

Community Policing and Crime Reduction in Ebonyi State: A Study of Nigeria Police Command, Ebonyi State

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Abstract

The issue of community policing has been at the forefront of burning national issue in Nigeria especially in recent times. It has been argued that the police cannot succeed in crime management without strong collaboration with members of the public. In view of the above, the study which investigated "Community Policing and Crime Reduction in Ebonyi State: A Study of Nigeria Police Command, Ebonyi State" specifically sought to: examine the extent community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State; determine the extent community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State; and determine the extent community policing has contributed in reducing incidence of rape cases in Ebonyi State. The study was anchored on the Participatory Theory propounded by Bohm (1996). Descriptive survey design was adopted. The

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population of this study was 1473 which was reduced to a sample size of 315. Data for the study were collected from primary source. Questionnaire instrument was used in data collection. Data were analyzed using frequency distribution tables and simple percentages whereas the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) was used to test the hypotheses formulated for the study. Findings revealed that community policing has significantly contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State ($r = 0.742$, p -value, 0.011); community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State ($r = 0.801$, p -value, 0.01); and community policing has significantly contributed in reducing incidence of rape cases in Ebonyi State ($r = 0.621$, p -value, 0.00). The implication of the findings is that community policing has significantly contributed in crime reduction in Ebonyi State. The study therefore recommended that: There is need for increased collaboration between the police and members of the public in order to contain the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State; there is need for increased funding of community policy activities in order to contain the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State; and there is need for increased training and retraining of police officers and members of the public in community policing in order to contain the incidence of rape cases in Ebonyi State.

Keywords: Community Policing, Crime Reduction.

1. Introduction

All over the world, one of the key functions of any government is to ensure lives and properties are protected and this basic function is not restricted to any form of government. This is done through a process known as policing and through an institution of the state called the police [1]. Policing has always been necessary in all societies for the preservation of order, safety and social relations. The necessity of policing becomes even more evident in modern societies characterized by diversities and contradictions arising from population heterogeneity, urbanization, industrialization conflicting ideologies. As such, the emergence of the police, a body of men recruited and paid by the state to enforce law and maintain order, has become a part of modern government.

Traditionally, policing was the responsibility of all adults in the community. In medieval society, all adult males were obliged to contribute towards the prevention and control of crime and disorder under the system of 'hue, cry and pursuit' and the 'watch and ward that preceded the emergence of specialized police forces as organs of the state [2]. However, the emergence of the state, with its vast bureaucracies anchored on centralization, hierarchical authority/power structure, and professional staff changed the traditional policing philosophy rooted in the idea of policing as everybody's business. Ikuteyijo and Rotimi [2] argued that the emergence of the state as an entity with claim to the monopoly over the means of legitimate violence in society resulted into the creation of specialized agencies such as the police and the armed forces for controlling the use of violence by other groups.

Throughout history, the approaches to policing vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Adeleke [3] argued that historical development of policing hinge on four overreaching strategies: professional crime fighting, strategic policing, problem-oriented policing and community policing. For decades, Police followed the professional model, which rested on three foundations: preventive patrol, quick response time, and follow-up investigation. Sensing that professional model did not always operate as efficiently and effectively as it could, criminal justice researchers began to evaluate alternative approaches. By the 1970s, researches began to show that rapid response to crime does not necessarily lead to more arrest and that having more Police Officers using methods made popular under the professional or reform model does not significantly reduce crime [3]. These failures and frustration, led to the concept and idea of community policing [4].

Community policing is a strong partnership and collaborative effort between the police and members of the public with the view to protect lives and properties. Community policing brings police and citizens together to prevent crime and solve community problems and

thereby giving citizens more control over the quality of life in their community [4]. Community policing as a crime management strategy is a security system in which members of the public are involved in the conduct of policing their locality to complement the efforts of the police in crime management and control by giving useful intelligent information to law enforcement agencies in the community. In community policing, the community is usually expected to engage in the policing role through volunteer schemes, initiating neighborhood support networks and augmenting police patrol activities, reducing crime and reducing fear of crime. It is widely acknowledged that good police/public relationship is vital to successful policing. Without sustained public contact, officers would be unable to exercise their discretion appropriately and would find themselves isolated, increasingly hostile and unable to empathize with the public [3].

Historically, all around the world, community policing is fast becoming one of the best-known crime management. In West Africa, South America and Asia, it was popularly known as Neighbourhood Watch Organization [5]. In North America, Pasadena Hills, precisely it was under the direction of St. Louis Country police officer, Kyle Jundt, resident Geno Savati and resident Ed-Tyler. In the late 1960s, an increase in crime heightened the need for a crime prevention and management initiative, focused on residential areas and involving local citizens. The National Sheriffs Association (NSA) responded, creating the National Neighbourhood Watch Programme in 1972 to assist citizens and law enforcement agencies [3]. In 2002, the (NSA) in partnership with the United State of America (USA) freedom crops, citizen crops and U.S department of justice launched the USA on watch, the face of the revitalized Neighbourhood Watch initiative, which represents the expanded role of watch programmes throughout the United States. In Asia, China and Japan precisely, the essence of establishing community policing is for the police officers and the people they serve to be as close as possible and also must know one another [6].

In Nigeria, the realization that the police must partner with members of the public led to the establishment of community policing. During the colonial period, policing in Nigeria was primarily focused on maintaining colonial control rather than community engagement [1]. The police force was structured along hierarchical lines with little emphasis on community involvement in crime prevention. Following Nigeria's independence in 1960, there was some recognition of the need for community involvement in policing. However, this period was marked by political instability, which often overshadowed efforts to develop community policing initiatives [4]. Under military rule, the emphasis on community policing fluctuated. Some efforts were made to involve communities in crime prevention, but these were often overshadowed by the centralized control of the military government. With Nigeria's transition to democracy in the late 1990s, there was renewed interest in community policing as a means of addressing rising crime rates and improving police-community relations. Initiatives such as the introduction of Neighborhood Watch groups and community policing forums were established in various parts of the country. In the early 2000s, the Nigerian government formally adopted community policing as a key strategy for crime management. President Olusegun Obasanjo, on 27th April 2004, inaugurated community policing to complement the services of the Nigeria police force in combating crime [6]. This involved the decentralization of policing authority and the empowerment of local communities to play a more active role in crime prevention and detection. The Nigeria Police Force established community policing units and trained officers in community engagement techniques. However, despite this effort, there seems to be rising incidence of crimes in Nigeria particularly Ebonyi State.

