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THE CONDUCT OF COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING INITIATIVE IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY

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DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to my family.

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I wish to acknowledge the tireless and committed effort of my supervisor for his guidance during the writing of the research project. I would also want to thank my classmates for their moral support in the course of the project.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CP   **-** Community Policing/Community-based Policing

CPC   - Community Policing Committee

CPF   - Community Policing Forum

GoK   - Government of Kenya

KHRC   - Kenya Human Right Commission

NCBDA - Nairobi Central Business District Association located in Nairobi, Kenya.

NGO   - Non-Governmental Organization

UNDP   - United Nations Development Programme

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to examine the conduct of CP program in Kakamega County. It was guided by four objectives, namely: To establish how community-based policing is organized, to examine how personal characteristics of the Committee Members affect CP , to establish performance of CP committees and to find out the support given by the government and non-state actors towards CP.

The researcher reviewed literature and found out that many studies had overlooked the fact that communities had the capacity to establish their local mechanisms of dealing with insecurity which this study sought to intervene. The researchers employed two theoretical frameworks that guided the research process, the broken window theory and social capital theory.

Descriptive survey research design was employed and purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used to draw a representative sample of 3 wards of the 5 wards and 30 CP committee members. The cumulative sample of 30 was achieved after the process of sampling 10 members from each committee's membership. Further, the researcher identified three key informants from each ward including: the CP committee chairperson, the chief, sub-chief and the ward administrator. Data was collected using questionnaires from CP Committee Members and the key informants. Descriptive statistics namely frequency tables and percentages were used to analyze the data. Qualitative data analysis included the iterative processes of data description.

It was found out that CP committees were formed in 2014 in response to high crime rate and least performance by the government to contain the situation under the leadership of the chiefs and sub-chief and stewardship of chairpersons. Further, it was found out that personal characteristics such as gender, income levels, occupation, age, length of stay and marital status influenced participation in CP activities. The community supported their activities and therefore sustainability was guaranteed.

As regards performance, the committees were relatively effective despite the key challenge of inadequate resources to run their activities. In addition, the researcher established that the committees mainly relied on contributions from the members of the community to run their operations and that such support was not adequate. We recommend that the CP Committees be empowered by availing adequate resources and other support to enable them undertake their activities optimally in bid to eradicate crime and achieve security in the neighbourhoods.

<div align="center">**CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**</div>

1.1 Background of the study

Sir Robert Peel who is regarded as the father of modern policing, as quoted in (Braiden, 1992) stated that "the police are the public and the public are the police" a statement that reflects a key tenet of community policing that police should not be separate from, but rather joined in partnership with the community. A major impetus for the move away from traditional policing was the recognition that the police cannot control crime and disorder alone. With community policing, the police and community are expected to co-produce safe and healthy communities and therefore enter into partnerships which serve to empower residents to take responsibility for their neighborhoods. Kelling (1988) states that, "police are to stimulate and buttress a community's ability to produce attractive neighborhoods and protect them against predators. The concept of community policing, is increasingly popular in industrialized countries, as opposed to developing countries. Burdened with high crime rates and low public trust in the police, a number of developing countries are adopting this concept, in some cases with impressive results.

In Kenya, the concept is anchored in Article 96 of the National Police Service Act 2011, Cap 84 whose objectives are establishing and maintaining partnership between the community and the service. Further, it seeks to promote communication between the police service and the community; promote co-operation between the service and the community in fulfilling the needs of the community regarding policing. It also seeks to improve the rendering of police services to the community at national, county and local levels; improving transparency and accountability of the service to the community as well as promote policing problem identification and policing problem-solving by the Service and the community.

Despite this, the security situation in Kenya has deteriorated in recent years, particularly in the country's urban centers, with the rise of car-jacking, robberies, and murders. Crime costs the country millions of shillings every year in terms of loss of property, loss of life and huge payments by insurance companies in the form of compensation (Gimode, 2001). Locally some forms of organized crimes such as those by proscribed sects have created fear to the public. For instance, in Kenya sects such as *Mungiki, Sungusungu, Jeshi la mzee* and many more have created havoc to the government and the public at large. It is also of importance to note that crime creates an environment not conducive for conducting business. This has kept away many direct foreign investors hence the lethargic economic development (Nairobi-Habitat, 2003).

In the backdrop of intermittent waves of crime in the country, the Kenya police, which is the authority charged with the maintenance of law and order has been dynamic in its response to crime. There are various departments in the police force that have undergone special training to deal with different kinds of crime. The Paramilitary General Service Unit (G.S.U) is highly trained to deal with crime that is riotous and banditry in nature. The staffs at the Criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D) arm of the police force are highly trained to investigate sophisticated crimes. The Commissioner of Police has also timely formed some crime prevention units in the Police force as need arose. These include the Flying Squad, Quick response team, Kifaru, Kanga Squad and Scorpion among others (Gimode, 2001).

In view of the foregoing facts that crime has continued to be waged on the innocent citizenry, police are bound to adopt proactive strategies to manage crime and to be responsive to the needs of the public. This gave birth to community policing in Kenya. Community policing was conceived on the premise that crime perpetrators and their accomplices live within the communities in which they unleash crime. They are known to their neighbors and this vital resource can be tapped to reduce crime. On the other hand communities are suspicious of the police and prefer to be guided by their own (vigilante groups). In such situations, the line between community policing and vigilantism becomes blurred opening up possibility of violence and social anarchy (Ruteere and Pommeroll, 2003).

Since 2003, the Government of Kenya has embraced community policing as a core crime prevention strategy. This was expected to be a crime prevention strategy that was responsive to the needs of the public. This involves combining the efforts and resources of the law enforcement agencies and community members. Community-based policing facilitates partnership so that the public can seek assistance from law enforcement agencies. It operates on the premise that crime perpetrators and their accomplices live within the communities in which they unleash crime. The criminals are known to their neighbours and this vital resource can be tapped to reduce crime (Republic of Kenya, 2004). This saw the implementation of this programme in many parts of the country. The fundamental principles of the programme include policing by consent rather than by coercion, the police and the community working together, identifying the security priorities of the community and tailoring policing to meet community needs and priorities (Republic of Kenya, 2004).

1.2 Problem Statement

The participatory approach in public security and safety is a fairly recent phenomenon. It has been attributed to the dominance of the neo-liberal approaches to governance (Pelser 1999; Muller 2010) and the emergence and prominence of participatory democracy that has created room for consideration of alternative forms of service delivery thus challenging the state-centric model that has been dominant for much of the 19th century. As a result, the monopoly of the state as a provider of public services has been changing with entrance of non-state actors laying a claim to what was normally the preserve of the state. While other public sectors such as health, education and agriculture have for long embraced non-state actors in their model of service delivery, the security sector has not until recently began to undergo such changes by accommodating, although reluctantly, other actors partnerships in service delivery (Marks et al. 2009). These partnerships include private security firms and the community. However, despite many countries in developing world adapting and implementing CP in the last 2 decades, literature suggests that there is still significant divide between the official intentions and the practical realities (Brogden 2004:641; Kyed 2009). Nevertheless this has not damped the enthusiasm for CP as countries like Kenya are considering adapting it or expanding its reach as it is perceived as an important element in the reforms of their policing organizations.

Police in Kenya has been characterized as corrupt, inefficient, brutal and, at time, criminal. As a result, the trust and legitimacy in the public has been very low. At the same time, public security and safety has increasingly become a major concern for many Kenyans. While the threat is not limited to any social class the poor remain more vulnerable due to limited opportunities to protect themselves from insecurity.

In Kenya, efforts to establish community police partnership programs started at the beginning of the 1990s spearheaded by the private sector in partnership with the police and were limited within the Nairobi central business district (Ruteere and Pommerolle 2003). Later a number of initiatives have followed with the support of different NGOs.

Studies in Kenya about Community development have often focused on urban settings and therefore little has been done to understand how the rural settings cope with crime through community based policing.

Kakamega County is mostly rural with the Kenya National Police Crime report 2014 ranking it fourth in terms of crime prevalence. This study examines to get experiences of CP in rural

Kakamega where cattle theft, night robbery, rape, drug abuse, burglary among other crimes has been reported.

Since formal CP in Kenya was still at its early stages of institutionalization and integration, this study explored its practice in Kakamega County.

1.3 Research questions

a. How do personal characteristics of the Committee members influence the conduct of CP?
b. How is CP organized in the wards studied?
c. What is the performance of CP committees in the study area?
d. Is there stakeholder support for conduct of CP in the study area?

1.4 Objectives of the study

1.4.1 General objectives

The general objective of the study was to examine the performance of the community-based policing in Kakamega County.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

a. To examine how personal characteristics of the Committee members influence the conduct of CP in the area studied;
b. To establish the organization of CP committees in Kakamega County;
c. To establish performance of CP committees in the study area;
d. To find out stakeholder support for conduct of CP in the study area.

1.5 Significance of the study

One of the main responsibilities of the government is to guarantee the right to freedom and security of the person and property to its citizenry (article 29, constitution of Kenya 2010). This study will help in enhancing the effectiveness of other community policing programs in the country to enhance national security.

Further, since this study was community oriented its findings aims at developing better approaches to enhance collaboration between the community and the police. The people are expected to enjoy improved security services. This improves economic empowerment across all levels and strata of the society. The local people are supposed to be involved in the process of identifying and addressing their own security concerns.

