

**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK**

**IMPACT OF COMMUNITY POLICING INITIATIVES ON THE PREVENTION OF  
VIOLENT CRIME: A CASE STUDY OF KITENGELA TOWN-KAJIADO COUNTY**

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## DECLARATION

This research project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree or any other award in any other University.

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To you all may God bless you abundantly.

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

- CBD** - Central Business District
- CBP** - Community Based Policing
- GoK** - Government of Kenya
- KNBS** - Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- SMS** - Short Message Services
- SPSS** - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
- SRIC** - Security Research & Information Centre
- UN** - United Nations

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## ABSTRACT

The study sought to find out the impact of community policing initiatives on prevention of violent crime in Kitengela Town, Kajiado County. The study objectives included; finding out the role of public participation on community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town, assessing public perception on community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town, investigating the importance of public confidence on community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town and finding out how the existing police-public relations influences community policing initiatives towards the prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town. Descriptive research design was used where a sample of 113 respondents was selected using a stratified random sampling technique. Seven(7) key informants were selected using purposive sampling. Primary data was collected using semi-structured questionnaires from the respondents who were identified. Data collected was analyzed by use of descriptive statistics where data was presented in frequency tables, bar graphs and pie charts. The study found that though community policing initiative was being implemented in Noonkopir estate and Kitengela town in general, it had not impacted positively on prevention of violent crime since the crime rates reportedly remained high. The initiative had not succeeded in creating social cohesion among neighbors. Public participation in the community policing initiatives was poor, residents perceived the police negatively, residents lacked confidence in the initiative and that the residents related negatively with police. The study concluded that poor public participation, negative public perceptions in community policing initiatives, lack of public confidence in community policing initiatives and lack of good public-police relations greatly marred the extent to which community policing initiatives had succeeded in prevention of violent crime in Noonkopir estate and largely, Kitengela town. The study recommends that there is need for more sensitization of the public on community policing initiatives; its objectives, operations and expectations. There is also need to persuade the public to participate in crime prevention and other social activities. Public participation should be encouraged. The National police service should also embrace a culture of inclusivity so as to earn confidence, positive public perception and eventually public support.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Crime is a major social problem in the world today. Gideon (2003) argues that crime and violence are fundamental threats to human security and safety. Occurrence of crime tends to instill fear among members of a given community creating negative consequences for neighborhood life (Skogan, 1990; Woldoff, 2002). Fear of crime is more intense when the crime involves violence. Violence refers to that part of aggression which is overt. It is normally expressed by violent criminals by destroying, injuring, and or killing the victims (Gideon, 2003). Langton and Truman (2010) stated that; homicides, sexual assault, burglary, robbery and forcible rape are main offences making up violent crimes.

In the global context, statistics indicate growing incidences of rising violent and criminal behaviour. Pablo et al. (1998) states that criminal behaviour is a global concern since major economies of the world, such as United States and Eastern Europe countries experience the problem. The author observed that developing countries in the Carribean, Latina America, and sub-Saharan Africa are no exception. Pablo et al. (2002) observes that Central Asia and Eastern Europe experience a 100% multiplicity of homicide, while Latin America experience 50% rise of homicides in the period during the 1980 and 1990 decades. Moreover, countries, such as Thailand, Rusia and Columbia experience a triple rise in homicides during the 2-decade period.

Statistics presented by UN-Habitat (2007) report indicated that in the previous 5-years preceding the presentation of the report, more than 60% of the population residing in urban places in developing countries had experienced crime. Furthermore, the report showed that impact of violence and crime had deteriorated in many urban places. The impact of violence and crime can be described as: reduction of income since most businesses are destroyed; Increased instances of fear and gullibility among individuals in urban places; development of gated communities in urban places coupled with the rise in private security sector; and noticeable investment in private and public sector security. Pablo et al. (1998) observes that rampant violent crime tends to have adverse effects on economic activities since they translate into major obstacles to development as they seemingly lower the standards of life because people do not enjoy a sense of proprietary and personal security. Generally, violent crime threatens social stability.

In South Africa, Demombynes and Ozler (2002) stated that rising cases of crime and violence leads to diversion of public expenditure to protection efforts. In addition, surge in crime increases stress coupled with rise in healthcare costs and creates unproductive environment. Furthermore, the authors stated that rise in crime translated into emigration of professionals who wanted to escape from violence and dwindling investments, which threatened long-term investment goals in the country. International Monetary Fund (2010) reported that theft, burglary, and robbery incidences are responsible for 4% of every 10 crimes that occur in Kenya. Proliferation of small arms and their eventual usage has been cited as one of the critical factors that create an unstable environment in Kenya since their eventual sale creates susceptibility of crime in both rural and urban places. For instance, 37% of incidences of crime reported in Nairobi stem from armed robbery, which has led into the capital of Kenya to be branded as “Nairobbery”. Livingston (2013) contends that more than half of Nairobi’s dwellers are worried about their safety very often and all the time as evidenced by the survey’s perception outcome.

Specifically, Kitengela town in Kajiado County is among areas where violent crime rate prevalence is very high in Kenya. In 2014, Kitengela town reportedly had the highest incidences of homicide, robbery, burglary and assault in comparison to the entire Kajiado County (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2014). On 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013, Kitengela police station crime records showed that an armed gang of robbers had been reported to have raided homes and killed three people. Media reports too highlighted the frequent occurrence of violent crimes in the town. For instance, Daily Nation Newspaper dated 10<sup>th</sup> March 2013 reported that an increase in violent crimes in Kitengela town had forced people to close businesses and others had even opted to relocate.

Kitengela town is located 30kms south of Nairobi City (CBD) within Kajiado East Sub-County, Kajiado County. The County Borders Nairobi city to the North extending to the Kenyan-Tanzania border to the South. It borders Machakos and Makueni Counties to the East, Taita Taveta County to the South East, Kiambu County to the North and Narok County to the West. Kitengela town is part of the Nairobi Metropolitan Area. The town borders Athi River town to the North East. The town is approximately 89.19 km<sup>2</sup> in size (Makato 2016).

The indigenous people of Kitengela town are the Maasai community who are mainly pastoralists. However, there has been an increasing influx of people from other tribal groups due to availability

of land for investment and settlement transforming the area into a cosmopolitan region. Proximity to the city and ample landscape makes Kitengela area and its environs ideal for most businesses. This has been amplified by the refurbishing of the Athi-River-Namanga Highway and the expansion of water supply (Export Processing Zone water supply) to Kitengela. Within the town, businesses both formal and informal have come up. Establishments flourishing within the larger Kitengela area include industries, large scale farming, commercial institutions/colleges, financial institutions/banks and office complexes (Makato 2016). According to GOK (2007), poorly managed urban planning coupled with population surge means that the City is unable to meet the housing deficit and employment, which snowballs into crime.

In the recent times, policy makers, security experts, and scholars have delved into possible ways of promoting community policing since this approach prevents a feasible way of circumventing rise in crime that affect communities. Savage and Liou (1996) argues that the traditional community policing techniques have not been efficacious in terms of combating crime, thus the need to modernize community policing. There have been efforts by policy-makers in Kenya to mainstream community policing owing to rise in violent crime. Moreover, poor relationship between civilians and the police mean that the latter is unable to solve crime.

Chakraborty (2003) suggests that community policing continues to gain popularity since it provide feasible and viable ways on how communities can deepen synergies with the police with a view to sharing information to tackle instances of insecurity. The philosophical underpinning of community policing is information sharing between the community members and the police, which is made possible through regular interactions. Chakraborty (2003) goes on to state that community policing enables police and the community to have an understanding on the best ways to combat crime, meaning that community policing approach seeks to integrate the police into the communities that they should safeguard. Put differently, the police should interact closely with the community members as a mean to building rapport, which augments implementation of proactive measures to tackle anticipated instances of crime.

Sir Robert Peel (1829) contended that police play an integral part in prevention of all forms of disorder and/or crime, where the author stated that police's ability to prevent crime should be measured through having safer communities compared to mere arrests and visibility of police, such as in police road-blocks. Peel (1829) suggested the need to change mindset on community safety

by arguing that community members should take up the place of police, while police act as community members. The idea is that community participation in crime prevention produces far more positive results since they have a better understanding of their neighborhoods compared to the police.

Jackson and Sunshine (2006) suggested that public confidence is a vital ingredient that creates viable community policing. Furthermore, the authors collaborative efforts between the community and the police boosts public confidence and trust, implying that police become part of the community by understanding their ways of life compared by mere perceptions about crime and risks. For better community policing outcomes, the author suggested the need for the police to underscore and/or typify appropriate morals and handle community members with dignity as a means to garnering community support.

Community policing is deemed to have surged the confidence and trust of the public on police, which has translated into reduced crime and eventual lowering of racial tension. Scholars contend that the primary goal of community policing is to create a working formula between the community members and the police with a view to addressing neighborhood security. Effective and/or improved community relations with the police denotes that members of the community can learn more about community policing, while police are able to develop a comprehensive understanding of community's ways of life, which augment crime prevention efforts. According to United States Commission on Civil Rights (2000), inappropriate community policing initiatives has the potential of ruining the relationship between the police and the community.

In Kenya, the concept of community policing is not new since the initiative by the government has been in place since 2005. According GoK (2005), community policing initiative was projected to deepen synergies between the police and civilians with a greater view of creating safer neighborhoods. Notably, this initiative has paid off since collaboration efforts among government security agencies and community involved has created feedback mechanism that has helped to augment crime prevention.

Kenya's new constitution, 2010 under article 244(e) offers indispensable framework that makes it possible for the Police to interact with host communities as a means to building meaningful relationships. National Police Service Act, section 96(1), police should instigate appropriate

interactions with communities they serve since this approach builds tacit community policing outcomes. GOK (2015) underscore the need to implement community policing initiatives in a participatory manner since this approach promotes close cooperation with host communities for greater transparency.

According to Kenya Police (2014) as cited in Nyaura and Ngugi (2014), community policing is all about creating a participatory framework that allows communities to understand their role in crime prevention and how they can collaborate with the police for greater good of the community. To achieve better community policing outcomes, there is need for civilians to complement the efforts of the police through private watch groups coupled with provision of capacity building initiatives. It is important to note that community policing is all about linking the community members with Kenya Police personnel so that security concerns of the community are addressed in a collaborative way. In addition, community policing in Kenya goes beyond combating crime to include creation of victim centers, improving street-lighting, and training community response teams. Furthermore, community policing underscores the need for a participatory approach to crime prevention through shared decision-making that can holistically identify community needs.

Residents of Kitengela town in Kajiado county have particularly adopted and implemented the “NyumbaKumi” CBP initiative. Though “nyumbakumi” is a Kiswahili concept for “ten households”, however, the concept does not loosely translate to 10 households. GOK (2015) point out that classification of households should not be externally imposed, but be clustered based on shared beliefs and aspirations, where the goal is to combat crime through jointcrime prevention efforts.

Community policing was introduced in Kitengela town in the year 2005. However, there has been no notable reduction in violent crimes in the town. The SRIC 2013 report identified Kitengela town as among the towns experiencing rampant cases of violent crime. The rampant cases of violent crimes in Kitengela town raise concerns on how relevant community policing initiatives are in prevention and control of violent crime.

