UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION IN EFFUTU MUNICIPALITY IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF GHANA
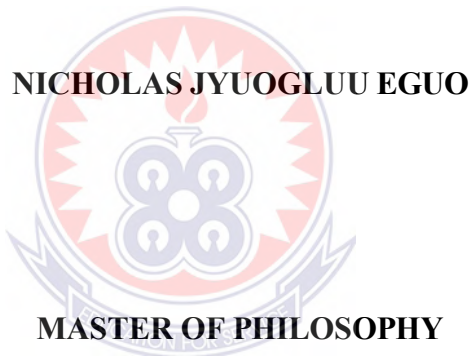
NICHOLAS JYUOGLUU EGUO

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

2023

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION IN EFFUTU MUNICIPALITY IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF GHANA

NICHOLAS JYUOGLUU EGUO
(202142245)

A thesis in the Centre for Conflict, Human Rights and Peace Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, submitted to the School of Graduate Studies in the partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy (Human Rights, Conflict and Peace Studies) in the University of Education, Winneba

JUNE, 2023

DECLARATION

STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I, **Nicholas Jyuogluu Eguo**, declare that this thesis with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and duly acknowledged, is entirely my own original work, and it has not been submitted, either in part or whole, for another degree elsewhere.

Signature: ……………………………………

Date: …………………………………………

SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this project work was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of project as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

Dr. Maxwell Acheampong (Supervisor)

Signature: ………………………………

Date: ……………………………………

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my mother Georgina Panpanoba whose support brought me this far. Thank you.
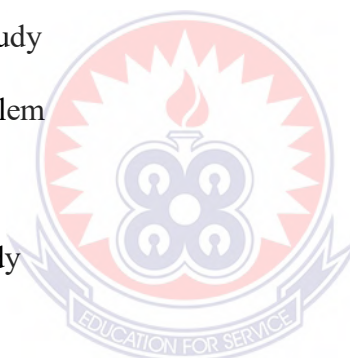
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My heartfelt appreciation goes to the principal supervisor of this work, Dr. Maxwell Acheampong who willingly and painstakingly supported me with constructive criticisms, specific guidance and feedback throughout each stage of the study. I am deeply indebted to him for his patience, interest and invaluable contributions in reading and correcting this project work. His high-level suggestions and directions in the selection and arrangement of research materials made this study successful.

My sincere appreciation goes to Mrs. Mary Talata Abu, Mr. Raymond Dadzie and Dr. Ms. Caesar Regina who in diverse ways encouraged and supported me throughout the study. A special thanks you also goes out to my family: Mrs. Ayishetu Yorbonta and Annel Taasong Eguo.

I am equally indebted to the Municipal Police command, and community police officers in Effutu who contributed in diverse ways to make the completion of this project work a reality. I appreciate the contribution of Deputy Superintendent (DESUPOL) Mr. Oppong Kwadwo Agyekum and his team at the Winneba criminal investigation department unit for his support. Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude to authors whose books and research works were consulted in carrying out this research work.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURE

ABSTRACT

Crime is a significant contributor to global insecurity and hampers development. Despite traditional policing efforts, the escalating crime rates have led to a demand for a shift from military-based to democratic-based policing, known as community policing, which aims to prevent crime. The study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of community policing in preventing crime in the Effutu Municipality of the Central Region of Ghana. Ten participants were selected using purposive sampling, including representatives from the Crime Department of the Effutu Municipal Command, Community Police Assistants, and opinion leaders from three communities: Essuekyir, Winneba, and New Winneba. Semi-structured interviews were conducted to gather information from these key informants. The data were translated, reviewed, categorized, summarized, and interpreted to draw evidence-based conclusions. The study revealed that community policing officers utilize various strategies, such as evening patrols, to combat crime and ensure community safety. The study found that, the presence of community police has helped alleviate fear and anxiety among residents, fostering a sense of security and enabling smooth business activities. However, challenges such as a lack of public trust in the police, insufficient financial support, and limited resources hinder the operationalization of community policing. This as the study revealed has restrained the community policing program to fully achieve its objective of protecting lives and property in the Effutu Municipality. The study concluded that community policing is significant in ensuring community safety, fostering collaboration, and enhancing trust between the police and the community. The study recommends the development of a security framework that encourages shared decision-making between the police and community members in the Effutu Municipal area, with a focus on peace, security, and development.

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The chapter presents the general introduction of the study which includes, the background, research problem, research questions and objectives, significance and scope of the study as well as its organization.

1.2 Background of the Study

Community policing, as a philosophy and practice, has gained global recognition as an effective approach to crime prevention and the maintenance of public safety. It emphasizes on collaboration, partnership, and problem-solving between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve (Skogan & Hartnett, 2012). The concept of community policing originated in the United States in the 1980s with the introduction of the broken windows theory, which suggests that visible signs of disorder and neglect in communities contribute to crime and antisocial behavior (Kelling & Wilson, 2000). Since then, community policing has evolved into a multifaceted approach that involves proactive engagement with community members, problem-solving initiatives, and a shift towards preventive strategies (Brogden & Nijhar, 2013). It has been implemented in various countries around the world, resulting in reduced crime rates, improved police-community relationships, and enhanced perceptions of public safety (Crowl, 2017; Lombardo & Lough, 2002).

In the African context, community policing has gained recognition as a promising strategy for crime prevention, social order, and enhancing police legitimacy (Ruteere & Pommerolle, 2003). Many African countries have incorporated community

1

policing principles into their law enforcement strategies, adapting them to suit their unique social, cultural, and political contexts (Trojanowicz et al., 2002). West Africa, in particular, has witnessed notable efforts to implement community policing and crime prevention initiatives. These initiatives aim to address the challenges posed by high crime rates, limited resources, and historical mistrust between communities and law enforcement agencies (Alemika & Chukwuma, 1998). In countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, and Uganda, community policing approaches have shown promise in fostering positive police-community relationships, reducing crime, and increasing public trust in law enforcement (Acheampong, 2015; Akubu, 2014; Boateng, 2012). Akubu (2014) investigated the challenges faced by community policing in Uganda's urban areas, focusing on the case of Mbarara Municipality. His study shed light on the contextual factors and specific challenges that can influence the effectiveness of community policing in different settings.

In the Nigerian context, Alemika and Chukwuma (1998) conducted an analysis of the police and policing in Nigeria, providing insights into the role of community policing in addressing crime and maintaining law and order.

In Ghana, community policing has gained recognition as an essential component of the national crime prevention strategy. The Ghana Police Service has embraced community policing principles and practices, emphasizing collaboration, partnership, and problem-solving with communities (Ali, 2007). Efforts to implement community policing in Ghana have focused on enhancing police-community relationships, improving public trust in the police, and addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by local communities (Boateng, 2012). However, there is a need for further research to assess the effectiveness and sustainability of community policing initiatives in different regions of Ghana, including the Effutu Municipality.

2

The Effutu Municipality, located in the Central Region of Ghana, faces various socio-economic challenges and crime-related issues. Ghana Police Service Crime Report on Effutu Municipality in 2019 reported two hundred and seventy cases, a sharp increase to 450 and 453 reported cases in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Accordingly, the current study seeks to contribute to literature by exploring how community policing contribute to effective crime prevention in Effutu Municipality.

While the Ghana Police Service has made efforts to implement community policing strategies nationwide, there is a need for context-specific research in the Effutu Municipality to understand the dynamics and effectiveness of community policing and crime prevention initiatives in addressing the unique challenges faced by the local community.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Community policing is an innovative approach to law enforcement that emphasizes on collaboration and partnership between the police and the community in order to prevent crime, maintain order, and enhance public safety. This policing strategy has gained significant attention and has been implemented in various countries and contexts, including Uganda, Nigeria, the United States, and Zimbabwe, to name a few. The effectiveness of community policing in crime prevention and its impact on police legitimacy, trust, and job satisfaction has been the subject of extensive research and debate. Studies conducted in different regions have provided valuable insights into the implementation, challenges, and outcomes of community policing initiatives. For instance, Acheampong (2015) examined the application of community policing in the Awutu Senya East Municipality of Ghana, highlighting its role in crime prevention in edge cities.

3

Boateng (2012) examined public trust in the Ghanaian police, identifying factors that shape trust and highlighting the potential role of community policing in enhancing public confidence.

Scholars have also explored the theoretical underpinnings of community policing and its conceptual frameworks. Braun and Clarke (2012) discussed the use of thematic analysis as a methodological approach to understanding the complexities of community policing. Brogden and Nijhar (2013) provided a comprehensive overview of community policing, its historical development, and key principles. They emphasized the importance of partnership, problem-solving, and community engagement as fundamental elements of community policing.

The impact and outcomes of community policing interventions have also been examined. Crowl (2017) conducted an empirical review of the evidence on the effect of community policing on fear and crime reduction, police legitimacy, and job satisfaction. Fridell (2004) discussed the defining characteristics of community policing and its evolution over time, emphasizing the importance of community partnerships and problem-oriented approaches.

Moreover, researchers have explored the relationship between community policing and various social factors. Ali (2007) critically analysed the effects of contingent factors on community policing activities, highlighting the need to consider specific contextual factors when adopting a particular policing model. Kappeler and Gaines (2012) provided a contemporary perspective on community policing, emphasizing its potential to address community concerns, build trust, and improve police-community relations.

4

The existing body of literature on community policing provides a foundation for understanding its theoretical underpinnings, examining its implementation in different contexts, and assessing its impact on crime prevention, police legitimacy, and community trust. Accordingly, this study aimed to contribute to this literature by focusing on the implementation and outcomes of community policing in the Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana. Previous studies on community policing in Ghana have mainly focused on urban areas or broader regional perspectives (Acheampong, 2015; Boateng, 2012). Accordingly, the current study seeks to contribute to literature by exploring how community policing contribute to effective crime prevention in Effutu Municipality.

Therefore, there is a research gap that needed to be filled to provide insights into the specific context of the Effutu Municipality. By examining the local context, identifying challenges, and exploring the perceptions and experiences of the police and the community, this research aimed to provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of community policing in this specific setting.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to explore the implementation of community policing and crime prevention strategies in the Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana. The study aimed to explore the effectiveness, challenges, and impact of community policing initiatives in addressing local crime patterns, improving police-community relationships, and enhancing public safety in Effutu.

1.5 Objectives of the Study

Specifically, this study intended to

1. Examine the operationalization of community policing in the Effutu Municipality.

2. Assess the effectiveness of community policing initiatives in reducing crime and enhancing safety in the Effutu Municipality.

3. Identify the challenges in the implementation of community policing in the Effutu Municipality.

4. Explore the impact of community policing on police-community relationships and trust in law enforcement within the Effutu Municipality.

1.6 Questions

1. How is community policing operationalized in the Effutu Municipality?

2. How effective is community policing initiatives in reducing crime and enhancing public safety in the Effutu Municipality?

3. What are the challenges encountered in the implementation of community policing in the Effutu Municipality?

4. How does community policing impact police-community relationships and trust in law enforcement within the Effutu Municipality?

1.7 Significance of the Study

The study employed a qualitative approach to comprehensively examine the impact of community policing in Effutu Municipality. Through the collection of qualitative data, including interviews and surveys with community members and police officers, a deeper understanding of the perceptions, experiences, and challenges associated with community policing was obtained.

Community policing is a proactive law enforcement approach that emphasizes collaboration and partnership between the police and the community. Recognizing that effective crime prevention and maintenance of order necessitate community support and involvement, the study aimed to assess the impact of community policing on crime prevention in Effutu Municipality. The choice of Effutu Municipality as the study area was based on its unique characteristics and specific needs, as well as the broader challenges related to crime and security in the Central Region of Ghana.

Building upon existing literature on community policing and crime prevention, such as Acheampong (2015), Boateng (2012), and Cordner (2005), the study aimed to contribute to the existing body of knowledge. By examining the specific case of Effutu Municipality, the study sought to generate insights and recommendations that are contextually relevant and applicable. This research endeavour aimed to inform policy and practice regarding community policing in Ghana.

The findings of this study have the potential to inform policy decisions, enhance community safety, and improve collaboration between the police and the community in preventing and addressing crime. By evaluating the implementation and outcomes of community policing in Effutu Municipality, policymakers and law enforcement agencies can gain valuable insights into the strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement in the current approach. This knowledge can guide the development of more effective strategies for crime prevention and community engagement.

Overall, this study contributes to the existing knowledge base on community policing and its effectiveness within the specific context of Effutu Municipality. The research outcomes hold the potential to shape policy decisions, enhance community safety, and

foster improved collaboration between the police and the community in their joint efforts to prevent and address crime.

1.8 Definition of Terms

Community: A community can be defined by geographic boundaries, such as neighborhoods or villages, or it can encompass specific social or cultural groups within the municipality. The community is characterized by its shared interests, concerns, and interactions among its members.

Police: The term "police" refer to the law enforcement agency or organization responsible for maintaining public order, enforcing laws, preventing and investigating crime, and ensuring the safety and security of the community.

