
COMMUNITY POLICING ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KADUNA STATE (2004 –2020)

By

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Abstract

Community policing as a security strategy has gained prominence throughout the world with considerable successes in peacebuilding and socio-economic development in regions of the world defying cultural and religious diversity. This paper explores the interaction between community policing and socio-economic development with emphasis on the potential for trust building, prompting social integration, and the creation of an atmosphere for growth in Kaduna State with a time scope of 2004 to 2020. Methodologically, the study adopted the experimental survey design, and data was collected from three selected local governments of Zaria, Igabi, and Kachia, representing the three senatorial zones. The questionnaire instrument was used to collect data, and a sample size was determined using the Taro Yamane formula. 414 questionnaires were returned and fully completed out of 440 shared. The data collected was analysed using descriptive statistics (percentages and frequencies) using SPSS Software version 22. Results show that the majority of the respondents are of the view that community policing is significantly associated with socio-economic development in Kaduna State. Also, prevention, participation, and partnership were found to be significantly related to trust building and development. The study recommends that effective and inclusive community policing groups must be created to ensure sustainability; also, youths who are unemployed should not be allowed to be sitting idle but rather used to participate in a form of youth-oriented community policing. Furthermore, for effectiveness and efficiency, technology has to be integrated to improve crime reporting and information sharing, and finally, monitoring and evaluation must be emphasised so that successes and failures can be measured, thereby improving community trust and boosting confidence for greater security.

Keywords: Community Policing, Socio-Economic Development, Security, Peace, Partnership.

1. Introduction

Community policing has become a crucial strategy for enhancing safety and development within communities, highlighting the partnership between law enforcement agencies and local residents. This approach transitions policing from reactive crime-fighting to proactive problem-solving, targeting the underlying causes of insecurity while fostering trust, accountability, and participatory governance. In regions facing socio-economic difficulties, such as Kaduna State, Nigeria,

community policing possesses significant potential to connect law enforcement and citizens, thereby aiding both security and development.

Kaduna State exemplifies Nigeria's socio-political diversity and has encountered numerous challenges, such as ethnic and religious tensions, communal conflicts, and economic disparities. From 2004 to 2020, rapid urbanisation, population growth, and uneven resource distribution intensified these issues. In this context, insecurity threatened both lives and property while also hindering socio-economic progress. Business operations faced disruptions, social cohesion experienced strain, and investment opportunities diminished as a result of increased fear and instability. Recognising the limitations of traditional policing approaches in dealing with such security complications, community policing becomes strategically vital. This model incorporates local communities' unique insights and cooperation to improve crime prevention, reduce public distrust of law enforcement, and foster socioeconomic development. By involving community leaders, civil society organizations, and residents in security decision-making processes, community policing has the potential to align security efforts with the developmental aspirations of the populace.

This study explores the impact of community policing on socio-economic development in Kaduna State from 2004 to 2020. It examines the extent to which the approach has contributed to reducing crime, improving public trust in law enforcement, and fostering an environment where economic activities and social relationships can thrive. Furthermore, it highlights the challenges faced in implementing community policing in a complex socio-cultural and political setting such as Kaduna State, offering insights into the lessons learned and future prospects. The findings of this study are expected to provide valuable contributions to policy formulation and implementation, not only in Kaduna State but also in other regions grappling with similar issues. By drawing a connection between security and development, the study underscores the critical role that innovative policing strategies play in shaping the socio-economic trajectory of communities.

2. Literature Review: Conceptual Framework

Defining Community Policing

Community policing represents a human-centered strategy for tackling insecurity, incorporating elements of human security, development, and national security frameworks. The approach

involves the collaboration of various state and civil society actors to collectively identify the root causes of insecurity and formulate coordinated responses (Kappeler et al., 2020). By implication, community policing approach enhances the capacity and willingness of communities, local authorities, and formal police to tackle the root causes of insecurity. Pickering et al., (2008) noted that it fosters an environment conducive to broader reforms and policies that prioritise the needs of individuals at both sub-national and national levels. This facilitates improved information exchange between the two parties: the public and law enforcement (Kagame et al., 2023). In this study, community policing is seen as a policing system characterised by the open exchange of information between law enforcement and community members, for the purpose of crime control and securing neighbourhoods. This definition is in line with the philosophical bases of community policing as advanced by Moore (1992) and Palmiotto (1999) who observed that it is a philosophy that encourages police and community members to work together to prevent and fight crime.

