Title Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Kirinyaga County –Kenya

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Abstract: **Community policing was first initiated in London in 1829 by Metropolitan Police District. The British parliament hoped to address the soaring crime rate in and around the nation's capital when it was growing. Community policing was also initiated in South Africa in the early 1990's. It was aimed at democratizing and legitimizing the police. Later there was a shift towards improving service delivery and tackling crime issues. The initiative succeeded in building trust between citizens and the police. Community policing is a Government funded initiative built on the premise that everyone should be working to reduce the fear of crime. According to Kenya Police data across all counties in Kenya who have implemented community policing revealed that there have been a raise in crime levels in Kirinyaga County while in counties like Nakuru where community policing is implemented, the level of crime has fallen. In Kirinyaga County crime levels have been raising for the last three years despite presence of community policing practiced as Nyumba Kumi Initiative hence the choice for research. This research work is focused on the use of community policing as a method for crime reduction in Kirinyaga County of Central Kenya. This research study was guided by the following objectives: to analyze the effectiveness of joint community-police patrols in prevention of crime in Kirinyaga County, to find out the effectiveness of youth vigilante groups as a means of crime prevention in the County and to analyze the role played by community courts process to reduce crimes in the county. The researcher employed descriptive survey research design using both qualitative and quantitative approach. A Sample of two hundred community members picked from ten wards out of twenty wards of the County making fifty percent from the county words were sampled, with joint patrol groups, youth vigilante groups, officers commanding police stations within the county and administrative officers as the respondents. The respondents were selected through cluster and purposive sampling methods comprising of government security agents. The questionnaires were distributed to the relevant respondents, filled in, collected and analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics and presented in form of tables, charts and graphs. The data was analyzed using various statistical soft-wares such as Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), and Microsoft Excel. These quantitative data were complimented and triangualed with qualitative data from focus group discussions and key informant interviews. The findings indicate that joint police-community patrols as well as the engagement of vigilante groups and community courts have contributed to crime prevention in Kirinyaga County. Between the three areas of focus, the court process was found to less effective. The people of Kirinyaga County will benefit from the information resulting on from this research. The study may brought out the areas that may need more research, education and attitude change towards community policing and management measures to be put in place to reduce crime in future. The research is significant to the government of Kenya in crime prevention and management, The study is also important for the other 47 counties of Kenya in managing crime rhrough cooperation wth members of the public. Finally the study will benefit the county government and people of Kirinyaga County by contributing to their security through community policing and crime prevention. Community policing in Kirinyaga County will help to inform the Kenya government and other counties on the success of crime prevention efforts and best methods of improving community policing.**

I. INTRODUCTION

The study sought to assess the role of community policing on crime prevention in Kirinyaga County Kenya. Crime in Kirinyaga County had become too complex and had experienced a high level of crime which the regular police crime control methods were not able to manage. This alarmed the local authorities and security agents and resulted in the adoption of community policing measures as an effort to curb the escalating crime. This study was conducted in response to the new measures taken to control crime in Kirinyaga County. Community policing is based on the understanding that people in communities know each other well and are able to identify law breakers but chose to remain silent to protect their relatives and friends. Under

1.1 Background of the Study

Community policing, according to the dictionary is a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage. Community is also defined as a social, religious, occupational, or other group sharing common characteristics or interests and perceived or perceiving itself as distinct in some respect from the larger society within which it exists.

Policing is defined as a course or principle of action adopted or proposed by a government, party, business, or individual….. . A leading policy and practice publication aimed at connecting law enforcement leaders, police researchers, analysts and policy makers, this peer-reviewed journal will contain critical analysis and commentary on a wide range of topics including current law enforcement policies, police reform, political and legal developments, training and education, patrol and investigative operations,

accountability, comparative police practices, and human and civil rights. Therefore, Community Policing is the system of allocating police officers to particular areas so that they become familiar with the local inhabitants.

Crime is an action or omission that constitutes an offense that may be prosecuted by the state and is punishable by law. Prevention is the action of stopping something from happening or arising.

"Prevention is the first imperative of justice" (United Nations document S/2004/616, para. 4). "Crime Prevention comprises strategies and measures that seek to reduce the risk of crimes occurring, and their potential harmful effects on individuals and society, including fear of crime, by intervening to influence their multiple causes."

Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social order and fear of crime. (Kenneth J. 1999). Community policy is aimed at ensuring that community members take the forefront in initiating plans, programs and policies so as to reduce crime. There have been many policies initiated worldwide to curb insecurity. Community policing was first initiated in London by Metropolitan Police District. The British parliament hoped to address the soaring crime rate in and around the nation's capital when it was growing. Citizens were to be familiar with each other and this was to enable them to recognize suspicious persons or crime activity. The citizens were also able to communicate with the police in case of any incident. This greatly helped to deter criminals from committing crimes in the immediate vicinity.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, America community policing developed along lines almost similar to those of London police. Most U.S.A cities had already established a police department where they adopted paramilitary structures. Officers used to wear distinctive blue uniforms and patrolled the assigned beats. However, unlike in London, the officers carried guns and were under command of politically appointed local captains. (Jerome H. 1976) Community policing was also initiated in South Africa in the early 1990's. It was aimed at democratizing and legitimizing the police. Later there was a shift towards improving service delivery and tackling crime issues. The initiative succeeded in building trust between citizens and the police. The police shall be guided by the belief that they are accountable to society in rendering their policing services and shall therefore conduct themselves so as to secure and retain the respect and approval of the public. Through such accountability and friendly, effective and prompt service, the police shall endeavor to obtain the operation of the public whose partnership in the task of crime control and prevention is essential". (Peace Accord of South Africa 1999).

