



INFLUENCE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIES ON SECURITY ENHANCEMENT IN SUNA WEST SUB COUNTY, MIGORI COUNTY, KENYA

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Abstract: *The Nyumba Kumi (NK) Strategies is a platform to enhance neighborhood safety was initiated by the government to assist the community policing Strategies which calls for every individual to ensure his safety and that of his neighbour are well maintained. The NK Strategies requires citizens to know their neighbours and the kind of activities they indulge in. This neighborhood security strategy is a kind of an integrated security framework which encompasses active participation of citizens in an attempt to contain any insecurity elements that may spring up in their midst. The study sought to determine NK Strategies on security enhancement. The specific objective of the study was to establish the influence of community partnership strategies program on security enhancement in Suna West Sub County, Migori County. The total population of this study was 212 public administrative officers including other officers working in Suna West Sub County, Migori County. The study stratified sampling technique to get a sample size 138 respondents. The study adopted questionnaires for purposes of collecting primary data from the field. The study findings established that the coefficients of community partnership $\beta = .338$. Three hundred thirty eight implied that a change in one unit of community partnership results to a change in security enhancement by thirty three point three eight percent that was statistically significant.*

Keywords: *Community Partnership Strategies, Community Policing, Security Enhancement*

BACKGROUND

The idea that a closer partnership between the police and local residents could help reduce crime and disorder began to emerge throughout the 1970s. One of the reasons why this consideration was appealing to police departments was because the recognition that the police and the community were co-producers of police services spread the blame for increasing crime rates (Schönteich & Louw, 2011). An innovative project in San Diego specifically recognized this developing theme by encouraging line officers to identify and solve community problems on their beats (Kelling and Mark, 2013).

Insecurity hinders socio-economic growth in different ways: threats to physical security, the absence of safe living environments, dangers that prevent people from achieving sustainable livelihoods, and the impact upon health and education services. In Kenya, National Police Service (NPS) reform is a critical issue not only for community safety and economic development, but because there is intense popular demand for reduced crime and better police performance. According to Mapunda (2010), the Government has acknowledged the need of bringing the people back into the law enforcement process by creating a synergy

between the public security officers and the neighborhood so that rising criminal activities can be amicably handled. With societal evolution, this is a technique that cannot be under-estimated by any particular state. Neighborhoods must come together in order to eradicate criminal acts, violence and undermining of the legal frameworks and must show commitment to join hands with the law enforcement agents in maintaining security, crime fear and criminal acts.

Chumba, (2012) opines that law enforcement agents on the other side must create positive relationships with the neighborhood they provide services to in order to solve the most urgent grievances of neighborhood members. NK Strategies began as a hot subject of discourses amongst all manners of analysts, and no doubt remained a concept talked about with least implementation because of the haze that clouded it being a model hence confusion on how its implementation into security solutions would happen (David, 2011). Being a model targeting to influence security at the village (Rural Kenya) and estate level (Urban Kenya), majority of the village folks are still in much haze because they have not been adequately educated/ socialized to grasp the mechanics of NK (Gimode, 2011). Therefore, most people would not understand how the program would benefit them as individuals and as those 10 clustered household espoused by the program.

Hamm, Trinkner and Carr (2017) in the United Kingdom focused on fair process, trust, and cooperation in enhancing police legitimacy. It was noted the police recognize the need for cooperation with the community. In the fight against serious crime, police have encouraged community members to come forth with relevant information. In addition, police have spoken to neighbourhood groups, participated in business and civic events, worked with social agencies, and taken part in educational and recreational programs for school children (Hamm, Trinkner & Carr, 2017). By participation in the above services, this will help develop trust between the police and the community. This trust will enable the police to gain greater access to valuable information from the community that could lead to the solution and prevention of crimes, will engender support for needed crime-control measures, and will provide an opportunity for police to establish a working relationship with the community. The entire police organization must be involved in enlisting the cooperation of community members in promoting safety and security (Hamm, Trinkner & Carr, 2017).

Kenyan Government through ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government Department of NGAO and the NPS, has over time come up with various community based strategies to combat crime rate. There is a lot of determination to avert crime in Suna West sub County, through community policing, NK Strategies has upstretched citizens 'expectations to live in a crime free community (Kelling & Mark, 2013). Despite all these efforts crime rate in Suna West sub County, Kenya is still high especially 'High crime. These Crimes are habitually committed by people within the same community. The crime rate is higher than the average national crime index. Stealing is leading in terms of prevalence at 68.3percent against the national average of 53.4 percent representing 14.9 percent over and above the national crime index. Correspondingly, forgery has a county score of 14.4 percent against the national average of 6.2 percent and burglary and house breaking county's percentage is 29.6 against 26.5 national average. This data clearly exemplifies that Suna West sub County, is an area prone to high crimes. It is this state of affairs that informed the study.

Significance of the Study

The study will be conducted in order to find out the influence of NK Strategies on security enhancement. The findings from this research could be useful source of information to County government of Migori since they might help know whether NK Strategies is effectively lowering partnering with stakeholders. It could also be useful source of information in that it could help educate the residents on how best to practice NK Strategies

to help ameliorate incessant crime. It could again help show the police best ways of interacting with the public in a bid to boost public trust in the police. The research findings are also useful source of information for researchers and development practitioners who need to conduct further research on the same topic in other towns.