As a concept that advocates for organisational tactics facilitating the systematic implementation of partnerships and problem-solving methodologies, Gill et al., (2014) observed that community policing aims to proactively tackle the underlying factors that contribute to public safety concerns, including crime, social disorder, and fear of crime. Wisler & Onwudiwe (2008) suggested that community policing has what they call regional variation in conceptualization, they offer a distinction between Anglo-American community policing and the African approach to community policing. The Anglo-American community policing emerged from the works of John Alderson, Bonnie Bucqueroux and Robert Trojanowicz and is basically about cordial relations between the police and the community. The African approach in the view of Wisler & Onwudiwe (2008) is informal where daily life is guided by community policing. In this scenario, there is no trust or confidence in the conventional police and communities rely on their own.

Socio-Economic Development

Socio-economic development is a complex and multifaceted concept that encompasses the improvement of a population's overall well-being and quality of life. This includes factors such as economic growth, social equity, education, health, and environmental sustainability. Cracolici et al., (2010) observed that at the global level, socio-economic development is often measured using indicators like gross domestic product, life expectancy, literacy rates, and employment levels. (Szirmai, 2015) In the pursuit of socio-economic development, unique challenges and

opportunities exist that require a tailored approach in Africa, Nigeria and Kaduna State in Particular.

The concept of socio-economic development extends beyond mere economic indicators, as it involves the transformation of social institutions and processes to improve the capacity of a society to meet its objectives (Kapur, 2018). This holistic view acknowledges that development is not solely about increasing wealth, but also about enhancing the overall quality of life for all members of a community. In the case of developing nations like Nigeria, socio-economic development is particularly crucial, as it can address complex challenges such as high rates of poverty, malnutrition, and limited access to education and healthcare (Obute, 2021). Nigeria, as the most populous country in Africa, has made strides in its socio-economic development, but continues to face significant challenges (Ogoko, 2017). Socio-economic development denotes the process of social and economic transformations aimed at enhancing the quality of life for individuals and communities (Madon, 2000).

This concept is frequently associated with the improvement of capabilities, opportunities, and freedoms that allow individuals to lead fulfilling lives (Sen, 2000). Scholars contend that socio-economic development is intrinsically linked to security and governance, as stable environments promote economic activity, whereas insecurity hinders investment and disrupts livelihoods (Todaro & Smith, 2020). The concept of development has evolved from a focus on gross domestic product (GDP) to encompass human development indices, which account for improvements in education, healthcare, and living standards (UNDP, 2021).

3. Community Policing and Socio-Economic Development:

Literature have shown that community policing can be related to socio-economic development through crime reduction (Jonathan et al., 2021; Kam, 2013). Improving ties between the police and the community is one of the main objectives of community policing, which ultimately aims to increase public safety and lower crime. Batlow (2013) observed that police officers can better understand the social and economic concerns that have an impact on crime and public safety in the area by collaborating with the community, and they can then work to address these issues in a cooperative manner.

Overall, community policing can be an important tool for promoting socio-economic development, particularly in communities that are struggling with issues related to crime and public safety (Crowford & Evans, 2017). In essence, by working together with the community, police officers can help to identify and address the underlying social and economic factors that contribute to crime, and they can work to build stronger, more resilient communities. Establishing trust and collaboration between law enforcement and communities is crucial for enhancing safety and security, which are essential for economic growth and social advancement. When individuals perceive police officers as collaborators rather than mere enforcers, they are more inclined to report crimes, assist in investigations, and engage in crime prevention initiatives. This form of collaboration can reduce crime rates, fostering a safer and more stable environment that attracts businesses and investment (Simmons, 2007).

Community policing addresses the underlying factors contributing to crime by linking individuals with necessary social services and resources. Officers can recognise individuals and families in distress and direct them to programs that tackle issues such as poverty, unemployment, and educational deficiencies (Rohe et al., 2001). By tackling these fundamental issues, community policing can disrupt the cycle of poverty and crime, facilitating enduring socio-economic development. Community-driven crime prevention efforts and enhanced police response can elevate quality of life and cultivate a sense of safety, both of which are crucial for attracting investment and promoting economic advancement (Reisig & Parks, 2004).

The efficacy of community policing in enhancing socio-economic development is contingent upon various elements. This encompasses community engagement, law enforcement resources, and the overarching social and economic context (Marenin, 2014). In regions characterised by significant inequality or societal turmoil, the execution of such programs can be exceedingly challenging. Community policing should be acknowledged as a long-term strategy rather than a rapid solution, necessitating sustained dedication from both law enforcement and the community.