In Tanzania, a national wide, grassroots at village level system known as `Nyumba Kumi` was adopted. This ensured that the police and Immigration Officers knew precisely who was staying in which hotel, who was renting and living in which house, who owned which property, and who was moving in and out of the villages. No aliens were to rent a house in Tanzania, stay in a hotel or arrive at a village without the Immigration and police knowing about it in 24 hours. They were even supposed to keep records of such people. Community policing has become the new orthodoxy for police officers; it is the only form of policing available for anyone who seeks to improve police operations, management, or relations with the public." (Eck and Rosenbaum, 1994: 3-4). The system was to work by appointing trusted and vetted people from the smallest village level. Most elders who were already organized as councils were in charge of monitoring the ten houses, each at a minimum, thus the name Nyumba Kumi. Any stranger especially aliens who arrived at a particular house, home, hotel or a guest house, the local Nyumba Kumi council was to be informed instantly and the news was to be passed on to the Immigration Officers.

Kenya has adopted the Nyumba Kumi initiative from Tanzania among other strategies used in Community policing in Kenya like the Youth Vigilante groups, community court system and joint patrols. This model has been proposed as the solution for criminal behavior and terrorism. The initiative will also encourage Kenyans to interact and share information about each other. They are also expected to monitor security threats and provide information to the local administration and security organs. Using measuring levels of neighborhood this will ensure safety and public satisfaction. Although police are still responsible for vigorous and impartial enforcement of law and life threatening emergencies, community policing is a joint police and society wide focus. Realizing that police alone cannot solve the problems of crime we have gone a long way towards achieving these goals."(Rhonda J.2000)

In Kirinyaga County, the most common crimes according to the Kenya Police records (Kenya Police Report 2012 to 2014) are robberies with violence, shop lifting and rape. The police data indicates that there are at least three robberies per day, two shop lifting and one rape per day. Consequently, Kirinyaga was rated second worst crime prone counties in Kenya. It is this high rate of crime that necessitated the need to carry out research in Kirinyaga County. These crimes are likely to be committed by people leaving within the county and therefore involving the community that could probably help prevent the crimes. This study on community policing and its effects in crime prevention brought out the strengths and weaknesses that require attention and action by the Kirinyaga County government and the national government..

II. LITRETURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework:

2.1.1 The research adopted the Social Bond Theory to guide the study.

The Social Bond theory was first expounded by Hirschi in 1969. Social Bond theory, that later developed into the Social Control Theory, has historically been an interesting way of approaching social problems and how we in turn explain them. Before one can apply the Social Bond theory, they must first have a firm understanding of its definition, which can be accurately described by Hirschi (1969:16) as, "…elements of social bonding include attachment to families, commitment to social norms and institutions (school, employment), involvement in activities, and the belief that these things are important". This theory is rooted and derived from the General Theory of Crime. The basic difference between the General Theory of Crime and Hirschi's (1969) Social Bond Theory is the focus on peers and peer groups of individuals. The four basic elements of social bond theory are attachment, commitment, involvement in conventional versus deviant or criminal activities, and lastly the common value system within an individual's society or subgroup. Attachment is described as the level of values and or norms that an individual holds in society. Attachment is especially important when it come to the person's parental figures. . According to Hirschi (1969) other attachments, such as school, play a tremendous role in conventional society. School has tended to be a middle to upper class involvement since it was first created. The middle class children tend to make fun of or demoralize the lower class children. This treatment also does not just come from the child it also comes directly from the institution, through the teacher. In combination with each other the person starts to resent school at the earliest point. This resentment also hinders the continuation of further education. This comes full circle to the lower class standard of living for generations to come (Hirschi, 1969). Next is commitment, this can be described as the level of commitment that an individual has to abide by legal behavior (Burton et al, 1995). The norms and values taught to us as an adolescent should be to obey how society works in normal terms. From very early in our lives we hopefully learn the difference between "right" and "wrong". This understanding has an enormous effect on how we turn out and set our place in normal society. For example, if a child is raised in a home where drugs are bought, sold, and used regularly, then that child has a greater chance of having involvement with drugs in the future. Also, the "bond" between mother, father, and child in a normal nuclear family, is very strong, this in turn has made a blue print of an entire adult life on the child. Third, is a person's choice to get involved in conventional versus deviant behavior. may occur Durkheim (1969:17):

2.1.2 Foundation of Community Policing

The foundations of successful community policing strategy are the close, mutually beneficial ties between police and community members. Community policing consists of two complementary core components, community partnership and problem solving. To develop community partnership, police must develop positive relationships with the community, must involve the community in the quest for better crime control and prevention, and must pool their resources with those of the community to address the most urgent concerns of community members. Problem solving is the process through which the specific concerns of communities are identified and through which the most appropriate remedies to abate these problems are found.

