secure environments are to be achieved.
- d) Community policing should be enhanced and taken more seriously. Wrongdoers must be made to feel the presence of authorities within.
- e) The government security agents should be enhanced and better equipped to fight insecurity.
- f) This study's strongest recommendation is that both the government and community (residents) must decide (decisively) to work together to achieve security.

“WE ARE OUR OWN SECURITY”, was one respondent's assertion.

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# APPENDIX

## Data collection instrument

Questionnaire No. ....

Date: .....

**The information given here will be held in strict confidence.**

### **Part I : Personal Background**

1. Age.....
2. Gender .....
3. Religion .....
4. Marital Status .....
5. Residence .....
6. How long have you stayed in this estate?
7. Level of Education
  - a) Primary
  - b) Secondary
  - c) University
  - d) Other
8. Form of Occupation
  - a) Teacher
  - b) Civil Servant
  - c) Private sector employee
  - d) Farmer
  - e) Business man
  - f) Other (specify)

**Part II: Personal experience on Security situation.**  
**(Tick as appropriate)**

1. Do you know what is insecurity? Y/ N
2. If yes to (1), have you been a victim of insecurity? Y/ N
3. If yes to above (2) of what form.?
  - i) Car jacking
  - ii) Burglary
  - iii) Mugging /Assault
  - iv) Rape /Sexual abuse
  - v) Stealing
  - vi) Others – Specify (Murder of close friend/relative)
4. Do you know others who have been victims of insecurity in the last one year? Y/ N
5. If yes, to above (4) how many? 1, 2, 3, 4, over 5
6. In your own view do you think the area is secure? Y/ N
7. In your opinion, whom do you think is more vulnerable to insecurity /crime in the society.
  - i) Males
  - ii) Females
  - iii) Both

**Part III: Security Response Measures**  
**(Tick as appropriate)**

1. Do you know anything called security agents Y/ N
2. Are they present in this area? Y/ N

3. If yes, which ones
  - i) Policemen
  - ii) Police reserves
  - iii) Administration Police
  - iv) Police booths
  - v) Army Officers
  - vi) Others
  
4. Do these security agents respond to apparent occurrence of crime when reported or when alarm is raised?
  - i. Yes
  - ii. Sometimes
  - iii. No
  
5. If yes to above , how would you rate the response
  - i) Fast
  - ii) Moderate
  - iii) Slow
  
6. If no, to 5 above, does it mean the security agents are ineffective?  
Y/ N?
  
7. If yes to 7 above, how have members of the community responded to the situation? By
  - i) Reporting to the superiors
  - ii) Employing own security details e.g. Alarms, electric fences, security gates etc.
  - iii) Forming group vigilantes
  - iv) Remaining indifferent
  - v) Others – specify
  
8. In your opinion, which form of security intervention is more effective?
  - i) Formal security agents
  - ii) The community intervention
  - iii) Both working together

## PART IV WOMEN INVOLVEMENT

1. In your opinion, are women common victims of insecurity? Y/N
  
2. What form of insecurity are women commonly victims of?
  - i. Mugging
  - ii. Physical abuse (beating)
  - iii. Car-jacking
  - iv. Rape
  - v. Others (specify)
  
3. In a bid to curb these forms of insecurity are women involved?
  - i. Yes
  - ii. No
  - iii. Sometimes
  
4. What role(s) do they play in an effort to improve security? As
  - i. Informers
  - ii. Formation of women action groups
  - iii. Use their organizations e.g. Fida, Maendeleo ya Wanawake etc
  - iv. Others.



## INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

1. How long have you been in this area?
  
2. What is your experience of the security situation?
  
3. Are the residents complaining about the security situation?
  
4. What in your opinion are the formal security agents doing about it?
  
5. Between males and females, whom do you think are more vulnerable to crime/insecurity and why?
  
6. Do you think the formal security agents are delivering as expected?
  
7. If yes, how, if no, why?
  
8. Are the residents aware of their rights to security and do they make any demands?
  
9. Is there anything the residents themselves are doing to achieve security.
  
10. In your opinion is it more effective compared to the formal intervention.