4. Theoretical Framework: Human Security Theory (HST)

The human security theory is a developing framework for comprehending global risks, with advocates contesting the conventional concept of national security by asserting that the appropriate focus for security should be at the human level instead of the state level. The term was introduced

in the early 1990s, with Haq (1995) first highlighting the notion of human security in the United Nations Development Programme's 1994 Human Development Report, aiming to impact the UN's 1995 World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen. Human security theory emphasises the importance of both individual and community well-being and provides a framework for comprehending the relationship between community policing and socioeconomic growth. Human security places a higher priority on protecting people's safety and dignity from threats like poverty, violence, and injustice than traditional ideas of security, which are more concerned with state sovereignty and military threats. By addressing fundamental human security requirements, community policing can promote socioeconomic development, as demonstrated by this lens.

The human security theory has been employed by scholars aiming to redirect the security discourse from its conventional state-centric focus to the safeguarding and enhancement of persons within communities (Edwards, 2007). Human security has arisen as a challenge to conventional notions of security; nonetheless, human security and traditional or national security are not mutually contradictory concepts. It has been posited that traditional state security cannot be achieved without human security, and conversely (Wibben 2008).

The Human Security Theory aims to tackle the root causes and enduring consequences of conflicts, rather than merely responding to issues, which is a common criticism of conventional security approaches. The primary objective of preventative measures is to diminish, and ideally eradicate, the necessity for intervention, whereas investment in rehabilitation or reconstruction aims to prevent the recurrence of violence stemming from past conflicts. The notions of prevention and reconstruction are explicitly acknowledged as responsibilities in the Responsibility to Protect report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (2001).

Viewed through the lens of human security, community policing provides a basis for sustained socioeconomic growth rather than only a law enforcement tool. Community policing helps to create a virtuous cycle whereby security and development support one another by tackling both direct threats such as, crime and structural vulnerabilities like poverty and inequality (Learning & Arie, 2000). This alignment finally promotes strong communities able to reach long-term wealth and well-being.

5. Methodology

This study adopted experimental survey design (ESD) to investigate the link between community policing and socio-economic development in Kaduna state between 2004 and 2020. Survey design is defined as the method of conducting an investigations with the intention of getting information from a specific group of respondents. Furthermore, ESD, which is a form of survey design is the process of doing objective and controlled research in order to maximise precision and reach particular conclusions about a hypothesis statement (Salkind, 2010., Blog, 2020). In this study, three local governments from the three senatorial zones of Kaduna State was collected. Zaria LGA was chose from Northern senatorial zone while Igabi LGA was selected from the Central senatorial zone and Kachia LGA was selected from southern senatorial zone. These local governments were chosen based on data from the Kaduna State Security Report 2020.

A sample size of 400 was arrive at using the Taro Yamane formula from a combined population of 1,897,553 based on 2016 projected population estimate, 10% of the 400 was added (40) to the questionnaires shared to cover for either unreturned or incomplete questionnaires. The sample was further proportionally shared were Zaria got 206 (+20) questionnaires, Igabi got 123 (+13) questionnaires and Kachia got 71 (+7). Overall, there was 422 (95.6%) retrieval rate from the 440 (440) questionnaires shared. Out of the 422 retrieved, it was also found that 414 (98%) of the questionnaires were fully completed while 8 (2%) were not fully completed across the three local government areas under study. Furthermore, the questionnaires were systematically administered in political wards in the three local governments. The wards were arraigned alphabetically and the wards chosen based on a constant interval.

Table A: Ward Selection

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	ALL WARDS	WARDS SELECTED
ZARIA	Dambo , Dutsen Abba, Gyallesu , Kaura, Kufena, Kwarbai "a" , Kwarbai "b", Limancin-kona , Tudun Wada, Tukur Tukur , Ung. Fatika, Ung. Juma , Wucicciri.	Dambo, Gyallesu, Kwarbai "a", Limancin-kona, Tukur Tukur, Ung Juma.
IGABI	Afaka , Birnin Yero, Gadan Gayan , Gwaraji, Igabi ward , Kerawa, Kwarau , Rigachikun, Rigasa , Sabon Birni, Jaji , Turunku, Zangon Aya	Afaka, Gadan Gayan, Igabi, Kwarau, Rigasa, Jaji, Zangon Aya.
KACHIA	Agunu , Ankwa, Awon , Bishini, Dokwa , Gidan Tagwai, Gumel , Kachia.	Agunu, Awon, Dokwa, Gumel.