1.6 Scope and limitation of the study

The study was limited to the examination of the conduct of Community-based policing in Kakamega County. This was carried out in three Wards in Ikolomani Sub- County. Specifically, the study sought to examine the personal characteristics of CP committee members, the organization of the Committees, their performance and support given by the government and non-state actors. This study targeted the Members of the CP Committees in three Wards.

1.7 Definition of key concepts

Community

The researcher adopted the perspective that view a community a physical concentration of individuals in one locality, and/or social organization among a concentration of individuals that possess a particular quality of relationships.

Community policing

This study considered community policing as the collaborative effort by the community, government security agents or non-state actors that identifies problems of crime and disorder and involves all elements of the community in the search for a solution of these problems. It can be an initiative of any of the players.

Non-state actors

This refers to individuals or organizations, not allied to the government, but seek to be enlisted to voluntarily complement government services individually or through collaboration.

Community Policing Committee

The refers to a group of people, selected or appointed by law or mere trust to manage security affairs of a neighborhood on behalf of the rest of the population.

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the literature reviewed and the theoretical frameworks applied in order to illuminate the research. Further, it presents the conceptual framework and the relationship among variables in the study.

2.2 Literature Review

2.2.1 The concept of Community Policing

Since the 1990s, CP has been implemented in various forms, depth and with varying degrees of success in many countries in the developing countries. These contexts share some similarities such as rising crime rates, weak state capacity, police violence and corruption, poor terms of work and motivation among the police, low police capacity, levels of poverty, human rights violation, the state of democratic institutions and citizen mistrust of the police (Frühling 2007; Goldsmith 2005; Kyed 2009; Ruteere and Pommerolle 2003). While these countries have unique characteristics in terms of socio-economic and political factors that differentiate them, yet there are shared characteristics in terms of policing experiences that provide a basis for comparison of their experiences in implementing alternative forms of policing for possible lessons. Building on the theoretical and conceptual debate in the previous chapter, the objective of this chapter is to review the experiences of police- community partnership in developing countries with a view to identifying factors that influence the performance of CP programs.

2.2.2 Community policing as a collective initiative

CP aims at the transformation of the traditional approaches to dealing with crime that predominantly apply reactive use of force and legal procedures to a more collaborative partnership between the police and the community in order to jointly and proactively identify and solve problems that threaten social order. It re-defines the role of the community members to that of active participants in solving their security problems, while also re-defining the role of the police as professionals who facilitate that process; that is, to be enablers of the communities to solve their own (community) problems (Community Policing Consortium 1994).

2.2.3 Organization of community based policing

The models through which CP is operationalised differ across countries. In Latin America, for example, Frühling identifies three models, namely through a central commission that is vested

with no power to make any binding decisions and whose members are drawn from different sectors of the government, non-government and the police; a mixed model that combines the activities of local committees and a central commission; and thirdly, a model where police and community relations are totally decentralised corresponding to respective police stations (Frühling2007: 136). The third model seems to be more prevalent in different contexts in Africa and Latin America where it takes the form of Community Policing Forums (South Africa), Community Policing Committees (Mozambique & Mexico City), Community Liaison Officers (Zimbabwe & Uganda), and Crime Prevention Panels (Malawi) (Davis et.al., 2003; Frühling 2007; Kyed 2009; Pelser 1999).

In some contexts members of these units are formally elected such as in Mexico and South Africa, while in others, they volunteer on the basis of their position as important social actors in the community. Similarly, their functions vary across different countries: the two primary functions replicated widely include sharing criminal intelligence information between police and the public and promotion of dialogue between officers and members of the community, (Brogden 2004); other functions include ensuring accountability, setting policing priorities and evaluation of policing services though there are variations on the extent to which these are emphasised depending on context (Davis et al.2003; Frühling, 2007:129-130).

2.2.4 Role of stakeholders in community based policing and the challenges

Despite its adoption in many developing countries, there is debate on its impact on community police relations, crime rate and police behaviour. Proponents, especially governments and NGOs involved in the program claim it contributes to reduction of fear of crime and crime rates. In South Africa, Malawi, Botswana, it is claimed that there is improvement in co-operation between local communities and police in developing and implementing crime reduction services for victims of crime, particularly of rape and domestic violence (Brogden, 2004:648). In Uganda, Davis et al (2003:295) suggest that CP has contributed to strengthening of the links between police and the communities and decreased domestic violence. Others have pointed to the change in giving communities powers of accountability in regard to the state police, as a positive development (Sita. Kibuuka and Ssamula, quoted in Brogden 2004:649). But other authors are sceptical and highlight examples that suggest that CP does not lead to better relations between the police and the public, especially those marginalised socially (Frühling 2007; Kyed 2009; Muller 2010). Discussing the experience of community policing forums (CPFs) in South Africa, Brogden (2002) finds little impact in improving understanding

and changing mutual perceptions. Muller finds little change in the image of the police when it comes to the problem of 'arbitrary and sometimes criminal behavior' as agents attached to CP in Mexico city continued to be accused of involvement in "extortion of local residents and delinquents' (Muller 2010:30).

This side of the debate provides two arguments to explain the muted impact. On one hand, there are institutional and organizational explanations, which attribute failure to the implementation dynamics (Davis et al 2003; Frühling 2007; Kyed 2009) and secondly, the systemic argument that holds that 'CP as designed in the West is largely irrelevant to most African societies [and] not simply a product of ineffective implementation (Brogden, 2004:647; Brogden 2005; Ruteere and Pommerrole 2003). This line of argument criticises CP programs for being too focused on state control of policing thereby condemning or ignoring existing local mechanisms as unaccountable. They urge for CP programs that are locally relevant by drawing on local experiences and practices in terms of what works rather than completely copying Western models (Brogden 2005:91-92). Brogden calls for 'public ownership of policing, not state or police control, as the key to communal policing in transitional societies' (ibid).

2.2.5 Police institutional capabilities and shortcomings

From an institutional perspective the capability of the police and the dynamics of the CP forums are important analytical units to explain the performance of CP programs.

Given the emphasis on people skills and attitude transformation in CP, the issue of police preparedness and capability to adopt a strategy that de-emphasises reliance on para-military skills and attitudes has attracted considerable attention (Frühling 2007; Pelser 1999; Jones 2008, Doeseran 2002, Davis et al., 2003). The analysis of institutional capacity focuses on the structure of the police organization and the related issues of decentralization, which further investigates the extent to which local service delivery is emphasised and whether local level actors are provided with incentives to reward innovative and effective practices (Pelser 1999:7). The interrelation of these components is critical for a strategy that recognises multiple actors.

At the structural level, the debate focuses on whether the traditional organizational structure of the police in terms of its training and subculture can be transformed and whether it can be an agent of transformation as a result of implementation of CP. A number of authors notably Deosaran 2003; Frühling 2007; Jones 2008; Pelser 1999, have argued that the structure of the police organization characterized by extremely centralised, hierarchical and largely rigid bureaucracy is contradictory to the structure, process and values implied by CP. The argument is that co-production of policing priorities that considers community input as central, requires a decentralised structure that is flexible, innovative and proactive, which is difficult in the traditional structure of the police. Jones, 2008 has observed that police organizations adapting CP do so while still maintaining a linear model of organization where decision making is centralised and reactive. He contrasts this to the requirements of CP that emphasises learning, consultation and flexibility and argues that this complex relationship cannot be effectively managed in the organization structure that is centralised and rigid.

Related to organization structure is the question of the prevailing subculture and the way it influences the attitude of the police towards CP. Frühling suggests that when the dominant view is that strict application of the law is sufficient to control crime, resistance to adopt CP among the police will be greater. Moreover, there will be less enthusiasm to apply the CP principles when officers on the street are not convinced that it can have an impact on crime (Frühling, 2007:135-136).

The organizational structure and the attitude of the police towards CP are further reflected in the way CP has been adopted by police organization. CP in many organizations is not integrated into the operational policing strategies; instead it is taken as an 'add-on' function marginally influencing day to day police practice (Pelser 1999:10). A limited role for CP '… [is] detrimental to the development of alternative local mechanisms and, importantly, to "*...the empowerment of individual police officers to practice community policing as part of their day-to-day responsibilities*" (South Africa Department of Safety and Security, quoted in Pelser 1999:10, his emphasis). Examples from countries such as South Africa, Mozambique, Mexico, Brazil and Uganda show that activities under CP are confined to specific department rather than mainstreamed into the operations of the police(Frühling 2007; Mottiar and White 2003; Muller 2010). Such piecemeal implementation of CP has led a number of studies to conclude that CP programs should be interpreted as symbolic gestures rather than serious commitments to reforming the way police deliver services (Mottiar and White, 2003:5; Muller 2010:32).

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

2.2.6 Resources at the centre of community based policing

The human, material, and organizational resources requirements and it implications for the extent to which CP can be realistically implemented has been highlighted as another critical factor. For many authors, developing countries cannot realistically implement CP because of the difficulty in mobilizing resources necessary for its implementation. To transform the police requires huge resources to meet the demands for on-going training, provision of equipment and technology, improving salaries for police officers, cost of supporting community policing forums activities, monitoring and evaluation among others, which resource constrained countries are unable to meet (Frühling, 2007).