Policing: "Policing" encompasses the activities, strategies, and practices employed by the police to fulfill their responsibilities. Policing involves maintaining law and order, preventing and detecting crime, responding to emergencies, and promoting public safety. It includes various approaches, such as community engagement, patrol, investigations, and enforcement of laws and regulations.

Community Policing: Community policing is a collaborative approach to law enforcement that involves active partnerships and cooperation between the police and the community they serve. It focuses on developing relationships, trust, and mutual understanding between the police and community members. Community policing aims to address the root causes of crime, enhance public safety, and improve the quality of life in the community. It involves joint problem-solving, crime prevention efforts, and the involvement of community members in identifying and addressing local safety concerns.

Crime: Crime refers to any act or behavior that is prohibited by law and can result in punishment or legal sanctions. It includes offenses such as theft, assault, robbery, burglary, drug offenses, and other forms of illegal activities.

Crime Prevention: Crime prevention encompasses strategies, measures, and initiatives aimed at reducing and deterring criminal behavior. It involves proactive efforts to identify and address the underlying causes of crime, disrupt criminal networks, and create conditions that discourage criminal activity. Crime prevention strategies can include community engagement, situational prevention, targeted interventions, and social programs aimed at reducing risk factors associated with crime.

1.9 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into five chapters to provide a comprehensive analysis of the topic. Chapter one introduced the study by discussing the background, statement of the problem, purpose, objectives, research questions and significance of the study.

Chapter two presented a thorough review of existing literature relevant to the problem under investigation. This literature review provides a foundation of knowledge and insights into the topic of community policing and crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana.

Chapter three focused on the methodology employed in this study. It outlines the research design, the target population, sample size determination, sampling technique, data collection instruments, data collection procedure, and the chosen method of data analysis.

In chapter four, the collected data were presented and analysed. The results of the study were discussed, interpreted, and compared to the existing literature. This chapter provided a detailed analysis of the findings, highlighting key patterns, trends, and

9

relationships.

Lastly, chapter five presented the summary of the main findings derived from the study. It included conclusions drawn from the analysis, recommendations for practitioners and policymakers based on the findings. The chapter also provides suggestions for further research to deepen the understanding of community policing and crime prevention in Effutu Municipality, and a discussion of the limitations of the study. This final chapter served as a culmination of the research, providing a comprehensive overview of the study's outcomes and their implications.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Community Policing: Definition, Principles, and Models

2.1.1 The concept and evolution of community policing

Community policing is a law enforcement approach that emphasizes collaboration and partnership between the police and the community to address crime and enhance public safety. This literature reviews the concept of community policing and its evolution by drawing various scholarly articles that provide insights into different aspects of community policing. Community policing is rooted in the belief that effective crime control and prevention require the active involvement and cooperation of community members. It involves the police working closely with residents, businesses, and community organizations to identify and solve problems, develop trust, and enhance the overall quality of life.

Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1990) define community policing as a philosophy that emphasizes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques. The concept of community policing emerged in the United States during the 1970s and 1980s. Maguire and Mastrofski (2000) provide an overview of community policing in the United States, highlighting its key features, such as problem-solving, community partnerships and decentralization. They also discuss different models and variations of community policing across various U.S. police departments.

Davis et al., (2003) examine the adoption of community policing in developing countries, discussing variations and adaptations of the Western model to suit local contexts. Zumve (2011) synthesizes various community policing models implemented

11

in Nigeria emphasizing the need for a context-specific approach. Friedmann and Cannon (2007) explore the relationship between community policing and homeland security, discussing whether these two approaches complement or compete with each other. Chappell and Gibson (2009) examine the intersections and potential conflicts between community policing and homeland security policing. Several scholars have highlighted challenges and critiques related to the implementation of community policing. Frühling (2007) discusses the impact of international models of policing, including community policing, in Latin America. Brogden and Nijhar (2013) analyze the criticisms of community policing, such as concerns about accountability, limited resources, and the potential for community exclusion.

Community policing has evolved over the years, adapting to different cultural contexts and addressing emerging challenges in law enforcement. The concept emphasizes collaborative partnerships, problem-solving, and community engagement to prevent crime and improve public safety. While the Western model serves as a foundation, international perspectives have contributed to the diversification and adaptation of community policing approaches. However, challenges and critiques exist, necessitating ongoing evaluation and refinement of community policing strategies.

2.1.2 Key Principles and Components of Community Policing

Community policing is a proactive and collaborative approach to law enforcement that emphasizes the partnership between the police and the community. This review aims to explore the key principles and components of community policing, drawing from relevant studies that directly examine or closely relate to this concept. By synthesizing the findings from various scholarly works, this review aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the concept of community policing and its fundamental elements.

12

Zumve (2011) provides an overview of community policing models in Nigeria, outlining the key principles and components specific to the Nigerian context. It highlights the importance of community engagement, problem-solving, and partnerships as core elements of community policing. Casey's (2010) study examines the implementation of community policing across various countries and cultures, highlighting common principles and components. He discusses the importance of community partnerships, problem-solving, organizational transformation, and proactive policing strategies as key elements. Wilson (2006) worked on community policing in America. His book offers a comprehensive analysis of community policing in the United States. It explores the key principles and components of community policing, including problem-solving, community engagement, organizational change and community partnerships.

A review synthesizing existing evidence on community policing highlights problem-solving, community engagement, community partnerships, and organizational transformation as key components of effective community policing initiatives (Mackenzie and Henry, 2009). Also, Terpstra's (2010) in his study examines the practical implementation of community policing. The study practically discusses the core principles of community policing, such as community involvement, problem-solving, and collaboration between the police and the community.

The literature reviewed consistently identifies several key principles and components of community policing. These include community engagement, problem-solving, organizational transformation, proactive policing strategies, community partnerships, information sharing, and a shift in police culture. The findings from the reviewed articles highlight the significance of these elements in successful community policing initiatives across various countries and cultures.

13

2.1.3 Different Models and Approaches to Community Policing

Community policing is a widely recognized and implemented approach to law enforcement that emphasizes collaboration and partnership between the police and the community. Various models and approaches have been developed and implemented across different countries and cultures. The literature review demonstrates the diversity of models and approaches to community policing, reflecting variations in cultural, contextual, and organizational factors. The models discussed encompass officer-based approaches, problem-solving approaches, community-based approaches, and those that intersect with other policing strategies. While some models have been widely implemented and evaluated, others are still emerging or context-specific. Understanding the strengths, limitations, and contextual relevance of different models and approaches is crucial for effective implementation and continuous improvement of community policing initiatives.

Zumve (2011) synthesizes different models of community policing in contemporary Nigeria, highlighting the relevance and applicability of these models in the Nigerian context. The study discusses models such as the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Joint Community Policing Committees, and the Police-Community Relations Committee. Wilson (2006) also provides an overview of community policing in America, discussing its evolution, principles, and key features. He explores different models and approaches, including problem-oriented policing, broken windows policing, and intelligence-led policing, as they relate to community policing in the American context. Besides, Mackenzie and Henry (2009) conducted a comprehensive review of evidence on community policing. The study explores various models and approaches, including problem-solving policing, hotspot policing, and community-oriented policing,

14

analyzing their effectiveness in reducing crime and improving community perceptions of police.

In a similar vein, Terpstra (2010) examines the implementation of community policing in practice, focusing on the ambitions and realization of community policing strategies. The study discusses different approaches to community policing, such as the officer-based approach, problem-solving approach, and community-based approach, and their impact on crime reduction and community engagement. Moreover, Maguire and Mastrofski (2000) explore patterns of community policing in the United States. The study examines different models, including the traditional model, problem-solving model, and community partnerships model, and identifies variations in the implementation and effectiveness of community policing across different police departments.

2.2 Crime Prevention Strategies and Approaches

2.2.1 Conceptualization of Crime

The conceptualization of crime is a fundamental aspect of criminology, shaping our understanding of deviant behaviour, legal frameworks, and societal responses. This literature review provides a comprehensive analysis of the nature and definition of crime, drawing various scholarly articles to explore different perspectives and shed light on its multifaceted nature.

Crime can be defined as a socially constructed concept that encompasses behaviours that are considered deviant, harmful, and in violation of established laws and norms within a given society (Hulsman, 1986; Lacey and Zedner, 2007). It represents a breach of social and legal standards, often resulting in legal sanctions and punishment. However, the definition of crime can vary across time, cultures, and legal systems,

15

reflecting the contextual nature of this concept. The nature of crime is a complex subject, reflecting a range of perspectives within criminology. Some scholars argue that crime is a product of structural inequalities and social injustices, highlighting the influence of societal factors in shaping criminal behaviour (Friedrichs, 2015). Others emphasize biological and psychological factors, suggesting that crime may be influenced by individual traits, genetic predispositions, or mental states (Wilson and Herrnstein, 1998). Critical criminology approaches crime as a social phenomenon deeply intertwined with power structures and social hierarchies (Michalowski, 2016). It highlights the role of powerful individuals and institutions in shaping the definition and response to crime, focusing on crimes committed by corporations, governments, and other entities (Hoefnagels, 2013). This perspective challenges traditional notions of crime by broadening the focus beyond individual acts to encompass systemic forms of harm and social injustices. The conceptualization of crime has been the subject of ongoing debates within criminology. Scholars argue over the universality of criminal definitions and the influence of cultural and historical contexts on shaping notions of criminality (Adler, Gertz and Farr, 2001). The socially constructed nature of crime raises questions about the power dynamics involved in defining and labelling certain behaviours as criminal, often leading to disparities in justice systems. Furthermore, the emergence of international criminal law has expanded the concept of crime to encompass transnational offenses, such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity (Marchuk, 2014). This development highlights the evolving nature of crime in response to global challenges and the need for international cooperation in addressing such offenses.

The conceptualization of crime is a dynamic and multifaceted area of study within criminology. This literature review has highlighted the various perspectives and debates surrounding the nature and definition of crime. It underscores the socially constructed nature of crime, the influence of power structures, and the complexities involved in understanding and responding to criminal behaviour. Further research is needed to explore the cultural, historical, and social factors that shape our understanding of crime and to develop more inclusive and contextually sensitive approaches to its study.

2.2.2 Traditional Approaches to Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is a crucial aspect of maintaining public safety and social order. Traditional approaches to crime prevention encompass a range of strategies aimed at deterring criminal behaviour and reducing crime rates. Tonry and Farrington (1995) discuss strategic approaches to crime prevention, emphasizing the importance of long-term planning, targeting risk factors, and implementing evidence-based interventions. Marzbali et al. (2011) explore the effectiveness of crime prevention by design approaches which focus on the physical environment to minimize opportunities for criminal activities. Community-oriented policing is a widely recognized approach that involves collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community members. It aims to build trust, enhance communication, and empower communities to actively participate in crime prevention (Gill et al., 2014; Walters, 1993). Studies by Scheider et al. (2003), Zikhali (2019), and Lau and Ali (2019) examine the impact of citizen perceptions, community policing, and citizen participation in crime reduction efforts. The utilization of evidence-based practices in crime prevention is crucial for informed decision-making. Welsh and Farrington (2012) highlight the significance of evidence-based policies and programs in effectively addressing crime. Ekblom and Pease (1995) discuss the importance of evaluating crime prevention initiatives to determine their

effectiveness and guide future interventions.

While traditional approaches have proven valuable, there are several considerations and critiques to address. Barthe (2006) examines crime prevention publicity campaigns and their impact on public perceptions. Bullock (2013) discusses the interplay between community-oriented policing, intelligence-led policing, and crime control. Tyler (2016) explores the shift from harm reduction to community engagement in modern policing. In some contexts, traditional leaders play a significant role in crime prevention. Tshehla (2005) examines the role of traditional leaders in justice and crime prevention, emphasizing their influence and relevance in local communities. Ren et al. (2019) analyze the application of the broken windows theory and citizen engagement in crime prevention. Traditional approaches to crime prevention encompass a range of strategies, including strategic planning, community-oriented policing, evidence-based practices, and citizen engagement. While these approaches have demonstrated effectiveness, there is a need for continuous evaluation and adaptation to local contexts. Future research should focus on innovative approaches, the role of technology, and the integration of traditional and modern strategies to address the evolving nature of crime and ensure safer communities.

2.2.3 The Shift towards Community-Oriented and Preventive Strategies

In recent years, there has been a notable shift in crime prevention strategies towards community-oriented and preventive approaches. Drawing on a wide range of references, this review critically analyzes the evidence supporting the shift and highlights the benefits and challenges associated with community-oriented and preventive crime prevention. Community-oriented and preventive strategies emphasize proactive measures aimed at addressing the root causes of crime and fostering

18

partnerships between law enforcement agencies, communities, and other stakeholders (Tonry & Farrington, 1995; Marzbali et al., 2011). This approach seeks to empower communities, enhance social cohesion, and engage citizens in crime prevention efforts. Community-oriented policing (COP) is a key component of community-oriented strategies. It promotes collaboration, problem-solving, and shared responsibility between the police and the community (Wood, 1996; Gill et al., 2014). COP shifts the focus from reactive law enforcement to proactive engagement, emphasizing the building of trust and legitimacy (Dias and Hilgers, 2020; Walters, 1993). Scholars have identified several benefits associated with community-oriented and preventive strategies. These approaches have been linked to reduced crime rates, increased citizen satisfaction, improved trust in law enforcement, and enhanced community well-being (Barthe, 2006; Bullock, 2013; Scheider et al., 2003). They foster a sense of ownership and collective responsibility for crime prevention, contributing to the overall safety and quality of life in communities (Zikhali, 2019).