Researcher Compilation, 2022.

The data collected through the instrument of a questionnaire was analysed descriptively using SPSS software, version 22. The data was then displayed in tables to show frequencies and percentages.

6. Data Presentation and Analysis

This section on findings presents results from the data collected, offering evidence on the extent to which community policing impact on socio-economic development in the three sampled local

governments of Zaria, Igabi and Kachia, Kaduna State. In this study, the findings are presented on frequency table showing percentages. The cross tabulation method was used with the local governments horizontally at the top of the table and the strength of opinion of respondents was presents by the left vertically.

Table 1 * LGA Cross tabulation

Community policing has helped in the prevention of crimes which fosters economic development in Kaduna

		LGA			Total
		Zaria	Igabi	Kachia	
Q1	Strongly Disagree	7	5	8	20
	Disagree	8	4	11	23
	Undecided	22	13	11	46
	Agree	93	50	32	175
	Strongly Agree	84	53	13	150
Total		214	125	75	414

Survey Research 2022

Table 1 displays results from respondents on the question whether community policing has helped in the prevention of crime which foster economic development in Kaduna state. The results showed that 7 respondents from Zaria, 5 from Igabi and 8 from Kachia strongly disagree with the statement in question while 8 from Zaria, 4 from Igabi and 11 from Kachia disagree. Furthermore, 22 respondents from Zaria, 13 from Igabi and 11 from Kachia were undecided about the statement in question. Also, 93 respondents from Zaria, 50 from Igabi and 32 from Kachia agreed that community policing is preventive of crime and promotes economic development while 84 from Zaria, 53 from Igabi and 13 from Kachia strongly agreed.

The findings from this study suggest that respondents from in the majority believe that community policing has helped in the prevention of crime which fosters economic development. This is consistent with a previous study conducted in Effutu municipality in the central region on Ghana by Eguo (2023) titled “Community policing and crime prevention in Effutu municipality in the central region of Ghana”. The study found that the presence of community policing has assisted in reducing fear towards crime, creating a feeling of safety thereby facilitating smooth business

activities. Similarly, Ruteere & Pommerolle (2003) in their study titled “Democratizing security or decentralizing repression? The ambiguities of community policing in Kenya” highlighted the potential of community policing in enhancing security and support local economic activities. Okpa & Tyover (2024) in their work “Community policing and crime control: A theoretical elucidation” revealed that constructive association between society and police, and effective community policing practices significantly contributed to the police positive perception on community policing impact on crime control. Overall, police-community partnerships, community policing crime prevention strategies, and police-community problem solving are factors influencing crime reduction in Africa.

Table 2 * LGA Cross tabulation

Community participation in policing is a viable means of building peace and enhancing social integration in Kaduna

		LGA			Total
		Zaria	Igabi	Kachia	
Q2	Strongly Disagree	6	3	6	15
	Disagree	9	9	3	21
	Undecided	6	6	10	22
	Agree	106	61	34	201
	Strongly Agree	87	46	22	155
Total		214	125	75	414

Survey Research 2022

Table 2 asked respondents if they agree community participation in policing is a viable means of building peace and enhancing social integration in Kaduna. The results showed that 6 respondents from Zaria, 3 from Igabi and 6 from Kachia strongly disagreed with the statement in question while 9 from Zaria, 9 from Igabi and 3 from Kachia also disagreed. 6 respondents from Zaria, 6 from Igabi and 10 from Kachia appeared undecided about the statement in question. Furthermore, 106 respondents from Zaria, 61 from Igabi and 34 from Kachia agreed with the statement in question while 87 from Zaria, 46 from Igabi and 22 from Kachia strongly agreed that community participation in policing promotes peace building and enhances social integration.

Table 3 * LGA Cross tabulation

The partnership between the community and formal security agencies has improved security; an essential element for development in Kaduna

		LGA			Total
		Zaria	Igabi	Kachia	
Q3	Strongly Disagree	4	2	2	8
	Disagree	8	5	14	27
	Undecided	19	10	8	37
	Agree	99	61	35	195
	Strongly Agree	84	47	16	147
Total		214	125	75	414

Survey Research 2022

Table 3 displays results from respondent’s views on whether partnership between the community and formal security agencies has improved security; an essential element for development in Kaduna. The result shows that 4 respondents from Zaria, 2 from Igabi and 2 from Kachia strongly disagree with the statement in question and 8 respondents from 8, 5 from Igabi and 14 from Kachia also disagreed with the statement. Also, 19 respondents from Zaria, 10 from Igabi and 8 from Kachia were undecided. Furthermore, 99 respondents from Zaria, 61 from Igabi and 35 from Kachia agreed with the statement in question while 84 respondents from Zaria, 47 from Igabi and 16 from Kachia strongly agreed that partnership between the community and formal security agencies has improved security; an essential element for development in Kaduna