2.2.7 Community dynamics and law enforcement authorities in CP

At the level of the community, the way the police and the community interact and the dynamics of the interaction are considered important for the success of CP. There is debate around the effectiveness of CP in improving the relationship between the police and the public, which further leads to consideration of power dynamics with respect to the question of whose agenda controls the CPFs, effect of participation in influencing policing priorities, effect of participation in transforming police behaviour, impact on community attitude towards the police, the nature of representation and level of participation. Considering the historical background of the police public relationship in the developing countries characterised by corruption, human rights violations, poor performance, this micro-level analysis is crucial. A number of findings are highlighted here.

The ideal CPF is where the police and the community are working together in harmony. This perspective seems prevalent in much of the literature, where the dynamics of relations in these

forums are not the focus of analysis; however, examples from practice, suggest that this is far from the practice. Mottiar and White observe that the relationship between the police and the community in the CPFs is characterized by tensions over the extent to which the community should be allowed into 'police affairs'. The police want CPFs to be restricted from 'intruding into the discretionary domain of the police' while the community demands more involvement in decisions such as choosing police personnel (2003:11). There is thus a 'tension and ambiguity' between the language of partnership as used by the police and 'their desire to maintain their established monopoly of the policing enterprise' (Marks, et al., 2009:145).

This tension and ambiguity fuels the debate, which though inconclusive appears sceptical about the CPFs capacity and room to influence policing goals. Brogden after reviewing experiences of CP in a number of developing countries, including Uganda, Kenya, Pakistan, India and South Africa finds that police do not regard the aspect of co-production as important, but instead expect that the public should serve the goals set by the police. For example, in Pakistan, the police expected village communities to help them nab culprits and restore normalcy in cases of violence, while in Uganda 'they tended to regard community policing primarily as a means of instructing local populations, rather than of listening to them' (Brogden, 2004: 644). He therefore concludes that CPCs are '… dominated by the police organization and [as such] come to promote police goals not community goals' (2004:636).

Davis et al. are also sceptical about the extent to which community priorities discussed in the CPCs inform policing strategies. Discussing experiences of CP in Sao Paulo in Brazil they note that 'although the public is asked to share information on local concerns the police do not consult them when it comes to 'definition of priorities' or strategic planning (2003:291). Similarly, Frühling commenting on the evaluation of CP in Latin America, finds that 'citizen participation does not define policing priorities and that citizens are poorly prepared to interact with the police and to take action to resolve the security issues that affect them' (2007:136).

Where CPFs have influence over policing goals, Brogden suggests that these are likely to be the interests 'of the local business or socio-economic elite rather than those of the wider community' (Brogden, 2004:636). Muller in the study of CPCs in Mexico makes similar findings when he observes that program implementation tends to be determined by existing structures of "clientelism" rather than the needs of the poorer members of the community (2010:33).

Besides the issue of dominance by the police in the CPFs, another point of debate is whether the police, given the nature of their training in these contexts are well prepared to deal with the complexity of community forums with competing interests and varied perspectives. Shaw 2002 notes in the case of South Africa that 'while people expect to be included in police initiatives, the police forces have found the forums and negotiations too time-consuming and too soft in the context of increasing crime rates (Shaw 2002, quoted in Ruteere and Pommerolle, 2003: 590), they thus prefer to use the community as 'eyes and ears' for crime control' (ibid). This poses the risk that role of the members of the public is seen exclusively in terms of providing information to the police rather than the more complicated task of informing policing priorities, accountability and improving police performance.

2.3 Theoretical framework

2.3.1 Broken Windows Theory

This theory is also known as, "order-maintenance, "zero-tolerance," or "quality-of-life" policing." (Harcourt & Ludwig, Winter 2006). The theory of broken windows, first articulated by Wilson and Kelling (1982) and developed further by Kelling and Coles (1996; Kelling 1998), is behind many community justice approaches. The broken windows theory assumes that minor disorder, if not taken seriously and attacked, will increase fear of crime, decrease informal social control, and increase crime. Social incivilities (public urination and drunkenness, drug use, prostitution, loitering teens, and panhandling) and physical incivilities (vacant buildings, empty lots, junk and trash, graffiti, and abandoned cars) contribute to the deterioration of communities. Police departments, in the past twenty years, have adopted this theory that states that by controlling minor disorders, serious crimes can be reduced. There is evidence that high levels of disorder are related with high levels of crime.

Kelling and Coles (1996) refer to Slogan's (1990) work as a proof of the broken windows theory, since his study of decline and disorder in American neighborhoods showed a relationship among disorder, crime, and deterioration, the consequence of which is a downward spiral of neighborhood decay. This theory was appropriate for this study since the collective approach of CP is best fit for eradicating minor common crimes that give way to serious crimes in the neighborhoods.

B.F Skinner's theory of conditioning helps us appreciate that the adoption of behaviour into one's habits highly depends on the reinforcement (reward and punishment) attached to the practice of the behaviour. Offenders of petty crimes through learning of the rewards of major crimes will get into it. Living in a community where people lends to the law those who are involved in petty crime preempts their intent for fear of the negative reward (jail) which enhances reluctance of petty offender getting into serious crime as well as inhibiting them from committing the petty offences for fear of being reported. This theory supplemented the Broken Windows Theory because the punishment arising from the committing petty offences discourages the culprits from repeating and advancing to serious crimes.

2.3.2 Social Capital framework

Some research findings suggest that crime results from weak informal social controls and low capacity to mobilize such formal external resources as law enforcement agencies (Field 2003:60). In attempting to explain why some places have weak informal social controls, and therefore prone to crime than others, researchers have applied the theory of social capital (Field 2003, Howdon 2008). In addition, social capital has also been applied to investigate and explain why collective action is more successful in some places than others.

Social capital has been defined as consisting "*features of social organization, such as networks, norms, and trust that facilitates action and cooperation for mutual benefit and results in high levels of interpersonal trust and interaction, and norms of aid and reciprocity, and high rates of civic participation*" (Putnam, as quoted in Howdon, 2009:189). They distinguish two forms of social capital: bridging and bonding capital bridging capital accounts for civic interaction and engagement; whereas bonding form of capital explains relationship between those we have shared experiences and expectations with a component of hope for future interactions such as family members and relatives.

Based on the findings that communities that depict greater cohesion and shared expectations also tend to have lower rates of crime and disorder, it is claimed that such strong networks of communities do have the potential for deterring crime (Field: 2003:60). This is attributed to the fact that where such cohesion exists members of such communities share a responsibility to intervene before behavior gets out of hand but also because such environments provide its young members 'with a sense of status and self-esteem, which supports their integration in the society' (ibid:61). Thus communities that have strong social controls are thought to have lower levels of crime and conversely, weak social capital is associated with high levels of social

disorder. It is suggested that public institutions such as the police will encounter more support in places where social capital is high, which provides rationale for policy support for programs that increase levels of bridging capital.

Criticism of social capital holds that it fails to engage with issues of power relations (for example Fine 2010; Fine 2001) while also 'attempting to rework the (problematic) concept of community' (Adkins, 2005:4). Further social capital theorists are criticized for holding on to idealized notions of social capital that are primarily focused on social benefits. It is argued that 'social capital may not necessarily be an unproblematic social 'good' as it can also be a social 'bad' (ibid:7). Furthermore, it is noted that networks are not just benign constructions as they do marginalize those not belonging to particular networks. From a feminist as well as from sociological point of view, critiques have argued that the networks of men and women are not equally privileged as those of women tend to belong to networks that command fewer economic resources (ibid).

This researcher found this theory most fit for the study for it is based on the collectivity of the individuals living in a neighborhood who capitalize on their social network they have to solve a common problem, in this case insecurity.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

This researcher presumed that successful implementation of community policing depended on several factors that also determines the extent to which it can mobilize its various activities. The study posited that for any programme implementing entity to be in position to understand the working of a programme, there must be factual data that shows the outcome of such a program. The schematic diagram below guided the ideal flow of community policing programme. It shows the interrelatedness among the key variables in the study as illustrated below.

Figure 1: Conceptual framework
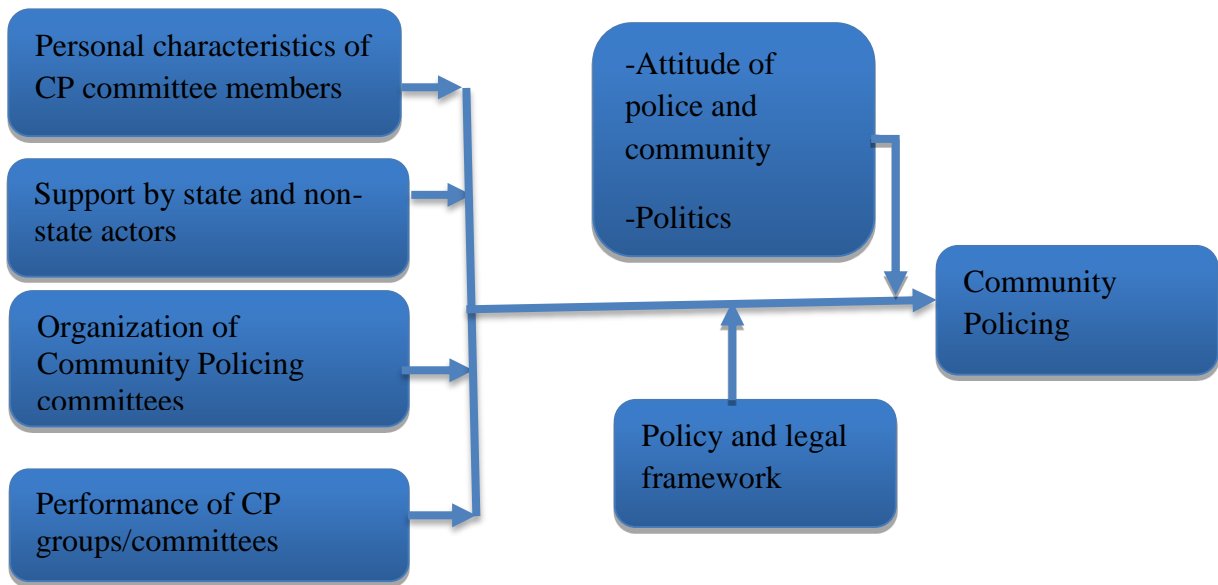
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a description of the proposed study area research design; the target population; sampling design; data collection instruments and procedures and data analysis.