In Ebonyi State, it appears that criminal activities such as kidnapping, armed robbery and rape have been on the increase over the years. Over 500 cases of rape and 900 cases of armed robbery have been reported in the last 10 years [1]. Year in year out, cases of armed robbery, rape and kidnappings are reported in the state [1]. The police ought to have established strong collaboration with the members of the public in reducing the incidence of these criminal activities. This seems not to be the case.

In response to the high rate of crime, the Neighborhood watch increased their presence, embarked on joint patrol with the military and stationed some Armed Personnel

Carriers (APC) at strategic crime zones in the area. However, these steps and strategies from available records have not succeeded in reducing the incidence of crime in the area. Instead of reducing crime incidents, crime rate continues to increase from year to year according to crime statistics of Ebonyi State. This situation therefore challenges the efficacy of existing crime control methods and demands a shift in strategy and methods of crime control. It is in view of the forgoing that the study became imperative to examine the effect of community policing on crime reduction in Ebonyi State with focus on Nigeria Police Force, Ebonyi State Command Abakaliki.

Research Questions

The researcher raised the following research questions to guide the study:

1. To what extent has community policing contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State?
2. To what extent has community policing contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State?
3. To what extent has community policing contributed in reducing incidence of rape cases in Ebonyi State?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to examine the effect of community policing on crime reduction in Ebonyi State: Specifically, the study was aimed to:

1. To examine the extent community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State.
2. To determine the extent community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State.
3. To determine the extent community policing has contributed in reducing incidence of rape cases in Ebonyi State.

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested.

Ho₁: Community policing has not significantly contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State.

Ho₂: Community policing has not contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State.

Ho₃: Community policing has not significantly contributed in reducing incidence of rape cases in Ebonyi State.

Conceptual Review

Community Policing

The concept of community policing has been variously defined. The most wide spread definition of community policing used by various actors in peace building considers the term a philosophy and an organizational strategy that seeks to promote a collaborative relationship between community and local police organization to prevent and solve the problem of crime. Community policing is emerging as a promising complementary approach to more traditional forms of policing [7]. By bringing the police closer to the people and developing partner relations with citizens, this approach aims at restoring trust between civilians and the police and at gaining community support for police reform, especially in settings where the police forces are perceived as brutal, corrupt and unaccountable. This can be especially important in post-conflict countries where confidence has been lost in conflict.

Community policing is when individuals and organizations partner with the police force to make their communities safer and to prevent crime [3]. Community policing is a philosophy that promote organizational strategies in the community to combat potential situation that might create public safety issues. The fundamental element of community policing are community partnership, problem solving and prevention. Community policing is one concerned method of enforcing the law without engaging in discrimination by preventing the formation of situations that can lead to crime. As such, community policing involves a cooperative effort on both the community and the police, with the police engaging in activities to enhance the well-being of the community and the community taking an active role in

helping the police carry out law enforcement activities. Through this reciprocal and beneficial interactions, community policing is meant to improve poor police-community relations and increase the responsiveness of police services to the community needs by identifying in partnership issues within the mandate of the police that need to be addressed at the community level.

Community policing is a type of policing that has the police working with members of the community and having the community taking a more active role in crime control and prevention. Community policing also differs from the traditional type of policing because instead of the traditional method of crime control, the community-oriented policing seek to have members of the police force focusing on major crime while the community will take care of the smaller ones [8]. Then the theory that if you stop the minor crimes from occurring could possibly lead to a decrease in the major crimes, and that would be one of the benefits of having community policing [2]. Community policing is a value free system which permits a police department to work cooperatively with individual citizens, and both public and private organizations to identify and resolve issues which potentially affect the livability of specific neighborhood area, or the city as a whole [9].

Community policing encompasses a variety of philosophical and practical approaches and is still evolving rapidly. Arisukwu, [10] saw community policing as an attempt to link the police more closely to the community in 'partnership' arrangements, joint activities to co-produce services and desired outcomes, giving the community a greater say in what the police do, or simply engaging with each other to produce a greater sense of police-community compatibility. Bayley [11] brought in a philosophical dimension to the meaning of community policing. According to him it is a new philosophy of policing, which emphasizes the working partnership between police officers and citizens in creative ways in order to solve community problems relating to crime, fear of crime, and neighborhood disorders. Community policing is security management approach that relies heavily on the articulation of policing values that incorporate citizen involvement in matters that directly affect the safety and quality of neighborhood life [12]. The common line of argument among the researchers is that the effectiveness in the way through which community policing is implemented in any given community will largely determine the outcomes whether it will be successful or not [13].

The success of the outcome of the partnership between the police and community largely lies on the amount of trust that exists in their relations [14]. Without trust between police and citizens, effective policing is impossible. Community policing partnerships develop information exchange whereby the community provides the police with information about problem conditions and locations, crime concerns, active criminals, and stolen property, and in return police provide the community with information pertaining to community fears, problems, tactical information and advice about preventing and reducing crime [15].

The best approach to Community policing is when the latter is seen as also problem solving - an interactive process, involving police and communities identifying crime problems and developing appropriate solutions according to Cordner [14] problem solving aspect of community policing relies more on preventing crime than traditional methods, through deterring offenders, protecting likely victims and making crime locations less conducive to identified problems. Problem solving are measured by asking the question 'is the problem solved?' rather than focusing on traditional methods, such as, the number of arrests [5]. In contrast to the traditional model, community policing recognizes that the knowledge and experience of line officers is of critical importance to the police organization. In order to be responsive to community problems and engage in problem solving, the rank and file must have greater autonomy in making decisions. The independence and freedom of line officers to respond to local community problems is encouraged by the decentralization of the police structure, and the formal recognition that police work is, by its very nature, highly Strategies for Effective Community Policing in Nigeria.