While community-oriented and preventive strategies offer promising prospects, they also face challenges. These include resource limitations, sustainability concerns, varying community capacities, and potential biases in implementation (Sherman and Eck, 2003; Welsh and Farrington, 2012). Ensuring equitable access and involvement of all community members, addressing social inequalities, and maintaining long-term commitment are critical aspects that require attention (Levine, 1986; Ren et al., 2019). Evidence-based practices are crucial for effective community-oriented and preventive strategies. Data-driven decision-making, evaluation, and continuous improvement are emphasized (Ekici and Pease, 1995; Wanjohi, 2014). Citizen engagement plays a vital role in these approaches, fostering collaboration, trust, and knowledge sharing between community members and law enforcement agencies (Tyler, 2016; Pattavina et al.,

19

2006).

The literature demonstrates a clear shift towards community-oriented and preventive strategies in crime prevention. Community-oriented policing, evidence-based approaches, and citizen engagement are central to this transformation. While challenges exist, such as resource limitations and sustainability concerns, the benefits of these strategies, including reduced crime rates and increased community satisfaction, indicate their potential for creating safer and more resilient communities. Further research and continued implementation of community-oriented and preventive strategies are necessary to optimize their effectiveness in diverse contexts.

2.2.4 Community Policing and Crime Prevention

Community policing and crime prevention are two interrelated concepts that have received significant attention in scholarly research. Community policing, characterized by collaborative partnerships between law enforcement agencies and the community, has been identified as a promising approach to preventing crime (Tonry & Farrington, 1995; Welsh and Farrington, 2012). It involves a shift from traditional reactive policing to proactive engagement with the community, with the goal of building trust, fostering cooperation, and addressing the root causes of crime (Wood, 1996; Walters, 1993).

The literature emphasizes several key aspects of the relationship between community policing and crime prevention. Firstly, community policing promotes increased citizen participation and involvement in crime prevention efforts (Barthe, 2006; Bullock, 2013). This collaborative approach empowers community members to actively contribute to the identification and resolution of local crime issues, enhancing the effectiveness of crime prevention initiatives (Tyler, 2016). Secondly, studies highlight the importance of citizen perceptions of community policing in shaping levels of fear of crime and promoting feelings of safety (Scheider, Rowell, and Bezdikian, 2003;

20

Marzbali et al., 2011). When community members perceive police as approachable, trustworthy, and responsive, it can lead to improved cooperation, increased reporting of crimes, and a greater willingness to engage in crime prevention activities (Tshehla, 2005).

Furthermore, community policing is often associated with a problem-solving orientation that addresses the underlying causes of crime (Ekblom & Pease, 1995; Gill et al., 2014). This approach involves conducting comprehensive analyses of crime patterns, identifying and implementing tailored strategies, and evaluating their effectiveness (Gilling, 1997; Pattavina, Byrne, and Garcia, 2006). By targeting the root causes of crime, community policing aims to prevent its occurrence, rather than solely responding to criminal incidents (Ren, Zhao, and He, 2019).

While the reviewed literature generally supports a positive relationship between community policing and crime prevention, it is essential to acknowledge certain limitations and challenges. Some studies emphasize the need for rigorous evaluations of community policing initiatives to establish their effectiveness (Ekici, Akdogan, Kelly, and Gultekin, 2022; Welsh, 2006). Robust empirical evidence is crucial for understanding the impact of community policing on crime reduction and guiding evidence-based practices. Additionally, contextual factors, such as socioeconomic conditions, community characteristics, and the availability of resources, can influence the effectiveness of community policing strategies (Levine, 1986; Nubani et al., 2023). It is important to consider the unique circumstances of each community when implementing and evaluating community policing programs.

Community policing approaches that foster collaboration, citizen engagement, and problem-solving have the potential to reduce crime, enhance community safety, and improve perceptions of the police. However, further research and rigorous evaluation

are needed to strengthen the evidence base and identify best practices in implementing community policing strategies. Policymakers, practitioners, and researchers should continue to explore and refine community policing models to maximize their effectiveness in preventing crime and promoting safer communities.

2.2.5 Effectiveness of Community Policing in Crime Prevention

Community policing has gained recognition as a promising approach to crime prevention and fostering trust between the police and the community. This review examines the existing literature to assess the effectiveness of community policing in preventing crime.

Community policing involves collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies and community members to identify and address local crime issues (Skogan and Hartnett, 2012). It aims to establish positive police-community relationships, enhance citizen participation and tailor law enforcement strategies to local needs (Brogden and Nijhar, 2013). The concept recognizes that effective crime prevention requires the active involvement of the community.

Several studies have examined the impact of community policing on crime prevention in different countries and contexts. For instance, a study in Uganda found that community policing faced challenges in urban areas but showed potential for crime prevention (Akubu, 2014). Another study in Ghana demonstrated that community policing initiatives in the Awutu Senya East Municipality contributed to crime reduction and improved public safety (Acheampong, 2015).

However, Blair et al. (2021) conducted a large-scale study across multiple countries in the Global South and found that community policing did not build citizen trust in the police or reduce crime effectively. These findings highlight the importance of

22

considering contextual factors and variations in the implementation of community policing strategies.

The effectiveness of community policing in crime prevention is influenced by various factors. Trust between the police and the community is crucial (Boateng, 2012), as is the involvement of community members in decision-making processes (Jannetta and Lachman, 2011). Successful implementation requires police officers to adopt a problem-solving orientation and build relationships with community members (Bullock, 2013).

The implementation of community policing faces challenges such as limited resources, resistance to change within police organizations, and variations in community engagement (Brogden and Nijhar, 2013; Fridell, 2004). It is essential to address these challenges by providing adequate training for police officers, ensuring sustained community involvement, and fostering collaboration between police agencies and other stakeholders (Imam, 2022; Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux, 1990).

2.2.6 Community Engagement in Crime Prevention Efforts

Community engagement plays a crucial role in crime prevention efforts by fostering collaborative partnerships between communities and law enforcement agencies. The reviewed literature consistently highlights the importance of community engagement in crime prevention efforts. Tonry and Farrington (1995) emphasize the need for strategic approaches that involve community members as active participants in identifying and addressing local crime issues. Marzbali et al. (2011) discuss how crime prevention by design approaches, which involve community engagement in urban planning and environmental interventions, contribute to sustainable development and safer neighborhoods. Community engagement in crime prevention has implications for public policy and practice. Welsh and Farrington (2012) assert that effective crime

23

prevention requires collaborative efforts between law enforcement, community organizations, and residents. Wood (1996) highlights the value of building safer societies through strategic approaches that prioritize community involvement in crime prevention strategies. Gilling (1997) underscores the role of community engagement in shaping crime prevention policies and emphasizes the need for inclusive decision-making processes.

Several articles specifically focus on the role of community-oriented policing (COP) in crime prevention. Tshehla (2005) emphasizes the enduring role of traditional leaders in justice and crime prevention efforts. Gill et al. (2014) conduct a systematic review and find that community-oriented policing strategies, which prioritize community engagement, contribute to crime reduction, increased satisfaction, and improved legitimacy among citizens. Dias and Hilgers (2020) examine the global diffusion and local appropriation of community-oriented policing theories and practices, highlighting its potential for effective crime prevention at the local level.

The literature also explores the impact of community engagement on citizen perceptions of crime and fear. Scheider et al. (2003) examine the relationship between citizen perceptions of community policing and fear of crime, finding that positive perceptions contribute to reduced fear. Zikhali (2019) evaluates the role of community policing and traditional leaders in crime prevention, highlighting their influence in enhancing community safety.

While community engagement holds promise in crime prevention, challenges and evaluation of its effectiveness are discussed in the literature. Bullock (2013) explores the integration of community intelligence in crime control, emphasizing the need for effective communication channels between law enforcement and the community.

24

Ekblom and Pease (1995) and Wanjohi (2014) discuss the evaluation of crime prevention initiatives and the importance of evidence-based approaches to assess the impact of community engagement.

2.3 The Ghana Police Service and Community Policing

The Ghana Police Service (GPS) is the primary law enforcement agency in Ghana responsible for maintaining law and order, preventing and detecting crime, and protecting lives and property. It plays a crucial role in promoting public safety and ensuring justice within the country (Aning, 2006). Historically, the GPS has undergone various reforms and transformations to enhance its effectiveness and responsiveness to the needs of the community.

The GPS recognizes the significance of community policing in fostering cooperation, trust, and partnership between the police and the community. Community policing initiatives in Ghana aim to bridge the gap between the police and citizens, promote citizen participation in crime prevention, and address local concerns (Albrecht, 2022).

The GPS has implemented several community policing programs and initiatives to enhance police-community relationships and improve public safety. These initiatives include the establishment of Community Policing Units (CPUs) within police divisions, collaboration with community members and leaders, and engagement in community outreach activities (Mensah, 2018). The GPS also focuses on building public trust through increased transparency, accountability and responsiveness.

The implementation of community policing in the Ghana Police Service faces various challenges. These challenges include resource constraints, insufficient training, resistance to change within the police organization, and the need for sustained community engagement (Boateng, 2012). It is crucial to address these challenges by

25

providing adequate training for police officers on community policing principles and practices, ensuring the allocation of sufficient resources, and strengthening partnerships with community members and stakeholders.

Community policing has gained significant attention as an approach to improving public safety and building trust between law enforcement agencies and communities. This literature review provides an overview of community policing in Ghana, exploring their perspectives, implementation, and impact. Albrecht (2022) investigates the transformation agenda of the Ghana Police Service, emphasizing the importance of peacekeeping and community policing in fostering positive relationships between the police and communities. The study highlights how community policing initiatives contribute to enhancing security, promoting community engagement, and addressing local concerns. Appiahene-Gyamfi (2021) offers a comprehensive overview of policing in Ghana, shedding light on the evolution of community policing strategies. The article emphasizes the need for collaborative efforts between the police and communities to ensure effective crime prevention, enhance public safety, and build trust. Brenya and Warden (2014) present a case study on community policing in Ghana, highlighting its potential as a synergetic developmental approach. The study showcases the positive impacts of community involvement in crime prevention, problem-solving, and fostering social cohesion. It emphasizes the need for effective partnerships between the police and community members to overcome challenges and achieve sustainable outcomes. Brogden and Nijhar (2013) provide a comprehensive examination of community policing, offering theoretical insights and practical recommendations. While not specific to Ghana, their work contributes to the understanding of community policing principles and highlights the importance of community engagement, problem-solving,

26

and collaborative partnerships.

Crews and Crews (2007) explore the perceptions of citizens and police officers regarding community policing in Ghana. The study identifies the importance of mutual trust, communication, and shared responsibility in fostering successful community policing efforts. It underscores the need for effective community participation and responsive policing strategies tailored to local contexts. Hevi et al. (2022) delve into the relationship between community policing experience, public trust in the police, citizens' psychological safety, and community well-being in Ghana. Their findings underscore the positive impact of community policing on trust, safety perceptions, and community well-being. The study highlights the need for sustained community engagement and the provision of effective police services to foster positive outcomes.

Community policing initiatives in Ghana demonstrate the country's commitment to enhancing public safety, building trust, and addressing local concerns. While challenges and critiques exist, studies highlight the potential of community policing to foster positive relationships, empower communities, and promote safety. To ensure the success of such initiatives, context-specific factors, community involvement, and tailored strategies are crucial.

2.4 National Policies and Frameworks Supporting Community Policing

Community policing is an approach to law enforcement that emphasizes collaboration and partnership between the police and the community to address crime and enhance public safety. Scholarly investigations shed light on the implementation, effectiveness, and challenges associated with community policing initiatives in different contexts, primarily focusing on Ghana and other global South countries. For instance, Albrecht

(2022) examines the Ghana Police Service's transformation agenda and its emphasis on community policing as a central component. The article highlights the national policy framework in Ghana that promotes community policing and peacekeeping efforts, showcasing how community engagement and collaborative initiatives have been integrated into the police service's operational strategies. Brenya and Warden (2014) present a case study of community policing in Ghana as a synergetic developmental approach. The authors explore the national policy framework that underpins community policing in Ghana, emphasizing the role of state-society collaboration in enhancing security and societal well-being. The study highlights the importance of strong partnerships and mutual trust between the police and the community for successful community policing implementation. Hevi et al. (2022) investigate the relationship between community policing experience, public trust in the police, citizens' psychological safety, and community well-being in Ghana. Their findings provide empirical evidence on the positive impact of community policing in fostering trust, psychological safety, and community well-being, highlighting the significance of supportive national policies that promote community-oriented policing strategies. Besides, Ngoveni et al. (2022) explore the use of community policing forums for crime prevention in South Africa, specifically focusing on the Brooklyn police station. They examine the national policy framework that supports the involvement of non-state actors in community policing efforts, highlighting the contributions and challenges faced by these forums in enhancing crime prevention and community safety. Again, Marks et al. (2009) examine community policing narratives in South Africa, emphasizing the need for a new narrative that aligns with the country's unique sociopolitical context. The authors discuss the national policy frameworks that shape community policing in South Africa and highlight the importance of contextualizing

28

community policing strategies to address the specific needs and challenges of the communities they serve.