3.2 Study Area

Kakamega County is one of the 47 Counties in Kenya. The County covers an area of 3050.3 Km^2 (Kakamega CDP, 2013). According to the Kenya Population and Housing Census Report (2009), Kakamega County has a population of 1,660,651 people consisting of 797,112 males and 863,539 females. The population is projected to hit 2,028,324 people by 2017. The report also indicates that 196,938 were unemployed. The average land holding size is 0.54 Ha. It is located in Western Kenya about 30km north of the Equator, at Latitude and Longitude of 0'275" N, 34'757"E respectively. The County boarders Vihiga County to the South, Busia and Siaya Counties to the West, Bungoma and Trans Nzoia Counties to the North, Uasin Gishu to the North East and Nandi County to the East. According to the Kenya Police Crime Report 2014, Kakamega was ranked 4th in Kenya in terms of crime prevalence recording 2,444 crimes.

Kakamega County is comprised of 12 sub-counties namely: Shinyalu, Butere, Khwisero, Ikolomani, Navakholo, Lurambi, Likuyani, Lugari, Matungu, Mumias West, Mumias East and Malava.The researcher purposively sampled Ikolomani Sub-County for the study owing to his familiarity with the area.

Ikolomani Sub-County is composed of four Wards, namely: Idakho North, South, Central and East.

3.3 Research Design

The researcher adopted a descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey design was used in studies to allow the researcher gather information, summarize, present and interpret it for the purpose of clarification. It also allows the researcher to describe record, analyze and report conditions that exist or existed. This design allowed the researcher to generate both numerical and descriptive data that was used to understand the objectives of the study. Descriptive survey research was intended to produce statistical information about the conduct of community policing in Kakamega County.

The field survey implies the process of gaining insight into the general picture of a situation, without utilizing the entire population (Gall, Borg and Gall, 1996: 28).

3.4 Target Population

A population is the group that the research focuses on (Cooper and Schindler, 2003). Target population in statistics is the specific population about which information is desired. According to Ngechu (2004), a population is a well-defined or set of people, services, elements, events, group of things or households that are being investigated. The study population comprised of resident members Kakamega County.

3.5 Sampling

Simple random sampling was used for selection of the sub-sites and committee members.It is a classic method where all the units of the population are numbered from 1 to N to form a sampling frame. In each case, numbers were written on small slips of paper. The paper slips were made to be of the same size to enhance randomness of the sample. The slips were thoroughly mixed and a slip was picked up. Again the population of slips was mixed and the next unit was selected. In this manner, the number of slips equal to the sample size n was selected. The units of the population which appeared on the selected slips made the simple random sample.

a) Study sub-sites

At the first stage, the researcher purposively sampled Ikolomani sub-county from among the twelve (12) sub-counties in Kakamega County because of his familiarity with the area. The researcher employed simple random sampling to get 3 wards, namely: Idakho North, Central and East. These are the wards from which the researcher drew his respondents from.

b) Community policing Committees

There was one committee managing security affairs in each of the three sampled wards. The leadership of the committees were contacted and ten (10) members of each committee were chosen using simple random sampling method. This gave a total of 30 committee members as the respondents.

c) Key Informants

The researcher further purposively sampled one (1) assistant chief and one (1) chief from each of the three sampled wards as key informants. The ward administrators of the three sampled wards and the chairpersons of the Committees were also involved as key informants to the study. This gave a total of nine (12) Key Informants.

The above information is illustrated in table 3.1 below

Table 1: Categories of Respondents

Category of Respondents	Number	Percent
CP Committee members	30	71.4
Key Informants	12	28.6
Total	**42**	**100**

3.6 Data collection procedure and instruments

This study collected quantitative and qualitative data using a researcher-administered questionnaire. Questionnaires were administered to the committee members, chiefs, sub-chiefs and the ward administrators. The researcher used an interview schedule to capture specific information from the chairpersons of the committees. The researcher informed the respondents that the instruments that was being administered were for research purpose only and the responses from the respondents would be kept secret and confidential. The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the University to collect data from the respondent then personally deliver the questionnaires to them.

3.7 Data analysis and presentation

The researcher used both quantitative and qualitative techniques to gather and analyze data. The study employed descriptive statistics where tables and graphs were used. Qualitative data was captured and analyzed in prose and quotes. The researcher had a better view of respondents' responses in relation to what was expected of them.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with analysis and presentation of the data collected through questionnaires. The presentation used graphical figures, i.e bar graphs.

4.2 Community policing committees

The researcher sought to understand background information regarding the Committees. This information was given by the chairpersons of the key informants.

4.2.1 Formation of the committees

One chairperson of committee confirmed that the committees were formed in public barazas out of the rise in insecurity in the wards and one of the Chairpersons stated that "the committee in this Ward was started during a public baraza held last year [2014] to discuss security in this area" .This was also corroborate by one of the chiefs.

The fact that it was an initiative of the community to solve a problem for common good, it received wide spread approval within the community and this contributed to its relative success.

Table 2: State of the committees

NAME OF COMMITTEE	WARD	YEAR OF FORMATION	COMPOSITION
Idakho North Neigbourhood Security Committee	Idakho North	2014	18
Idakho Central Community Policing Committee	Idakho Central	2014	16
Idakho East Community Policing Committee	Idakho East	2014	20

4.2.2 Enrolment into the committees

Community members volunteer to be part of the committee and some are nominated based on their previous positions and there is not periodical subscription fees on becoming a member as reported by one of the chairpersons who stated that, "people volunteer to assist the community and their families because it is also in their interest and there is no fee charge on membership"

It was clear that the community supported CP because of the evidential output in terms of security improvement. Given this, many people were likely to have the conscious urge to participate as volunteers in what the community deemed good. This saw the committees membership grow from the start to the time the study was underway.

4.2.3 Meetings and forums

One sub-chief stated that, "our committee was started at barazas which were held from time to time for communication, complaints and reporting".

One chairperson stated that "the committee I lead holds meetings every Friday to brief the Chief and sub-chief on happenings during the week for communication in barazas"

However, it was indicated that these meetings were not put on record for reference.

The researcher observed that the forums in form of public barazas were important to give an opportunity for communications on security and other matters affecting the people and enhanced the CP spirit of collaboration.

The weekly meetings were also key to CP to give the recognized leaders [chiefs and sub-chiefs] content for engaging the people in the spirit of working together for their common good.

4.2.4 Involvement of County administration

It was found out that there was minimal involvement of County Government in matters of security. The County has a role to play in security matters pursuant to the National Police Service Act.

Given that the Counties have officers at the grassroots including Ward administrators and sub-county administrators, the CP committees would achieve much in terms of knowhow, reporting and action on crime if these officers were involved in the CP activates.

One of the Ward administrator interviewed indicated that he has never been invited to attend the barazas or the committee meetings, "No one has approached me or invited me to these meetings and so I stick to other key county business of our mandate in this ward"

Another one stated that," as a County, we can work together with other leaders as well as the community to ensure security in the Wards but I am never involved".

When probed to comment on the same, one of the Ward Administrators recommended that "both the national government, county government and the communities need to work together to achieve common good in most matters where collaboration is beneficial and does not have conflict in mandate, especially in execution".

4.2.5 Relationship of CP and Nyumba Kumi Initiative

The researcher also sought to know the place of *Nyumba kumi* government approach to community policing in the local arrangement.

All the chiefs and sub-chiefs indicated that they were aware of the initiative and were holding discussions to integrate it in the local mechanism.

One of the chairpersons stated that, "I have discussed this with my sub-chief and we will seek approval from the people to implement it"

It was clear from these observations that *Nyumba Kumi* initiative had not been implemented in the area under study.

4.3 Personal characteristics of the CP committee members

The first objective of this study was to examine the effects of personal characteristics of the CP members which were: gender, age, length of stay, marital status and monthly income.

4.3.1 Gender of committee members

The gender of the respondents was important because the researcher needed to establish the sex that was involved most in matters of community policing at the ward level. The researcher expected to find more men than women involved in CP.

Table 3 shows that 63.3 % of the respondents were male where as 36.7 % were female. This result indicates that as per out expectation, more, men participated more in community policing affairs compared to female members.

Table 3: Gender of respondents

Gender	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Male	19	63.3
female	11	36.7
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.3.2 Age of the respondents

This demographic characteristic was particularly important in assessing the ability of the respondents to participate effectively in community policing. The researcher expected that more middle aged persons would participate in CP. Table 4 shows that the respondents who were below 29 years were 10%, those between the 30 – 39 years range were 26.7%, between 40 – 49% were 40%, and those who were above 50 years were 23.3%.