Community policing involves Local government officials, social agencies, schools, church groups, business people and all those who work and live in the community share a stake in community policing. The community and other stake holders share responsibility for finding workable solutions to problems which affect the safety and security of the community.

The goal of community policing is to reduce crime and disorder by carefully examining the characteristics of problems in neighborhoods and then applying appropriate problem-solving remedies. The "community" for which a patrol officer is given responsibility should be a small, well-defined geographical area. Beats should be configured in a manner that preserves, as much as possible, the unique geographical and social characteristics of neighborhoods while still allowing efficient service.

Patrol officers are the primary providers of police services and have the most extensive contact with community members. In community policing efforts, they will provide the bulk of the daily policing needs of the community, and they will be assisted by immediate supervisors, other police units, and appropriate government and social agencies. Upper level managers and command staff will be responsible for ensuring that the entire organization backs the efforts of patrol officers.

Effective community policing depends on optimizing positive contact between patrol officers and community members. Patrol cars are only one method of conveying police services. Police departments may supplement automobile patrols with foot, bicycle, scooter, and horseback patrols, as well as adding "mini-stations" to bring police closer to the community. Regular community meetings and forums will afford police and community members an opportunity to air concerns and find ways to address them.

Officers working long-term assignments on the same shift and beat will become familiar figures to community members and will become aware of the day-to-day workings of the community. This increased police presence is an initial move in establishing trust and serves to reduce fear of crime among community members, which, in turn, helps create neighborhood security. Fear must be reduced if community members are to participate actively in policing. People will not act if they feel that their actions will jeopardize their safety.

Although the delivery of police services is organized by geographic area, a community may encompass widely diverse cultures, values, and concerns, particularly in urban settings. A community consists of more than just the local government and the neighborhood residents. Churches, schools, hospitals, social groups, private and public agencies, and those who work in the area are also vital members of the community. In addition, those who visit for cultural or recreational purposes or provide services to the area are also concerned with the safety and security of the neighborhood. Including these "communities of interest" in efforts to address problems of crime and disorder can expand the resource base of the community.

Concerns and priorities will vary within and among these communities of interest. Some communities of interest are long-lasting and were formed around racial, ethnic, occupational lines, or a common history, church, or school. Others form and reform as new problems is identified and addressed. Interest groups within communities can be in opposition to one another—sometimes in violent opposition. Intercommunity disputes have been common in large urban centers, especially in times of changing demographics and population migrations.

These multiple and sometimes conflicting interests require patrol officers to function not only as preservers of law and order, but also as skillful mediators. Demands on police from one community of interest can sometimes clash with the rights of another community of interest. For example, a community group may oppose certain police tactics used to crack down on gang activity, which the group believes may result in discriminatory arrest practices. The police must not only protect the rights of the protesting group, but must also work with all of the community members involved to find a way to preserve neighborhood peace. For this process to be effective, community members must communicate their views and suggestions and back up the negotiating efforts of the police. In this way, the entire community participates in the mediation process and helps preserve order. The police must encourage a spirit of cooperation that balances the collective interests of all citizens with the personal rights of individuals.

The conflicts within communities are as important as the commonalities. Police must recognize the existence of both to build the cooperative bonds needed to maintain order, provide a sense of security, and control crime. Police must build lasting relationships that encompass all elements of the community and center around the fundamental issues of public safety and quality of life. The key to managing this difficult task is trust.

Establishing and maintaining mutual trust is the central goal of the first core component of community policing— community partnership. Police recognize the need for cooperation with the community. In the fight against serious crime, police have encouraged community members to come forth with relevant information. In addition, police have spoken to neighborhood groups, participated in business and civic events, worked with social agencies, and taken part in educational and recreational programs for school children. Special units have provided a variety of crisis intervention services. So how then do the cooperative efforts of community policing differ from the actions that have taken place previously? The fundamental distinction is that, in community policing, the police become an integral part of the community culture, and the community assists in defining future priorities and in allocating resources. The difference is substantial and encompasses basic goals and commitments.

Community partnership means adopting a policing perspective that exceeds the standard law enforcement emphasis. This broadened outlook recognizes the value of activities that contribute to the orderliness and well-being of a neighborhood. These activities could include: helping accident or crime victims, providing emergency medical services, helping resolve domestic and neighborhood conflicts (e.g., family violence, landlord-tenant disputes, or racial harassment), working with residents and local businesses to improve neighborhood conditions, controlling automobile and pedestrian traffic, providing emergency social services and referrals to those at risk (e.g., adolescent runaways, the homeless, the intoxicated, and the mentally ill), protecting the exercise of constitutional rights (e.g., guaranteeing a person's right to speak, protecting lawful assemblies from disruption), and providing a model of citizenship (helpfulness, respect for others, honesty, and fairness).