Blair et al. (2021) provides a critical perspective on community policing in the global South. Their study challenges the assumption that community policing inherently builds citizen trust in the police or reduces crime. While not specific to national policies, their findings contribute to the discourse surrounding the effectiveness of community policing initiatives and highlight the need for context-specific approaches and evidence-based policy interventions.

The reviewed studies highlight the importance of state-society collaboration, community engagement, and trust-building measures to enhance the effectiveness of community-oriented policing strategies. Additionally, they emphasize the need to address contextual factors and tailor community policing approaches to specific sociopolitical realities. They contribute to the understanding of the role of national policies and frameworks in promoting and supporting community policing. They provide valuable insights into the implementation challenges, effectiveness, and potential benefits of community policing initiatives in diverse settings, offering a foundation for further research and the development of evidence-based policies in support of community-oriented policing strategies.

2.5 Challenges in Implementing Community Policing in Ghana

Community policing, as an approach to law enforcement, has gained significant attention globally for its potential to enhance police-citizen cooperation, build trust, and promote crime prevention. However, the successful implementation of community policing faces various challenges and barriers, which can impede its effectiveness in specific contexts. This literature aims to explore the challenges and barriers to

29

implementing community policing in Ghana, drawing insights from scholarly articles that address issue. Albrecht's (2022) study examines the Ghana Police Service's efforts to incorporate community policing within its transformation agenda. The research highlights several challenges faced in implementing community policing in Ghana, including inadequate funding, limited training, and the persistence of traditional policing models that hinder community engagement.

Appiahene-Gyamfi (2021) provides an overview of policing in Ghana, shedding light on the challenges encountered in implementing community policing. The article highlights factors such as resource constraints, inadequate infrastructure, and limited community participation as barriers to effective community policing in Ghana. Brenya and Warden (2014) present a case study of community policing in Ghana, focusing on the challenges and barriers faced. The research identifies inadequate training, lack of trust between police and communities, and insufficient community participation as key obstacles to effective implementation. Brogden's (2004) commentary critically examines the applicability of community policing models from Western contexts to African countries like Ghana. It highlights challenges related to cultural differences, limited resources, and the need for contextual adaptation when implementing community policing initiatives. Again, Brogden (2005) explores the challenges of implementing community policing in transitional societies, which have experienced significant political and social changes. While not specific to Ghana, the study's insights shed light on the difficulties associated with introducing community policing in contexts undergoing societal transformations.

While these scholarly articles provide valuable insights into the challenges and barriers to implementing community policing in Ghana, it is important to note that more research is needed to comprehensively explore the topic. Further studies should

consider specific contextual factors, local dynamics, and the perspectives of diverse stakeholders to develop strategies that effectively address the challenges and facilitate the successful implementation of community policing in Ghana.

2.6 Impact of Community Policing on Police-Community Relationships in

Law Enforcement

Community policing has gained significant attention as a proactive approach to law enforcement that emphasizes collaboration between police officers and the communities they serve.

Community policing initiatives have shown positive impacts on police-community relationships. Albrecht (2022) explores the transformation agenda of the Ghana Police Service, highlighting the efforts to assemble community policing practices. The study suggests that community policing enhances trust, fosters dialogue, and strengthens collaboration between the police and community members. Similarly, Brenya and Warden (2014) examine Ghana's community policing approach as a synergetic developmental approach, emphasizing its potential to bridge the gap between the police and the community, leading to improved relationships.

The importance of community engagement in community policing is emphasized in various studies. Crews and Crews (2007) investigate citizen and officer perceptions of community policing in Ghana and highlight the significance of involving community members in decision-making processes to build trust and strengthen relationships. Marks, Shearing, and Wood (2009) explore community policing narratives in South Africa and argue that engaging communities in policing practices promotes accountability and strengthens relationships.

The establishment of trust between the police and the public is a crucial outcome of community policing. Hevi et al. (2022) examine the relationship between community policing experience and public trust in Ghana, finding that positive experiences with community policing led to higher levels of trust in the police among citizens. This study underscores the role of community policing in enhancing public confidence and promoting cooperation between communities and law enforcement agencies.

However, Blair et al. (2021) presents a contrasting perspective based on a study in multiple countries, suggesting that community policing may not necessarily lead to increased citizen trust in the police or reduce crime rates in the Global South. It highlights the importance of context and local factors in determining the effectiveness of community policing initiatives. Nonetheless, it is important to consider that this study represents a contrasting view and that the effectiveness of community policing may vary depending on specific contexts.

While the focus of this review is on police-community relationships and public trust, it is noteworthy to mention that community policing can have positive impacts on crime reduction. Brogden and Nijhar (2013) discuss community policing as a proactive approach that addresses the root causes of crime, improves intelligence gathering, and promotes problem-solving strategies. Mutongwizo et al. (2021) explore resilience

policing, which incorporates community policing principles, highlighting its potential in responding to shifting harm landscapes and fostering community safety.

The reviewed literature demonstrates that community policing has a significant impact on police-community relationships and public trust in law enforcement. It enhances collaboration, dialogue, and community engagement, leading to improved relationships between the police and communities. However, the effectiveness of community policing may be influenced by contextual factors, and the relationship between community policing and public trust in law enforcement is complex. Further research is needed to explore these dynamics and identify best practices for implementing community policing approaches that foster positive police-community relationships and enhance public trust in law enforcement.

2.7 Theoretical Framework

The study draws upon two theories, namely the Broken Window Theory by Wilson and Kelling (1982) and the Social Resource Theory by Wong (2008). These theories are utilized separately to provide a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between crime, community policing, and the impact of community policing on crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana.

Broken Window Theory

The Broken Window Theory, developed by Wilson and Kelling (1982), seeks to explain the connection between disorder, crime, and community policing in American society. According to this theory, disorder and crime are intertwined in a developmental sequence. Wilson and Kelling argue that when properties are abandoned, weeds grow, windows are broken, and adults fail to reprimand ill-disciplined children. This signals a decline in the sense of mutual regard and the obligations of civility within a

33

neighbourhood. In such communities, where common-sense actions are neglected, the prevalence of crime is likely to increase. Hence, the implementation of community policing becomes crucial to address this issue. Wilson and Kelling emphasize the importance of disorder and order maintenance policing, urging the police to prioritize addressing disorderly behaviour.

Social psychologists support the Broken Window Theory, highlighting that when a broken window in a building remains unrepaired, it becomes an access point for criminals to enter. Similarly, when the obligations for civility are disregarded in a community, lawlessness prevails. Lombardo and Lough (2002) concur with the Broken Window Theory, suggesting that when people begin to use the streets less or abandon an area, it becomes susceptible to criminal invasions such as drug sales, prostitution, and mugging.

The Broken Window Theory posits that disorder and physical signs of neglect in a community contribute to an environment conducive to criminal activity. By addressing disorderly behaviour, such as vandalism, graffiti, and public intoxication, through community policing efforts, the theory suggests that communities can prevent the escalation of crime. The theory's focus on order maintenance aligns with the principles of community policing, which emphasize building partnerships between the police and the community to collectively address and prevent crime.

2.7.1 Social Resource Theory

Wong (2008) employs the Social Resource Theory to shed light on the role and function of the police in a community, the relationship between community police and the people, and the necessity of the police for the community. This theory considers crime and policing from the perspective of the people rather than solely from the state's viewpoint. It posits that crime is a personal problem stemming from unmet

expectations, resource scarcity, and police inefficiency. Consequently, the police serve as a "social resource" tasked with resolving the issues faced by the community. The ultimate goal of community policing, according to the Social Resource Theory, is to ensure better, responsive, responsible, efficient, and effective police service to the community.

Wong (2008) argues that the Social Resource Theory acknowledges that while crime represents illegality from the state's perspective, it is experienced as part of life by the people within the community. As a social resource, the police are expected to maintain order within the community through collaboration with community members. Diaz (2016) suggests that in disorganized societies, even law-abiding citizens may be inclined to engage in unlawful activities, particularly when they experience frustration, discontent, and anger due to discrepancies between promises and performance, as well as contradictions between profession and practice. These issues may lead to confrontations with the police.

It is important to note that community policing does not diminish the authority of the police or subordinate the primary duty of preserving law and order. Instead, it focuses on utilizing the expertise and resources present within communities to maintain law and order. In the context of the current study, this approach involves the active involvement of local government officials, social agencies, schools, church groups, business people, and all individuals who live and work in the Effutu Municipality. They all have a vested interest in its development and share responsibility for finding practical solutions to social problems and crime that threaten the peace and security of the Municipality.

35

Social Resource Theory offers insights into the role of the police as a social resource within the community. It recognizes that crime is not solely a legal issue but also a personal problem experienced by individuals. The theory highlights the importance of police-community collaboration in tackling crime and addressing the underlying factors contributing to criminal behaviour. By adopting community policing approaches, the police can serve as responsive and effective social resources, work alongside community members to identify and address the root causes of crime.

The combination of these theories provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the relationship between community policing, police-community relationships, and crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality. By implementing community policing strategies guided by the principles of the Broken Window Theory, the police can actively engage with the community to maintain order, address disorderly behaviour, and prevent the progression of crime. Furthermore, by embracing the Social Resource Theory, the police can position themselves as valuable social resources that respond to the needs and expectations of the community, thus fostering trust and collaboration between the police and community members.

To enhance the argument, it is crucial to examine empirical studies that have applied the Broken Window Theory and the Social Resource Theory in the context of community policing. Exploring the specific community policing strategies employed in the Effutu Municipality and their outcomes can offer insights into the practical implications of these theories in real-world settings.

The theoretical framework comprising the Broken Window Theory and the Social Resource Theory provides a comprehensive understanding of the impacts of community policing on police-community relationships and public trust in law enforcement. By integrating disorder management, order maintenance, and

36

collaborative problem-solving approaches, community policing initiatives can effectively prevent crime, foster positive police-community relationships, and enhance public trust in law enforcement agencies.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology, which includes the research design, sampling technique, population, data collection methods, data analysis, research trustworthiness as well as the positionality.

3.1 Philosophical Underpinning

This research on community policing and crime prevention in Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana is grounded in the interpretivism research paradigm. The choice of this philosophical assumption stems from its suitability in the field of social sciences, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of social realities based on diverse contexts and individual experiences (Hammersley, 2015). Interpretivism recognizes the importance of interpreting and understanding social phenomena from the perspectives of the individuals involved, taking into account their unique social contexts and subjective interpretations. It acknowledges that there are multiple reasons and interpretations for social happenings, and by examining these diverse perspectives, a deeper and more accurate understanding of the phenomenon can be achieved.

In line with the principles of interpretivism, this study aims to delve into the specific context of Effutu Municipality and explore community policing and crime prevention within that setting. Rather than seeking to generalize findings, the focus is on using the data collected to provide a detailed description of the dynamics and practices of community policing and crime prevention in Effutu Municipality.

The interpretivism paradigm allows for direct and intensive interaction with research participants, enabling a deeper understanding of their perspectives and experiences related to community policing and crime prevention. By engaging with the voices and

narratives of the individuals involved, this research aims to capture the rich complexities and nuances of the subject matter.

By adopting an interpretive approach, this study seeks to uncover the diverse interpretations, meanings, and experiences associated with community policing and crime prevention in Effutu Municipality. This approach acknowledges the importance of context-specific understanding and recognizes that the phenomenon being studied is influenced by various socio-cultural factors unique to the municipality.

In conclusion, the interpretivism research paradigm is a fitting philosophical underpinning for this study on community policing and crime prevention in Effutu Municipality. It allows for an in-depth exploration of the social realities within the specific context, highlighting the diverse perspectives and interpretations of the individuals involved. By employing this paradigm, the research aimed to provide a comprehensive description of the practices and dynamics of community policing and crime prevention in Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana.

3.2 Research Approach

The study on "Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana" employed a qualitative research approach. Qualitative research was deemed the most suitable approach for this study as it aimed to analyse and interpret the messages obtained through interviews to uncover meaningful patterns and descriptions pertaining to the specific problem under investigation (Van, 2003).