From this, it was clear as per our expectations, that persons within the age bracket of between 39 to 50 years were more concerned about security of their wards and therefore participated in community policing that would ensure secure neighborhood. This owes to the fact that many in this age bracket had made key life milestones in terms of wealth possession which they needed to secure. Those above fifty probably found it inappropriate to take part for they were vulnerable given the nature of activities the committee engaged in. Most of those below thirty were assumed to either still schooling or stay in urban areas making foundations of their lives and therefore their participation in CP was minimal.

Table 4: Age of the respondents

Age Category	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Below 29 years	3	10.0
30 – 39 years	8	26.7
40 – 49 years	12	40.0
Above 50 years	7	23.3
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.3.3 Length of Stay of the respondents

The data relating to the length of stay of the respondents in the wards studied was particularly important to gauge the level to which community members were networked in terms of familiarity with one another and social fabric. By knowing one another, it was easier to suspect unusual activities in the area and for neighbours to report such suspicious activities to the relevant authorities.

Table 5 shows that the length of stay varied among the interviewed committee members. From the data, 10% of the respondents had stayed in the wards for less than 5 years, 30% of them had stayed in the wards for between 11 – 15 years, 20% had lived in this area between 16 – 20 years and those who had lived in the area for over 21 years constituted 10%. Since a majority of the respondents had stayed in the wards for more than 5 years, familiarity with one another was likely to be high and strong social network was developed to identify strangers and secure their neighborhoods.

It was clear that most people had lived in these areas for a long time and this enhanced the chances of being aware of suspicious activities and this in turn could assist in addressing the situation.

Table 5: Length of stay of the respondents

Range in years	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Less than 5	3	10
Between 6 -10	9	30
Between 11 - 15	6	20
Between 16 - 20	9	30
Over 21	3	10
Total	**30**	**100**

4.3.4 Marital Status of respondents

This set of data was important in understanding the composition of people in the wards in terms of marital status. Community policing requires commitment of both time and resources to attend meetings and engage in night patrols. It was likely that the marital status of individuals influenced their participation levels. The researcher expected that participation in CP would cut across the status of marriage because people had families, home and businesses to secure.

Table 6 shows that, 40% of the respondents indicated that they were married. Equally, 40% indicated that they were single. Furthermore, 10% indicated that they were separated or divorced while 10% indicated that they were widowed.

Contrary to our expectations, it was clear from the data that the married and the single persons participated more in CP. The married people might have felt morally responsible for the security of their families and property. This urge may have made them participate more in CP affairs to ensure safe neighborhoods. Single persons equally needed secure areas for their extended families and property and CP offered them an opportunity to meet this need. Separated/divorced and widowed received sympathy protection from the rest of the community and were not expected to take full roles in the activities of CP committees.

Table 6: Marital Status of the respondents

Status	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Married	12	40
Single	12	40
Divorced/separated	3	10
widowed	3	10
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.3.5 Occupation of the respondents

Understanding the occupation was paramount in relation to community policing in a manner that unemployment could be associated with crime and therefore need for CP. This information was also important to gauge the endowment that could be used to support the CP committee to perform its role.

Table 7 shows that 6.7% of the respondents indicated that they were housewives, 30% indicated that they were paid employees, and 63.3% of the sampled population were in self-employment.

This result showed that given that majority of the committee members were self-employed, they were in need of a more secure area to do their daily engagements to earn a living and this explained why they were likely to contributed more in CP activities than those on paid employment who probably lived in cities or had no investment to protect in the area.

Table 7: Occupation of the respondents

Occupation	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Housewife	2	6.7
Paid employee	9	30.0
Self -employed	19	63.3
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.3.6 Income reported by the respondents

The data relating to the income was essential in understanding the need for external support for community policing activities.

Table 8 shows that 20% of the respondents earned less than Kenya shillings 5,000 per month. Nearly 23.3% indicated that their annual earnings ranged between Ksh. 6,000 – 9, 000, 16.7% had a monthly earning of between 10, 000 – 19, 999. Additionally, 23.3% of them earned between 20, 000 – 49, 9999 and 16.7% earned above 50,000 per month.

Given that the monthly income of a majority of the members was average the members were able to mobilize relative amount of resources to ensure effective CP committee activities.

Table 8: Average monthly income reported by the respondents

Income range	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Less than 5000	6	20
6000 - 9999	7	23.3
10,000 – 19,999	5	16.7
20, 000 – 49, 999	7	23.3
Above 50, 000	5	16.7
Total	**30**	**100.0**

It was clear from this data that majority earned between Ksh. 6000 and Ksh. 9999 and between Ksh. 20000 and 49,999 per month. Least number of people in this wards earned above Ksh. 5000. This indicates that most people in this locality were average income earners and could support localized security mechanism in form of CP despite the inadequacy.

4.4 Organization of CP

The second objective was to establish how community-based policing was organized in the study area. The characteristics studied were: Main needs of the wards, awareness level of CP; vetting of committee members; activities undertaken by committees; registration status of the committees; size of committees; membership duration; and challenges faced and existence of physical office.

4.4.1 Priority need of respondents

The study held that security was essential in fostering peaceful coexistence and economic prosperity for the people and lack of it meant that many facets of life would be affected including the economy. Many people recognized that security was the precursor to development. In this regard, community policing initiatives must be geared towards promoting security.

From Table 9, it was found out that 73.3% of the committee members opined that security was among the main needs in their wards. On the other hand, 26.7% of the respondents identified security as not among the main needs of their wards.

One sub-chief stated that "security is an aspect that precedes other aspects of life that without it others could not get underway properly"

It was evident that that a majority of the people felt that security was what they needed as the enabler for other engagements in their daily lives.

Table 9: Priority needs of the respondents

Main Needs	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Security among the main needs	22	73.3
Security not among the main needs	8	26.7
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.4.3 Vetting of committee members

This indicator was important because some neighborhood security groups that start for a good course ended up being a threat to the security of the areas and therefore vetting would provide a qualification test based on personal character to serve in the committees. It was noted that even though vetting was important, this was not provided for in the National Police Service, Community Policing guidelines of 2013.

All the respondents indicated that they were not vetted before becoming members of the committees.

The result casted doubt on the quality of service that the committee members in terms of objectivity while dealing with crime, integrity and knowledge of the area amongst other important parameters.

4.4.4 Size of CP Committees

The size of the security committees was important in determining whether the group was big enough to undertake their activities in the wards. The reason was that geographically, the wards were bigger and needed enough number of committee membership to effectively secure.

All the respondents indicated that all the composition of the CP committees was above ten (10). This outcome showed that the committees had enough members that were likely to enable them to discharge their duties effectively.

4.4.5 Main activity undertaken by the CP Committees

This indicator was significant because it was a test of it in the field revealed the real and core engagements of the security committees in their effort to secure their neighborhoods.

Table 10 shows that 20% of the respondents identified patrols as the main activity, 66.7% of them identified community forums while 13.3% identified recovery of stolen goods.

This was also supported by the Chairpersons and one of them stated that, "holding barazas and forums are favorable for the Committee for they provide good platform for information exchange and strategy"

It can therefore be deduced that the committees mostly undertook community forums to provide update of their situation and what the community was expected to do. This could also indicate that there was significant level of security in the wards and the committees sought to enhance it through engagement with the community which the committee found to be the best and working approach that was complemented by patrols and recovery of stolen goods.

Table 10: Main activity Undertake by the CP Committees

Activity	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Security patrol	6	20
Community Forums	20	66.7
Recovery of stolen goods	4	13.3
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.4.6 Registration of the committees by the Government

The registration status of the committees with the government was important in informing the researcher whether the committees were recognized by the government so that adequate support from the state could be channeled towards the committees. Registration was also important because it opened more channels of engagement with other entities in seeking support for their activities in the wards. It was expected that these committees would be registered by the government to legitimize their activities.

However, all the respondents indicated that the CP committees were not registered by the government.

One chairman stated that "my committees found it not fit to register it because we felt that the government is charged with provision of security had performed dismally and given that the CP committee was a localized arrangement, we were inclined to own it and manage it ourselves".

4.4.7 Membership tenure in Committees

The period a member had served in the security committees provided the researcher with important information on the turn over to enable other persons provide service to their community through participation in the activities of the CP committees.

Table 11 shows that 6.7% of the respondents indicated that they had served for a term of less than three years, 60% had served for a period of between 3 – 5 years and 33.3% of them had served for a period that was above 5 years.

This outcome indicated that the majority had been members of the committees for a period of between 3 to 5 years and the number reduced above five years.

This could therefore indicate that few members were allowed to serve more than five years. It can therefore be concluded that the membership in the groups was not permanent to enable other persons serve as members of the committees and points to the readiness of the community to be part of the initiative due to its rotational membership approach.

Table 11: Membership Duration

Range	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Less than 3	2	6.7
3- 5	18	60
Above 5	10	33.3
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.4.8 Leading challenges faced by CP Committees

The challenges that the committee faced were important in to enabling the researcher make recommendations that are geared to causing them to be addressed.

Table 12 indicates that 53.4% of the respondents identified inadequate resources as the main challenges, 30% identified inadequate equipment, 13.3% identified personal security of committee members was a challenge and 3.3 identified group work ethics.