Scope of the Study

The study was conducted in Suna West sub County, Migori County. The study was conducted from June, 2022 to March, 2023. The study majorly focused on the contribution of NK Strategies to enhance security. The study targeted administrative officers, Village Elders, Community Policy Representatives, General Public, National Police Service, County's Government Security Organs and Private Sectors.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

As a rational and effective manner of viewing the world, Ader, Mellenbergh and Hang (2008) describe a research design. With quantitative and qualitative approaches, this study followed a descriptive survey design. Kothari (2004) describes descriptive survey design as the process by which the current conditions are defined, documented, analyzed and reported. Tavakoli (2012) states that the nature of the descriptive survey explores persons, organizations, techniques and materials to identify, define, analyze and interpret entities and events in different fields of study (Gay, Mills & Airasian, 2006).

Propositional questions, simultaneous answer questions, and multiple-choice questions define descriptive research. Descriptive research would assist the respondents to access factual information that can be reviewed, analyzed, and defined to provide an essential foundation for clarity and meaningful decision-making (Singh, 2006). This design would allow the researcher to analyze the situation at the time of the analysis and collect data from respondents in their natural setting, resulting in high objectivity (Orodho, 2005). Descriptive survey design was also justified as it enables the researcher to identify the study problem and seek to find out the particular facts about it (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2012).

The total population of this study was 212 public administrative officers working in Suna west Sub County, Migori County. The study's total population comprises a number of individuals, cases or objects with certain common obvious features to be researched (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2009). The study adopted stratified sampling technique. The following formula was used to get a manageable sample size of 138 respondents. The primary data was gathered via a questionnaire distributed in this study. As it facilitates appropriate and quick data gathering, the research instrument was an adequate tool.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section constitutes of presentation of data analysis, interpretations, and discussions in regards to this study. The researcher focused on establishing the influence of community participation and security enhancement, and the findings are as tabulated next page:-

Table 1: Community Partnership Strategies and Security Enhancement

STATEMENTS	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	SD
There is community involvement in security enhancement	9 7%	22 18%	10 8.0%	40 32.0%	43 35%	3.7	.84
The local community has its input in security enhancement	9 7%	9 7%	23 18.4 %	42 34.2%	41 33.4%	3.8	.94
There is community initiated Strategies which focus towards security enhancement	5 4%	30 24.2%	10 8.1%	62 50%	17 13.7%	3.5	.84
The local people participates in provide relevant information that can assist in security enhancement	Nil	Nil	15	20	89	4.5	1.28
The local people understand the benefits of participating in security enhancement	Nil	Nil	22 18%	35 28%	67 54%	4.3	1.32
The input of local people in security enhancement had decreased crimes	3 2%	5 4%	41 33%	62 50%	14 11%	3.7	.92

From table 1, the study findings presented on the influence of community participation and security enhancement. The results showed that on the statement that there is community involvement in security enhancement had a mean of 3.7 and a SD=.84; The local community has its input in security enhancement had a mean of 3.8 and SD = .94, there is community initiated Strategies which focus towards security enhancement had a mean of 3.5 and SD=.84, The local people participates in provide relevant information that can assist in security enhancement had a mean of 4.5 and SD=1.28, The local people understand the benefits of participating in security enhancement indicated a mean of 4.3 and SD=1.32, and lastly the input of local people in security enhancement had lowered crimes indicated a mean of 3.7 and SD=.92. This shows that community participation had a significant influence on security enhancement.

These study findings are supported by the study done by Hamm, Trinkner & Carr, (2017) who highlighted that community participation in security enhancement helps in developing trust between the law enforcers and the local community leading to crime lowering and this will provide an opportunity for law enforcers to establish a working relationship with the community.

Another study done by Hamm, Trinkner and Carr (2017) in the United Kingdom focused on fair process, trust, and cooperation in enhancing police legitimacy. It was noted the police recognize the need for cooperation with the community. In the fight against serious crime, police have encouraged community members to come forth with relevant information.

Correlations

Correlation analysis was done to determine the relationship between independent variable and dependent variable as presented in table 2.

Table 2: Correlations matrix

		Community Participation	Security Enhancement
Community Partnership Strategies	Pearson Correlation	1	.325**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.006
	N	124	124
Security Enhancement	Pearson Correlation	.325**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.006	
	N	124	124

Table 2 showed a positive correlation with community partnership and security enhancement supported by $r = .325$ with a p value of $.006 < .05$ statistically significant.

Table 3: Regression Coefficients

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	β	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.358	1.241	1.0943	.007
	Community partnership	.338	.129	.251	.011

a. Dependent Variable: Security Enhancement

Therefore, the regression model would be: $Y = 1.358 + .338X_1 + \varepsilon$ (1)

The regression coefficient table above shows that the constant $\alpha = 1.358$ is significantly greater than $.007 < .05$. The coefficients of; community participation $\beta = .338$, implied that a change in one unit of community participation results to a change in security enhancement by 33.38% statistically significant at $p < .05$.

The study findings established that the coefficients of community partnership $\beta = .338$. Three hundred thirty eight implied that a change in one unit of community partnership results to a change in security enhancement by thirty three point three eight percent that was statistically significant.

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