Table 4 * LGA Cross tabulation

Community policing is democratic in nature and has more likelihood of promoting social and economic development in Kaduna

		LGA			Total
		Zaria	Igabi	Kachia	
Q4	Strongly Disagree	10	7	12	29
	Disagree	4	3	6	13
	Undecided	36	25	8	69
	Agree	111	60	27	198
	Strongly Agree	53	30	22	105
Total		214	125	75	414

Survey Research 2022

Table 4 displays results from respondent’s views on their perception about whether community policing is democratic in nature and has more likelihood of promoting social and economic development in Kaduna. 10 respondents from Zaria, 7 from Igabi and 12 from Kachia strongly disagree while 4 from Zaria, 3 from Igabi and 6 from Kachia disagree with the statement in question. Also, 36 from Zaria, 25 from Igabi and 8 from Kachia were undecided about the statement. Also, 111 respondents from Zaria, 60 from Igabi and 27 from Kachia agree with the statement in question while 53 respondents from Zaria, 30 from Igabi and 22 from Kachia strongly agreed with the statement that community policing is democratic in nature and has more likelihood of promoting social and economic development in Kaduna.

Table 5 * LGA Cross tabulation

Community policing has helped in improving domestic security which has positive benefits for the growth of the economy

		LGA			Total
		Zaria	Igabi	Kachia	
Q5	Strongly Disagree	2	1	5	8
	Disagree	10	6	12	28
	Undecided	5	4	5	14
	Agree	107	58	31	196
	Strongly Agree	90	56	22	168
Total		214	125	75	414

Table 5 displays respondent's views on whether community policing has helped in improving domestic security which has positive benefits for the growth of the economy. The breakdown shows that 2 respondents from Zaria, 1 from Igabi and 5 from Kachia strongly disagreed with the statement, while 10 from Zaria, 6 from Igabi and 12 from Kachia also disagree with the statement in question. 5 respondents from Zaria, 4 from Igabi and 5 from Kachia appeared undecided. Furthermore, 107 respondents from Zaria, 58 from Igabi and 31 from Kachia agreed with the statement while 90 from Zaria, 56 from Igabi and 22 from Kachia strongly agreed that community policing has helped in improving domestic security which has positive benefits for the growth of the economy.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

Looking at the data as presented, it can be concluded that there is a strong link between community policing and socio-economic development in Kaduna State. Respondents share a strong conviction that community policing has helped in the prevention of crimes which fosters economic development in the three local governments under study. Also, community participation in policing has been found to be a viable means of building peace and enhancing social integration in Kaduna. Furthermore, partnership between the community and formal security agencies like the police, Kaduna state vigilante service and the army has improved security in Kaduna State. It was found to be an essential element for development.

Respondents have also believe that community policing is democratic in nature which has likelihood of promoting social and economic development in Kaduna. Importantly, respondents have indicated that community policing has helped in improving domestic security which has positive benefits for the growth of the economy.

Recommendations

Community policing have been found to be a viable alternative for promoting internal security thereby creating the conducive environment for economic development. The efficacy of any model of community policing is dependent upon the strategic implementation strategy that foster smooth community engagement by law enforcement agencies. This paper recommends:

- I. Effective and inclusive community policing committees (CPCs) that target specific strata in the communities of Kaduna state such as youth oriented community policing, women oriented community policing groups, religious leaders community oriented policing groups and local business owners policing groups. There should be regular engagements within the groups and between the groups so that security concerns can be identified and solutions can be collaboratively crafted for the development of their communities.
- II. Communities with high rate of youth unemployment in Kaduna state should engage them in security programs such as neighbourhood watch so that they could gain experience and further prepare them to be productive members of the community. Vocational skills should also be given to the unemployed youth through collaboration with trade associations so that the social and economic viability of the communities will be enhanced.
- III. Importantly, for effectiveness and efficiency, technology have to be integrated to improve on crime reporting and information sharing. This will ensure a data driven system of policing where hotspots can be easily identified in the early stages to prevent escalation.
- IV. Monitoring and evaluation must be emphasised so that successes and failures can be measure thereby improving the community trust and boost confidence for greater security.

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