According to Savage and Liou (1996), the rise in crime across many parts of the world has forced the police to implement the tenets of community policing. However, the authors note that even though community policing is an important predictor of creating safer communities,

implementation of its initiatives remains undefined and fragmented. Leighton (1991) stresses the need for policy makers and scholars to mainstream research on the concept of community policing and the possible ways of making it effective. This current study seeks to be in line in these views in evaluating the impacts of community policing on violent crime in Kitengela Division.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

There is dearth of academic literature that details the interplay of CP initiatives in prevention and control of violent crime. Taylor (1995) observed that rise in crime leads to decline in security of neighborhoods, which has psychological implications on people who live there. Consequently, with rise in crime, there is spread of fear, which leads to declining sense of attachment to that place to an extent that people consider relocating to other places. In addition, rise in crime leads to less social attachment and surge in mistrust between the people, implying that there is less coordination. Residents of the area are prone to undertake less activities since the neighborhood is not safe and participation in critical activities declines. In sum, the implications of crime are many and they encompass ecological implications.

Recent reports indicate that violent crime continues to affect a significant percentage of Kitengela residents. In terms of violent crime, Kitengela Division leads in Kajiado County. For all the violent crime incidences reported in the entire County; 35% of homicide, 60% of robbery with violence, 39 % of burglary, 53% of assaults were recorded in Kitengela Division, (KNBS, 2015).

Rampant incidents of killings, robberies and muggings have been reported to scare away prospective investors from Kitengela Division. A manager of a steel company in Kitengela town reported that his company had been the target of violent crime severally. The manager also reported that on one occasion the company's guard had been shot and killed in broad daylight by robbers who had invaded their premises. The company was also reported to have lost approximately USD 9895.8 to thugs who hijacked the company's car on the way to the bank (Odongo, 2014). In another instance, a victim of violent robbery in Kitengela reported, "I had a really nasty experience. Everybody in the robbery gang had a firearm and that they were pointing a gun at my head and back (Odongo, 2014). These reports of violent crime to some extent reflected the crime statistics from the Kitengela Police station which indicated that the violent crime rates remained relatively high in the same year,(Kitengela Police station, 2014).



In his study, Livingston (2013) found that public confidence in the police was generally low in most African countries where surveys showed that police were often viewed as untrustworthy. The police were also not a frequent sight for most Africans, who rarely encountered police in their day-to-day lives. Livingston (2013) among other scholars suggest that most countries in Africa, such as South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria, do not have confidence in the police since law enforcement officers are deemed as corrupt. Low public confidence and trust in the police service means that citizens are not willing to provide information, denoting that statistics on crime are skewed. Statistics indicate that in 22 countries, only a fifth of the population in those countries will report a crime, where reasons given by those surveyed ranged from the police seeking bribes coupled with fear of revenge/retaliation from perpetrators of crime. In reference to the above cited worrying crime statistics and issues relating to police and public in matters of policing, this study intended to evaluate how public; participation, perceptions, confidence and public-police relations in community policing initiatives impacts in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela Town.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The key research questions for this study were:-

- i. What is the role of public participation in community policing in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town?
- ii. What are the public perceptions on community policing in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town?
- iii. What is the importance of public confidence in community policing in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town?
- iv. How does police-public relations influence community policing initiative towards the prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study was to evaluate the impact of CP initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town.

The specific objectives were:

- i. To find out the role of public participation on community policing in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town.

- ii. To assess public perception on community policing in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town.
- iii. To investigate the importance of public confidence on community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town.
- iv. To find out how the existing police-public relations influence community policing initiative towards the prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town.

### **1.5 Justification of the Study**

This study is justified on the basis that much of the existing body of academic literature has not delved into the impact of CP initiatives on crime prevention with particular emphasis on control of violent crime in Kitengela Town. For instance, Mwaura (2014) focused on factors that influence effective implementation of CP in Kajiado North Police Division; however, the author did not detail the impact of crime nor provide a description of crimes that CP was able to tackle.

Another study by Muoki in 2005 on *the effects of Community Based Policing initiatives on crime in Nairobi province* found out that despite the fact that CP initiatives were adopted in Nairobi, violent crime incidents remained high. However, no further study was carried out to find out why the trend had remained so while it was expected that the CP initiatives would reduce the crime rates. This study tends to fill such existing knowledge gap.

The findings of this study will contribute greatly to the benefit of society considering that crime tends to have great effects on people's day-to-day lives. The cost of violent crime is significantly higher than other crime both to public services and victims, (Rubin, Federico, & Adam, 2008). Hence, implementing effective interventions to reduce violent crime could yield significant reductions in rates of violent crime and fear of crime, improving quality of life, reducing costs and thereby representing an efficient allocation of public funds. Thus, policy makers who apply the recommendations derived from this study would be able to develop and implement more effective CP initiatives.

Focusing on community policing will enable researchers in the field of public administration to understand the underlying issue at the grass-root level. Put differently, community policing will bring security services closer to the people since the shift from the central system to a more people-

centered approach will enable policy makers to develop entry points on how neighborhood security can be improved.

### **1.6 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

The study was carried out within the Kitengela town that comprises of residential, commercial and industrial settings. It is home to middle-income residents and low-income residents. The specific area was Noonkopir residential zone/estate which has been identified by SRIC report of 2013 as violent crime hotspot and represent middle-income as well low-income residents.

Violent crimes in this study covered crimes which involve physical violence that leads to destruction of property and injuring and or killing the victims in the local Kitengela Town setting collectively referred to as “street” crime and not organized crime which are generally transcend borders and mostly require specialized intelligence agencies which is beyond the scope of this study.

The information regarding violent crime may be considered sensitive by either the residents who may be too traumatized or scared to share their experiences and may seek to withhold details of their experiences. The police may also not give details of their operational or classified information in relation to violent crimes. The study considered all these and derived analysis, recommendations and conclusions only from the unclassified data. The conclusions may therefore not apply to forms of violent crime whose investigation may involve classified law enforcement procedures. Besides, while the research findings may apply to other sub-urban areas whose demographic characteristics are comparable to those of Kitengela town, they may not be applicable to rural areas whose demographic and social characteristics may not be similar.

### **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

**Community** means individuals who share characteristics, regardless of their location or degree of interaction to do or perform common services

**Community policing** refers to an arrangement where communities liaise with the police to create safer places free from crime. It is achieved by leveraging collaborative approaches between the police and community members with a view to creating safe neighborhoods through sharing information and joint decision-making on security matters.

**Police** refers to law enforcement officers who have the responsibility of enforcing the law with a view to creating social and public order.

**Violent crime** refers to intentional harm that is inflicted by an individual on another during the commission of the crime; robbery, burglary, murder e.t.c

### **1.8 Ethical Considerations**

The researcher prioritized the respect for the dignity of research participants and any communication in relation to the research was done with honesty and transparency.

The researcher in this study provided sufficient information and assurances to the respondents so as to make an informed decision to participate without exercising any pressure or coercion.

Full consent was obtained from the participants prior to administration of the questionnaires. Protection of the privacy of research respondents was also ensured.

Voluntary participation by respondents was encouraged. Moreover, respondents were granted right to withdraw from the study at any stage if they wished to do so.

Adequate level of confidentiality of the research data as well as anonymity of the respondents was highly ensured.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter reviews related literature with specific reference to literature on the community policing and violent crime. The review involved literature from academic and professional sources including books, journal articles, published and unpublished reports, theses and electronic materials. Attention was given to both theoretical and empirical literature.

### **2.2 Concept of Community Policing**

A better way to lessen the confusion surrounding the term community policing might be to start with thinking in terms of its components. Champion and Rush (1997) contends that CP crime prevention and law enforcement strategy, where members of the community work closely with law enforcement officers to manage and contain all forms of crime through dialogue with a view to detecting, preventing, and pointing out wrongdoers of crime and violence. The idea is to deepen collaborative efforts between the police and the community to create safer neighborhoods.

Community policing can also be said to be a law enforcement philosophy based on the concept that police officers and private citizens, working together in creative ways, can help solve contemporary community problems related to crime, fear of crime, social and physical disorder, and neighborhood conditions (Tronjanowicz et.al, 1998).Community policing is said to have three core elements; citizen involvement, problem solving, and decentralization (Skogan, 2006). All are related, but citizen involvement is especially crucial because it is the basis of the theoretical foundation of community policing.

Brogden and Nijhar (2005) suggests that the dynamic community ways coupled with dissatisfaction on medieval ways of policing and demand for accountability have led into formulation of new mechanisms of creating safer neighborhoods since the traditional approaches to combating crime seem to be ineffective. Segrave and Ratcliffe (2004) contends that communities and governments are increasingly acknowledging that creating of safer neighborhoods can only be achieved through teamwork. Williamson (2008) observes that communities ought to be at the front in preventing crime by adhering to the law, shunning crime and any form of violence, and commit to undertake activities geared towards crime prevention.

Kelling (1988) states that the police should collaborate with community leaders as a basis of building resilient crime detection and prevention structures.

Masese (2007) observes that the role of police should go beyond law enforcement to encompass formation of policies to support organizations and individuals with a view to increasing safety. Furthermore, the author contends that communities are assets that help to deter crime, denoting the need to support and motivate community members in relation to security and safety issues. Governance literature is replete with information on security management, where there is consensus among scholars that crime detection and prevention require a multi-sector and participatory approach. Masese (2007) goes on to state that community associations formed to management security issues ought to be empowered so that they are able to own security issues in their neighborhoods.

Scrutiny of the statistics on crime detection and prevention indicate that contemporary approaches on crime prevention have not translated into reduced crime since the centralized approach to managing crime has not been efficacious as they negate the input of the community in crime prevention. Braiden (1992) observes that isolation of the community from the police and vice versa has not helped to manage crime since there is no information sharing between law enforcement officers and the community. Put differently, lack of strong ties between the police and the community implies that there is lopsided access to crucial information, which can be leveraged to detect and prevent crime. Braiden (1992) suggests that the concept of CP can enable communities and police to work together with a view to formulating feasible approaches to solving security issues that bedevil their neighborhoods. The author further contends that community members must see law enforcement officers in a positive way as this will enhance crime management.

The promulgation of a new constitution in Kenya in August 2010 provided the framework for instituting extensive security sector reforms. Community policing that had been introduced officially in Kenya on April 27, 2005, whose strategies aimed at enhancing public confidence, but which had produced little success, were also set to become more efficacious once the reforms took hold (Wanjohi 2014). Community policing became embedded into Kenya's legislation and administrative structures.

### **2.3 Violent Crime**

According to World Bank (2009), acts of violence and crime have the potential to affect the economy to an extent that societies are unable to realize their growth and needs. The report by World Bank goes on to state that violence, such as the one witnessed in Kenya can badly affect the GDP. For instance, violence in Guatemala costed the country up to 2.4 billion dollars, which is approximately 7.3% of gross domestic products in the year 2005. Moreover, statistics as presented by World Bank indicate that violence in Mexico costed the government an estimated 9.6 billion dollars because of losses in investment, jobs, and sales in the year 2007.