Empirical Review

Several scholarly works have been carried concerning community policing and its effect on crime management and prevention. Among these studies are:

Odo [17] carried out a study titled “An Investigation into the Impact of Community Policing as a Strategy for Crime Prevention and Control”. The main trust of the research was to examine the effects of community policing in crime prevention and control, investigate how this concept improves neighbourhood security condition, to investigate how this concept helps to build better relationship between the police and the resident, to examine ways that this concept can transform the police and best practice option for policing. Survey research design was adopted. In this study, the primary data (closed-ended questionnaire) and secondary data such as books, journal, articles and newspapers were used to obtain data. The study population is Ado/Odo Ota L.G.A of Ogun State residents and the police officials, of which the sample size for the study is three hundred and twenty (320) and then random sampling method was used to select them from the sixteen (16) wards. These data were analyzed with the use of simple frequency distribution and percentage (%) method. It was discovered that there is obvious systematic inadequacies that greatly impaired the genuine implementation of community policing. The lack of proper training of police officials, poor funding, poor police public relations and corruption were challenges to community policing in Nigeria. Some suggestions were proffered.

Ofole, and Odetola [18] carried out a study titled “Assessment of the Impact of Community Policing on Crime Control in Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area of Lagos State, Nigeria”. Descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. Fifty police personnel comprising of forty-four male and six females with age range of 21 and 40 years (\bar{x} = 3.1, SD = 2.7) were purposively drawn from Ibeju-Lekki Local Government area of Lagos state for the study. The instrument used for data collection was a questionnaire titled Perception of Police Personnel on Community Policing and its Impact on Crime Control (r = 74). It was developed and validated by the researcher for the purpose of the study. Six research questions were raised and answered using descriptive statistics while multiple regression was adopted to compute the relative contributions of the variables to police perception. The results show that the police perception of the impact of community policing in crime control was positive ($F_{(49)} = 189.69$, $P < 0.05$). It also indicates that working conditions and community policing practices significantly contributed to the police positive perception on community policing impact on crime control. The findings of this study have implications for policy makers to design activities and programmes capable of strengthening the synergy between the community and the police personnel. The need for Counsellors to institute therapy to enhance assertiveness and negotiation skills of both the police and community for better partnership is also implied in the study.

Adeboye and Igbo [6] carried a research titled “alternative approach to community policing in South East Nigeria with key emphasis on the need for redefining community policing method. The scholars examined the general meaning of community policing and the modalities of its operations within the South East Geo-political Zone with concentration on efficiency and implementation of the concept. The study had a population of 1450 with a sample of 174. The study adopted an exploratory research design where relevant literatures were reviewed and solutions offered to curtail the negative effects of crimes and enhance community policing in South East. The study concluded that community policing is essential for promoting peace and security in rural areas in Nigeria. The study by Adeboye and Igbo [6] studied attitudes of rank-and-file officers from the two police departments that did not receive community policing training before implementing community policing programs and found that many of the participating officers did not understand community policing programs, and many of the officers' responses appeared to be guarded, noncommittal, or negative. The results of their study showed that 63.3 percent of the officers of one department stated the Mini-Station Program was not important and that 60.6 percent of officers of the other department believed the same. There is no doubt that community policing training is a key factor affecting the success or failure of community policing programs.

Chukwuma and Eke [1] carried a research entitled: “Regionalization of Non-State Security Agencies in South East Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges. The population of the study was 2345 while the sample size was 285. This study examined the ways and

theoretical applications of the operation of Ebube-Agu in the South East region of Nigeria. Their study was to provide relevant information concerning the prospects and security challenges of South East. They adopted a survey design. The study revealed that criminal activities have increased within the South East region but however the rise of crimes can be curtailed and reduced to lowest ebb if the security initiative is well managed. The challenges discovered based on the study include; unnecessary suspicion among the ethnic groups in Nigeria, conflict between security agencies and the use of Ebube-Agu to settle personal conflicts among others. The study recommends the need for a better legal framework from each state in the region in terms of establishment, operations, finance and adequate cooperation among all the government apparatus so as to adequately protect lives and properties.

Olushola and Adeleke [3] examined the impact of regional security initiative and the security challenges in Nigeria with focus on Amotekun. The population of the study was 4854 with a sample size of 291. It adopted documentary approach. The study discovered that there are social problems such as kidnapping, killings, theft bedeviling the South West region. The study concludes that there have been laudable efforts from community members to curb insecurity and it gives hope to the people. The review showed that several studies have been done on regional policing but however, few have studies have captured Oke Ogun and Ibarapa communities despite the pockets of criminal activities that have occurred within these communities. Also, the studies reviewed, showed that adequate attention were not given to quantitative research design. Therefore, this study filled these gaps.

Odelewa and Lamidi [19] carried a research entitled: "Regionalization of Non-State Security Agencies in Southwest Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges of Amotekun" This study examined the ways and theoretical applications of the operation of Amotekun in the South West region of Nigeria. Their study was to provide relevant information concerning the prospects and security challenges of Amotekun. They adopted a survey design whereby sources of data were mainly generated through journals and textbooks. The study revealed that criminal activities have increased within the South West region but however the rise of crimes can be curtailed and reduced to lowest ebb if the security initiative is well managed. The challenges discovered based on the study include; unnecessary suspicion among the ethnic groups in Nigeria, conflict between security agencies and the use of Amotekun to settle personal conflicts among others. The study concludes that Amotekun should be adequately nurtured.

Ordu & Nnam [20] carried out a study titled "Community Policing in Nigeria: A Critical Analysis of Current Developments". The study critically examined the current developments in community policing in Nigeria. Qualitative research design was adopted while content analysis method was used in data analysis. The study revealed that community policing enhances strong partnership, collaborative efforts of police and members of the public with a view to protecting lives and property at the neighbourhood level. With effective community policing in place, public safety is guaranteed. It increases public awareness that victims and their offenders are community members, and that police are both community members and State agents of social control, who are concerned about crime prevention and control in society where they are also members. This policing approach helps police to identify, analyse and incisively address societal problems with full supports of community members. Police-community partnership, police-community information sharing, and police involvement in community affairs as salient programmes/strategies for effective community policing equally obtain in Nigeria. However, challenges such as bribery and corruption, human rights abuse, public loss of trust/confidence, meddlesome attitudes of political godfathers in police-community affairs, lack of visionary schemes, and unnecessary use of coercion and threats to enforce public compliance with rules, have frustrated every effort to improve and stabilise police-public cooperation which is a precondition for effective community policing.

Monsuru and Rafiu [21] carried a research entitled: Alternative approach to policing in Nigeria particularly Ebonyi State with key emphasis on the need for redefining community policing. The scholars examined the general meaning of community policing and the

modalities of its operations with concentration on efficiency and implementation of the concept. The study had a population of 1480 with a sample of 184. The study adopted an exploratory research design where relevant literatures were reviewed and solutions offered to curtail the negative effects of crimes and enhance community policing.