From the outcome, it was clear that the committees were short of resources, especially finances to run their operations and activities in the wards. Second to resources came the equipment that enabled them carry out their activities for instance means of transport, patrol clothing and communication gadgets. Personal security and work ethics came last where the members felt insecure in the process of participating in the committee affairs and issues of integrity and objectivity related to work ethics.

Table 12: Challenges faced by CP Committees

Response	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Resource based	16	53.4
Equipment based	9	30
Personal security of committee members	4	13.3
Work Ethics	1	3.3
Total	**30**	**100**

4.4.9 Existence of a physical office

This information was critical because it was much easier for community members to report to a physical office and share security information. Most of the security committees did not have physical offices and this made security coordination challenging.

All of the respondents indicated that the committees did not have a physical office.

This pointed to existing gap where the community members had no central point where crime cases could be reported for a coordinated and timely response. Physical office should have been the nerve center for the operations to organize most activities carried out by the committees.

It can therefore be concluded that there existed a gap for a physical office was critical point where proper coordination of activities and record keeping could happen for efficient and effective CP.

4.5 Performance of CP Committees

The third objective was to establish the performance of CP committees in Kakamenga County the indicators studied were: the most common crime, information sharing with police, government ranking in security provision, and security situation since inception of CP Committees.

4.5.1 Leading crime in the area

Information on the crimes most experienced in the wards was critical to enable the researcher understand cases that the committee dealt with most in the wards.

Table 13 shows that 7% of the respondents identified rape as the most common crime, 19% identified mugging, 28% identified cattle theft, 44% identified robbery and 2% identified others officers.

One of the sub-chiefs stated that, "in my office, we deal with robbery cases most followed by theft"

This outcome indicates that most of the people reported that robbery was the crime that was the most prevalent and certainly, the committee dealt with more cases of robbery than mugging, rape, cattle theft and other forms of crime.

Table 13: Leading crime in the wards

Crime	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Rape	3	7.0
Mugging	8	19
Cattle theft	12	28
Robbery	19	44
Others	1	2
Total	**43**	**100.**

4.5.2 Crime-Information sharing with the police

Collaboration with the police through information sharing was at the core of CP. This feature was particularly important in explaining the extent to which the committees worked with the police in curbing crime in the spirit of CP.

Table 4.12 shows that 60% of the respondents indicated that they would share crime information with the police, while 40% did not share information with the police.

All the Chairpersons that were interviewed indicated that there was collaboration between the committees and the police.

One chairperson stated that "even though the committee would want police to be working with us always, the police are reluctant, but the committee gives them information and suspects handed over to them as a committee"

When probed challenges regarding working with police he stated that "they are reluctant to involve themselves in the committee"

Another chairperson stated that "the police support the committees in taking action on suspects of crime for further action as per law"

The majority of the members indicated that crime information was shared with the police for appropriate action which was the key to the success of a CP initiative. The rest who reported otherwise expressed fear for being victimized by police and the suspected perpetrators of crime.

Table 14: Crime Information sharing with the police

Response	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Would share information	18	60
Would not share information	12	40
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.5.3 Ranking Government performance in Security provision

The rank assigned to the government's performance in the provision of security to the wards was important to the researcher to measure whether the lack or presence of it was the precursor for the formation of the committees as a localized arrangement.

Table 15 shows that 3.3% of the committee members indicated the government's performance was very good, 16.7% indicated that the performance was good. Additionally, 13.3% indicated that the performance was very poor, 60% indicated that the performance was poor. Lastly, 6.7% of the respondents posted that they did not know.

The majority of the members (60%) ranked the government's provision of security in the wards as poor and this could explain why the wards resorted to localized arrangements in form of committees to manage their security.

Table 15: Ranking of government performance in Security provision

Rank	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Very good	1	3.3
Good	5	16.7
Very poor	4	13.3
Poor	18	60
Don't know	2	6.7
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.5.4 Performance of CP in eradication of crime

Information on the performance of CP was significant for the purpose of gauging its effectiveness in the eyes of the residents.

Table 16 shows that 83.3% of the members indicated that security situation had improved since the establishment of the Committees while 16.7% of them thought otherwise.

A majority of the Key Informants and all the chairpersons acknowledged that Security situation had improved since the inception of the CP Committees.

One of the sub-chiefs who was interviewed stated that, "my work as government official to ensure security, has become easier since this committee was formed"

One of the chiefs gave a positive review of the CP committees stating that, "I no longer handle a lot of security cases like I used to before the formation of this committee".

It was clear from the observations the critical place CP occupies in the lives of the people. It shows that CP was of importance in ensuring security of the wards given that a majority of the members reported that security was among the three key needs in their wards.

Table 16: Status of security since inception of the Committees

Security Situation	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Improved	25	83.3
Not improved	5	16.7
Total	**30**	**100.0**

From the data, it was clear that CP strategy had played a critical role in the lives of the residents by enhancing the participatory aspect. In turn, the Community was able to collectively confront crime.

4.6 Source and level of support from state and non-state actors

The fourth objective was to find out the support given by the government and non-state actors towards CBP in the wards studied. The characteristics studied were: training on CP, entities that supports CP in the wards, adequacy of the support, participation of sub-chief /chief in CP committee activities and participation of police in CP committee activities.

4.6.1 Participation of members in community policing training

Training on CP is another of its key aspects to ensure people have the relevant information on the initiative with an objective of achieving a coordinated and informed operations. Information on training on CP was necessary for measuring if the committees were operating on the basis of some information that was important for success.

All of the respondents indicated that they had not attended any training on CP facilitated by any external entity.

It was clear that a majority of the members had not attended any training on CP which translated into a gap in capacity which was critical for the effectiveness and efficiency of CP in ensuring security in the wards.

4.6.2 Entities that provide support CP committees

Any form of support accorded to CP was critical for its success. This indicator was important in provide information on the extent of support given by the various entities including the community, government and NGOs.

Table 17 shows that 60% of the respondents identified the community itself as the main source of support, 6.6% indicated that the government supports security committees in community policing, 16.7% stated that Non-Governmental Organizations supported security committees while 16.7% of them indicated that they did not know.

One of the chairpersons who stated that "my group only relies on community and NGOs for the activities and police and chief and sub-chief also help us voluntarily…this is all we get from the government".

The outcome of study indicated that the CP committees continued to largely rely on the contributions of the community to sustain their activities for ensuring security of the wards. The response indicates that there was minimal external contribution or support towards improvement or running of the initiative.

Table 17: Entities the support CP committees

Entity	Frequency(n)	Percentage (%)
Community	18	60
Government	2	6.4
N.G.Os	5	16.7
Don't know	5	16.7
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.6.3 Adequacy of the Support

With some support having been identified from both internal and external source, then the researcher got interested to know if it was adequate to run the affairs of the committees. Adequate support for these committees translated into successful and a well-coordinated process and therefore successful CP initiative.

One of the chairpersons indicated that, "the support we receive is not enough to secure a large area like a ward".

Table 4.16 shows that 80% of the members indicated that the support given was not adequate whereas 6.7% indicated that the support given was adequate while13.3 % indicated that they did not know.

The outcome indicated that the CP committees received inadequate support from state and non-state actors to enable them undertake their activities effectively.

Table 18: Adequacy of the Support

Adequacy	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Adequate support	2	6.7
Not Adequate	24	80
Don't know	4	13.3
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.6.4 Participation of chief/assistant chief in CP committees

This indicator was important since it provided information on extent of the sub-chiefs' and the chiefs' participation in CP. If the chiefs were part of the process, then it was likely to be complementary in terms of enforcement, ultimate action on crime and resource mobilization and more likely to succeed.

All the respondents indicated that the chiefs and sub chiefs participated in the activities of the Committees.

All the chairpersons acknowledged the key role that the chiefs/sub-chiefs played in the activities of the committees. One of them stated that, "the sub-chiefs and chiefs provide the much needed authority and order in the Committees on day to day activities."

The majority having indicated that the sub-chief and chief participated in the activities of the committees showed that the committees had an important function that enabled them undertake their duties with confidence to secure the wards. The researcher considered this kind of support to be a localized strategy more than it was a direct government support.

4.6.5 Police support to the CP committees

Support from the police was seen as an important impetus for the committees because such support enhanced the chances of the committees winning over crime by having all the authorized persons on board who could effectively advise and deal with crime professionally. The researcher expected that the police would fully participate in the activities of the initiative since it complemented their work and could enhance effectiveness.

Table 19 shows that 36.7% of the respondents indicated that the police supported the committee activities and a majority (63.3%) indicated that the police did not participate.

One chairperson stated that "the work we do should be done by government (police, chiefs and sub-chiefs), but what we do complements their work and they should participate in our committee"

He further stated that, "when we are with police people tell us that they fear police because they can arrest them if they tell them about crime"

Another chairperson stated that, "when the committee encounters crime and invites police, they sometimes don't come or take long time, may be because they feel we are doing their work and they don't like it"

This was contrary to our expectations because from the findings, all chairpersons indicated that the police were in support of the initiative but minimally participate in the activities.

Table 19: Police support to CP committees

Police support	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Support	11	36.7
Do not support	19	63.3
Total	**30**	**100.0**

4.7 Conclusion

These data indicated that there were factors aligned to the objectives such as characteristics of individuals, performance of the CP committees, the manner in which the committees organize themselves and support received from external sources that affected the performance of CP initiative as a local mechanism. When placed against the standards of a localized mechanism, performance of CP in the study area was relatively successful because most of the characteristics studied worked in favour of the CP committees.