According to UN-Habitat (2007), majority of people around the world continue to bear the blunt of violence to an extent that people continue to live in daily fear. Disturbing news indicate that most of crime and violence are concentrated in urban areas across developing countries. In fact, most of cities in developing countries domicile approximately half of the population in the world, where it is projected that in the next 25 years, the cities will accommodate almost all new growth in population. Buvinic and Morrison (2000) states that growing population in cities causes urban planning nightmares, where mushrooming of slums continues to wreck crime situation. Glaeser and Sacerdote (1996) and VanDijk (1998) contend that overcrowding in the cities, which is a consequent of human action put pressure on scarce resources and since security apparatus are not adequate, violent crime spring out.

Simpson (1993) contends that neighborhood violence changes relationships and networks to an extent that individuals live in constant fear and mistrust. With mistrust and fear, Simpson (1993) observes that this scenario engenders/escalates into violence to an extent that there is retaliation as a form of defense. The current body of literature is replete with information on how violence precipitates unemployment and skewed education since it wears away social cohesion, deteriorates investment, and creates widespread fear. Due to fear of victimization, individuals may fear to start new business and all together avoid exploiting their human capital due to fear of wrongdoers.

Agbola (1997) observes that advanced level of crime affects transport infrastructure since it aligns itself with fear and mistrust because of violence. The author suggests that unabated levels of crime in Lagos, Nigeria have caused “architecture of fear”. With increased crime, Agbola (1997) states that there is an increase in private security sector coupled with high walls in high-end

neighborhoods to an extent that this affects social cohesion of communities as there is high police presence in affluent neighborhoods.

According to the World Bank (2011), urban communities play important roles in terms of having comprehensive understanding on the causes and effects of violence in the cities, meaning that communities are at the center of formulating long-term violence detection and prevention interventions. Presence of violent crime in Kitengela town has posed enormous challenges to the residents in terms of security concerns. This is manifested in gated neighborhoods, installed metal grills on business premises among other indicators.

## **2.4 Empirical Review of Literature**

### **2.4.1 Violent Crime Patterns**

Wallace and Wallace (1993) stated that societal inequalities are the core sources of violent crime since there is limited shared values. With low levels of shared values, there is perpetual competition for respect, transport, and competition for space, and who controls drug trade. This setup creates an ideal ground for violence, which is again enhanced by presence of alcohol. In such settings, settling of disputes becomes a daunting task. Without proper law enforcement, there is proliferation of weapons that affects the general outcomes of violence. In addition, the judicial system's capacity is over-stretched due to inadequacy of human resources to solve conflict to an extent that moral values and social capital face extinction, which leads to acceptance of the state of crime.

Livingston (2013) suggests that most of the African countries have not been able to solve the threat of crime to an extent that personal security of most people is compromised. Statistics presented by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime indicate that 36% of cases happening around the world take place in the African Continent. The report further details that for every 100,000 people, there are 17 homicides, which means that the rate of homicide exceeds the rest of the world. The context is worse in urban places, where people in urban areas are always worried about their safety. Williams (2003) observes that 'epidemiology' of crime and possible interventions vary from place-to-place since depending on the social contexts.



### **2.4.2 Public Participation in Community Policing**

According to United Nations (2015), to achieve better outcomes on security issues, it is imperative to involve local communities since they have a tacit understanding of their challenges. Involvement of the community creates better rapport and deepens trusts and confidence on the judicial system. The need for police to work closely with the local communities in a collaborative way will go a long way in creating sustainable and safer neighborhoods. According to Grinc, (1994), involvement of communities enables police to collect essential information that help security agencies to put in place mechanisms that anticipate and prevent crime. In fact, involvement of residents invokes sense of attachment to the welfare of the community to an extent that this supports information sharing for better security outcomes.

Skogan (1990) proposes that individuals likely to take part in CP are those that have a personal stake, such as having spent a long time in the neighborhood, have children, and own property in the area. Other interests in the neighborhood that may pursue individuals to take part in CP are social investments, where individual have a strong sense of belonging, which precipitate them to secure their neighborhood. Sampson and Groves (1989) observe that poverty in the neighborhood, residential mobility, and different racial setup are some of the disorganization indicators that influence interests in CP interventions. Grinc (1994) states that social disorganization is likely to influence CP initiatives since involvement is voluntary. Skogan (1990) argues that immensity of criminal offenders, criminal activity, and social activities are some of the factors that influence participation in CP initiatives.

Livingston (2013) suggests that CP has been made possible through the creation of toll free numbers that citizens can call when in trouble. United Nations (2015) supports this initiative by suggesting that social media has made it possible for security agencies to engage the public with a view to managing instances of crime. Through the world, there are efforts to mainstream social media platforms as a basis of managing instances of crime since social media offers a much-needed platform for reinforcing the relationship between the police and residents. Vera Institute as cited in Sadd and Grinc (1994), while assessing CP interventions in major cities found disparities in aligning CP between the police and the residents owing to fear and distrust of the police coupled with anxiety of retaliation from drug dealers.

### **2.4.3 Public Perceptions in Community Policing**

Braiden (1992) suggests that CP provides a good entry point for the police and the community to work together with a view to creating safer neighborhoods. Put differently, the author suggested that only when residents have confidence in the law enforcement officers then realization of safer neighborhoods can be achieved. Miller and Hess (2002) argue that CP leverages heavily on citizen involvement to provide solutions to the issues bedeviling the society. To achieve this end, it is imperative for the police to have meaningful interactions with residents so that law enforcement officers can help the community to overcome the challenges that they face.

Sherman (1997) contends that the underlying philosophy of CP is to increase the contact between law enforcement officers and the citizens, implying that citizen satisfaction plays an integral part for the success of CP. CP activities, such as door-to-door visits, neighborhood watch, community meeting, and patrols are geared towards citizen satisfaction so that information sharing on crime, offenders, recidivism, and other forms and/or issues of crime are addressed by the police. Eck and Rosenbaum (1994) states that CP activities are meant to make citizens feel comfortable interacting and sharing information with security agencies.

The current body of literature is replete with information on the perceptions towards CP, where various scholars have delved into what the public views about CP interventions. For instance, Yuksel and Tepe (2013) focused on perceptions on fear of crime, fear of victimization, and satisfaction levels among citizens on police. Several studies, such as the one conducted by Tyler, (2003) indicated that higher satisfaction levels among citizens on police translates into more collaboration with the police, reduced victimization fear, and less likelihood of crime.

According to the US Department of justice (2005), community perceptions on the extent to which CP is effective predicts the way citizens rate CP interventions. Webb and Katz (1997) contended that CP interventions are viewed as important or unimportant to the community; For instance, CP initiatives geared towards prevention of crime and drug gangs are considered important. Thakre and Karuppanan (2015) stated that success of CP initiatives hinge on how the public perceives police, where police image is determined by the extent to which law enforcement officers provide solutions to the challenges facing the society.

#### **2.4.4 Public Confidence in Community Policing**

According to Rosenbaum et al. (2005), for the police to realize positive results in their duties, it is imperative for them to have good rapport and/or cooperation with the citizenry. In fact, without the support of the members of the public, police will face a myriad of challenges in terms of how they discharge their duties in relation to prevention of crime and managing of problems facing the neighborhood. The cornerstone for success of CP requires the cooperation of the public so that police can gain legitimacy.

Jackson and Bradford (2010) state that the effectiveness of policing practice and policy depend on public confidence and trust since these two requirements for CP predict the extent to which citizens are willing to take part in CP initiatives. Put differently, public confidence and trust boosts CP by encouraging citizens to participate in local projects that are geared towards making various organizations to comply with law and order with a broader view of augmenting neighborhood security. Loader and Mulcahy (2003) suggests that social alignment between the police and the public can be enhanced through trust and confidence since these are the key predictors of motivation on the part of the citizens. For social alignment to be effective, there is need for the public to have a positive perception of the police, such as viewing the police as civic guardians who have the interests of the public at heart.

According to Livingston (2013), public confidence and trust on law enforcement officers in African countries is low as police are perceived to be untrustworthy and corrupt. For instance, in Kenya and Nigeria, police are distrusted this affects CP interventions. However, there are African countries that have positive reviews from the public, such as Namibia, Mozambique, and Malawi. Livingston (2013) argues that with low confidence in the police force, crime statistics are not representative of the actual patterns and trends on the ground. Distrust means that citizens do not bother to report crime since police have not accepted the input of the public in crime detection and prevention (Mwaura, 2014).

#### **2.4.5 Police-public Relations in Community Policing**

Eck and Rosenbaum (1994) contends that the association and/or effectiveness of CP is centered on citizen-police reciprocity. The authors suggest that the goal of CP is to influence the perceptions and trust of the members of the public on the police. Grinc (1994) assessed eight CP initiatives

and suggested that the reason by CP fail is due to negative perception of the citizens coupled with poor relationships that cannot support information sharing.

Ikuteyijo (2008) states that police have a constitutional mandate to maintain law and order, protect lives and property; however, trends show that police are embroiled in conflicts with the members of the public, which snowballs into lack of cooperation as citizens perceive police in a negative way, which affects crime management. Consequently, it becomes difficult for the police to obtain crucial information from the citizens, thus affecting the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of crime management initiatives.

While focusing on Police Community Violence in Nigeria, Alemika and Chukwuma (2000) stated that citizens augment CP by reporting crime, providing witness statements, dispute resolution, where this is only possible when there is proper communication between law enforcement officers and the citizens. Alemika and Chukwuma (2000) argue that CP has not been effective in Nigeria owing to a big communication gap between the police and citizens to an extent that even those convicted of crime are set free owing to lack of evidence since there are no witness to provide evidence Livingston (2013) suggests that police in African countries do not have proper skills owing to poor training, which means that they are unable to handle demands of their work; For instance, in South Africa, 932 people died in police custody, while in Nigeria, there is widespread extortion and extra-judicial killings. These factors continue to negatively impact on the effectiveness of CP since citizens do not have confidence in the police force.

National Task Force on Police Reforms in 2009 found out that among the challenges that community policing strategy faced as expressed by the police, were complains that there was failure by the public to pass information on criminal activities within the communities as well as leaking intelligence information to the suspects and undermining efforts to arrest of criminals. There was also lack of cooperation from the public in the arrest of dangerous criminals and stopping criminal gang activities. This strained the relations and partnerships between the police and the public.

Maina (2018) stated that law enforcement officers should engage with the public in collaboration aimed at fighting crime and disorder in the community. This involves establishing cordial relationships between the police and the public. The police must establish a relationship of

confidence and trust with the community to undertake their law enforcement duties effectively. However, her study revealed that there exist poor relations among community members and the police evidenced by limited partnership and lack of confidence between the police and the public. Most respondents said that collaborating with the law enforcement officers had not helped to reduce crime in their areas. They also stated that the confidence that existed between the police and the public did not ease crime reporting. The police could not control crime effectively because they had a difficulty of getting crime information from the citizens. This adversely affected the effectiveness of community policing in prevention and control of crime.

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

### **2.5.1 Social Disorganization Theory**

Various theories have been postulated to explain deviate behaviour, where social disorganization forms part of the novel theories that were propounded to explain criminality. Shaw and McKay (1942) are the founders of social disorganization theory as part of ecological theory of delinquency, which was as a result of high rates of crime among minors notwithstanding changes in environment, and racial and ethnic composition. The theory was further enhanced by various theorists, such as Bursik and Grasmick (1993) who argued that social disorganizations is about inability of self-regulation by given neighborhoods.