Qualitative research is characterized by its emphasis on understanding social phenomena through the exploration of individuals' perspectives, experiences, and behaviours. It provides a detailed and rich description of a particular context and allows for an in-depth examination of the attitudes, beliefs, and experiences of individuals

within that context (Babbie & Mouton, 2000). This approach is particularly well-suited for studying cases that may not neatly fit into existing theoretical frameworks.

In line with the objectives of this study, the qualitative research approach was chosen to explore the self-narratives and views regarding community policing and crime in the Effutu Municipality. The primary method employed in this approach was in-depth interviews, which aimed to elicit personal experiences and thoughts from the respondents. By utilizing this method, the study sought to collect and analyse data in the exact words of the participants, providing valuable insights into the effectiveness of community policing and crime prevention in Winneba.

The rationale for selecting the qualitative research approach aligns with Kothari's (2004) assertion that this approach focuses on capturing individuals' lived experiences, behaviours, and emotions. It involves a subjective evaluation of social problems or behaviours by employing flexible, non-numerical data collection techniques such as in-depth one-on-one interviews, focus group interviews, observations, and document reviews.

By adopting a qualitative research approach, this study aimed to delve into the intricacies and nuances of community policing and crime prevention within the Effutu Municipality. It sought to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences and perceptions of individuals involved in community policing efforts, as well as the broader community's perspectives. This approach allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the topic, shedding light on the unique context of the Effutu Municipality and contributing to the existing body of knowledge on community policing and crime prevention in Ghana.

3.3 Research Design

This study employs a case study research design to investigate the effectiveness of community policing and crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana. The choice of a case study design is supported by Tuli (2010) who argues that it is a suitable approach for qualitative research, allowing for a deeper understanding of the research phenomenon.

Case study research is particularly valuable in capturing the authentic essence of real-life events and experiences. According to Creswell (2007), this approach involves an in-depth exploration of one or multiple cases over time, using various data collection methods such as observation, interviews, audio-visual materials, and document analysis. By adopting a qualitative approach through a case study design, this study aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of community policing and crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality.

The decision to employ a case study design is further justified by Cousin's (2005) argument that it enables an intensive examination and interpretation of a specific scenario within its real-life context. By immersing in the case of the Effutu Municipality, this research design sought to gain insights into the participants' perspectives and their in-depth understanding of the effectiveness of community policing and crime prevention.

The case study design allowed for a holistic exploration of the complexities and nuances surrounding community policing and crime prevention efforts, taking into account the unique sociocultural, economic, and geographical factors specific to the Effutu Municipality. It facilitated a comprehensive understanding of the various perspectives, challenges, and successes encountered in implementing community policing strategies in this particular context.

41

3.4 Profile of the Study Area

The study area is the Effutu Municipality, one of the administrative districts in the Central Region of Ghana. It has a population of approximately 55,331 people (www.ghanadistricts.com.) The Municipality is geographically situated between the Gomoa East district to the west, north, and east. The key economic activities in the Municipality are fishing, agriculture, commerce, and processing. Prior to 1998, the Municipality was part of the Gomoa-Awutu-Senya District Council. In 1998, the Awutu-Effutu-Senya district was separated from the Gomoa-Awutu-Effutu-Senya district 207 council, following the establishment of the PND Law of 1988, which divided the country into 110 administrative districts from 65. The Effutu Municipal Assembly was subsequently established by L.I 1860, with Winneba as its administrative capital. (www.ghanadistricts.com.)

Currently, Effutu operates as a separate Municipality from Awutu-Senya, with Winneba remaining its administrative capital. Winneba, traditionally known as Simpa, derived its name from the leader of the Effutus, 'Osimpa,' who led the Effutus of the Guan ethnic group from the northern part of Ghana to their current location. The name "Winneba" originated from European sailors who frequently sailed along the bay aided by favourable winds. The term "windy bay" eventually became "Winneba." The town served as one of the ports where foreign goods were unloaded and transported to the interior and major commercial areas such as Agona Swedru and Akim Oda. (www.ghanadistricts.com.)

Geographically, the Municipality primarily consists of low granite rocks and isolated hills around Winneba. The Ayensu and Gyahadze rivers, the two major rivers in the area, drain into the sea at Winneba and Opram, respectively.

Politically, the Municipality is divided into eighteen (18) electoral areas and has seventy-three (73) polling stations. It comprises four zonal councils: Nsuekyir/Gyahadze zonal council, Kojo Bedu/North/Low-cost zonal council, South East Winneba zonal council, and South-West Winneba zonal council. (www.ghanadistricts.com.)

Culturally, the Municipality is home to one paramountcy located in Winneba. The Effutu Municipal Council oversees 77 shrines and groves, with the most popular shrine being Penkye-Out, situated in Penkye. This shrine served as a landmark for the indigenous people when they migrated from the northern part of Ghana to their present-day settlement. Christianity is the dominant religion in Effutu, with Islam and traditionalism also present. Winneba (Simpa) is renowned for the Aboakyer (deer hunting) festival and its New Year fancy dress event (Ghana Statistical Service, 2012).

3.5 Study Population

Population refers to the group of individuals who possess similar characteristics and are the focus of the research. According to Creswell (2014), the population can be defined as the complete set of cases from which a sample is drawn. In this context, the target population encompasses all the communities within the Effutu Municipality.

The accessible population for this study comprised specific groups of individuals within the Effutu Municipality who were relevant to the investigation of community policing and crime prevention. These included police officers, including community police recruits, as well as opinion leaders, market women, and fisherfolks from three selected communities within the Municipality. The selected communities were Essuekyir, Winneba, and New Winneba.

By including police officers, community police recruits, opinion leaders, market women, and fisherfolks, the study aimed to gather insights and perspectives from various stakeholders involved in community policing and crime prevention within the Effutu Municipality. These individuals were considered essential in understanding the dynamics of community policing initiatives and their impact on crime prevention in the specific context of the study area.

It is important to note that while the accessible population is the focus of this study, it represents a subset of the larger target population, which encompasses all the communities within the Effutu Municipality. The selection of specific groups within the accessible population allowed for a more manageable and focused research approach, ensuring depth and richness in data collection and analysis.
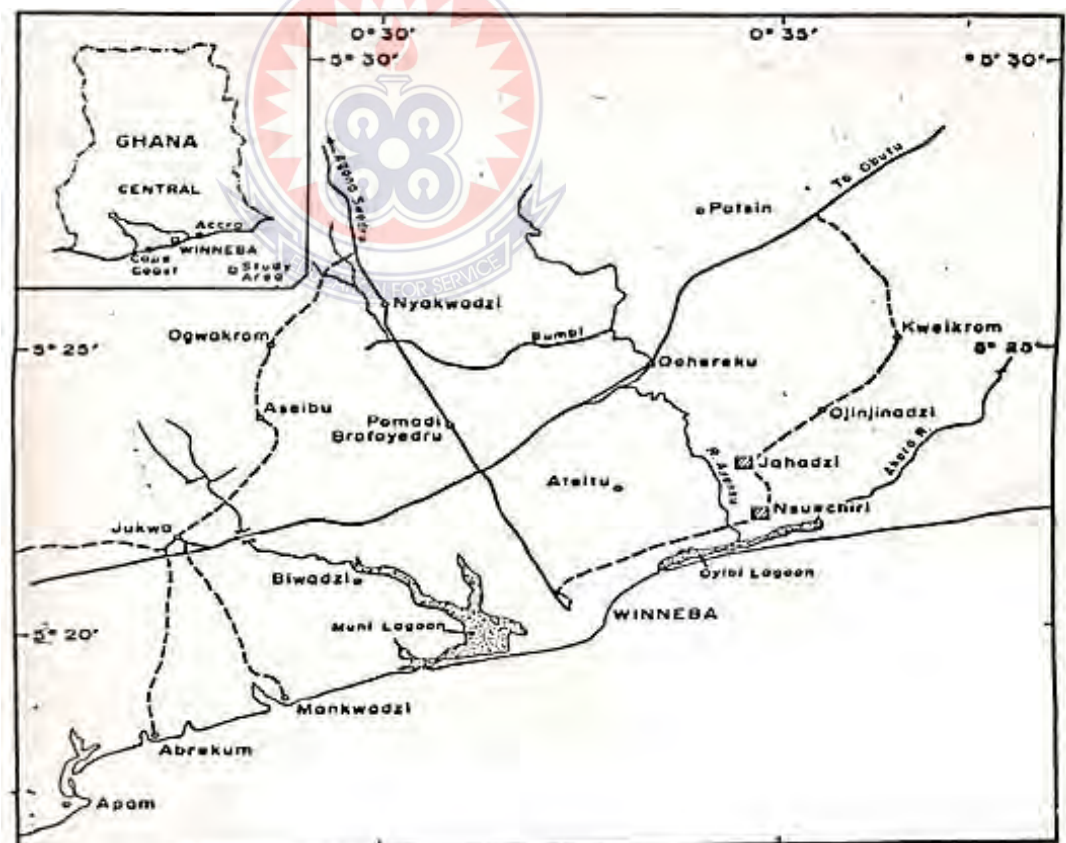

Fig. 3.1 Effutu Municipal (Ghanney, 2018)

3.6 Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size refers to the number of respondents selected from a population and is representative of the entire population (Kamuzora, 2008; Wimmer, 2002). Mujere (2019) argue that a sample is a group of people, object or items that are taken from a large population for a measurement. McCombes (2019) by way of reiteration suggested that a specific group of individuals in a research population that a researcher will collect data from in a study. McCombes further explained that in research, the large size of research population makes it not feasible to collect data from all persons in the entire group. Thus, he argued for the use of a sample to further define the individuals who will actually participate in the research and address the research questions set for the study.

In this study, a sample size of ten participants was chosen to work within the stipulated time frame and ensure manageability. Borrego, Douglas & Amelink (2009) argue that in qualitative research, focusing on a smaller group out of the population allows for in-depth understanding of the phenomenon under study while remaining manageable and cost-effective.

The sampling technique refers to the method employed to select participants from the population. It allows researchers to gather data from a subset, known as a sample, rather than the entire population (Saunders, 2007). The choice of sampling technique depends on the specific research objectives and practical considerations. For this study, a purposive sampling technique was employed. Purposive sampling involves selecting participants based on specific characteristics or criteria relevant to the research question (Trochim, 2005). It is a non-representative subset of the larger population, constructed to serve a specific purpose. Purposive sampling was chosen because it aligns with the qualitative nature of the study, consumes less time, and is cost-effective.

45

In selecting the participants, three police officers, three opinion leaders, two market women, and two fisherfolks were purposively chosen from three communities: Essuekyir, Winneba, and New Winneba. The purposive sampling technique allowed the researcher to focus on individuals who possess the knowledge and experiences relevant to the research question in the study area.

Moreover, using purposive sampling is particularly suitable when working with a small number of individuals or groups. It allows for an in-depth understanding of human perceptions, problems, needs, behaviours, and contexts, which are crucial in qualitative audience research.

In summary, the sample size of ten (10) participants was determined to ensure manageability within the study's time frame. The choice of a purposive sampling technique facilitated the selection of participants based on their relevance to the research question, allowing for an in-depth understanding of community policing and crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality.

3.7 Characteristics of Study Participants

The male respondents were the majority, accounted for six of the sample, while the female respondents represent four of the sample. The majority of the participants of four fell within the age range of thirty-one to thirty-five. Age group twenty to twenty-five were three and age thirty-five and above constituted three of the sample.

3.8 Sources of Data and Data Collection Methods

The study utilized both primary and secondary sources of data to address the overall objective and research questions. The primary data were collected through key informant interviews, while the secondary data were gathered through a review of relevant materials such as crime statistics from police reports.

The primary data for this study was primarily obtained through interviews. The researchers conducted face-to-face interviews with sampled participants. The interviews were conducted using an open-ended interview approach, allowing for in-depth exploration of participants' thoughts and experiences related to community policing and crime prevention as espoused by (Amin, 2005).

The interviews were conducted in both English and Fante languages, depending on the preference of the interviewee, to ensure effective communication and understanding. The researchers used a face-to-face style of data collection, enabling direct engagement and interaction with the participants. Voice recording was employed alongside note-taking to ensure accurate capturing of the provided information, with the participants' consent. To guide the interview process, an interview guide was prepared. While the guide served as a framework for the interviewer, it allowed flexibility in the ordering and sequencing of questions. Follow-up questions were asked to delve deeper into specific topics or clarify responses. This approach fostered rapport with the participants, encouraged openness, and ensured comprehensive data collection (Keyton, 2006; Lindolf and Taylor, 2002).

In addition to primary data, secondary data sources were utilized to gather relevant information for the study. These sources included books, academic publications, and information obtained from the internet. The researchers reviewed crime statistics, police reports, and other existing data related to crime in the Effutu Municipality. This secondary information provided additional context, background information, and statistical insights to complement the primary data collected through interviews.

The choice of primary data collection through opened-ended interviews and secondary information collection through a review of relevant materials allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the topic of community policing and crime prevention in

47

Effutu Municipality.