Notwithstanding the contributions of researchers in the studies reviewed to the present study, the empirical studies reviewed showed that none of the studies covered the role of community policing in reducing the incidence of kidnapping, armed robbery and rape cases particularly in Ebonyi State. Most of the studies were in other states. This is the gap the present study filled.

Theoretical Framework

The study was anchored on the Participatory Theory propounded by Bohm (1996). The theory seeks to engage local populations in governance including policing. This approach allows development initiatives to be able to incorporate local communities as part of the development process without being dominated upon [3]. The approach is also significant today because it allows people and communities to define and become subjects of their own development rather than becoming objects of technological processes involved in development. The employment of participatory approaches in security management has been a dominant thrust of security research. The assumption is that participation of stakeholders will cause security management processes to be more inclusive and, therefore, instigate ownership over security processes, which, in turn, leads to more sustainable impacts.

The relevance of this theory to the study stems from the assumption that community policing helps build up and strengthens the community and police relationship in security provision. It links the police and the community together. The partnership that develops over time can ultimately help the police find the underlying causes of crime within the neighborhood. By getting the community involved, the police have more resources available to them to help in crime prevention.

It is therefore imperative to involve the community members who own and understand their environment better in the overall policing of rural communities in Nigeria particularly Ebonyi State.

Gap in Literature

Extensive literature abounds on community policy as reviewed. However, from the review of related literature, it was observed that none of the available literature reviewed has been able to examine community policing and crime reduction in Ebonyi State. More specifically, existing studies have not been able to examine the extent community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State. In a similar vein, studies reviewed have not been able to determine the extent community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State. It is not yet determined; the extent community policing has contributed in reducing rape cases in Ebonyi State. Finally, existing studies failed to survey the opinions of both the police and members of the public on the issue of community policing and crime reduction in Ebonyi State in particular. This is the gap the present study filled.

Table 1. Population of the Study

Departments	Population
Administration	87
Operations	165
Logistics and Supply	64
Investigation and Intelligence	93
Public Relations	26
Planning, Research and Statistics	38
Members of the Public	1000
Total	1473

Source: Administration Department, Nigeria Police Force, Ebonyi State Command Headquarters Abakaliki (2024).

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

The researcher applied Taro Yamane’s Formula to get the sample size from the total population.

$$\text{Sample size (n)} = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where:

n = sample size

N = Total population

e = level of significant or degree of freedom 0.05

Solution

$$\text{Thus, n} = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{1473}{1+1473(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{1473}{1+1473(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{1473}{1+3.6825}$$

$$n = \frac{1473}{4.6825}$$

$$n = 314.6$$

$$n = 315$$

Therefore, the sample size is 315

Having obtained the sample size for the study, the research equally adopted Kumar Bowley’s Proportional Allocation formula to ensure that each of the strata selected are represented in the sample size of the study Thus;

$$nh = \frac{nh \cdot xn}{N}$$

Where:

nh = represents the class/group selected from the population,

n = sample size of the study

N = Total population

Table 2. Sample of the Study

S/N	Department	Number of Population	Kummer’s Formula	Allocated Sample Size
1	Administration	87	$\frac{87 \times 315}{1473}$	19
2	Operations	165	$\frac{165 \times 315}{1473}$	35
3	Logistics and Supply	64	$\frac{64 \times 315}{1473}$	14
4	Investigation and Intelligence	93	$\frac{93 \times 315}{1473}$	20
5	Public Relations	26	$\frac{26 \times 315}{1473}$	6
6	Planning, Research and Statistics	38	$\frac{38 \times 315}{1473}$	8

7	Members of the Public	1000	$\frac{1000 \times 315}{1473}$	214
Total		1473		315

Source: As calculated by the Researcher (2025).

The researcher also adopted purposive sampling technique to ensure that both the police officials and members of the public are included in the study since the research is about community policing and needs objective assessment from both parties.

Source of Data Collection

The primary data were the major source of data collection. The primary data for this study were obtained through the distribution of questionnaire to the resident of the selected local government area.

2. Research Method

Data were analyzed using frequency distribution tables and simple percentages. Frequency tables were used to ascertain the number of occurrences of phenomena of interest. The Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) was used to test the hypotheses formulated for the study. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) is computed using the formula:

$$\frac{n(Z_{xy} - (Z_x \times Z_y))}{\sqrt{(Z_x^2)(n(Z_y^2) - (Z_y)^2)}}$$

Where

$$Z_x^2 =$$

$$Z_y = Z_y^2 =$$

Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient

Number of paired observations

Number of series of variables

Sum of squared scores on variables

Sum of scores on variables

Sum of squared score on variables

3. Results and Discussion

Data Presentation

This dwells on the presentation, analysis and the interpretation of the primary data generated from the respondents through the structured questionnaire. Also, the last part of this area was used to test the null hypotheses used in the study as it is contained in chapter one of the study.

Questionnaire and Response Rate

Table 3. Rate of Return of Questionnaire

Questionnaire	Number	Percentage %
Questionnaire Distributed	315	100
Questionnaire returned	294	93
Questionnaire Not Returned	21	7
Questionnaire used for the analysis	294	92
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

The table 3 above shows that three hundred (315) copies of the structured questionnaire were distributed to the respondents, two hundred and ninety four (294) copies representing (92%) were returned whereas 21 (7%) copies were not returned. Then the actual copies used for the analysis was 294. 294 (93%) of the respondents was therefore considered adequate for the study.

Table 4. Classification of Respondents by Sex

Sex	Number	Percentage %
Male	180	61.2
Female	114	38.8
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 4 above shows that out of 294 (98%) of the respondents, 180(61.2%) are males while 114(38.8%) of the respondents are females. This indicates that there are more males than females entrepreneurs among those who operate small and medium enterprises, especially in Ebonyi State.

Table 5. Classification of Respondents by Age Group

Age Bracket	Frequency	Percentage %
18 – 25	15	5.1
26 – 33	30	10.2
34 – 41	59	20.1
42 -49	120	40.8
50 and above	70	23.8
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

The table 5 above shows that 15 (5.1%) of the respondents were between 18-25 years; 30 (10.2%) were between 26-33 years; 59 (20.1%) were between 34-41years; respondents of age bracket 42-49 (40.8%) were 120 whereas those of age from 50 and above were 70(23.8).