In its initial form, social disorganization theory was based on fact that heterogenous neighborhood characteristics, such as high resident turnover, race, ethnicity, and economic disadvantages meant that residents had distinct interests, which precipitated antisocial behaviour, such as deviance, crime, and other forms of violence. Bursik (1998) supports this assertion by stating that self-regulation is central to disorganization theory since communities should be involved in bring social order in their day-to-day living. Put differently, self-regulation means that community members must be at the front in terms of participating in managing the security of their neighborhood since they have information on what can be done to improve security.

Putnam (1993) integrated the concept of social capital in disorganization theory by suggesting that the right level of social capital builds interrelationships that crucial ingredients in regulating behaviour. Social capital is all about interactions and cooperation that individuals have, meaning that social capital can regulate the ways of life as more harmonized communal goal builds

consensus on the expected outcomes. Bursik (1999) argues that communities with higher social capital are less likely to experience crime since societies with low social capital are unable to exert the societal code of conduct that regulates behaviour and deviance, such as crime.

Friedkin (2004) argues that distinctiveness at the community level in terms of population composition, poor economic conditions, and residential instability bring an array of disorganization that precipitates crime. Sampson (2004) integrated the concept of collective efficacy and suggested that social control is made possible through social trust, where social capital is amalgamated with shared expectations to undertake action. Collective efficacy underscores the relevance of this theory by detailing that despite communities having weak ties, existence of shared expectations and values enables trust and confidence to prevail for the community to achieve its goals. Pouligny (2006) explains that with heightened violence, there is tendency for individuals to experience trauma to an extent that they change their lifestyles and/or habits, such as limiting their movements and investments owing to the fear of victimization. Widespread violence erodes basis trust and affects shared values, which translates into less participation in community activities.

### **2.5.2 Motive-based Trust Theory**

The relationship between law enforcement officers and the public has been theorized, where scholars have a general consensus that good rapport improves CP. Motive-based trust theory has been used to explain to the relationship between the police and civilians, where scholars, such as Taylor (2001) suggest that police honest can cure negative public perceptions. The author goes on to indicate that police honest can enhance CP by properly executing their institutional responsibilities so that the public gets what it deserves.

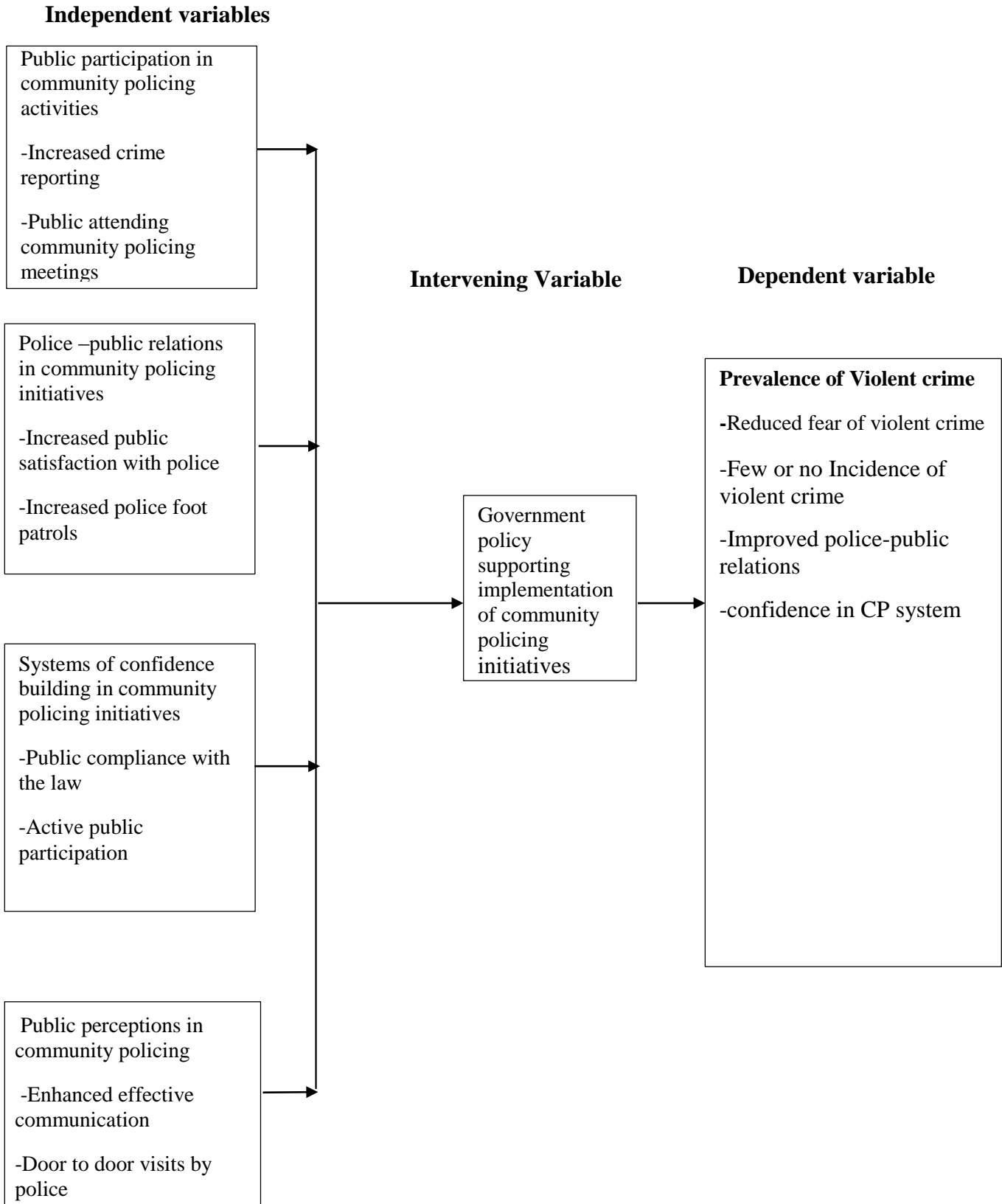
Through institutional trust, it becomes apparent that the action of the police easily find legitimacy since the public will see the action of the police as honest and trustworthy, which translates into performance effectiveness. Good performance by the police is reflected by the positive attitude shown by the citizens as the way the public perceives the police has far-reaching implication on the outcomes of the interactions. In fact, fear of crime has been cited as one of the major factors that undermine public trust and confidence on the police, where this can be changed through concerted efforts by the police to discharge their institutional responsibilities in a professional way.

Motivate-trust theory is applicable to the present study since it offers a succinct explanation on how police can leverage their institutional responsibilities as a basis of gaining public trust (Cordner 2010). The need to integrate fear reduction strategies will enable the police to get information from the public for security management decision-making. Moreover, the need to motivate the public to participation in decision-making will enable security agencies to have a holistic approach to solving societal issues.

## **2.6 Conceptual Framework**

This research proposed a conceptual framework that aims to contribute to prevention of violent crime through community policing initiatives. The research looked into variables Public; participation, perceptions, confidence and police-public relations which constituted the independent variable; community policing against the dependent variable; violent crime.

Community policing initiatives can only be successful if there is participation by both police and the community. The community is likely to engage in such engagements only when they have confidence in the police and the entire community policing initiative. More so, community policing initiatives will only be successful if the public perceives that is yielding the expected results of social order and security in the neighborhoods. The police officers can engage the business people so as to get to know their security concerns and problems, advice residents on security measures as well as help in creation and support of community watch groups. They can also call for regular meetings with the community. That way, they can share information on violent crime or crime in general. These engagements and partnerships between the police and the public prevail only when there are good police-public relations. This way, they can participate effectively in the community policing measures intended to prevent violent crime.



**Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework**



## **CHAPTER THREE: STUDY METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter discusses the overall design and methodology used to address the research questions in the study. It explains the study design, data sources, study area, sample size and methods of data analysis and presentation of results.

### **3.1 Study Site.**

Kitengela town is in Kajiado County whose growth rate has been estimated to be approximately 5.5 percent per annum. According to Kenyan Population and Housing Census (2009), Kitengela town had a population of 58,167 people and had only two Sub-locations which were the lowest units of Provincial Administration. The Sub-locations were Noonkopir and Kitengela which had populations of approximately 27,437 and 30,730 people respectively. The town has 1 police station comprising of 31 Police officers 12 of whom are involved in community policing activities.

According to Kitengela Zoning plan 2012, the town has 17 land use zones. These are; Kimmerland, Selelo, Muigai, Upper valley, New valley, Commercial Zone, Shooting Range, Korompoi, Downtown, Juakali, Parkview, Mohammed, Sifa farm, Kwa Saitoti, Noonkopir and Kia Ng'ombe. These zones have since been occupied by residents and turned in residential estates by which Kitengela town is defined. The estates have populations comprising of various tribal groups making the town cosmopolitan in nature. Due to land being available for investment and settlement, Kitengela town has experienced high population growth and urbanization. Its proximity to Nairobi City has made Kitengela town a home to various people who commutes to the City every day for their day to day activities but resides in the town. Numerous businesses activities, both formal and informal have come up in Kitengela town. Among these estates, this study picked Noonkopir estate as the sample area. The selection of the estate was prompted by the fact that the estate had high levels of violent crime. This was according to the SRIC 2013 report that cited Noonkopir estate as a hotspot for violent crime. The crime reports available in Kitengela Police station also pointed that out of all violent crimes reported from the whole of Kitengela town in 2018, 54 % of the crimes were reported to have occurred in Noonkopir estate.

With the increasing population, the crime rates in Kitengela town have also significantly increased. This has posed a serious challenge to the residents to an extent that some have been forced to abandon their homes and flee due to attacks by criminals. Others have closed their businesses down. Cases of murder are common in Kitengela town. These crimes have pushed the security agents within the town to adopt crime prevention strategies that have been thought to be more effective. One of these strategies is the Nyumba Kumi community policing initiative. However, violent crime prevalence remains high in Kitengela town despite the adoption and implementation of such an initiative that is expected to enable information sharing between the residents and security agents within the town hence reducing crime. It is against this background that this research was set out to conduct an in-depth study to evaluate the impacts of community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime.

### **3.2 Research Design.**

This study adopted descriptive research study design. This enabled the researcher to establish the actual situation in terms of perceptions and attitudes of the residents of Kitengela Town about their experiences of violent crime in the area and the impact Nyumba Kumi community policing initiative has had in relation to these crimes.

### **3.3 Unit of Analysis**

Dolma, (2010) defines unit of analysis as the entity that is being analyzed in a scientific research. The unit of analysis for this study was impact of community policing initiatives on the prevention of violent crime.

### **3.4 Unit of Observation**

Lavrakas (2008) defined a unit of observation as an object about which information is collected. Research conclusions are based on information that is collected and analyzed. Therefore using defined units of observation in a survey or study helps to classify the reasonable conclusions that can be drawn from the information collected. The unit of observation in this study were residents of Noonkopir Estate in Kitengela town who are of 18 years and above and police officers in Kitengela police station.

### **3.5 Target population**

This refers to all the members who meet the particular criterion specified for a research investigation (Alvi, 2016). This study targeted the residents of Noonkopir Estate of Kitengela town. The estate which also turns out to be Noonkopir Sub-location has a population of approximately 27,437 according to the Kenya Population and Housing Census 2009 report. According to the Assistant Chief, the estate has been divided into 113 Nyumba Kumi clusters with each cluster consisting of approximately 40 households. The key informants for the study were the Assistant chief and Chairpersons of the Nyumba Kumi initiative in the Estate as well as police officers in Kitengela Police Station who were purposively selected.