3.9 Data Analysis

Patton (2002) espoused that qualitative data analysis transform data into findings that represent the unique views of each respondent. This is because data is collected in words/text and analyzed in the exact thoughts or experiences of respondents without subjecting them to statistical inferences.

In this study, the qualitative data was analyzed using the thematic data analysis. Braun and Clarke (2011) posited that thematic analysis is a method for systematically identifying, organizing, and offering insights into patterns of meaning (themes) across a dataset. They further argued that this form of data analysis allows the researcher to see and make sense of collective or shared meanings and experiences of respondents in a study. This study relied on a six-phased approach of thematic analysis namely: data classification, transcription, immersion, themes generation, coding of data and description of data (Braun and Clarke, 2012

The second stage was the transcription stage. In this stage, the documented and the audio-recorded data were converted into manageable text data that depicted the exact views of respondents for easy analysis. In this study, English Language was the final text in which all translations were made. Hence, the transcription reproduced in full all spoken words and sounds including hesitations, false-starts, cut-offs in speech, laughter, long pauses, etc. into manageable texts in English Language.

The third stage was the immersion or familiarization of data stage. Here the researcher immersed herself in the data by reading and re-reading the transcribed textual data repeatedly to acquaint herself with the full details of the text data derived from the interview sessions. This was done to facilitate the easy generation of themes and sub-

48

themes.

The fourth stage was the theme generation stage. Here, themes and sub-themes were generated from the data received on the research questions posed bearing in mind the research objectives. This stage was made possible after the researcher had repeatedly read through the transcribed data to acquaint herself with the full details.

The next stage was the coding of the data. Here, labels were placed on the respondents and texts for descriptions of the data. For example, pseudonyms were used to enhance confidentiality, avoid revealing respondents' identities and to ensure adequate protection of the private information derived from respondents.

The last stage was the description of the data. This was done by relating the sub-themes to the main themes with relevant literature cited to either confirm, refute or extend existing knowledge.

3.10 Trustworthiness

The study aims to investigate the effectiveness of community policing in reducing crime rates and promoting safety within the Effutu Municipality. This choice of study was driven by the need to address the growing concerns of crime and the desire to enhance police-community relationships in the area. By examining the impact of community policing on crime prevention, this research aimed to contribute to evidence-based practices and inform policy decisions for effective law enforcement strategies. Ensuring the trustworthiness of this study was essential to establish the reliability and credibility of the findings. Trustworthiness encompasses several criteria, including credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability (Cope, 2014; Polit & Beck, 2012).

Credibility refers to the truthfulness and authenticity of the data and interpretations derived from the study. To enhance credibility, the researcher engaged in rigorous data collection methods, such as interviews, observations, and document analysis. The researcher maintained an open and unbiased stance throughout the study, allowing participants to freely express their experiences and perspectives. By accurately representing the participants' views and experiences, credibility was strengthened.

Dependability relates to the consistency and stability of the research process. In this study, dependability was achieved by employing robust research methods and adhering to established protocols. The research instruments were carefully designed to ensure data reliability, and the research process was consistently followed to allow for replication and verification of the findings.

Confirmability ensures that the findings primarily reflect the participants' responses rather than the biases or preconceptions of the researcher. The researcher maintained a reflexive approach throughout the study, critically reflecting on personal biases and potential influences on the data analysis. The use of rich quotes and direct participant narratives further supported confirmability, as the data were traceable and participants' voices were accurately represented.

Transferability refers to the extent to which the findings can be applied to other contexts or populations. In this study, transferability was addressed by providing detailed descriptions of the research context, methods, and results. This information allows readers to assess the applicability of the findings to similar settings and populations, considering the contextual factors that may influence the transferability of the results.

By adhering to criteria such as credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability, the researcher enhanced the trustworthiness of this study. These considerations contributed to the validity and reliability of the findings, instilling

confidence in the assessment of community policing and its impact on crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations play a vital role in research, as they ensure the protection of participants' rights and well-being, uphold the validity of the study, and maintain scientific integrity (Bhandari, 2020). Failure to adhere to ethical principles can significantly undermine the credibility and trustworthiness of research findings. In the study on community policing and crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana, key ethical considerations were carefully addressed to ensure the study's adherence to ethical standards.

First and foremost, the research obtained approval from the appropriate ethical review body, the University of Education Ethics Committee, specifically through the Center for Human Rights, Conflict and Peace Studies (CHRAPS). This approval was necessary to ensure that the research was conducted ethically and in compliance with established guidelines and regulations.

Informed consent was a crucial ethical consideration in this study. All participants were provided with detailed information about the purpose of the research, the potential benefits and risks of participation, and the institutional approval obtained. They were given the opportunity to voluntarily agree or decline to participate, respecting their autonomy and ensuring informed decision-making. Informed consent forms were used to document participants' voluntary agreement to take part in the study.

Confidentiality was upheld as a fundamental ethical principle throughout the research process. The identities of participants and any personally identifiable information were strictly protected. Robust confidentiality measures were implemented to ensure the security and privacy of participants' information. Any identifying information was

removed from the final data report to prevent unauthorized access and maintain the confidentiality of the participants. Pseudonyms or unique identifiers were used to refer to participants instead of their real names.

Additionally, the research team took steps to minimize any potential harm to participants. This included avoiding sensitive or invasive questioning, ensuring a safe and respectful environment during data collection, and providing support or referral mechanisms for participants who might require further assistance or counseling.

By meticulously adhering to ethical considerations such as obtaining informed consent, upholding confidentiality, and ensuring participant well-being, this study prioritized the rights and welfare of the research participants. These ethical practices also contributed to the integrity of the research process and enhanced the validity and credibility of the research findings.

3.12 Positionality

In conducting the research, on it is crucial to acknowledge the positionality of the researcher and the factors that may influence the study. By recognizing and critically reflecting on the researcher's own beliefs, experiences, and potential biases, the study aimed to maintain objectivity and provide a fair representation of the participants' perspectives.

The researcher adopted an interpretivist perspective, which acknowledges the subjectivity of individuals and emphasizes the importance of understanding their lived experiences and interpretations. This philosophical standpoint guided the researcher in capturing the diverse viewpoints of the participants and gaining a nuanced understanding of the effectiveness of community policing in crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality. The researcher has a personal connection to the Ghana Police Service, as an insider familiar with their community policing and crime prevention

52

initiatives. This insider perspective may provide valuable insights but also introduces the possibility of bias due to the researcher's vested interest in advancing their career and research expertise. To ensure the reliability and validity of the study, rigorous data analysis techniques were employed, and multiple sources of information were considered. The researcher sought diverse perspectives from community members, law enforcement officials, and relevant stakeholders to obtain a comprehensive and balanced assessment of the effectiveness of community policing in crime prevention.

CHAPTER FOUR
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter focused on the analysis and discussion of the findings regarding the effectiveness of community policing in crime prevention within the Effutu Municipality of the Central Region of Ghana. The main objective of the study is to assess the impact of community policing on crime prevention in the specified area. The chapter covered the analysis of the collected data and the subsequent discussion of the findings. Through this comprehensive examination, the study aimed to provide insights into the effectiveness of community policing in reducing crime rates and enhancing public safety in the Effutu Municipality. The study focuses on investigating common crimes, the impact of crime on development, and the efficacy of community participation in community policing strategies for crime management in the Effutu Municipality of the Central Region. The findings obtained from interviews were synthesized based on the research questions.

The study was guided by four specific research questions, which are as follows:

1. How is community policing and operationalized in the Effutu Municipality?

2. How the effective is community policing initiatives in reducing crime rates and enhancing public safety in the Effutu Municipality?

3. What are the challenges encountered in the implementation of community policing in the Effutu Municipality?

4. How does community policing impact police-community relationships and trust in law enforcement within the Effutu Municipality?

These research questions provided a framework for the study's analysis and allowed for a comprehensive examination of the implementation, outcomes, challenges, and impacts of community policing strategies in the Effutu Municipality.

In order to uphold ethical principles and protect the identities of participants, pseudonyms were used to represent individuals throughout this research. These pseudonyms were employed solely for the purpose of data analysis and to ensure the confidentiality and anonymity of the participants.

4.2 Findings

4.2.1 Operationalization of community policing in the Effutu Municipality

The primary objective of this study was to investigate the operationalization of community policing strategies in the Effutu Municipality by police officers. Through in-depth interactions with the police officers, valuable insights were obtained regarding the specific approaches employed in the implementation of community policing strategies within the municipality. During the study, participant police officers were actively engaged to gain their perspectives on how community policing strategies were being implemented and put into practice in the Effutu Municipality. These interactions served as a means to gather first-hand information and personal experiences from the police officers directly involved in community policing efforts.

4.2.2 Community Policing Strategies and Implementation

Community policing officers in the study employ various strategies, including evening patrols, to combat crime and ensure community safety. These patrols are conducted using vehicles and motorcycles, primarily during the evening hours in vulnerable communities. These proactive measures allow officers to establish strong connections with local residents, and participants in the study expressed satisfaction with the effectiveness of these strategies. The findings highlight the importance of

night-time patrols in responding to distress calls and preventing crimes. Participants, including an opinion leader and assemblyman, affirmed the positive impact of these patrols on crime prevention and emphasized the community's reliance on the police during night time incidents. An officer has this to say:

> "*...One of the key strategies we use in combating crime in the night is patrolling. Mostly, it is in the night that we receive a lot of distress calls. So the community people are happy with us*"
>
> [Participant GP, Field Interviews, 2022]

These strategies of patrolling have been widely employed in practice. One participant concurred that conducting policing operations during the night has proven to be beneficial as it allows for timely responses to distress calls and helps prevent crimes. Additionally, an opinion leader who also serves as an assemblyman corroborated the effectiveness of this strategy.

> "*The police is doing well. They mostly come to the communities at night where many of us are sleeping. We mostly relied on them whenever there is a theft taking place in the night* (Participant AK, Field Interview, 2022)

The study also revealed that community members had access to the contact numbers of the police patrol team, enabling them to report crimes occurring within their community. This communication channel facilitated regular interaction between the community and law enforcement authorities. Participants shared personal experiences of contacting the police during night-time to address criminal activities, illustrating the active involvement of the community in utilizing available channels to engage with the police.

> *We have the contact numbers of the police. Because of this*
> *we can caledl them whenever there is a crime. I remember we*
> *once call them when some thieves were reported stealing a*
> *goat at Esuakyir"* [Participant, MK, Field Interviews, 2022]

The study revealed that patrolling and communication strategies were effectively implemented through the utilization of Motorbikes and Police Pick Ups. Moreover, the communication channels employed by the public to relay information to the police were specifically designated as emergency numbers. Additionally, the police periodically engage with community members to discuss their strategies and emphasize the importance of utilizing the emergency lines appropriately. Despite the police's cautionary advice regarding the misuse of the emergency line, certain individuals within the community, driven by amusement or disregard, occasionally make unnecessary calls to the police. A participant remarked

> *"The uses of motorbike and vehicle patrol strategies have been*
> *very effective in the fight against crime. "Our only problem is*
> *that, some community members abuse this opportunity; they*
> *sometimes give false alarm which is a source of worry to us*
> [Participant DI, Field Interviews, 2022]

The aforementioned findings underscore the necessity for diverse models and methodologies, specifically problem-solving policing, hotspot policing, and community-oriented policing. It is imperative to assess their efficacy in crime reduction and enhancement of community perceptions towards law enforcement. In a study conducted by Zumve (2011), various models of community policing in present-day Nigeria were synthesized, accentuating the significance and suitability of approaches such as the Joint Community Policing Committees, which employ patrol techniques,

57

and the Police-Community Relations, which emphasize effective communication.

4.2.3 Effectiveness of Community Policing in Crime Prevention

Community policing has gained recognition as a promising approach to crime prevention and fostering trust between the police and the community. Community policing involves collaborative efforts between law enforcement agencies and community members to identify and address local crime issues (Skogan & Hartnett, 2012). It aims to establish positive police-community relationships, enhance citizen participation, and tailor law enforcement strategies to local needs (Brogden & Nijhar, 2013). The concept recognizes that effective crime prevention requires the active involvement of the community.

A study conducted by Acheampong (2015) in Awutu Senya East Municipality confirmed that community policing initiatives contributed to crime reduction and improved public safety

The effectiveness of community policing in crime prevention is influenced by various factors. Trust between the police and the community is crucial (Boateng, 2012), as is the involvement of community members in decision-making processes (Jannetta & Lachman, 2011). Successful implementation requires police officers to adopt a problem-solving orientation and build relationships with community members (Bullock, 2013).