Table 6. Classification of Respondents Based on Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage %
Married	170	57.8
Single	59	20.1
Divorced	20	6.8
Widow	45	15.3
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Tables 6 above shows that 170 (57.87%) of the respondents were married; 59 (20.1%) of the respondents were single; 20(6.8%) were divorced while 45 (15.3%) of the respondents were widowed.

Table 7. Classification of Respondents by Educational qualification

Education Qualification	Number	Percentage %
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First School Leaving Certificate	25	8.5
WASCE/GCE/SSCE	45	15.3
OND/HND	57	19.4
FIRST AND ABOVE	167	56.8
TOTAL	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 7 above shows that 25 (8.5%) of the respondents possessed First School Leaving Certificate; 45 (15.3%) possessed WASCE/GCE/SSCE; 57(19.4%) of the respondents possessed OND/HND while 167 (56.8%) have First Degree qualification and above.

Table 8. Classification of Respondents based on Status

Status	Frequency	Percentage %
Senior Staff	40	13.6
Management Staff	80	27.2
Junior Staff	174	59.2
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

The table above shows that 40 (13.6%) of the respondents were apprentice; 80 (27.2%) were workers whereas 174 of (59.2%) were the management.

Table 9. Classification of Respondents by years in Experience

Years of services	Frequency	Percentage %
1 -5 years	84	28.6
6-10 years	70	23.8
11 and above	140	47.6
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2024.

Table 9 indicates that 84 (28.6%) of the respondents were between 1-5 years; 70 (23.8%) were between 6-10 years and 140 of (47.6%) of the respondents were between 11 and above years of experience.

Table 10: Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	12	4
Disagree	8	2.7
Undecided	4	1.3
Agree	130	44.7
Strongly Agree	140	47.3
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 10 above shows that 12 (4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 8 (2.7%) of the respondents disagreed, 130 (44.7%) of the respondents agreed and 140

(47.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State, while 4 (1.3%) of the total respondents were undecided.

Table 11. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether Community policing helps in creating awareness and orientation on activities of kidnapers in Ebonyi State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	4	1.4
Disagree	2	0.7
Undecided	3	1
Agree	130	44.2
Strongly Agree	155	52.7
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 11 above shows that 4 (1.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 2 (0.7%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement, 130 (44.2%) of the respondents agreed and 155 (52.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community policing helps in creating awareness and orientation on activities of kidnapers in Ebonyi State.

Table 12. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether the police provide the members of the public with contacts to report suspected kidnapping activities in their neighborhoods

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	4	1.4
Disagree	2	0.7
Undecided	0	0
Agree	158	53.7
Strongly Agree	130	44.2
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 12 above shows that 4 (1.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 2 (0.7%) of the respondents disagreed that the police provide the members of the public with contacts to report suspected kidnapping activities in their neighborhoods, 158 (53.7%) of the respondents agreed and 130 (44.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed, while none of the respondents were undecided.

Table 13. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether Community policing helps the members of the public collaborate with the police to arrest suspected kidnapers within their neighborhoods

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	6	2
Disagree	3	1
Undecided	1	0.3
Agree	124	42.2
Strongly Agree	160	54.4
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 13 above shows that 6 (2%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 3 (1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that community policing helps the members of the public collaborate with the police to arrest suspected kidnappers within their neighborhoods, 124 (42.2%) of the respondents agreed and 160 (54.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed, while 1 (0.3%) of the total respondents were undecided as it concerned whether Community policing helps the members of the public collaborate with the police to arrest suspected kidnappers within their neighborhoods.

Table 14. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether through community policing members of the public identify hiding places of kidnappers to aid police operations

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	13	4.4
Disagree	5	1.7
Undecided	0	0.0
Agree	129	43.9
Strongly Agree	147	50
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 14 above shows that 13 (4.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 5 (1.7%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that through community policing members of the public identify hiding places of kidnappers to aid police operations, 129 (43.9%) of the respondents agreed and 147 (50%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Through community policing members of the public identify hiding places of kidnappers to aid police operations, while 0 (0%) of the total respondents were undecided.

Table 15. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether public partnership with the police helps in the control of arm robbery attack in Ebonyi State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	7	2.4
Disagree	10	3.4
Undecided	0	0
Agree	100	34
Strongly Agree	177	60.2
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 15 above shows that 7 (2.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 10 (3.4%) of the respondents disagreed, 100 (34%) of the respondents agreed and 177 (60.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that public partnership with the police helps in the control of arm robbery attack in Ebonyi State, while none of the total respondents were undecided.

Table 16. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether Community policing by the way of advice have contributed in building peace and mutual dealings among the communities in Ebonyi State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	2	0.7
Disagree	2	0.7

Undecided	0	0
Agree	129	43.9
Strongly Agree	161	54.8
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 16 above shows that 2 (0.7%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 2 (0.7%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that community policing by the way of advice have contributed in building peace and mutual dealings among the communities in Ebonyi State, 129 (43%) of the respondents agreed and 161 (54.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community policing by the way of advice have contributed in building peace and mutual dealings among the communities in Ebonyi State. None of them were undecided.

Table 17. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether The relationship between the police and the residents in Ebonyi State has reduced arm robbery attack in Ebonyi State.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	8	2.7
Disagree	12	4.1
Undecided	0	0
Agree	140	47.6
Strongly Agree	134	45.6
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 17 above shows that 8 (2.7%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 12 (4.1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that the relationship between the police and the residents in Ebonyi State has reduced arm robbery attack in Ebonyi State, 140 (47.6%) of the respondents agreed and 134 (45.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that The relationship between the police and the residents in Ebonyi State has reduced arm robbery attack in Ebonyi State. None of them were undecided.

Table 18. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether there is cooperation between the police and the members of the public in Ebonyi State in curtailing armed robbery?

Responses (%)	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	13	4.4
Disagree	5	1.7
Undecided	0	0
Agree	132	44.9
Strongly Agree	144	49
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 18 above shows that 13 (4.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 5 (1.7%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement believe that There is a cooperation between the police and the members of the public in Ebonyi State in curtailing armed robbery, 132 (44.9%) of the respondents agreed and 144 (49%) of the respondents strongly agreed that There is a cooperation between the police and the members of the public in Ebonyi State in curtailing armed robbery

Table 19. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether Involvement of members of the public helps in provision of information to the police to aid operations against armed robbers?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	7	2.4
Disagree	3	1
Undecided	0	0
Agree	118	40.1
Strongly Agree	166	56.5
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 19 above shows that 7 (2.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 3 (1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that Involvement of members of the public helps in provision of information to the police to aid operations against armed robbers, 118 (40.1%) of the respondents agreed and 166 (56.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Involvement of members of the public helps in provision of information to the police to aid operations against armed robbers, while none of the total respondents were undecided.