### **3.6 Sample Size and Sampling Procedure**

Salant and Dillman (1994) defined a sample as a set of respondents selected from a larger population for the purpose of a survey. Sample drawn from a population must be representative so that it allows the researcher to make inferences or generalizations from the sample statistics to the population under study, (Maleske, 1995).

Kitengela town has 17 residential estates. Noonkopir residential zone/ estate was purposively selected because it was identified by SRIC report of 2013 as a violent crime hotspot. The crime reports available in Kitengela Police station also indicated that out of all violent crimes reported from the whole of Kitengela town in 2018, 54% of the crimes were reported to have occurred in Noonkopir estate. More so, this estate hosts middle-income as well low-income residents. Some of the residents here have their permanent homes while majority are mere tenants.

This study had representative sample of 120 respondents. The respondents were selected through stratified random sampling whereby one respondent from each of the 113 clusters was identified and interviewed. The researcher was introduced to each of the cluster's chairperson by the Assistant chief. With the help of the chairpersons, one respondent in each of the clusters was identified. The identification of these respondents was random in that anyone who was met first within a given cluster was chosen to be the respondent provided he was of 18 years and above. Key informants were selected purposively; the Assistant chief, 3 senior police officers from Kitengela police station who are involved with the community policing activities, and 3

chairpersons of the Nyumba Kumi community policing initiative in the estate who were identified with the help of the Assistant chief.

### **3.7 Methods of Data Collection and Tools**

This study used in-depth interviews which are personal and unstructured interviews to collect data. The in-depth interviews aims at identifying the participants' attitudes, perceptions and opinions regarding community policing initiatives and their impacts on prevention of violent crime. The advantage of these interviews is that they involve personal and direct contact between interviewers and interviewees; they offer flexibility of the flow of the interview enabling generation of more conclusions from the research topic (Langos, 2014). To conduct the research, the researcher used semi-structured questionnaires which acted as an interview guide. Secondary data was collected by reviewing journals, articles, newspapers and police records.

### **3.8 Validity and Reliability of the Instruments**

Field (2005) quoted that validity means “measure what is intended to be measured”. Validity explains how well the collected data covers the actual research area. To achieve this, the study ensured that the semi-questionnaires were accurately structured in that the questions were easy to understand and precise to the participants. Hopkins, (2007) defined reliability as the degree to which a measurement technique can be depended upon to secure consistent results upon repeated application. In this study, reliability and validity tests were conducted. Pre-testing of 10% of the questionnaires was done which helped in determining their dependability and consistency.

### **3.9 Data Analysis and Presentation**

Data analysis is the process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass of collected data (Marshall and Rossman, 1999). The purpose of data analysis to obtain usable and useful information. Descriptive statistics by use of tables, percentages and graphs was used by the research to present the participants' responses and make conclusions.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

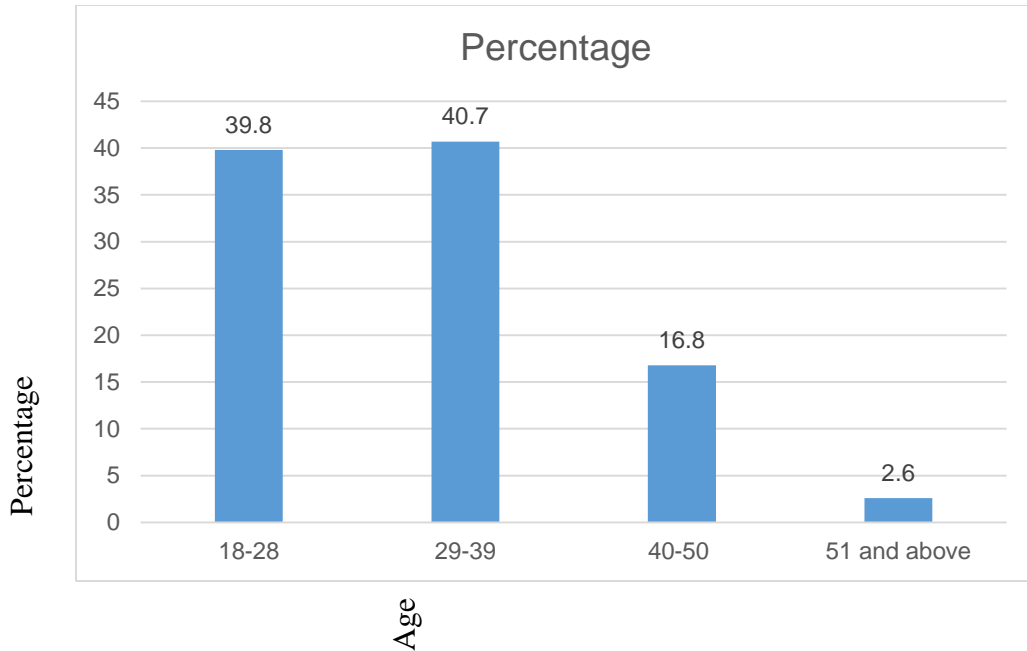
The chapter entails; presentation, analysis and interpretation of the findings of a research. This study aimed at evaluating the impact of community policing initiatives on the prevention of violent crime, a case study of Kitengela Town of Kajiado County. In this chapter, study responses in relation to study population's demographic characteristics, public participation, public confidence, public perceptions and police-public relations were computed, analyzed and interpreted. The findings were then presented in figures and tables with frequencies and percentages.

#### **4.2 Response Rate**

The study had a sample size of 120 respondents. A hundred and thirteen (113) respondents were the residents of Noonkopir estate who were of ages 18 years and above. Key informants included 3 chairpersons of Nyumba Kumi initiative in Noonkopir estate, the Assistant Chief of Noonkopir Sub location and 3 senior police officers at Kitengela Police Station. Once identified, eligible respondents were interviewed and the researcher recorded down their responses in the questionnaires. The response rate was 100% since all the contacted respondents cooperated.

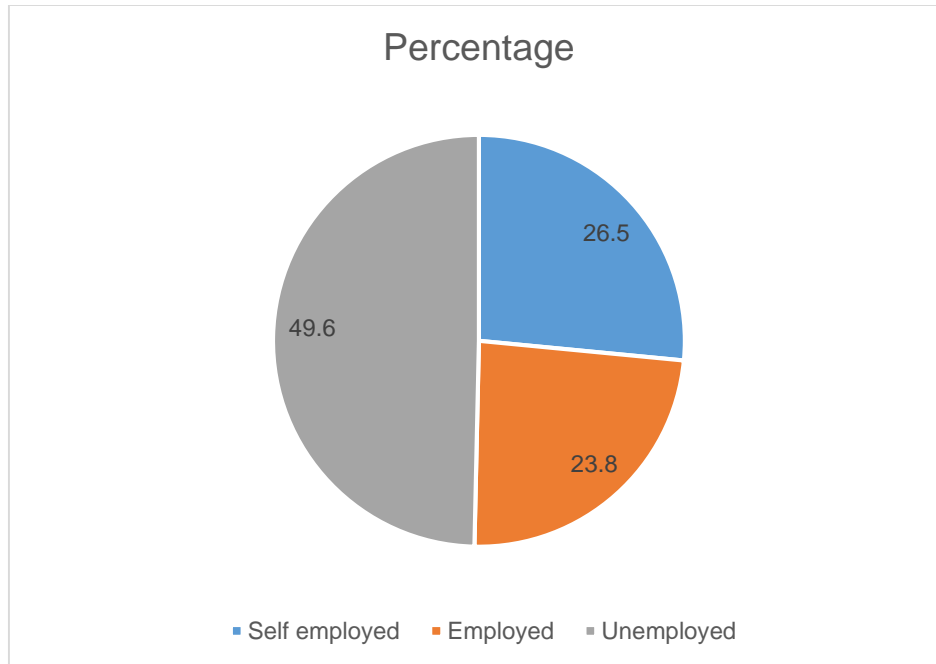
#### **4.3 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

Out of the 113 respondents, 44% were males and 56 % were females. Majority of the respondents 46 (40.7%) were aged between 29-39 years, followed by 45(39.8%) who were aged between 18-28 years. Between 40-50 years, there were 19 respondents (16.8 %) while those who were 51 years and above formed 2.6 % of the respondents. This clearly shows that majority of those who reside in Noonkopir estate are aged between 39-18 years.



**Figure 4 1 Age of the respondents**

On employment status, 23.8 % ( 27) respondents declared that they were employed by somebody, 26.5 % ( 30) said that they were self-employed while 49.6 % ( 56) respondents said that they did not have any form of employment and that they relied on their parents, spouses or friends for survival. It was also observed that 71.4 % ( 40) of the unemployed respondents were males while females constituted 28.6 % ( 16) respondents. Out of the 27 respondents who reported that they were employed, 15 (55.6%) of them said that they received a remuneration of Kshs.10, 000 and below, 4(14.8%) respondents were remunerated Kshs.11, 000-30,000. Those who earned between Kshs.31, 000-50,000 and Kshs.51, 000-70,000 were 3(11.1 %) and 2(7.4%) respondents respectively. Three (3) respondents (11.1 %) said that they received a remuneration of Kshs. 71,000 and above.



**Figure 4 2 Employment details of respondents**

To assess how much information the respondents held about Community Policing initiatives, the study asked each of the 113 respondents whether they had ever heard of community policing initiatives in Noonkopir estate and if they knew what the initiatives targeted to achieve. It was only 36.2 % ( 41) respondents who confirmed of having heard about community policing operations in Noonkopir estate while 63.7 % ( 72) said that they did not have any idea if there was such an initiative in the estate. They, however, reported that they were familiar with community policing initiatives as they had heard it being mentioned and implemented in some parts of the country. The respondents said that basically community policing initiatives were about security issues; to minimize crime and ensure safety of environment by giving information regarding crime and suspects to the police. They also said that the initiatives helped one get to know who their neighbors were hence enhancing co-existence. Out of the 41 respondents who confirmed of knowing about existence of community policing initiatives in Noonkopir estate, its only 36.6 % ( 15) who said that they had been involved in an activity related to community policing.

The 7 key informants in the study were also asked if they were aware community policing initiatives were on-going in Noonkopir estate and what they considered the priorities of the initiatives. They all agreed that they were aware community policing initiatives were being implemented and the initiatives prioritized at minimizing crimes. The Assistant chief stated,

*“with the help and cooperation of the residents of Noonkopir estate which also constitute Noonkopir sub-location of which at the head, one hundred and thirteen (113) Nyumba Kumi clusters have been created. Due to large numbers of people living here, each cluster consists of approximately forty (40) households and a chairperson heads each cluster. The chairperson conducts daily oversight of the community policing initiative. Security committee in each cluster has been selected to ensure representation of diverse groups in the area. The committees meet every three months where the other members of the cluster are invited. It’s during these meetings, members are sensitized about community policing and its operations. However, these meetings are poorly attended”.*

The OCS reported that Kitengela town had recorded increased cases of stealing of motor bikes where in several instances the owners of the bikes were murdered. He also reported that selling of bhang and illicit brews were rampant in the town and that they had played role in the increased violent crime rates. He noted,

*“incidents of violent robbery and street mugging are rampant within Kitengela town and more specifically in Noonkopir Estate. Insecurity is so high and various factors can be attributed to this situation. Unemployment among the youth who forms the largest population of the residents in this area has been cited as the main factor. Many youths are rarely involved in any meaningful activity, peer pressure and abuse of drugs has taken control over their life. The same youth have been linked to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons that are being used in criminal activities. High levels of poverty and breakdown of the family institution also plays into the criminal levels”.*

While the OCS and the Policemen stated that community policing initiatives should focus in reducing crime, the Assistant chief and the Chairpersons of Nyumba Kumi suggested that community policing initiatives should focus more on sensitizing the residents on need for good relations among residents and with the police. They pointed out the residents lacked willingness for involvement in almost all social activities.