These services help develop trust between the police and the community. This trust will enable the police to gain greater access to valuable information from the community that could lead to the solution and prevention of crimes, will engender support for needed crime-control measures, and will provide an opportunity for officers to establish a working relationship with the com- munity. The entire police organization must be involved in enlisting the cooperation of community members in promoting safety and security.

According to Moore (et al. 1988), the effective mobilization of community support requires different approaches in different communities. Establishing trust and obtaining cooperation are often easier in middle-class and affluent communities than in poorer communities, where mistrust of police may have a long history. Building bonds in some neighborhoods may involve supporting basic social institutions (e.g., families, churches, schools) that have been weakened by pervasive crime or disorder. The creation of viable communities is necessary if lasting alliances that nurture cooperative efforts are to be sustained. Under community policing, the police become both catalysts and facilitators in the development of these communities.

2.1.3 The Need for Community Policing

Community policing is the most popular and the most demanded policing method among law enforcement authorities, and has been implemented by many countries in

recent years. Its adoption and implementation was expected to bring a paradigm shift in the management of public security, with the introduction of partnership and teamwork between the security agencies and the community in a problem solving policing. Despite the expected benefits of the strategy in policing and the success in the pilot sites, there are still major obstacles to security reform in Kenya. Crime rates are still high, there is wide spread accusation of corruption, and policing approaches and actors are often politicized. Kirinyaga County in particular, has experienced communal clashes since the advent of multi-party politics in the early 1990s. Crime statistics indicate that the County recorded a total of 475 crime cases in the last twelve months with the prevalent crimes being assault, offences against the person, breakings, rape/attempted rape, general stealing and stock theft. (Source: Kirinyaga County Crime Statistics, 2013. Illicit brews cases were also reported in the county. As such, much of the expected benefits of Community Policing are yet to be realized in the County. When Community Policing was officially launched in Kenya in 2005, it was lauded as the solution to Kenya's policing problems. Furthermore, community policing was supposed to introduce partnership and problem-solving approaches aimed at improving the relations between the security agencies and the community and to subsequently improve quality of police services, notably reduced crime levels. However, the fruits of the much praised and publicized strategy have not been forthcoming in many parts of Kenya where it was rolled out, Kirinyaga County included. Crime levels are still high.

2.1.4 Implementation Process

According to Sparrow, Malcolm K. 1988, the implementation of a community policing strategy is a complicated and multifaceted process that, in essence, requires planning and managing for change. Community policing cannot be established through a mere modification of existing policy; profound changes must occur on every level and in every area of a police agency—from patrol officer to chief executive and from training to technology. A commitment to community policing must guide every decision and every action of the department.

Implementation plans varries from agency to agency and from community to community. The most appropriate implementation method will depend, in part, on internal and external conditions facing the agency. For example, a chief executive who comes into an organization that is ripe for change at a time when confidence in the police is low may find that the organization will respond favorably to innovative policies. On the other hand, a chief executive who inherits a smoothly running organization may find it more difficult to implement change.

One factor that will affect the approach to implementation is the extent of change that is required. In some agencies, current operations procedures and management practices may already conform closely to community policing, while in others extensive changes may be necessary. This will affect how a chief guides the organization toward the goals of community policing. A thorough analysis of current programs helps to identify what will be required to integrate community partnership and problem-solving strategies and expanded crime control and prevention tactics with preexisting policies. Identifying priorities for change will also permit police agencies to establish interim milestones for monitoring progress.

Another essential element of successful implementation is communication. Communication must be timely, comprehensive, and direct. The chief executive must explain the concepts of community policing thoroughly to the entire police organization, the local political leadership, public and private agencies, and the community at large. All participants must understand their role in community policing efforts. Regular communication will encourage active participation and decrease resistance and opposition. Lines of communication must be maintained both within the police organization and between the police and participants within the community. Successful implementation requires the smooth flow of information. The implementation of a community policing strategy must be a dynamic and flexible process. Ongoing input, evaluation, and feedback from both inside and outside the police organization are essential to making community policing work. All phases of community policing implementation must be carefully planned and properly timed to maximize success; even good ideas can fail if they are poorly executed.

Planning must be responsive to changing needs, conditions, and priorities. A strong research and planning capability that is open to suggestion and criticism will allow refinements and revisions to be made during the implementation process. Such flexibility is crucial to the success of community policing. There are numerous ways in which police management can steer agencies toward community policing. This chapter offers guidelines that can be adapted to the circumstances of different organizations and communities.

The long-term success of community policing in transforming the law enforcement profession depends on the willingness of local governments to pursue effective integration. Elected and appointed administrators must understand the law enforcement agency's implementation strategy and participate in its development.

Collaboration between the police agency and local government officials is essential, since officers and supervisors will routinely seek assistance from local government departments for services from sanitation to health. Regular communication with the heads of government agencies will help secure their assistance and will allow them to prepare their personnel for the additional service requests that will be received.. According to Couper and Lobitz (1991), there is no "right" way to implement community policing.