Table 20. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether cooperation of the community and the police has contributed significantly in tackling rape cases in Ebonyi State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	1	0.3
Disagree	3	1
Undecided	0	0
Agree	100	34
Strongly Agree	190	64.7
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 20 above shows that 1 (0.3%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 3 (1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that Cooperation of the community and the police has contributed significantly in tackling rape cases in Ebonyi State, 100 (34%) of the respondents agreed and 190 (64.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed while none of the total respondents were undecided that Cooperation of the community and the police has contributed significantly in tackling rape cases in Ebonyi State.

Table 21. Response rate on whether existence of community policing in Ebonyi State has reduce the rate of burning of people’s properties as a result of rape cases in Ebonyi State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	3	1
Disagree	6	2
Undecided	1	0.3
Agree	124	42.1
Strongly Agree	160	54.6
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 21 above shows that 3 (1%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 6 (2%) of the respondents disagreed, 124 (42.1%) of the respondents agreed and 160 (54.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that Existence of community policing in Ebonyi State has reduce the rate of burning of peoples properties as a result of rape cases in Ebonyi State, while none of the total respondents were undecided.

Table 22. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether Community members provide the police with vital information on perpetrators of rape cases in Ebonyi State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	6	2
Disagree	4	1.4
Undecided	0	0
Agree	117	39.8
Strongly Agree	167	56.8
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 22 above shows that 6 (2%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 4 (1.4%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement that Community members provide the police with vital information on perpetrators of rape cases in Ebonyi State, 117 (39.8%) of the respondents agreed and 167 (56.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Community members provide the police with vital information on perpetrators of rape cases in Ebonyi State.

Table 23. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether Community members collaborate with the police in investigation of rape cases in Ebonyi State

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	2	0.7
Disagree	2	0.7
Undecided	0	0
Agree	120	40.8
Strongly Agree	170	57.8
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 23 above shows that 2 (0.7%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 2 (0.7%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement that Community members collaborate with the police in investigation of rape cases in Ebonyi State and 120 (40.8%) of the respondents agreed and 170 (57.8%) of the total respondents strongly agreed that Community members collaborate with the police in investigation of rape cases in Ebonyi State.

Table 24. Opinion of the Respondents to determine whether Police collaborate with community members to seek prosecution of rape suspects

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Disagree	3	1.0
Disagree	4	1.4
Undecided	2	0.7
Agree	155	52.7

Strongly Agree	130	44.2
Total	294	100

Source: Field Survey 2025

Table 24 above shows that 3 (1%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 4 (1.4%) of the respondents disagreed, 155 (52.7%) of the respondents agreed and 130 (44.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that Police collaborate with community members to seek prosecution of rape suspects while 2 (0.7%) of the total respondents were undecided.

Test of Hypotheses

Test of Hypothesis one

Ho₁: Community policing has no significant positive relationship with reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State.

HA₁: Community policing has significant relationship with reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State.

Table 25. Correlations Test of Hypothesis One

Correlations		Community-policing	Incidence of kidnapping
Community-policing	Pearson Correlation	1	.742*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.011
	N	294	294
incidence of kidnapping	Pearson Correlation	.742*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.011	
	N	294	294

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The result of the test of hypothesis one above revealed a correlations coefficient of 0.742 which implied that there was a significant positive relationship between communities policing and reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the result showed a p-value of 0.011 which was lesser than the 0.05 level of significance. Consequent upon the decision rule, the alternate hypothesis was accepted while the null hypothesis was rejected and it was upheld that community policing has significantly contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State.

Test of Hypothesis two

Ho₂: Community policing has no significant positive relationship with reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State.

HA₂: Community policing has significant positive relationship with reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State.

Table 26. Correlations Test of Hypothesis Two

Correlations		Community-policing	incidence of armed robbery attack
Community-policing	Pearson Correlation	1	.801*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	294	294
incidence of armed robbery attack	Pearson Correlation	.801*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	294	294

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The result of the test of hypothesis one above revealed a correlations coefficient of 0.801 which implied that there was a significant positive relationship between community policing and reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the result showed a p-value of 0.01 which was lesser than the 0.05 level of significance. Consequent upon the decision rule, the alternate hypothesis was accepted while the null hypothesis was rejected and it was upheld that community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State.

Test of Hypothesis Three

Ho₃: Community policing has no significant positive relationship with reducing rape cases in Ebonyi State.

HA₃: Community policing has significant positive relationship with reducing rape cases in Ebonyi State.

Table 27. Correlations Test of Hypothesis Three

Correlations		Community-policing	Rape cases
Community-policing	Pearson Correlation	1	.621*
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	294	294
rape cases	Pearson Correlation	.621*	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	294	294

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The result of the test of hypothesis one above revealed a correlations coefficient of 0.621 which implied that there was a significant positive relationship between community policing and reducing rape cases in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the result showed a p-value of 0.00 which was lesser than the 0.05 level of significance. Consequent upon the decision rule, the alternate hypothesis was accepted while the null hypothesis was rejected and it was upheld that community policing has significantly contributed in reducing rape cases in Ebonyi State.

Extent to which community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State

The result of the test of hypothesis one above revealed a correlations coefficient of 0.742 which implied that there was a significant positive relationship between communities policing and reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the result showed a p-value of 0.011 which was lesser than the 0.05 level of significance. Consequent upon the decision rule, the alternate hypothesis was accepted while the null hypothesis was rejected and it was upheld that community policing has significantly contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State.