#### **4.4 Role of Public Participation in Prevention and Control of Violent Crime**

Public participation is a requirement for any community policing initiative to meet its objectives. The public is expected to provide valuable information on the neighborhood problems and solutions. Active public participation is also an indication that the police are responsive to their security concerns and results in heightened feelings of safety, better community-police relations, and decreases in crime (Grinc 1994).



Skogan (1990) held the view that people are more likely to participate in anti-crime groups if they own homes and have lived in the neighborhood for a long time. Besides, a sense of belonging to a neighborhood and ability to rely on neighbors in time of need is a reflection of vested interests that may foster willingness to participate in such initiatives. In reference to this, the study sought to evaluate the levels to which residents of Noonkopir estate were involved in community policing initiative in place. The respondents were asked on the duration of time each had lived in the estate. The study established that the average period that the respondents had stayed there was 5 years.

Respondents were asked to state whether they lived in self-owned or rented houses and whether they considered the estate as their permanent residence or merely a place to live. Out of the 113 respondents, only 20 (17.7 %) of them had acquired a permanent house they termed as self –owned while 93(82.3 %) respondents reported to have rented their houses and just considered the estate as a mere place of living.

**Table 4 1 House Ownership of the Respondents**

<b>House ownership</b>	<b>Frequency (n)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Self-owned	20	17.7
Rented	93	82.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100</b>

On being asked of how well they knew their neighbors, 37 (32.7 %) reported that they knew their neighbors well in that they were aware of the places of work and the nature of work they were involved in while 76(67.3%) of the respondents said that they could not tell where their neighbors worked nor the kind of job they were involved in. However, all the respondents agreed to the point that they would call their neighbors for help in case of a problem. A respondent stated;

*“wakora hawawezi kuingia kwangu ninyamaze. Nitapiga Nduru na niite majirani!  
I will scream and call neighbours if criminals invade my house”.*

On further questioning the respondents to find out whether they had lived with their neighbors long enough to be able to distinguish them from strangers, 85(75.2%) respondents reported that they could not since people kept on shifting from their estate to somewhere else and new people

coming in. Their neighbors too could host people the respondents assumed could be relatives or friends. Only 28(24.8 %) respondents confirmed that they could easily tell that one was a stranger in their neighborhoods.

Grinc (1994) found that poor relationship between the police and residents especially those of poor communities creates a negative attitude in the residents. This explains why residents do not get involved in community policing initiatives. To assess the relationship that exists between the police and residents of Noonkopir estate, this study sought to know if the respondents could call the police if they saw something suspicious going on in the estate. Out of 113 respondents, 77(68.1 %) reported that they could call the police while 36 (31.9%) said that they could not. However, majority of those who said that they could call the police reported that they did not possess any contact through which they could reach the police.

The study also sought to know if the respondents had experienced any form of violent crime, if they got to know who the crime perpetrators were and to whom they reported about the crime. A good number of respondents, 49(43.4%) said that they had experienced some form of violent crimes in the estate. Two (2) of them said that they got to know who the perpetrators were. One respondent said that there was a night the robbers got into their plot. She saw them get into her neighbor's house but in fear of being the next target, she could not raise alarm nor report to any authority. Majority said that they reported about the crimes to the police.

The study sought to know if the respondents would like to work more closely with the police in measures put in place to prevent violent crime in Kitengela town. Majority , 69(61.1%) of the respondents strongly agreed that they would work closely with the police because they believed that police were trained in matters relating to crimes and crime control and that without police, residents could maintain law and order. They also stated that working closely with the police would reduce crime more effectively as residents would be encouraged to share more information about crime.

Though 26(23%) respondents agreed that they would work with the police, they stated that police usually responded very slowly or not at all when called. Some respondents 17(15%) reported that they would not at any cost work with the police. They said that they believed that matters of crime and safety should be handled solely by the police. They too reported that in some instances, police

have ganged up with the criminals resulting to attacks by the criminals to those who gave the information to the police hence residents feared for their own safety. One (1) respondent (0.9%) disagreed to the question of working with the police for he felt that police did nothing in relation to safety and crime control. He said,

*“kila siku lazima hao wakora waibie ama kuua raia na polisi wamekaa tu station.Hawafanyi lolote.*

*Every day, there is robbery or murders of the residents by the criminals but the police are just in the police station. They take no action”.*

**Table 4 2 Participation by the Respondents**

<b>Participation</b>	<b>Frequency (n)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly agree	69	61.1
Agree	27	23.9
Not at all	17	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100</b>

Asked what each respondent had done to prevent violent crime within the past year, 32(28.3%) said that they had taken steps like trying their best to know their neighbors, walked around in groups at night to ensure that their neighborhoods were safe, attended security meetings called by chiefs, exchanged contacts with the police, chiefs and community policing representatives for easy reporting. They also said that they had exchanged contacts among neighbors too so that they could easily alert each other in case of any crime incident. Others had helped in giving information to the police and the community policing representatives on criminals’ hiding places and those residents who were involved in selling bhang. Some had also installed bright security lights in their compounds to scare away criminals.

The study sought to know from the key informants, the various ways that were put in place to ensure that the residents participated in community policing initiatives. The OCS reported that Police-residents forums were occasionally held to enhance the relations between them. However, he reported that very few residents turned up for such forums. He reported,

*“Persuading residents of this area to participate in social activities has always been a challenge. Majority are totally not interested. Sometimes, chairpersons of Nyumba Kumi call for meetings with the residents where they invite the police. The*

*residents will not attend. Therefore, educating them on matters of security has always been a challenge”.*

The Assistant chief too reported that lack of information by the residents contributed to their poor levels of participation in the community policing initiatives. He reported that most residents did not know what was expected of them as far as crime prevention and security was concerned. He too added that this has been a great challenge because even when residents are called in meetings for sensitization on such matters, they did not attend.

#### **4.5 Public Perceptions and Community Policing**

One of the key components of community policing philosophy is to increase the quantity and quality of police-citizen contacts (Sherman, 1997). Citizen satisfaction with the police plays a key role in this process.

To assess how they perceived community policing initiative, the respondents were asked whether they perceived police officers as being fair and respectful. Eighty two (82), 72.6%, respondents stated that the police were not respectful and did not treat residents with fairness. They supported their claims by reporting that the police maintained poor communication and interactions with the residents. Besides, they reported that the police did not conduct foot patrols to show concern for the residents and whenever they visited the estate, the respondents reported that incidences of harassment by police were experienced. They also reported that police only responded to calls from those who could give bribes. However, 31(27.4 %) respondents believed that the police were fair and respectful in that they saw the police making visits to homes, churches in the estates and reported that they had not encountered any form of abuse by the police. In relation to their interactions with the public, a key informant (police officer) stated...

*“we are only 12 police officers in Kitengela police station who are assigned to community policing activities. Noonkopir estate alone has a population of roughly 27,000 residents going by the 2009 National Population Census figures. The public-policing ratio can therefore be deduced to be roughly in the ratio of 1 police officer policing 2,250 citizens (1:2250) which is far below the recommended police –public ratio of 1 police officer to 1000 citizens (1:1000). Note that we are involved in community policing in the whole of Kitengela town and not Noonkopir estate alone. Surely, tell me to what extent we can interact with the residents! We are experiencing extreme human resource capacity deficits. I believe this affects the success of community policing to a great extent”.*

The respondents were also asked if they thought that the current community policing activities that were in place were capable of preventing and controlling violent crime. Forty (40) respondents who constituted 35.4 % said they believed they were capable in that the activities increased interactions between the police and residents and this encouraged sharing of intelligence about crime as well as scaring away the criminals. They also reported that community policing meetings that were held would increase safety awareness among the residents. On the other hand, 73(64.6%) respondents disagreed that the activities were capable of preventing and controlling violent crime. They cited that residents had not developed close relationship with police in that police conducted themselves as professionals and did not want to involve residents, many people were not aware of existence of the activities and still felt that everybody should be concerned with their own security. It was reported that the violent crime rates were still very high which indicated that the activities did not yield the desired results.

The study also sought to establish whether the residents were free and comfortable in giving information on violent crime to the police. Most of the respondents, 107(94.7%), reported that the residents could not share with police for they did not trust and feared the police, the police were not accessible and that police harassed and talked badly to residents. They also reported that in several instances where one reported about a crime to police, the same person would be implicated to having been involved in the crime. This led many residents to keep away from giving any information to police. Only 13(11.5%) respondents agreed to the statement that the police took feedbacks from residents on issues concerning security and crime. They said that the police would make follow ups and take necessary actions. Majority, 100(88.5%) respondents said that the police would always ask residents to fuel the police vehicle if they wanted any response. They stated that police did not take any feedbacks from the residents and that their response was generally poor.

The OCS reported that community policing initiatives would have been perceived more positively by the residents if the police officers involved were thoroughly known by the residents. He pointed those constant transfers of officers from Kitengela Police station posed a challenge on acceptability of new police officers by the residents. He reported that communication by the police officers faced great challenge. He said,

*“police communication gadgets are highly limited in number in relation to the communication needs of police officers. This in many instances has sent officers to*

*use their mobile phones at their own expense to carry out official duties. The officers fears giving out their private mobile phone numbers to citizens because there have been cases of police attacks by criminals who usually tricks them and lures them to their traps through phone calls. The failure of police to give their contacts to the residents has resulted to strained relationship between them”.*

#### **4.6 Public Confidence and Community Policing**

Public trust and confidence is considered the cornerstone for public cooperation and the basis for police legitimacy in a democratic society (Rosenbaum, et al, 2005). In regard to public confidence and how it impacts on community policing, the respondents were asked if they had confidence that community policing activities would prevent violent crime. Out of all the respondents, 78(69.2%) agreed that community policing would be an effective way to prevent violent crime in that; it involved everybody and that getting to know one’s neighbors enhanced good relations and residents could easily identify the criminals. They said that if community policing was well organized and supported by all, every area would has a Nyumba Kumi representative/chairperson and information sharing would be enhanced. However, 35(31%) respondents disagreed. They reported that there had been cases where police sided with the criminals hence no action could be taken on them even when reported, resident’s lacked access to the chief and police as they did not have their contacts, police were harsh to residents, fear for public participation for fear of retaliation by criminals. They said that community policing had failed in that crime rates remained high despite its implementation.