Each of the following three approaches has strengths and weaknesses.

2.1.5 Planning and implementing.

This method entails developing a detailed long-range plan, with tasks and timelines, and assigning officers to execute the plan. It can also be done as the planning process continues, the agency begins to implement certain aspects of the program. This method allows the agency to get started quickly, involves more personnel at the outset, and permits future planning to benefit from feedback. The third option is for an agency with little preparation or knowledge of the nature of community policing. This process is continuous, with each re-evaluation cycle advancing the idea of community policing a bit further within the organization. This approach assumes that a limited knowledge of community policing may prevent agencies from initially planning in a meaningful way

2.1.6 Challenges to community policing

According to Cordner (1991), community policing may encounter resistance from within the agency or the public as restructuring occurs. During the implementation of any change, employees may feel threatened and seek ways to resist. This will be especially true if community policing is incorrectly perceived as being "soft on crime" and as making social service activities the patrol officers' primary responsibility. A critical aspect of implementation is the analysis of community policing efforts, both in terms of achieving necessary change within the organization itself and accomplishing external goals (such as, establishing working relationships with the community and reducing levels of crime, fear, and disorder). Ongoing analysis meets a number of fundamental needs.

Evaluating the impact of community policing is critical for many reasons. Key decision makers must be able to judge the strategy's impact and cost- effectiveness, and the police organization must be able to measure the success or failure of its policies and activities. As with implementation methods, analysis measures varies depending on the size of the organization and the nature of its current policies. This can be done through ongoing monitoring and evaluation process.

2.1.7 Significance of community policing

An effective community policing strategy will reduce neighborhood crime, decrease citizens' fear of crime, and enhance the quality of life in the community. An important goal of community policing is to provide higher quality service to neighborhoods; therefore, customer satisfaction becomes an important measure of effectiveness. The perception of progress among community members and ongoing feedback from all elements of the community are essential parts of the analysis process. Randomly and routinely conducted surveys will inform the agency of the public view of police performance, the level of fear and concern, and will make the agency aware of the extent to which community members feel as if they are participants in the community policing effort. Community policing provides efficiency to the delivery of security to the citizens of a particular town or city. According to Moore and Stephens (1991), in a decentralized policing organization, neighborhood patrol officers are responsible for the daily policing needs of the community, with guidance and backing from supervisors. Their long-term shifts and neighborhood patrol assignments give them the opportunity to function more efficiently and successfully.

2.1.8 Community Court System and Crime Prevention

Community courts created will play arole in expediting justice urgently within communities traditionally; courts have not been concerned with neighborhood conditions or solving community problems. In a typical centralized court, low-level crimes are treated as isolated incidents rather than an ongoing quality-of-life problem. In contrast, community courts promote constructive responses to low-level crime and provide service and feedback to the community (Feinblatt et al., 1998; Sviridoff et al., 1997; Feinblatt and Berman, 1997; Kelling and Coles, 1996; Anderson, 1996; Rottman, 1996). Over the past five years, a growing number of urban jurisdictions have begun to rethink the roles that community-focused courts can play in responding to neighborhood problems. This stems largely from national interest in the experience of Community Court, launched in October 1993 by a coalition of civic and government leaders. Community Court arraigns misdemeanants arrested for quality-of-life crimes in the neighbor hoods. Community courts stem partly from the effort in the 1970's to create neighborhood justice centers to bring local dispute resolution capacity to communities, often as an alternative to formal case processing (McGillis, 1997). Community courts bring both formal court processing and informal dispute resolution mechanisms into urban neighborhoods. Housing a broad array of social services on-site, they also promote voluntary service participation among defendants and community members.

Community courts give neighborhood members a voice in the justice system through advisory boards, which offer input into programs and identify pressing community needs, and community conditions panels, which draw together local stakeholders to develop solutions to hot spots of crime and disorder.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Research methodology-The researcher used quantitative and qualitative research methods to conduct the study.

3.1-Research Design -The study pursued descriptive and survey research design

3.2 Study Area- The study was conducted in Kutus and Kagio in Kirinyaga County

Target Population. A study population of 600 entities was used in the study. The population was derived from

government officials, security officials, administrators, members of the public, members of the civil society,and community members.

3.3 Sampling technique and sample size A sample of 200 respondents was used in this study. Simple Random Sampling and purposive sampling techniques were used to select the respondents in this case.

Sample Selection

The study used simple random sampling to identify 5 wards respondents (50%) of the study population of 10 wards which participated in focused group discussion. 12 participants, 6 female, 6 male, youth and elders from each ward. Key Informant Interviews (5 key informants from five wards: 2 Officers commanding station, 2 area chief, 2 opinion leaders, vigilante leader.