However, some characteristics such as lack of physical office and proper records management, insufficient resources, lack vetting for members, mistrust between police and local population and unregistered committees, to some extent, negatively affected the performance of the committees.

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Summary

The study was conducted in Kakamega County with the main objective of examining the practice of Community Policing in the County. Four objectives were formulated to guide the study. The first objective was to examine the effect of personal characteristics of CP committee members on CP in the County. The second objective was to establish how community-based policing is organized in the County. The third oobjective was to establish performance of CP committees and the last objective was to find out the support given by the government and non-state actors to community-based policing in the County.

This researcher employed a descriptive survey research design. The three specific Wards sampled were Idakho East, Idakho Central, and Idakho North.The sample comprised of 42 respondents. Data were collected through questionnaires.

Objective 1: To examine the effect of personal characteristics of CP committee members on CP in Kakamega County.

From the observations, the researcher found out that personal characteristic of the members of the CP committees affected dynamics of the CP committees in the study area. For instance, the study found out that more men participated in CP than women most likely because of the nature of activities they conduct were physically involving and of high risk.

The researcher also found out that income was a reflection of the larger population mirrored the success level of CP. In this area, it was found out that a majority of the population were average income earners. In turn, CP was likely to be relatively successful because the population was able to make contributions to support the committee's activities.

In accordance with Table 4, the researcher established that the respondents who were below 29 years of age were 10%, those between the age range of 30 – 39 years were 26.7%, between 40 – 49% were 40%, and those who were above 50 years were 23.3%. This demographic characteristic was particularly important in assessing the ability of the residents to participate fully in community policing. From the data, there were many energetic individuals who were able to dedicate their time and resources towards making community policing successful. It suffices to mention that these people were still young and had a bright future and potentials that could be realized in a secure environment.

Further, it was clear that the length of stay varied among the respondents. From Table 5, 10% of them had stayed in this area for less than 5 years while 30% of had stayed in the region between 11 – 15 years. Additionally, 20% of them had lived in this area between 16 – 20 years, and those who had lived for over 21 years constituted 10%. The data relating to the length of stay in the wards was particularly important to gauge the level to which community members knew each other. By knowing one another, it becomes easier to track criminal activities in the area. This is because everybody knows their neighbors and could report suspicious activities to the relevant authorities. In the data analyzed, people had lived in these areas for a long time and this enhanced the community policing initiatives.

It is evident from Table 6 that 40% of the respondents were married while an equal 40% of them were single. Furthermore, 10% indicated that they were separated or divorced. While equally, 10% indicated that they were widowed. This set of data was important in understanding the composition of people in the wards in terms of marital status. Community policing requires total commitment to attending meetings and engaging in night patrols. It was likely that the marital status of individuals influenced their participation levels in CP. For instance, the widowed were unlikely to engage in night patrols alongside security committee members.

In terms of occupation of the respondents, Table 7 shows that about 6.7% indicated that they were housewives, 30% were paid employees and 63.3% were in self-employment. Understanding their occupation was paramount in relation to community policing. They were the decision makers in their households and therefore, they made decisions that affected the security in the areas. The majority of the respondents were self-employed and this meant that secure wards for work was necessary. This also meant that the people could integrate their daily work with community policing initiatives in order to ensure that the security situation was enhanced.

In regard to income, Table 8 indicates that 20% earned less than Ksh. 5,000 per month, 23.3% earned between 6,000 – 9, 000 , 16.7% earned between 10, 000 – 19, 999, 23.3% of respondents earned between 20, 000 – 49, 9999 and 16.7% earned above 50,000 per month. This data on the income of the respondents was essential in understanding the trend in criminal acts and support to the community policing. It was clear that the people in the three wards had enough income that could be pooled towards ensuring that community policing was successful. It was also evident that many people in the Wards were preoccupied with increasing their income levels and therefore, this could only be achieved in a secure environment.

Objective 2: To establish how community-based policing was organized in Kakamega County.

It is evident from Table 9 that 73.3% of the respondents identified security as one of the leading need in their ward, while 26.7% identified security as not among the main needs of their Wards. The study held that security was essential in fostering peaceful coexistence in the wards. Many people recognized that security was the precursor to development. In this regard, community policing initiatives had to be geared towards promoting security.

As regards vetting, all of the respondents indicated that they had not been vetted before becoming members of the committees. It was paramount that members who were chosen to serve in the security committees would be vetted in order to allay fears of integrity.

In terms of size, all of the respondents indicated that the composition of the committees were above ten (10) members. Although the National Police Service (Community Policing) guidelines prescribe 8 members per committee, the committees were effective.

Further, the researcher sought to determine the activities mostly undertaken by the committees in promoting security in their respective wards. Table 10 shows that about 20% of the respondents identified patrols as the activity mostly undertaken, 66.7% identified community forums while 13.3% identified recovery of stolen goods. It was clear that most form of community policing activities carried out in these wards was conducting community forums. There was need of carrying out the various other activities such as patrols so as to achieve greater results in community policing.

The researcher also sought to establish whether the committees were registered by the government. All of the respondents indicated that the committees were not registered with government.

Registration with government came with a certificate and could open more opportunities for funding and other forms of support by government and NGOs.

The researcher further sought to determine the duration of service of CP committee members and as demonstrated in Table 11, we found out that 6.7% of the respondents had served for a term of less than three (3) years, 60% of them had served for a period of between 3 – 5 years and 33.3% had served for a period of above 5 years. Just like other public offices, it is imperative to have limited term for performing the duties and responsibilities of the office of

the security committees. It was also important to note that serving for a definite term ensures rotational leadership that brought everybody on board on security affairs.

As regards challenges face by the committees, Table 12 shows that 53.3% of the members indicated that challenges faced by the security committees were resource based while 30% indicated that they were equipment-based and personal security of committee members was mentioned by 13.3% of the respondents.

Additionally, the researcher sought to find out whether physical offices existed for the purposes of reporting crime and found out that there were no offices from where the committees operated from.

Objective 3: To establish performance of CP committees in Kakamega County.

We sought to understand the leading crime in the wards in terms of rate of occurrence. Of all the respondents, Table 13 demonstrates that 7% of the respondents identified rape was most common, 19% identified mugging, 28% identified cattle theft, 44% identified robbery and 2% identified others.

It was clear that robbery was the most common crime in the area followed by cattle theft. One of the key informants, an assistant chief, corroborated with this when he stated that "In my office, we deal with robbery cases followed by theft".

As regards to whether the respondents would share information on crime with the police, Table 14 indicated that 60% indicated that they would share, whereas 40% indicated that they would not share. Even though there were reported challenges about collaboration between the police and the committees by the respective chairpersons, information sharing was paramount in curbing insecurity cases in the wards. Those who could not share information with the police cite several reasons as to why they did not including fear of being victimized and reluctance by the police to make arrests after being informed of criminal activities.

Further the researcher sought to understand the ranking of government performance in provision of security in the wards. In this regard, Table 15 shows that 3.3% of the respondents indicated that the performance was very good, 16.7% indicated that it was good, 13.3% indicated that it was very poor, 60% indicated poor and 6.7% did not know. Consequently, more people felt that the government was not doing enough to provide security of the wards and this led the community to organize itself to form the committees that managed security on their behalf.

As regards the security situation since inception of CP, 83.3% of the respondents indicated that since the creation of the Committee, security had improved while 16.7% felt otherwise. This is manifest in Table 16

Objective 4: To find out the support given by the government and non-state actors towards community-based policing in Kakamega County.

As regards to whether the respondents had attended any training on CP, it was found that none of them had attended such training.

The researcher sought to determine source and extent of support for the CP Committees for the purpose of their activities. Table 17 shows that 60% of the respondents identified community members as the main source of support, 6% identified government and 16.7% answered that Non-Governmental Organizations.

This finding was important because it shed light on the level of endowment of security committees in terms of resources. It must be noted that with much support, these security committees would be able to implement meaningful community policing activities. The evidence showed that these committees got negligible support from state actors.

It terms adequacy of the support received by the committees, it was found out, as per Table18 that 13.3% of the respondents indicated that the support was adequate while 80% them indicated that the support was not.

The researcher sought to know if the chiefs and sub-chiefs participated in the activities of the security committees. This was important because the committees were operating in their area of jurisdictions and were performing a function the state was obliged to perform and their role in the groups was critical for general good. All the respondents indicated that the chiefs and sub-chiefs participated and supported the activities of the Committees.

Being individuals recognized by the government and appointed to ensure government obligations run well at the grassroots, the chiefs and sub-chiefs were important in the success of the CP in the wards and their role was to support the committees on behalf of the government.

The researcher also sought to understand the place of the police in the activities of the committees. In this regard, Table 19 shows that 36.7% agreed to police supporting the activities of the committees whereas 63.3% indicted that that the police does not support. Police support was important given that the work of the committees was expected to be only complementary.

5.2 Conclusion

This study was undertaken in line of with four main objectives, name: to establish how CP Committees are organized in Kakamega County; to examine the effects of personal characteristics of on CP committee members in the county; to establish performance of CP committees in the study area and to find out the support given by the government and non-state actors towards CP in the study area.