> "*As in-charge of operation, we will continue to engage the community people to educate them about the police-community collaboration to fight crime in the community*" [Participant (police officer), Field Interviews, 2022]

> "*I now have the police telephone number and they told us that we can called them at any time when there is problem or rubbery attack in the community*" [Participant DI, Field Interviews, 2022]

58

4.3 Effectiveness of community policing initiatives in reducing crime rates and enhancing public safety in the Effutu Municipality

The effectiveness of community policing initiatives in reducing crime rates and enhancing public safety has been a topic of significant interest and research worldwide. In the Effutu Municipality of Ghana, community policing programs have been implemented with the aim of fostering collaboration between the police and the community to create a safer environment. This approach recognizes the importance of involving local residents in crime prevention efforts and emphasizes the role of community members as active partners in maintaining law and order. Understanding the impact of community policing in the Effutu Municipality is crucial for evaluating the effectiveness of these initiatives and determining their contribution to crime reduction and improved public safety. This discussion explored the positive impact of community policing based on research and studies conducted in Ghana and other relevant contexts.
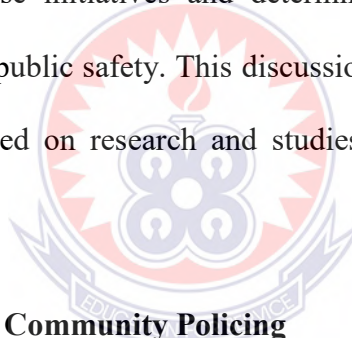
4.3.1 Positive Impact of Community Policing

The positive impact of community policing on the inhabitants of the Effutu Municipality in Ghana has been widely recognized by participants, including community leaders. This acknowledgment stems from the belief that an effective community policing program contributes to creating a peaceful environment and plays a crucial role in the fight against crime. This was affirmed by an opinion leader in collaboration:

> *"Community policing has generally been positive for us. The constant Police Patrol has limited crimes in certain areas that used to be crime zones. Generally, a peaceful environment has been created for smooth business activities"* [Participant OP, Fieldwork, 2022]

59

In a similar vein, a police officer participant shared his perspective on the impact of community policing in specific areas known for criminal activities. According to the participant, since the implementation of regular patrols in those areas, a significant change has been observed, leading to a more peaceful environment. The officer's statement reflects their belief in the positive effect of community policing on crime prevention.

> *"Our patrol activities have brought largely a peaceful environment in areas such as Esuekyir where petty crimes were pronounced. We do not normally get frequent reports of crimes from these areas like before"* [Participant CP, Fieldwork, 2022]

Again, it was found that the impact of community policing on the inhabitants was generally positive, although there was a desire for more to be done. Participants strongly expressed their belief that an effective community policing program is essential for ensuring a peaceful environment and fighting against crime in the municipality. One community leader stated,

> *"Effective community policing has affected our economic growth and social development."* [Participant OC, Fieldwork, 2022]

The presence of community police in various communities within and around the Effutu Municipality was seen as a preventive measure against loss of life and financial investments. Participants highlighted that crime creates fear and anxiety among residents, but the existence of community police has helped alleviate these concerns. One participant, market woman, remarked,

> *"We are able to do smooth business wherever there is absolute security. You can do business and make a profit, which boosts economic activities in the municipality."*

[Participant OM, Fieldwork, 2022]

Winneba emerged as the main hub for business and economic activities due to the perceived assurance of security in that area. Participants also commended the efforts of the municipality in establishing a police station in New Winneba to combat crime. However, they suggested that the patrol team should conduct daytime patrols as well, as some robbery incidents occur during daylight hours.

Several scholarly articles support the notion of the positive impact of community policing. Acheampong (2015) conducted a study in the Awutu Senya East Municipality in Ghana, which provided insights into the positive effects of community policing on crime prevention. The findings emphasized positive impact of community participation and collaboration with law enforcement agencies in ensuring safer neighborhoods.

Brenya and Warden (2014) conducted a case study on Ghanaian community policing and highlighted its effectiveness as a state-society synergetic developmental approach. The study emphasized the positive outcomes of community policing, such as improved trust between the police and the community, increased information sharing, and enhanced crime prevention efforts.

Furthermore, Hevi et al. (2022) explored the relationship between community policing experience, public trust in the police, citizens' psychological safety, and community well-being in Ghana. Their study found a positive association between community policing experience and public trust in the police, which in turn contributed to enhanced community well-being and psychological safety.

Other articles discussing community policing more broadly also support the positive impact it can have on crime prevention. Sherman and Eck (2003) highlighted the effectiveness of intelligence-led policing, which is closely aligned with community policing, in preventing and reducing crime. Welsh and Farrington (2012) emphasized the importance of evidence-based approaches in crime prevention and highlighted community policing as a valuable strategy in this regard.

4.4 Challenges encountered in the implementation of community policing in the Effutu Municipality

This section addresses the challenges encountered in the implementation of community policing for the safety and crime prevention.

The findings from the study highlight several problems related to the implementation of community policing in the Effutu Municipality. Participants, including community police officers, identified a lack of public trust and confidence in the police, lack of financial motivation, and inadequate vehicles and logistics as significant challenges. Implementing community policing faces challenges such as limited resources, resistance to change within police organizations, and variations in community engagement (Brogden & Nijhar, 2013; Fridell, 2004). It is essential to address these challenges by providing adequate training for police officers, ensuring sustained community involvement, and fostering collaboration between police agencies and other stakeholders (Imam, 2022; Trojanowicz & Bucqueroux, 1990).

The lack of public trust in the police was a recurring theme among the participants. The community police officers expressed concern that the general public perceives the police as having failed in their duty to protect them, leading to a diminished level of confidence. This lack of trust can negatively impact the cooperation between the police and community members, making it more difficult to gather information and

prevent crime effectively.

Furthermore, the study revealed that the inadequate allocation of resources, including financial support and logistics, poses a challenge for community police officers. They reported a lack of motivation due to the absence of necessary equipment and limited resources. This lack of support and motivation can hinder their ability to carry out their duties effectively, as stated by one of the interviewed officers.

4.4.1 Breach of trust

The findings align with previous research conducted by Skogan (2006), Virta (2006), and Fridell (2004), who have emphasized the importance of community policing as a response to declining public trust in the police. They highlight that community policing is an approach that recognizes the need for police and community collaboration to effectively address crime. Hills (2014) also emphasizes the importance of police-community partnership and collaboration in crime prevention efforts.

Trust is one of essential aspect in building string human relationship. Breach of trust on the part of the police is a major hindrance to any meaningful participation in crime control. These respondents expressed the view that often an information will be given to the police leading to the arrest of an offender. However, some police officers disclose their source of information making these informants targets of criminal attack. Mistrust erodes the confidence reposed in the police and tends to weaken citizens level of participation in crime in crime control. Crime control is a shared responsibility. A successful approach that improves crime and enhances communities' safety in growing our communities is contingent on transparent and solid partnership between communities and the police.

63

Given the fact that community involvement in crime control is purely voluntary (Marfo, Badu-Yeboah and Gyader, 2021).

These are responds from some of the participants who were interviewed

> *"The general public within Effutu have little or no confidence in the Police because they think the police have failed in their attempt to protect them"* (Participant GP, Field Interviews, 2022).

Another GP again revealed to the researcher that;

> *"It is disheartening to know that the people you are working for do not respect you. Sometimes you would arrest a suspect and he would refuse your orders; they will only comply after you have made a call for support from a superior authority"* [Participant CP, Field Interviews, 2022]

> *"I once informed the police about young men whom I suspected stealing our things. The police arrested them and later set them free and the guys came to my house and warn me that if I tell the police anything about them to the police again they will deal with me"* [Participant OM, Field Interviews, 2022].

4.4.2 Inadequate logistics and Personnel

Inadequate logistics and personnel goes hand in hand in ensuring safety community. Inadequate logistics such as vehicles, bulletproof vests, arms, safety boots, and ammunitions and inadequate personnel inadvertently influenced crime control and prevention of crimes. These challenges result in delays in justice delivery as crime perpetrators are sometimes not apprehended immediately. Again, inadequate personnel and lack of logistics sometimes create inefficiencies that hamper their day-to-day

operations. For instance, a lack of logistics such as cars, arms, and ammunitions limits the ability of the Police to adequately respond to robbery attacks (Annang, Kyie Abrokwa, and Asante, 2023)

The study confirmed Mammus (2018) study, which identified challenges faced by the police, including a shortage of manpower, inadequate funding, logistical limitations, and lack of technological equipment. These constraints can hinder the effectiveness of community policing. Ndukui (2009) similarly identified a lack of resources, education, and personnel as challenges for community policing. The findings of the study align with these previous research findings, emphasizing the importance of addressing these resource gaps.

The Officers interviewed revealed to the researcher that;

> *"Sometimes we risk our lives by protecting the community at night patrols. Can you imagine atimes we go for night patrols and crime scenes ithout bullet proof and helmet?"* [Participant CP, Field Interviews, 2022]

> *"Sometimes during day/night operations due to inadequate personnel we have to ask for reinforcement from other towns to complement the strength of the officers. Before reinforcement team will travel from Kasoa or Cape Coast the unfortunate might happened before the will attend to the scene"* [Participant CP, Field Interviews, 2022].

4.5 Impact of community policing on police-community relationships and trust in law enforcement within the Effutu Municipality

This section of the analysis addresses the impact of community policing on police-community relationship and public trust. The field data from the one-on-one interview with the participants revealed these impacts of community-police relationship.

4.5.1 Public Trust in the Police

These findings align with the work conducted by Boateng (2012), who explored the factors influencing public trust in the Ghanaian Police. The participants' feedback indicates a shift in the community's mind-set, as they no longer perceive the police as their primary adversary. This change in perception signifies a positive influence of community policing on police-community relationships and public trust in law enforcement within the Effutu Municipality. Furthermore, participants acknowledged a certain level of trust in the police, particularly in relation to their patrol work. The communities' recent embrace of police activities demonstrates progress in fostering positive police-community relationships**.** Hevi et al. (2022), confirmed community policing experience on public trust in the Ghanaian context and found that police patrol often increases public trust in their fight against crime.

Participant CP, in a field interview expressed this viewpoint, stating;

> *"I think the community policing initiative is changing the mind-set of the people. At first, the people shy away from the police as though we were their target enemy, but now it's better"* [Participant CP, Field Interview, 2022].

> *"These is some level of trust based on the recent embracement of police activities by the communities. There's some confidence in our patrol work, though not much, it is better"* [Participant, CP, Field Interview, 2022].

Moreover, participants emphasized the effectiveness of the police in addressing various crimes, apprehending criminals, and ensuring their prosecution. This indicates that community policing efforts have played a role in addressing crime within the Effutu Municipality. The successful apprehension and prosecution of criminals can contribute to building trust in law enforcement. The public expects this level of police

66

accountability, as it is disheartening when criminals caught are subsequently released by the police, undermining the institution's accountability. A participant shared his perspective on police accountability, stating,

> *"Well, the police are on target every day. Various crimes have been reported and dealt with. Criminals are arrested and prosecuted for their crimes"*[Participant, KP, Field Interview, 2022]

4.5.2 Strengthens Collaboration Between the Police and Community Members.

Community policing has gained significant attention as a proactive approach to law enforcement that emphasizes collaboration between police officers and the communities they serve.

Community policing initiatives have shown positive impacts on police-community relationships. Albrecht (2022) intimated that, Ghana Police Service has explored the transformation agenda of the efforts to assemble community policing practices to strengthen the relationship among the community and the police for effective crime prevention. The study suggests that community policing enhanced dialogue, and strengthens collaboration between the police and community members. Similarly, Brenya and Warden (2014) also noted in chapter two that Ghana's community policing approach as a synergetic developmental approach, emphasizing its potential to bridge the gap between the police and the community, leading to improved relationships.

The importance of community engagement in community policing is emphasized in various studies. Crews and Crews (2007) investigate citizen and officer perceptions of community policing in Ghana and highlight the significance of involving community members in decision-making processes to build cooperation and strengthen

67

relationships. Marks, Shearing, and Wood (2009) explore community policing narratives in South Africa and argue that engaging communities in policing practices promotes accountability and strengthens relationships.

The establishment of trust between the police and the public is a crucial outcome of community policing. This study underscores the role of community policing in enhancing public confidence and promoting cooperation between communities and law enforcement agencies. These are responds from some of the participants.

> *"The collaboration between the police and the community is making our work much easy for the police. They feel free to call us any time there is problem in the community"* [Participant, CP, Field Interview, 2022].

> *"I see the police as my friend. I do not feel scared of the police now as I used to do. I was scared about how they dressed, covering their faces with their uniform covering their entire body"* [Participant, CP, Field Interview, 2022].
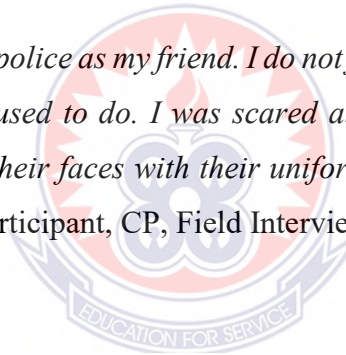
CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter summarizes research findings, presents the conclusions and makes policy recommendations.