**Table 4 3 Public Confidence in Community Policing initiative to Reduce Violent Crime**

<b>Public Confidence in Community Policing Initiative</b>	<b>Frequency (n)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly agree	14	12.4
Agree	12	10.6
Not at all	42	37.2
Disagree	8	7.1
Strongly disagree	39	34.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100</b>

On being asked whether they believed that members of community policing initiative did all that was expected of them to prevent violent crime, 39(34.5%) respondents strongly disagreed, 8(7.1) respondents disagreed, 42(37.2%) respondents reported that they did not know, 12(10.6%) respondents agreed and 14(12.4%) respondents strongly agreed.

The study also sought to establish if residents felt that police made efforts to know residents. Thirty two (32), 28.3% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 9(8%) respondents disagreed, 56(49.6%) respondents reported that they were not aware, 10(8.8%) respondents agreed while 6(5.3%) respondents strongly agreed.

**Table 4 4 Police Efforts to know Residents**

<b>Police Efforts to know Residents</b>	<b>Frequency (n)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Strongly agree	6	5.3
Agree	10	8.8
Not at all	56	49.6
Disagree	9	9
Strongly disagree	32	28.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>100</b>

Respondents were asked to rate the professional conduct of police officers. A few respondents, 5(4.4%) said it was excellent, 43 (38.1%) respondents reported it was good while 65(57.5%) respondents reported that it was poor. Respondents were asked whether police responded promptly when residents called for assistance. Only 15(13.3%) respondents agreed, 98(86.7%) respondents

disagreed giving reasons as; lack of transport for the police, police having many issues to attend to, reluctance and ignorance by police, police asking for bribery and poor relations between police and the residents. Those who agreed said that police put effort so as to; change people's mentality about the police, encourage closeness and public participation as well as police willingness to help. In relation to responding to calls by the residents, the O.CS stated that.

*“...we are facing a big challenge in regard to transport facilities. The station has only one vehicle that is usually in poor working condition. We have been allocated 10 liters of fuel a day (24hours) regardless of each day's activity. In most cases, this vehicle is either not working due to mechanical breakdown or has no fuel. It is not reliable and therefore our responses to incidents of crime are usually slow. We cannot match the speed and efficiency with which criminals escape from crime scenes”.*

Respondents were asked if they believed that police possessed proper skills to work with residents in prevention of violent crime. Forty four (44) which was 38.9% of the respondents agreed that police had proper skills in that police were trained and could be of great help if they responded to calls promptly. Majority, 69(61.9%) of respondents however did not believe that police had proper skills. They said that police lacked good interactive skills, poor communication skills, had failed to gain trust from residents and were corrupt.

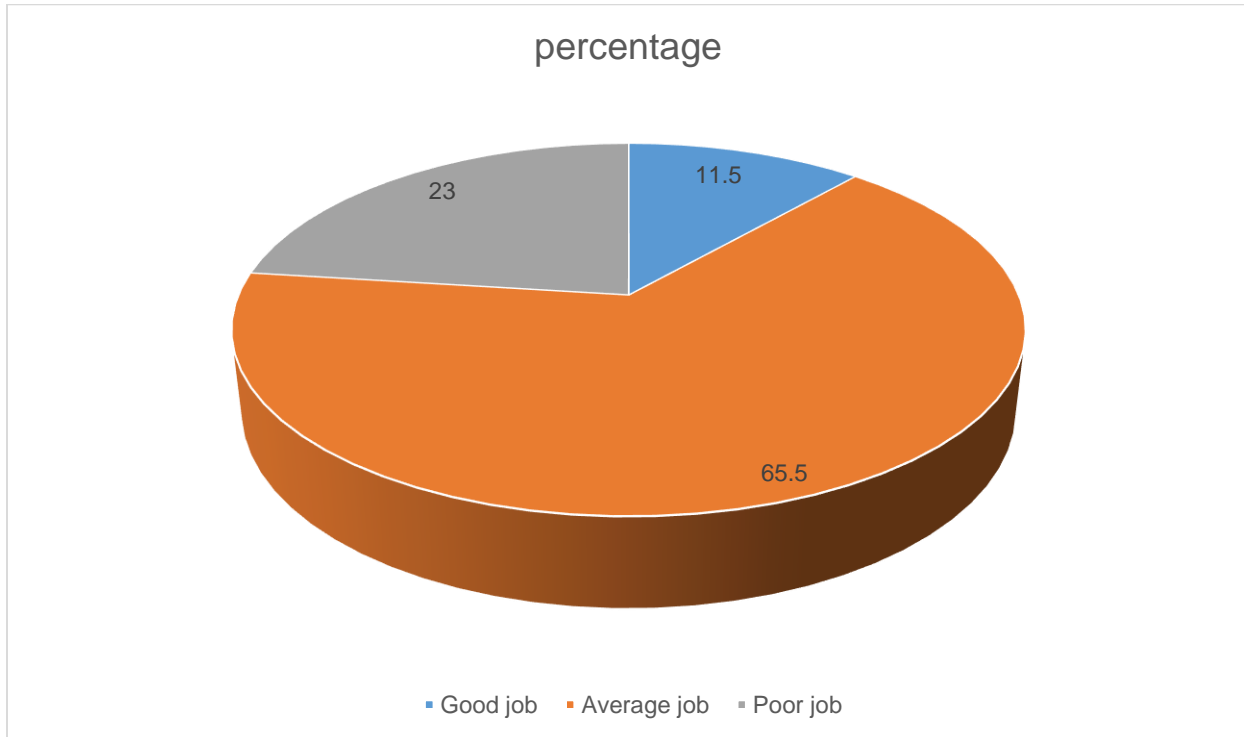
Policemen interviewed reported that in efforts to get closer to the residents, they attend meetings usually called by the OCS, visit various social places and sometimes without uniform so that residents could easily identify with them. The chairpersons on the other hand reported that they organized various meetings in the estate where they invited residents. They, however reported that attendance of those meetings by residents was very poor. They educated residents on need for closeness as neighbors and reporting of any crime to the authorities. The chairperson too reported that residents are less concerned with collective safety concerns. The Assistant Chief said that some residents expressed their discomforts in sharing information about criminals in the area since they felt that it was leaked back to the criminals who could attack them in revenge. Support for community policing initiatives was generally poor.

#### **4.7 Police-Public Relations and Community Policing**

Community policing seeks to build trust between police and the residents and influence the perceptions of residents. The study sought to know how residents related with the police's job by



asking them how they rated police in terms of approachability. Thirteen (13),11.5% of the respondents rated the job as good, 74(65.5%) respondents rated the job as average and 26(23%) respondents said they rated the police job as poor.



**Figure 4 3 Police Job Rating**

Respondents were also asked to give views on whether the police possessed qualities; integrity, service minded, good communication. Forty one (41) which was 36.3% of the respondents said that police had integrity while 72 (63.7%) respondents disagreed, 31 (27.4%) respondents believed that police were service minded while 82 (72.6%) respondent disagreed. On whether police possessed good communication skills, 24(21.2%) respondents agreed while 89(78.8 %) disagreed.

**Table 4 5 Qualities of Police**

Qualities of Police	Percentage (%)		Total (%)
	Yes	No	
Integrity	36.3	63.7	100
Service minded	27.4	72.6	100
Good communication skills	21.2	78.8	100

The study sought to establish whether community policing activities brought a greater sense of security to the residents. Forty two (42), 37.2 % of the respondents agreed while 71(62.8%) respondents disagreed. Those who agreed stated that community policing brought closeness between residents and police hence information sharing improved general security. The respondents who disagreed stated that most residents did not even know whether the activities existed. They also said that crime rates had remained high so community policing did not create any sense of security among the residents.

On whether they thought community policing had impacted on how residents viewed the police, 40(35.4%) respondents agreed while 73(64.6%) disagreed quoting that the residents still feared police. On whether the residents of Noonkopir estate were willing to work closely to prevent violent crime, the police officers and the OCS said that most residents did not want to give information about criminals to the police despite the fact that most criminals lived within the estate or were known to residents. The Police officers reported that crime trends would decrease if residents collaborated more with police. Their work as police would be more effective. One police officer stated,

*“kazi yetu itakuwa rahisi kama wakaazi wa hapa watashirikiana na sisi kupigana na uvunjaji wa sheria. Wanaoiba mapikipiki na kuua watu wamo huku tu estate lakini wananchi hawawezi kuwasema kwetu Crime zinaendelea tu kusumbua. Our work as police would be easy and effective if the residents here agreed to collaborate in fighting crime. Those who steal motorbikes and murderers lives among these residents but they (residents) are reluctant to give information. Crime continues to be a challenge”.*

About what they took as the main challenges affecting the effectiveness of community policing initiatives in Noonkorpri estate and Kitengela town in general, all the key informants cited that the initiatives and their objectives were not well known and embraced by the residents. This they said

was the major reason that crime levels remained high in the area. While the police felt that they played a major role in matters of violent crime, the assistant chief and the Nyumba Kumi chairpersons said their roles were relatively minor.

One police officer stated;

*“we as police officers work under conditions of service that are below standards. We work beyond the normal 7-8 hours schedule and we receive little pay. Police officers at the junior levels live in a shared single unit houses with no privacy. We also lack medical and insurance covers and if one is injured in the course of duty, officers or their families are not compensated in time. At the police station, there was only one computer available for use. Many of their operational and logistical functions like recordings and filing of information were being carried out manually. These issues demotivate police officers and hinder effectiveness in performance of our duties”.*

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter contains the summary, discussions, conclusions and recommendations of the study drawn from research findings and appropriate recommendations in relation to these findings. It also has suggestions for further research.

#### **5.2 Summary of Research Findings**

This study aimed at evaluating the impacts of community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town. Demographic characteristics of the study population were evaluated and analyzed. Conclusions will be drawn. The objectives included; finding out the role of public participation on community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town, assessing public perception on community policing in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town, investigating the importance of public confidence on community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town and finding out how the existing police-public relations influences community policing initiatives towards the prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town. Below follows the summary of the key findings of this research.

##### **5.2.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

The study established that most of the Noonkopir residents are aged between 39 years and below. Most of the residents are not employed or are self-employed with a monthly income of not more than 10,000 Kshs. A key respondent stated that unemployment and poverty were some of the factors that led to high rates of violent crime in the area. Most of the respondents also stated that they had never heard of community policing initiatives in the estate and only a few of those who were aware of the initiatives had actually participated. This was also confirmed by some of the key informants who reported that most of the residents of the estate were not willing to be involved in social activities. From these observations, the high rates of violent crime in Noonkopir estate can be attributed to poor economic status of a heterogeneous youth population residing in the area. Mobilization of such a group to engage in a collective security initiative will definitely be faced with numerous challenges. This is supported by social disorganization theory which states that

economic disadvantage, ethnic and racial heterogeneity resulted in community disorganization which then led to the emergence of high rates of crime and violence.

### **5.2.2 Public Participation and Community Policing**

The objective was to find out the role of public participation on community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town. Certain factors that tend to determine public participation in anti-crime groups were reviewed. These included; owning homes and having lived in the neighborhood for long, a sense of belonging to a neighborhood and ability to rely on neighbors in time of need.