The study was guided by the Broken Windows theory and the Social Capital Theory. It used the descriptive survey design and subsequently, purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used to select a sample of 42 respondents.

The researcher found out that CP was organized in committees and that characteristics related to individual members affected the working of the Committees. It was also established that the Committees were relatively effective in curbing crime in the areas. Finally, the researcher established that the committees mainly relied on contributions from the members of the community to run their operations and that such support was not adequate.

5.3 Recommendations

From the foregoing observations and discussions, the researcher made the following recommendations that should be implemented by the government and other stakeholders to ensure success of community policing in Kakamega County.

i. It was established that county was not involved in the CP affairs. There was need to involve the county in the affairs of community policing. This was critical because it would lead to ownership of the community policing initiatives. The sustainability of community policing was greatly anchored in collective approach;

ii. The researcher also found out that CP awareness levels were low. In this regard, there should be awareness campaigns targeted at enhancing the relationship between the community members and the police. It suffices to mention that a mutual relationship and coexistence was paramount in promoting community policing;

iii. It was also established that resources that sustained the committees were inadequate. Therefore, there was need for CP committees to be endowed with resources. This would go a long way in ensuring the success of the initiative. In this regard, all stakeholders should be involved in the financing and provision of material support to community policing organizations.

iv. None of the CP committees was registered with government. There was need to ensure that all community based organizations in CP were registered and recognized by the government as key stakeholders in the security management. This was paramount in legitimizing their activities and ensuring that they were accountable to other security players within the wards and to the national government;

v. The government had not rolled out CP structure as envisaged in the National Police Service Act. There was need for structure to be rolled out to realize full potential and accompany it with police reforms to alleviate mistrust between the police and the citizens; and

vi. *Nyumba Kumi* initiative had not been implemented in the area. The leaders in the area should integrate it with the existing CP mechanism so as to achieve maximum results.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Inyundele Matayo Austin,

University of Nairobi

Department of Sociology and Social Work

Nairobi

Dear Respondent,

RE: <u>THE CONDUCT OF COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING IN KAKAMEGA COUNTY.</u>

I am a postgraduate student of University of Nairobi, undertaking a research project on the conduct of community-based policing initiative in Kakamega County. You have been selected to participate in this study. The information collected will be treated with uttermost confidentiality and it will be used for educational research only.

Your participation in the study will be highly appreciated.

Thank you in advance.

Inyundele Matayo Austin

Reg. No. C50/ 777945/2025

0716120883

APPENDIX B: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I am Inyundele Matayo Austin a student from the University of Nairobi. I am talking to the members of this ward about security situation in this area. I kindly ask you to accept to answer questions on security which I am going to ask you. I will keep the answers to myself and not share with other persons.

Name: …………………………………………. Ward………………..

Telephone contact: ………………..Date of interview………………………………….

Section A: Personal characteristics

1. Please indicate your gender   Male [   ]   Female   [   ]

2. Please indicate your age   Below 29 years [   ] 30– 39 [   ] 40 – 49 [   ] above 50 [   ]

3. How long have you lived in this Ward?

   Less than 5 years [ ] 6- 10 years [ ] 11- 15 years [   ] 16- 20 years [ ] over 21 years

4. Which is your marital status?

   Married [   ]   Single [ ] devorced/separated [ ] widowed [ ]

   If married how many wives/co-wives?...

5. Which is your main occupation? Housewife [ ] paid employee [ ] self-employed [ ]

   If you are in paid or self-employment, specify

   type……………………………………………….

6. Indicate your average monthly income (Ksh):

   Less than 5000 [ ]   6000- 9999 [ ]   10 000- 19999[ ] 20000- 49999 [ ] above 50000 [ ]

Section B: Organization of Community policing

1. Would you rank security to be one of the top of your needs?
    YES [ ] NO [ ]

2. Once chosen as a member of the committee were you vetted by authority?
    YES [ ] NO [ ]
    If yes, which authority…………………………………………………………………..

3. From the following list, identify the activity most commonly undertaken by the Committee.

[ ] Security patrol   [ ] community forums [ ] recovery of stolen goods

4. How long have you served as a member of the committee?

………………………………………………………………….

5. Which of the following would you say is the crime most experienced in this ward?

1. Robbery   [   ]

2. Rape   [   ]

3. Mugging   [   ]

4. Cattle theft [   ]

5. Others   [   ]

6. From the list below, identify the biggest challenge faced by the Committee?

a) Inadequate resources   [ ]
b) Inadequate equipment   [ ]
c) Personal security of members [ ]
d) Work ethics   [ ]

6. Does this committee have a physical office?   YES [ ] NO [ ]

Section C: Performance of CP

1. Which of the following would you say is the leading crime in this ward?

Rape [   ] Mugging [   ] robbery [   ] cattle theft [   ] other……………………………

2. In case you come across information or case of crime, would you to share the information with police? Yes [   ] No [   ]

If yes, why?……………………………………………………………………………..

If no, why?

…………………………………………………………………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………………………………..

3. Please rank government's performance in provision of security in this locality:

Very good [   ] good [   ] poor [   ] very poor [   ] don't know [   ]

4. Since the establishment of the Committee, would you say the security situation in this ward has improved? Yes [   ] No [   ]

   Explain…………………………………..

   Section D: Support from state and non-state actors

1. Have you attended any training on community policing? Yes [   ] No [   ]

2. From the list below, please rank the following from the leading as per the level of support given to the Committee.(circle accordingly)

   National Government 1.   2.   3. 4. 5

   County Government   1. 2. 3. 4. 5

   N.G.Os   1. 2. 3.   4. 5

   Community   1. 2. 3. 4. 5

3. Do you think the support offered for CP is adequate?
   YES [ ] NO [   ]
   Explain……………………………………………………………………..

4. Does the / sub-chief Sub-Chief participate in the activities of the group/committee?

    Yes [ ] No [ ]

5. Do police support the committee members in undertaking their activities?

   YES [ ] NO [ ]

   Comments if
   any…………………………………………………………………………………………………
   ……………………………………………………………………………………………………..
   ……………………………………………………………………………………………………..
   ……………………………………………………………………………………........................

APPENDIX C: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COMMITTTEE CHAIRPERSONS

I am Inyundele Matayo Austin a student from the University of Nairobi. I am talking to members of this ward about security situation in this area. I kindly ask you to accept to answer questions on security which I am going to ask you. I will keep the answers to myself and not share with other persons.

Name ……………………………………………ward…………………………….

Telephone contact: …………………………………………

Section A: Personal characteristics

1. Please explain the how the Committee was formed?

………………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………

2. How are the members selected to the committee?

Volunteer [ ] nomination by community [ ] election [ ] appointment [ ]

3. What was the group membership at the present?

…………………………………………………………………………

4. Please list the activities undertaken by the Committee to eradicate crime in the ward starting from the one undertaken frequently to the least.

……………………………………………

……………………………………………

……………………………………………

……………………………………………

……………………………………………

……………………………………………

5. From the list below, please rank the following from the leading as per the level of support given to the Committee. (Circle accordingly)

National Government   1.   2.   3. 4. 5

County Government   1. 2. 3. 4. 5

N.G.Os   1. 2. 3.   4. 5

Community   1. 2. 3. 4. 5

6. Does the group/committee have a physical officer where crime can be reported?

YES [ ] NO [ ]

If no why…………………………………………………………………………………..

7. How would you rate the security situation in this ward since the formation of CP group/committee?

a) The security situation has greatly improved   [   ]
b) The security situation has improved minimally   [   ]
c) The security situation has not improved   [   ]
d) The security situation has worsened   [   ]

Explain…………………………………………………………………………………..

10. Do you think the County administration is adequately involved in security matters of this County? YES [ ] NO [ ]

Explain……………………………………………………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………………………………

Any comment/recommendation

…………………………………………………………………………………………..

…………………………………………………………………………………………..

APPENDIX D: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR KEY INFORMANTS (Chief, Sub-Chief and Ward Administrator)

I am Inyundele Matayo Austin a student from the University of Nairobi. I am talking to members of this ward about security situation in this area. I kindly ask you to accept to answer questions on security which I am going to ask you. I will keep the answers to myself and not share with other persons.

Name ………………………………… ward…………………………………………

Telephone contact: …………………………………………………………

QUESTIONS

1. Is insecurity one of the problems facing this ward?

   …………………………………………………………………………………………

   …………………………………………………………………………………...............

2. If yes, how would you rate the security situation of this ward after the creation of the Committees

   High [ ]   average [ ] low [ ]

3. Which is the leading crime in this ward?

   …………………………………………………………………………………………

   …………………………………………………………………………………………

 4. Do you think there is adequate collaboration between the following?

   CP committee and police: YES [ ] NO [   ]

   Explain………………………………………………………………………………………

   …………………………………………………………………………………………

   CP committee and chief/Sub-chief: YES [ ] NO [ ]

   Explain

   …………………………………………………………………………………………

   …………………………………………………………………………………………

 5. How would you rate the security situation in this ward since the formation of CP group/committee?

a) The security situation has greatly improved   [   ]

b) The security situation has improved minimally   [   ]

c) The security situation has not improved   [   ]

d) The security situation has worsened   [   ]

Explain……………………………………………………………………………..

6. Do you think the County administration is adequately involved in security matters of this County? YES [ ] NO [ ]

Explain…………………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………

Any comment/recommendation

……………………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………

……………………………………………………………………………………………