Table 28. Statistics of Kidnapping Cases in Ebonyi State (2015-2023)

Year	Reported kidnapping cases	Prosecuted kidnapping Cases
2015	21	16
2016	14	9
2017	12	7
2018	9	4
2019	15	11
2020	3	3
2021	6	5
2022	8	5
2023	4	2
Total	92	62

Source: Nigeria Police Force, Ebonyi State Command, Abakaliki Annual Report (2024: 24)

Table 10 above shows that 12 (4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 8 (2.7%) of the respondents disagreed, 130 (44.7%) of the respondents agreed and 140 (47.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State, while 4 (1.3%) of the total respondents were undecided. Table 11 above shows that 4 (1.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 2 (0.7%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement, 130 (44.2%) of the respondents agreed and 155 (52.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community policing helps in creating awareness and orientation on activities of kidnapppers in Ebonyi State. Table 12 above shows that 4 (1.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 2 (0.7%) of the respondents disagreed that the police provide the members of the public with contacts to report suspected kidnapping activities in their neighborhoods, 158 (53.7%) of the respondents agreed and 130 (44.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed, while none of the respondents were undecided. Table 13 above shows that 6 (2%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 3 (1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that community policing helps the members of the public collaborate with the police to arrest suspected kidnapppers within their neighborhoods, 124 (42.2%) of the respondents agreed and 160 (54.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed, while 1 (0.3%) of the total respondents were undecided as it concerned whether Community policing helps the members of the public collaborate with the police to arrest suspected kidnapppers within their neighborhood. Table 14 above shows that 13 (4.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 5 (1.7%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that through community policing members of the public identify hiding places of kidnapppers to aid police operations, 129 (43.9%) of the respondents agreed and 147 (50%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Through community policing members of the public identify hiding places of kidnapppers to aid police operations, while 0 (0%) of the total respondents were undecided.

The finding corroborates the finding of Adeboye and Igbo [6] who observed that community policing plays a crucial role in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Nigeria particularly Ebonyi State by fostering trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Community policing involves law enforcement officers working closely with local communities to address safety and security issues. By building trust and cooperation between the police and community members, it creates an environment where people are more likely to report suspicious activities, including potential kidnapping threats. When communities feel comfortable working with the police, they become active partners in crime prevention efforts [6]. In many cases, community members have valuable information about criminal activities, including kidnapping networks operating in their area. Community policing encourages people to share this information with law enforcement, enabling authorities to gather intelligence and disrupt kidnapping operations before they occur. Community policing emphasizes the importance of designing environments in ways that discourage criminal activity. This can include measures such as improved street lighting, enhanced security in public spaces, and neighborhood watch programs. By making communities less vulnerable to crime, including kidnapping, community policing helps prevent incidents from happening in the first place.

In the event of a kidnapping, community policing ensures a coordinated and rapid response from law enforcement agencies [1]. Police officers who are familiar with the local community can quickly mobilize resources and coordinate efforts to locate and rescue victims. Additionally, community policing encourages collaboration with other stakeholders, such as community leaders, NGOs, and government agencies, to address the root causes of kidnapping and implement long-term solutions. Community policing initiatives often involve training community members in crime prevention strategies, self-defense techniques, and emergency response procedures. By empowering individuals to protect themselves and their communities, community policing helps deter potential kidnappers and reduces the overall vulnerability of the population. Kidnapping often thrives in environments characterized by poverty, unemployment, and social inequality. Community policing takes a holistic approach to crime prevention by addressing these underlying socioeconomic factors. This may involve initiatives such as job training programs, educational opportunities, and community development projects aimed at improving economic opportunities and social cohesion. In cases where kidnapping does occur, community policing ensures that victims and their families receive the necessary support and assistance. This includes providing emotional counseling, facilitating communication with ransom negotiators (if applicable), and coordinating efforts to secure the safe release of hostages. By prioritizing the needs of victims and their families, community policing helps mitigate the psychological and emotional impact of kidnapping incidents.

Extent to which community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State

The result of the test of hypothesis one above revealed a correlations coefficient of 0.801 which implied that there was a significant positive relationship between community policing and reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the result showed a p-value of 0.01 which was lesser than the 0.05 level of significance. Consequent upon the decision rule, the alternate hypothesis was accepted while the null hypothesis was rejected and it was upheld that community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State.

Table 15 above shows that 7 (2.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 10 (3.4%) of the respondents disagreed, 100 (34%) of the respondents agreed and 177 (60.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that Public partnership with the police helps in the control of arm robbery attack in Ebonyi State, while none of the total respondents were undecided. Table 16 above shows that 2 (0.7%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 2 (0.7%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that community policing by the way of advice have contributed in building peace and mutual

dealings among the communities in Ebonyi State, 129 (43%) of the respondents agreed and 161 (54.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that community policing by the way of advice have contributed in building peace and mutual dealings among the communities in Ebonyi State. None of them were undecided. Table 17 above shows that 8 (2.7%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 12 (4.1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that the relationship between the police and the residents in Ebonyi State has reduced arm robbery attack in Ebonyi State, 140 (47.6%) of the respondents agreed and 134 (45.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that The relationship between the police and the residents in Ebonyi State has reduced arm robbery attack in Ebonyi State. None of them were undecided. Table 18 above shows that 13 (4.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 5 (1.7%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement believe that There is a cooperation between the police and the members of the public in Ebonyi State in curtailing armed robbery, 132 (44.9%) of the respondents agreed and 144 (49%) of the respondents strongly agreed that There is a cooperation between the police and the members of the public in Ebonyi State in curtailing armed robbery. Table 19 above shows that 7 (2.4%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 3 (1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that Involvement of members of the public helps in provision of information to the police to aid operations against armed robbers, 118 (40.1%) of the respondents agreed and 166 (56.4%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Involvement of members of the public helps in provision of information to the police to aid operations against armed robbers, while none of the total respondents were undecided.

Table 29. Statistics of Kidnapping Cases in Ebonyi State (2015-2023)

Year	Reported Armed Robbery Cases	Prosecuted Armed Robbery Cases
2015	54	23
2016	42	18
2017	38	22
2018	36	17
2019	23	19
2020	13	9
2021	41	25
2022	58	39
2023	46	30
Total	351	202

Source: Nigeria Police Force, Ebonyi State Command, Abakaliki Annual Report (2024)

In a similar finding, Olushola and Adeleke [4] revealed that community policing is instrumental in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attacks in Nigeria particularly Ebonyi State through various strategies and initiatives aimed at engaging communities and enhancing security measures. One of the primary roles of community policing is to build trust and collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. By fostering positive relationships and open lines of communication, community policing encourages citizens to report suspicious activities and share information about potential armed robbery threats.