The study found that the average years of living in the estate was 5 years where most residents lived in rented houses and considered the estate as just mere place to live. Only a few residents knew their neighbors well and majority stated that they could not distinguish their neighbors from strangers. This is because residents kept on shifting from one plot and estate to another. However, they all stated that they could call their neighbors for help in case of a problem. The research found that though most residents reported that they could call the police when they saw something suspicious, majority did not have contacts through which they could reach the police. It was also reported that police did not have adequate communication gadgets and were forced to use personal mobile phones severally. However, the police were not free to share their personal mobile numbers with the public due to security concerns. Most residents agreed that they would like to work closely with the police in prevention of crime in Kitengela town. However most respondents reported that they had not been involved in any activity that targeted to prevent violent crime in the past one year. In conclusion, public participation in community policing initiatives in Kitengela town was poor.

### **5.2.3 Public Perception and Community Policing**

The study established that most of the residents of Noonkopir estate perceived the police as disrespectful and not fair in the ways they treated the residents. They reported that police held poor communication and interactive skills, conducted no foot patrols, and were corrupt and harassed residents. The police officers also reported that they experienced serious human resource deficits despite the fact that they policed among large populations. This adversely affected their interactive capacities. It was also established that majority of the respondents felt that the community policing activities in the estate were not capable of preventing violent crime since the residents had not

developed close relationships with the police. Many residents were not aware of the activities as well and felt that everybody should be concerned with own security.

The study also established that most of the residents could not volunteer information to the police. They feared and did not trust the police. They reported that the police too did not get feedbacks from the residents on issues concerning security and crime. It can hence be concluded that the public held negative perceptions towards community policing initiatives and its impacts in prevention of violent crime.

#### **5.2.4 Public Confidence and Community Policing**

The study found that though majority of residents of Noonkopir estate agreed that community policing would be an effective way to prevent violent crime, the residents reported that the initiative was not well organized and supported in the estate. Cases of resident harassment by police, police colluding with the criminals, lack of access to the chiefs and the police and fear of retaliation by the criminals were found to negatively impact on confidence the residents had in community policing initiatives. Most residents reported the professional conduct of the police was poor; they did not respond to calls for assistance, made less efforts to know the residents. It was also reported by police that they lacked reliable means of transport and that disabled the rate at which they responded to calls for help from the residents. It was also reported that residents were not actively involved in community based initiatives. The responses confirmed that the results of community policing initiatives had not instilled confidence among the residents.

#### **5.2.5 Police-Public Relations and Community Policing**

The study found that most residents of Noonkopir estate held that police were not easily approachable, they did not conduct themselves with integrity, were not service-minded and did not possess good communication skills. It was also established that the residents did not perceive community policing initiatives as creating a sense of greater security. It had not impacted on the way residents viewed the police in that they still feared the police hence poor relations existed between them. This was confirmed by the police who reported that residents did not want to share intelligence on crime with the police. More so, poor conditions of service under which the police operate affects their service delivery to the public negatively. This causes more strains on the relationship between police and residents.

### **5.3 Conclusion of the Study**

The study found that though community policing initiative is being implemented in Noonkopir estate and general Kitengela town, it has not impacted positively on prevention of violent crime since the crime rates reportedly remains high. The initiative has not succeeded in creating social cohesion among neighbors. Public participation in the community policing initiatives was poor, residents perceived the police negatively, residents lacked confidence in the initiative and that the residents related poorly with the police. These factors have marred the extent to which community policing initiatives have succeeded in prevention of violent crime in Noonkopir estate and largely, Kitengela town.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

- The study recommends that there is need for more sensitization of the public on community policing initiatives; its objectives, operations and expectations.
- There is also need to persuade the public to participate in crime prevention and other social activities. Public participation should be encouraged.
- The police service should also embrace a culture of inclusivity so as to earn confidence, positive public perception and eventually public support. More resources should also be availed to the police service to enhance their service delivery.

#### **5.4.1 Recommendations for Further Research**

- It is recommendable that further research can be undertaken to evaluate the role of police and how it has impacted on community policing initiatives.
- Similar studies to this study can be conducted in various different places in the country to establish diverse challenges facing community policing initiatives.

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## APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

My name is Susan Kangaria, a student pursuing masters in criminology and social order at University of Nairobi. I am conducting a research on the impact of community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela Town, Kajiado County. I request you as a participant in this study to respond with honest to all the questions that I will ask you. I ensure you that this interview and your responses will strictly be used for the purpose of this research and high levels of confidentiality will be observed. No personal identification details about you as a respondent will be recorded.

### SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

1) Gender

Male [     ]

Female [     ]

2) Age

18yrs-28 yrs [     ]

29 yrs- 39 yrs [     ]

40 yrs-50 yrs [     ]

51 yrs and above [     ]

3) Employment details

Employed [     ]

Self-employed [     ]

Unemployed [     ]

4) Remuneration/generated income per month

Kshs. 10,000 and below [     ]

Kshs.11, 000-kshs.30, 000 [       ]

Kshs.31, 000-kshs.50, 000 [       ]

Kshs.51, 000-kshs.70, 000 [       ]

Kshs.71, 000 and above [       ]

- 5) Have you ever heard of community policing initiatives in Noonkopir Estate? From your own understanding, how is community policing initiatives supposed to work or what are they targeted to achieve?
- 6) How often have you been involved in any activity that is related to community policing initiatives? Are you aware of any meeting held in your neighborhood to address crime issues within the past year?

## **SECTION 2: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- 7) How many years have you lived in in Kitengela town?
- 8) Is the house you're residing in self-owned or rented? Do you consider Noonkopir Estate as your permanent residence or merely a place to live?
- 9) How well do you know your neighbours; their place of work and the nature of work they are involved in? If you experienced a problem, would you rely on your neighbor(s) for help?
- 10) Have you lived with your neighbours long enough to be able to easily distinguish a stranger in your neighborhood from someone who lives there?
- 11) Would you call police if you saw something suspicious going on in your neighborhood?
- 12) Have you or any one close to you experienced any form of violent crime; assault, burglary, murders among others in the recent past? Did you get to know of the perpetrators of those crimes? To whom did you report about the crime and the perpetrators?

13) You would like to work more closely with the police in measures put in place to prevent violent crime in Kitengela town.

Strongly agree [     ]

Agree [     ]

Not at all [     ]

Disagree [     ]

Strongly disagree [     ]

Give reasons for your answer.

14) What have you done personally within the past year to help prevent violent crime from occurring in your neighborhood? Within the past year, have you attended any meetings related to crime prevention in your neighborhood?

### **SECTION 3: PUBLIC CONFIDENCE**

15) Do you have confidence in the ability of the community policing initiative to prevent violent crime? Give reasons for your answer.

16) Members of community policing initiative do all what is expected of them to reduce violent crime in Kitengela Town.

Strongly disagree [     ]

Disagree [     ]

Don't know [     ]

Agree [     ]

Strongly agree [     ]

17) The police officers who work in your neighborhood area make an effort to get to know residents.

Strongly disagree [     ]

Disagree [     ]

Not aware [     ]

Agree [     ]

Strongly agree [     ]

18) How do you rate the professional conduct of police officers in relation to violent crime prevention?

Excellent [     ]

Good [     ]

Poor [     ]

Very poor [     ]

19) Do police respond promptly when the residents call for assistance?

Yes [     ]

No [     ]

What do you view as the reasons for their kind of responses?

20) Do you think the police officers possess the proper skills to work with residents in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela Town? Explain.



**SECTION 4: PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS**

21) In your own view, are police officers fair and respectful to residents?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

Give reasons for your answer...

22) Do you think that the current community policing activities in Kitengela town are capable of preventing violent crime?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

Give reasons for your answer.....

23) Do you believe that the police are sufficiently involving the residents in Kitengela town in the solving the crime problems?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

Give reasons.....

24) From your own view, do you think the residents of Kitengela town are free and comfortable to give information on violent crime to the police?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

Give reasons.....

25) The police in Kitengela town takes feedbacks from the residents on issues concerning violent crime and security in general.

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

If yes, do you think the police take appropriate actions in response to the concerns raised by the residents? Explain.

**SECTION 5: POLICE-PUBLIC RELATIONS**

26) In relation to being approachable and easy to talk to, how do you rate the police’s job in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town?

Good job [ ]

Average job [ ]

Poor job [ ]

27) Do you view the police in Kitengela town as possessing good qualities?

Integrity Yes [ ] No [ ]

Service-minded Yes [ ] No [ ]

Good communication Yes [ ] No [ ]

Others specify ....

28) Are you of the view that community policing activities bring a greater sense of security to residents of Kitengela town?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

Give reasons.....

29) Do you think community policing activities has had any impact on how residents of Kitengela town views the police

Yes [     ]

No [     ]

Give reasons.....

## APPENDIX II: KEY INFORMANT GUIDE

My name is Susan Kangaria, a student pursuing masters in criminology and social order at University of Nairobi. I am conducting a research on the impact of community policing initiatives in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela Town, Kajiado County. The study has picked Noonkopir Estate as a representative site of Kitengela town, I request you as a participant in this study to respond with honest to all the questions that I will ask you. I ensure you that this interview and your responses will strictly be used for the purpose of this research and high levels of confidentiality will be observed. No personal identification details about you as a respondent will be recorded.

- 1) Are you aware of a community policing initiative that is on-going in Noonkopir Estate of Kitengela Town? If yes, what do you consider the community policing initiatives' priority?
- 2) What do you think should be the focus of community policing initiatives in Noonkopir Estate and Kitengela town in general?
- 3) Do you as a stakeholder in community policing initiative make an effort to get to know the residents in the areas you are assigned to? Give various ways in which you interact with the residents in Noonkopir Estate? Do you think the interactions enhance the success of community policing initiative in prevention of violent crime in the estate?
- 4) Do you think most residents of Noonkopir Estate be willing to work more closely with you to prevent violent crime? What is your opinion on the attitude of the estate's residents towards the on-going community policing initiative in the estate and Kitengela Town in general?
- 4) Describe the relationship between the police and residents of Noonkopir estate. Do you think by residents of Noonkopir Estate working closer with police officers in community policing initiative would significantly reduce violent crime in the town?
- 5) You as police officers would perform more effectively in prevention of violent crime if you could make a greater effort to learn about residents' concerns. (for police officers)

Strongly agree [     ]

Agree [     ]

- Not sure [    ]
- Disagree [    ]
- Strongly disagree [    ]

6) What do you think are the main challenges affecting the effectiveness of community policing initiative in relation to violent crimes in the area? Suggest any change you feel can be introduced to the existing community policing initiatives to make them more effective in curbing violent crimes.

7) How do you perceive your role in prevention of violent crime in Kitengela town?

- Major role [    ]
- Moderate role [    ]
- Minor role [    ]
- Not playing any role [    ]

**APPENDIX III : AUTHORIZATION LETTER**



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**  
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21/6/2019

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**RE: SUSAN KANGARIA - C50/63632/2010**

Through this letter, I wish to confirm that the above named is a bonafide postgraduate student at the Department of Sociology & Social Work, University of Nairobi. She has presented her project proposal entitled; **“Impact of Community Policing Initiatives on the Prevention & Control of Violent Crime: A Case Study of Kitengela Town- Kajiado County.”**

**Susan** is required to collect data pertaining to the research problem from the selected organization to enable her complete her thesis which is a requirement of the Masters degree.

Kindly give her any assistance she may need.

Thank you

Prof. C.B.K. Nzioka  
Chairman, Department of Sociology & Social Work