Table 3.1. Sample size

Wards	Frequency sample size
Kabare	20
Thiba	20
Njukiine	20
Ngariama	20
Inoi	20
Karumandi	20
Mukure	20
Kiine	20
Tebere	20
Kariti	20
Total	200

3.5-Data Collection Method- Data was collected using primary sources. Questionnaires and interviews schedules were used to collect data from the respondents

3.6 Data Analysis Techniques Quantitative data was annalysed using ANOVA while qualitative data was analyzed using content data analysis method

3.7 Ethical Issues. Ethical issues were observed during the study.

IV. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS.

Response Rate

Out of 200 questionnaires sent out to youths, the positive response rate was 180 representing 90 %. This was a very good response rate which was more than two thirds of all the respondents.

Awareness of the Initiative

It critically analyzed how dissemination of the Community Policing and how it plays role of curbing insecurity in the grass-root level.

4.1 Citizen Awareness on Community Policing

Table 4.1 Citizen Awareness on Community Policing

Ward	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Ngariama	37	20.4
Tembere Ward	45	27.5
Kabare	20	10.9
Kiine	15	8.6
Mukure	5	2.5
Karumandi	12	6.5
Central Inoi	15	8.1
Njukiine	6	3.0
Thiba	17	9.4
Kariti	8	3.1
TOTAL	180	100

The findings revealed that the overall levels of awareness slightly differ in various wards. Tebere ward has the highest level of awareness followed by Ngariama and the least being Kiine ward. The studies also show that there was a difference in awareness of the Community policing specifically Nyumba Kumi Initiative in the different regions.

4.1.1 Individual Awareness of Community Policing

Table 4.2 Individual Awareness about community policing

	No. Of Person	Percentage
Aware	137	76.1
Not Aware	43	23.9
TOTAL	180	100

Table 4.2, Results are an indication that community members are aware of community policing with 76.1% (137) of the sampled population of 180 persons showing awareness and only 23.9% (43) showing an unawareness.

Demographic Information

Table 4.3 Gender of the respondent

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	62	40%
Female	128	60%

The study sought to determine the gender of the respondent and therefore requested to indicate their gender. The study found that majority of the respondent as shown in the table above 60 % were females and whereas 40% of the respondents were males. This is an indication that both genders were involved in this study and thus the finding of the study did not suffer from gender inequality.

Distribution of Household by Occupation

Table 4.4 Distribution of household by Occupation

Occupation	Frequency (F)	Percentage %
Farmers	118	65.3
Civil servants	7	3.9
Business	30	16.7
Skilled	10	5.5
Unskilled	15	8.3
Total	180	100

Majority of households who participated in the study were farmers 118 (65.6%), business men/women 30 (16.7%), unskilled 15 (8.3%), skilled 10 (5.5%), and civil servants 7 (3.9%) by occupation. This shows that most of the residents stay within the county undertaking farming thus are directly involved in the various aspects of community policing like youth vigilante, nyumba kumi initiative and community court systems.

Levels in Which Community Courts Helps Reduce Crime in Kirinyaga County

Table 4.5 Community courts and crime prevention

Response	Frequency	%
Very great extent	108	60
Great extent	45	25
Moderate extent	23	12.8
Low extent	4	2.2
Total	180	100.0

In Table 4.5 above, 60 % of the respondents consider to a very greater extent community courts have reduced the levels of crimes in Kirinyaga County, 25 % considers it to a great extent, 12.8% to a moderate extent and 2.2% to a low extent. This implies that to a reasonable extent the respondents agree that the community court systems have influenced and reduced the rates of crime in Kirinyaga County. This is in agreement with Mwaura (2014) who also found out that community court systems enhance basic mutual trust between the community, the police and other stakeholders.

Community Court Systems can be interpreted therefore to influence the cause, spread and control of crimes. This is manifested in terms of participation whereby the community members have been empowerment and capacity built hence they could interrogate, seek for accountability and criticize bad behaviors in the community and the County as a whole according to Njiri (2014).

4.2 Effectiveness Community Policing in Crime Prevention

This section looks at community policing and its effectiveness on crime prevention which is one of the objectives of the study. This section is divided into 3 parts namely: the community partnership and crime, preventive-strategy, and problem-solving strategies and crime.

This section looks at community partnership and crime. The frequency of the involvement of the community in policing practices in the households 'jurisdiction is given in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Frequency of the involvement of the community members in policing

Practicing Involvement	Frequency (F)	Percentage %
Very often	80	44.4
Often	42	23.3
Occasional	54	30
Rarely	11	2.3
Total	180	100

Table 4.6 above indicates the frequency of community involvement in policing at 44.4% being very often. This confirms that the frequency of community policing by the community is high compared by only 2.3% whose response of community policing gave a verdict of rarely. This was in accordance to an analysis by Ngari (2014).