Extent to which community policing has contributed in reducing incidence of rape cases in Ebonyi State

The result of the test of hypothesis one above revealed a correlations coefficient of 0.621 which implied that there was a significant positive relationship between community policing and reducing rape cases in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the result showed a p-value of 0.00 which was lesser than the 0.05 level of significance. Consequent upon the decision rule,

the alternate hypothesis was accepted while the null hypothesis was rejected and it was upheld that community policing has significantly contributed in reducing rape cases in Ebonyi State. Table 20 above shows that 1 (0.3%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 3 (1%) of the respondents disagreed to the statement that Cooperation of the community and the police has contributed significantly in tackling rape cases in Ebonyi State, 100 (34%) of the respondents agreed and 190 (64.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed while none of the total respondents were undecided that Cooperation of the community and the police has contributed significantly in tackling rape cases in Ebonyi State. Table 21 above shows that 3 (1%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 6 (2%) of the respondents disagreed, 124 (42.1%) of the respondents agreed and 160 (54.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that Existence of community policing in Ebonyi State has reduce the rate of burning of peoples properties as a result of rape cases in Ebonyi State, while none of the total respondents were undecided.

Table 22 above shows that 6 (2%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 4 (1.4%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement that Community members provide the police with vital information on perpetrators of rape cases in Ebonyi State, 117 (39.8%) of the respondents agreed and 167 (56.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed that Community members provide the police with vital information on perpetrators of rape cases in Ebonyi State. Table 23 above shows that 2 (0.7%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 2 (0.7%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement that Community members collaborate with the police in investigation of rape cases in Ebonyi State and 120 (40.8%) of the respondents agreed and 170 (57.8%) of the total respondents strongly agreed that Community members collaborate with the police in investigation of rape cases in Ebonyi State. Table 24 above shows that 3 (1%) of the total respondents strongly disagreed, and 4 (1.4%) of the respondents disagreed, 155 (52.7%) of the respondents agreed and 130 (44.2%) of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement that Police collaborate with community members to seek prosecution of rape suspects while 2 (0.7%) of the total respondents were undecided.

Table 30. Statistics of Rape Cases in Ebonyi State (2015-2023)

Year	Number of Reported Rape Cases	Number of Prosecuted Rape Cases
2015	108	45
2016	95	38
2017	86	29
2018	78	32
2019	73	24
2020	133	82
2021	66	31
2022	57	40
2023	64	53
Total	760	374

Source: Nigeria Police Force, Ebonyi State Command, Abakaliki Annual Report (2024)

The data shows an overall upward trend in the number of reported and prosecuted rape cases in Ebonyi State from 2015 to 2023. This could be attributed to increased awareness, more robust reporting mechanisms, and a societal shift towards addressing sexual violence. The number of prosecutions and convictions also shows a gradual increase over the years. This reflects improvements in the legal processes and possibly the effectiveness of law enforcement and judicial responses to rape cases. However, the gap between reported cases and convictions remains significant, indicating challenges in achieving justice for victims. There was a noticeable spike in 2020, which aligns with global

trends where lockdowns and economic hardships led to increased incidents of domestic and sexual violence. The data suggests that initiatives taken by the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a role in both increasing the reporting of cases and improving the response from the legal system. Despite the rising numbers, rape remains significantly underreported in Nigeria due to stigma, fear of retribution, and lack of trust in the legal system. The actual numbers could be much higher. While the data indicates progress in addressing rape in Nigeria, there is still much work to be done to close the gap between reported cases and successful convictions. Continued efforts in awareness, education, and legal reforms are necessary to ensure justice for victims and reduce the incidence of sexual violence. The finding is in line with the finding of Odewale and Lamidi, (2017) who revealed community policing serves as a vital tool in reducing rape cases in Nigeria.

Summary of Findings

1. Community policing has significant positive relationship with reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State. The result of the test of hypothesis one revealed a correlations coefficient of 0.742 which implied that there was a significant positive relationship between communities policing and reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the result showed a p-value of 0.011 which was lesser than the 0.05 level of significance.
2. Community policing has contributed in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State. The result of the test of hypothesis one above revealed a correlations coefficient of 0.801 which implied that there was a significant positive relationship between community policing and reducing the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the result showed a p-value of 0.01 which was lesser than the 0.05 level of significance.
3. Community policing has significantly contributed in reducing rape cases in Ebonyi State. The result of the test of hypothesis one above revealed a correlations coefficient of 0.621 which implied that there was a significant positive relationship between community policing and reducing rape cases in Ebonyi State. Moreover, the result showed a p-value of 0.00 which was lesser than the 0.05 level of significance.

4. Conclusion

Overall, community policing plays a multifaceted role in reducing the incidence of kidnapping in Nigeria particularly Ebonyi State by fostering trust, gathering intelligence, preventing crime, enhancing response capabilities, empowering communities, addressing root causes, and supporting victims. By working collaboratively with local stakeholders, law enforcement agencies can effectively combat kidnapping and create safer communities for all residents. Community policing plays a crucial role in reducing the incidence of armed robbery attacks in Nigeria particularly Ebonyi State by fostering trust, gathering intelligence, preventing crime, enhancing security measures, engaging at-risk youth, collaborating with stakeholders, and supporting victims. By working collaboratively with local communities, law enforcement agencies can effectively address the root causes of armed robbery and create safer environments for all residents. Community policing serves as a proactive and preventive approach to reducing rape cases in Nigeria particularly Ebonyi State by building trust, promoting dialogue, mediating conflicts, fostering cultural sensitivity, empowering communities, addressing root causes, and facilitating trauma healing and reconciliation. By working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, law enforcement agencies can contribute to building resilient and cohesive communities that are better equipped to address and prevent rape cases.

Recommendations

In the course of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. There is need for increased collaboration between the police and members of the public in order to contain the incidence of kidnapping in Ebonyi State. Community policing will help by fostering trust, gathering intelligence, preventing crime, enhancing response capabilities, empowering communities, addressing root causes, and supporting victims. By working collaboratively with local stakeholders, law enforcement agencies can effectively combat kidnapping and create safer communities for all residents.
2. There is need for increased funding of community policy activities in order to contain the incidence of armed robbery attack in Ebonyi State. By working collaboratively with local communities, law enforcement agencies can effectively address the root causes of armed robbery and create safer environments for all residents.
3. There is need for increased training and retraining of officers' members of the public on community policy in order to contain the incidence of rape cases in Ebonyi State. By working collaboratively with diverse stakeholders, law enforcement agencies can gather information and evidence on rape cases in Ebonyi State.

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