Table 4.7 Statement on community partnership and crime

Community partnership	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Agree
We work with the community towards a common interest.	12.9	18.7	68.4
The community is interested in solving crime problems just as police are.	51.3	40.9	7.8
Community is aware of community policing and the community has enhanced crime prevention.	9.8	38.9	51.3
Confidence between community and police.	27.5	41.5	31.0
Community is familiar with common trends of crime acts due to frequent notices from the police.	26.4	50.8	22.8
Trust between the community and police in crime prevention	81.9	9.3	8.8

The results in Table 4.8 indicate that, majority of the households (81.9%) strongly disagreed that trust between the police and the community has enhanced crime prevention, while a significant number of participants (31.1%)strongly disagreed that there is confidence between community and police makes reporting of crime easy, as statements regarding community partnership and crime. Table 4.8 also reveals that a large proportion of the respondents agreed with; the community is familiar with common trends of crime acts due to frequent notices and through community policing regarding community partnership and crime. However, a large percentage of the respondents agreed that they work with the community towards a common interest (68.4%), the community is interested in solving crime problems. There is little trust and confidence the community has in police officers as 81.9% disagreed and only 8.8% agreed. This was in accordance to the findings by Maina (2014).

Youth Vigilante and Crime Prevention

Table 4.8: Extent that youth vigilante influence crime prevention in Kirinyaga County

Response	Frequency	%
Very great extent	90	50
Great extent	63	35
Moderate extent	23	12.8
Low extent	4	2.2
Total	180	100

Table 4.8 shows that 50 % of the respondents consider youth vigilante to a very greater extent influence on crime prevention in Kirinyaga County, 35 % considers it to a great extent, 12.8% to a moderate extent and 2.2% to a low extent. This implies that to a reasonable extent the respondents agree that the levels of crime in the County has been reduced through youth vigilantes who engage in night patrols to counter any form of insecurity and crime. Youth vigilante initiative as a means of community policing can be interpreted therefore to influence the rate of crime happenings in the County especially at night. This was agreeing to a report by Koki (2009).

Involvement of Community in Community Policing as a Means of Crime Prevention

Table 4.9 Involvement of community in community policing

Involvement of the community in community policing	Frequency	%
YES	150	83.3
NO	30	16.7
TOTAL	180	100.0

Table 4.9 indicates that, majority of the households 150 (83.3%) agreed that involving the community in community policing has helped reduce or prevent crime levels in the area while 30(16.7%) disagreed. The study sought to find out some of the public and/or private agencies involved in community policing partnership to combat criminal activities in the area. The responses given include: chiefs; district officers; police; and county government. The most common techniques employed to facilitate community policing partnership to combat crime. This study was highlighted by The Kenya Police Service in their Annual Crime Report (2014).

Levels of Communication and Community Policing

Table 4.10: Extent that the levels of education influence community policing

Response	Frequency	%
Very great extent	126	70
Great extent	28	15.6
Moderate extent	15	8.3
Low extent	11	6.1
Total	180	100

Table 4.10 shows that 70 % of the respondents consider to a very greater extent their education influences community policing that is Nyumba kumi initiative, community court system and youth vigilante, 15.6 % considers it to a great extent, 8.3% to a moderate extent and 6.1% to a low extent. This implies that to a reasonable extent the respondents agree that the levels of education influenced community policing that are the levels of crime prevention in Kirinyaga County. The level of education can be interpreted therefore to influence crime management, planning and control. This is manifested in terms of participation whereby those with low education have low understanding on how to effectively and efficiently be vigilant and communicate on security issues.

Unlike the community that has empowerment and capacity building, they will be always observant, vigilant and effectively communicate any form of anomalies in the community. This in agreement with Chriss (2007).

Attitude Factors Affecting Community Policing and Crime Prevention

Table 4.11: Attitude factors affect community policing and crime prevention.

Response	Frequency	%
Strongly agree	111	61.7
Agree	59	32.8
Disagree	10	5.5
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	180	100.0

Table 4.11 Establish that the attitude of the community members on community policing was very significant for the participation of the respondents as majority (61.7%) strongly agreed that attitude highly affect the level of participation of community members in community policing. And they were followed by those who agreed at 32.8%. Those who cited that attitude did not affect community policing disagreed to an extent of 5.5%. This means that community regards the attitude as most factor to community policing. This is a positive attribute to the community as they are likely to benefit more if all the members of the community irrespective of age can initiate the community policing initiatives and embrace a positive attitude. This is in agreement with a thesis by Nwaeze (2010).

Discussions

Information obtained from FGD and Key informant interviews corroborated data from the survey. From the FGD, it came out clearly that so many residents from Kirinyaga county take active part in community policing as they believe that if they work together they can achieve crime prevention. Most of them have the knowledge of community policing and take active part in initiatives like Nyumba kumi initiative, community court system that is presided over by elders as well as youth vigilante groups through night patrols.

Through community policing crime rates have reduced in the county but there is still need for more education, empowerment and capacity building to the community members to better and encourage more involvement. Also through education the community members get to learn on how to be vigilant and effectively and efficiently communicate any form of anomalies that may be realized in the community.

From the FGD it was realized that though effective community policing is effective in crime prevention, there is need to fill the disparity gap in terms of gender equity in constituting the various community policing groups. It was noted that the groups should be all inclusive of men women and the youth with a major focus on women and the youth since they are heavily impacted on by crimes such as rape, robbery, drug abuse, petty thefts and domestic violence.

From the interviews with the key informants, it was clear that there is little trust between the community members and the police. The community believes that it is the police that facilitate most of the crimes as they protect the culprits. They have also been accused of taking bribes from the community as well as the criminals hence encouraging the rise in crime rates thus the community members decided on community policing as a means of crime prevention which so far has succeeded.

It was also noted that in areas with high crime rates like Inoi, Tebere, Kariti and Thiba still need more education, empowerment and capacity building so that they can embrace community policing at its best. This will change the attitude of the community towards community policing and encourage inclusive and active participation.

Among the community policing initiative, it was clear that Nyumba kumi initiative was most preferred to community court system and youth vigilante since it's a smaller unit through which neighborhood can use to protect their territories from crimes.

V. FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5-1 Findings

i. On the objective one , the effectiveness of joint community-police patrols in prevention crime rate in Kirinyaga County. The findings revealed that there was reasonable awareness among the citizens of Kirinyaga County about the need for community policing. The results also show that the majority of the respondents were aware of the advantages and benefits of community policing. The results further show that the community policing program was being implemented successfully among Kirinyaga communities. They also believe that when police and security agents cooperate with local communities in community policing most of the criminals are being exposed and no criminals buy their way out of police custody. The sampled group agreed that community policing program was being implemented correctly and was impacting positively in preventing crime in Kirinyaga County'.

ii. On objective two, the effectiveness of youth vigilante as a means of crime prevention in Kirinyaga County. The findings revealed that the youth vigilante groups were very successful in in preventing crime in many areas of Kirinyaga County. As per Table 4.8, over 50 % of the respondents consider youth vigilante to a very greater extent influence on crime prevention in Kirinyaga County, 35 % considers it to a great extent, 12.8% to a moderate extent and 2.2% to a low extent. This explains that the majority of the citizens in Kirinyaga County agree that the levels of crime in the County has been reduced through youth vigilante youths who engage in night patrols to counter any form of insecurity and crime. This finding is supported by a similar study reported by Koki (2009).

iii. On objective three, the role played by Kirinyaga communities in promoting community based court process to reduce crimes in Kirinyaga County, the majority of respondents agreed that the Nyumba kumi initiative had helped in reducing crime in the various towns and villages in Kirinyaga County. The respondents also agreed that the community court system where complaints about petty crimes were solved through community court system instead of the regular courts has a major effect in reducing crime due to un delayed justice being carried out without delay. The respondents agreed further that the education level of respondents was helpful in supporting the involvement of the vigilantes and the community court systems in Nyumba communities in Kirinyaga County. This finding agrees with the findings reported by Baker (2008).

5.2 Conclusion

The researcher concludes that as per study in Kirinyaga County, community policing is highly effective in reducing crime rate and preventing crime if the process is well organized through clear information and awareness process. The researcher concludes further that the use of vigilante youth groups have been successful in preventing and reducing crime rate. The researcher also concludes that the findings have indicated that the Nyumba kumi initiatives have been been successful in solving petty crime cases through the community based court system.

The researcher notes that there may be difficulties in running these programs loke nyumba kumi community policing, and vigilante youth crime prevention program, and the community court system due to lack of training, lack of capacity , lack of funding for those involved and lack of commitment by over

siting bodies. These areas may need to be clearly addressed by the County government of Kirinyaga and the Ministry of Interior in order to strengthen the Commnity policing in Kirinyaga County and in all the 47 counties.

5.3 Recommendations

The study has come out with findings that the community policing is showing positive results in fighting crime in Kirinyaga County. The study reveals that there is success in community involvement in the nyumba kumi initiative, the vigilante youth program and in the community court process to provide justice quickly to those affected . In order to fulfill these obligations the researcher wishes to propose the following recommendations.

i- It noted that community policing is a success and plays a major role in crime prevention in Kirinyaga County. Efforts should be made to create awareness on community policing to all stakeholders. Structures should be put in place to explain the process of accessing the services to community leaders and stake holders. This will help the communities and the police to bond and build trust. It is also important to train police officers and community members on methods of community policing through modern communication, technology and on how to cooperate so as to prevent crime.

ii- The County Government of Kirinyaga and the Ministry of Interior should consider training the Vigilante youths on crime prevention methods .The youths should also be facilitated with means for mobility to enable them respond to distress calls and access simple necessities like credits for calls and necessities like food. Performing security work without allowances can be tricky. The youths performing crime watch functions should be trained on security prevention methods so as to assist them in their duties. The voluneers on community policing should be considered for some financial reward on a regular basis so as to make them selfreliant andconfident while performing their duties.

iii- The community courts and Nyumba Kumi Initiative should be properly structured as they will help relieve the regular courts from being over whelmed with cases from petty crimes as well serious crimes. This will also encourage community members to accept the practice. The community courts should be strengthened and be supported in their activities to enhance their capacity and acceptability by the local communities. Some funding should be allocated to various community organizations to enable them to function with dignity and respect. This can be organized through the County Government and the Ministry of Interior.

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