5.1 Summary of Research

5.1.1 Research Procedure

The study was based on the interpretivist Paradigm philosophy. Identified groups such as the CID, Community police officers, police officers and opinion leaders were sampled for the study. The study was delimited to Essuakyi, New Winneba, and Winneba communities to make it timely and feasible. Participants were sampled using a purposive sampling technique. A total of ten participants were sampled for the study and the interview method was used as a data collection instrument. Data were analyzed thematically. Participants were assured of confidentiality and anonymity.

The study was guided by the following objectives

1. Examine operationalization of community policing's in the Effutu Municipality.

2. Assess the effectiveness of community policing initiatives in reducing crime and enhancing safety in the Effutu Municipality.

3. Identify the challenges in the implementation of community policing in the Effutu Municipality.

4. Explore the impact community policing on police-community relationships and trust in law enforcement within the Effutu Municipality.

69

5.2 Key Findings based on the objectives

The following were the study findings:

5.2.1 Operationalization of community policing in the Effutu Municipality

Community policing officers employ various strategies, including evening patrols, to combat crime and ensure community safety. These proactive measures allow officers to establish strong connections with local residents, resulting in high satisfaction levels among participants. Nighttime patrols are particularly effective in responding to distress calls and preventing crimes. Participants, including an opinion leader and assemblyman, affirmed the positive impact of these patrols on crime prevention and emphasized the community's reliance on the police during nighttime incidents. Community members have access to the contact numbers of the police patrol team, enabling them to report crimes occurring within their community. This communication channel facilitates regular interaction between the community and law enforcement authorities, illustrating the active involvement of the community in utilizing available channels to engage with the police. The strategies of patrol and communication are effectively implemented through the utilization of Motorbikes and Police Pick Ups. Emergency numbers are specifically designated for reporting crimes, and the police periodically engage with community members to discuss their strategies and emphasize the appropriate use of the emergency lines. Despite the effectiveness of community policing strategies, there are occasional instances of misuse or unnecessary calls to the police, which can be a source of concern for law enforcement authorities.

5.2.2 Effectiveness of community policing initiatives in reducing crime and enhancing safety in the Effutu Municipality

Community policing programs in the Effutu Municipality have been recognized as contributing to a peaceful environment and playing a crucial role in the fight against crime. Regular police patrols in areas previously known for criminal activities have led to a significant reduction in crime, resulting in a more peaceful environment. Community leaders and participants strongly believe that an effective community policing program is essential for ensuring a peaceful environment, economic growth, and social development. The presence of community police has helped alleviate fear and anxiety among residents, creating a sense of security and enabling smooth business activities. The establishment of a police station in New Winneba and the perceived assurance of security in the area have made it a hub for business and economic activities.

5.2.3 Challenges encountered in the implementation of community policing in the Effutu Municipality

The study found that there is a lack of public trust in the police within the Effutu Municipality. This perception stems from the belief that the police have failed in their duty to protect the community. This lack of trust hinders cooperation between the police and community members, making it difficult to gather information and effectively prevent crime. Participants, including community police officers, expressed concerns about the community's lack of confidence in them. The perception that the police have not been successful in protecting the community contributes to this lack of confidence. It affects the effectiveness of community policing efforts and the willingness of community members to cooperate with the police. The study revealed that community police officers face a lack of financial motivation. Insufficient financial support and

71

resources contribute to a lack of motivation among officers, impacting their ability to carry out their duties effectively. The analysis highlighted the inadequate allocation of resources, particularly in terms of vehicles and logistics, as a challenge for community police officers. The lack of necessary equipment and limited resources hinder the officers' effectiveness in combating crime and fulfilling their responsibilities.

5.2.4 Impact of community policing on police-community relationships and trust in law enforcement within the Effutu Municipality

The interview responses indicate that the community's perception of the police is changing, with people no longer viewing them as their enemy. This shift suggests that community policing has had a positive impact on police-community relationships. Participants acknowledge a level of trust in the police, particularly regarding their patrol work. The apprecition of police activities by the community indicates progress in developing positive police-community relationships. Participants emphasize the effectiveness of the police in addressing various crimes, apprehending criminals, and ensuring prosecution. This suggests that community policing efforts have contributed to addressing crime in the Effutu Municipality. The successful apprehension and prosecution of criminals are seen as crucial for building trust in law enforcement. Participants express a desire for police accountability and highlight the significance of holding criminals accountable for their actions.

5.3 Implications of the Findings

The findings indicate that community policing strategies, such as evening and night-time patrols, have been effective in preventing crime and ensuring community safety in the Effutu Municipality. This highlights the importance of proactive measures and strong connections between the police and local residents. Law enforcement agencies can consider implementing similar strategies in other areas to combat crime

effectively. The study shows that community members in the Effutu Municipality are satisfied with the community policing efforts. The establishment of communication channels and regular interaction between the community and the police have fostered a sense of active involvement and reliance on law enforcement authorities. This emphasizes the significance of engaging the community and maintaining open lines of communication to enhance trust and cooperation. The presence of community police officers and their proactive measures have led to a significant reduction in crime. This reduction in criminal activities has created a more peaceful environment, alleviated fear and anxiety among residents, and positively impacted business activities. The findings highlight the potential of community policing in creating safer communities and promoting economic growth. Rebuilding public trust should be a priority for the Ghana Police Service in this area, as it is crucial for gathering information and effectively preventing crime. Efforts should be made to address community concerns, improve transparency, and demonstrate the effectiveness of community policing initiatives. The lack of financial motivation and insufficient allocation of resources, including vehicles and logistics, were identified as challenges for community police officers. Insufficient resources hinder the effectiveness of community policing efforts and impact officers' ability to carry out their duties. Adequate financial support and resource allocation are essential to ensure the successful implementation of community policing programs. The study highlights the positive impact of community policing on police-community relationships, trust-building, dialogue, and collaboration. The community policing approach in Ghana has been recognized as a means to bridge the gap between the police and the community, leading to improved relationships and enforcement. These findings underscore the importance of involving community

73

members in decision-making processes and fostering engagement to strengthen police-community partnerships. The findings emphasize the significance of holding criminals accountable for their actions. The successful apprehension and prosecution of criminals are seen as essential for building trust in law enforcement and further strengthening police-community relationships.

5.4 Conclusions

The findings of this research highlight the effectiveness of community policing strategies employed by the Ghana Police Service in the Effutu Municipality. Community policing, as a philosophy and practice, has gained global recognition as an effective approach to crime prevention and maintaining public safety. Community police enhances collaboration, partnership, and problem-solving between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. In a contrast, the study suggests that visible signs of disorder and neglect in communities contribute to crime and antisocial behaviour. Therefore, community policing has evolved into a multifaceted approach that involves proactive engagement with community members, problem-solving initiatives, and a shift towards preventive strategies. The use of evening patrols, communication channels, and the active involvement of community members have resulted in high satisfaction levels and a positive impact on crime prevention. The presence of community police and their proactive measures, including nighttime patrols, have significantly reduced crime rates, creating a peaceful environment and fostering economic growth. However, challenges such as a lack of public trust in the police, insufficient financial support, and limited resources hinder the operationalization of community policing. Despite these challenges, community policing initiatives have demonstrated positive impacts on police-community relationships and the development of public trust in law

enforcement within the Effutu Municipality. Efforts to implement community policing in Ghana have focused on enhancing police-community relationships, improving public trust in the police, and addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by local communities.

5.5 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the researcher recommends the following:

1. The Effutu Municipal Police Command should develop a security framework for shared decision making between the police and community members in the Effutu Municipal area, focusing on peace, security, and development.

2. The Police Administration must provide specialized training and capacity building for community police officers in Effutu, emphasizing best practices.

3. The Effutu Municipal Administration should equip the Effutu Municipal Command of the Ghana Police Service with necessary logistics, such as patrol vehicles (including special motorbikes and bicycles) for effective and friendly community patrolling.

4. The Effutu Municipal Police Command should conduct community education initiatives to promote understanding of community policing principles, defuse negative perceptions, and foster crime prevention and development opportunities.

5.6 Limitation

One major limitation of the study was low respondent participation due to sensitivity of policing issues, leading to reluctance in providing information for fear of police detection. Additionally, the study's use of qualitative methods resulted in a small sample size of only 10 research participants. Despite these limitations, all available means were utilized to gather, analyze, and report the data in order to achieve the desired result. The study was specifically focused on police officers, community police personnel, and selected opinion leaders within the Effutu Municipality to ensure feasibility.

REFERENCES

Acheampong, S. (2015). Community policing and crime prevention in edge cities: Insights from Awutu Senya East Municipality. Published Master Dissertation, University of Ghana, Legon.

Adler, M. J., Gertz, M., & Farr, K. A. (2001). What is Crime?: Controversies Over the Nature of Crime and what to Do about it. Rowman & Littlefield.

Akubu, O. P. (2014). Challenges of community policing in Uganda's urban areas: A case study of Mbarara Municipality. Published master thesis, Makerere University.

Albrecht, P. (2022). Assembling community policing: Peacekeeping and the Ghana Police Service's transformation agenda. *Contemporary Journal of African Studies (CJAS)*, *9*(1), 26-38.

Alemika, E. E. O., & Chukwuma, I. C. (1998). Analysis of Police and policing in Nigeria. Abuja: CLEEN Foundation.

Ali, D. (2007). Effects of contingent factors on community policing activities: A critical analysis of adopting a certain policing model. PhD dissertation, Kent State University.

Amin, S. (2005). Interviewing. In P. Atkinson, A. Coffey, S. Delamont, J. Lofland, & L. Lofland (Eds.), Handbook of Ethnography (pp. 369-383). Sage.

Aning, Kwesi (2006), 'An overview of the Ghana Police Service', Journal of Security Sector Management, Vol. 4 No. 2, pp

Appiahene-Gyamfi, J. (2021). Policing in Ghana. *Global Perspectives in Policing and Law Enforcement*, *1*.

Babbie, E., & Mouton, J. (2000). The practice of social research. Oxford University Press.

Barthe, E. (2006). *Crime prevention publicity campaigns* (Vol. 5). Washington, DC: US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

Bhandari, M. (2020). Ethical considerations in clinical research: Practical implications for investigators. *Journal of Clinical and Diagnostic Research, 14*(2), 1-4.

Blair, G., Weinstein, J. M., Christia, F., Arias, E., Badran, E., Blair, R. A., ... & Wilke, A. M. (2021). Community policing does not build citizen trust in police or reduce crime in the Global South. *Science*, *374*(6571), eabd3446.

Boateng, F. D. (2012). Public trust in the police: Identifying factors that shape trust in the Ghanaian Police. IPES Working Paper Series, No. 42.

Borrego, A., Douglas, E. P., & Amelink, C. (2009). Sampling in qualitative research: Purposeful and theoretical sampling; merging or clear boundaries? Journal of advanced nursing, 65(1), 217-226.

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2012). Thematic analysis. In H. Cooper, P. M. Camic, D. L. Long, A. T. Panter, D. Rindskopf, & K. J. Sher (Eds.), APA handbook of research methods in psychology, 2. Research designs: Quantitative, qualitative, neuropsychological, and biological 57–71. American psychological Association.

Brenya, E., & Warden, E. (2014). Bridging the great divide: a case study of Ghana community policing as a State-society synergetic developmental approach. *Journal of Emerging Trends in Educational Research and Policy Studies (JETERAPS)*, *5*(2), 242-247.

Brogden, M. (2004). Commentary: community policing: a panacea from the West. *African affairs*, *103*(413), 635-649.

Brogden, M. (2005). 'Horses for Courses' and "Thin Blue Lines" Community Policing in Transitional Society. Police Quarterly, 8(1), 64-98.

Brogden, M., & Nijhar, P. (2013). *Community policing*. Routledge.

Bryman, A. (2016). Social research methods. Oxford University Press.

Bullock, K. (2013). Community, intelligence-led policing and crime control. *Policing and society*, *23*(2), 125-144.

BUREAU, O. J. A. (1994). Understanding community policing: A framework for action.

Casey, J. (2010). Implementing community policing in different countries and cultures. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, *2*(4), 55-70.

Chappell, A. T., & Gibson, S. A. (2009). Community policing and homeland security policing: Friend or foe?. *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, *20*(3), 326-343.

Community Oriented Policing Services (2014). Community Policing Defined. U.S. Department of Justice. Washington, DC 20530. ISBN: 978-1-935676-06-5. www.cops.usdoj.gov. Retrieved 07/11/2018.

Community Policing Consortium. (1994). The Rynne report on community policing: A consortium response. National Institute of Justice.

Creswell, J. W. (2007). Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches, (2nd ed). Thousand Oaks, London: Sage publications

Communtity Policing: Actors and Activities. (n.d.). Retrieved from Peace Building Initiatives: http://www.peacebuildinginitiative.org/index5aca.html?pageId=1870

Cope, D. G. (2014). Methods and meanings: Credibility and trustworthiness of qualitative research. Oncology nursing forum, 41(1), 89-91.

Cousin, G., & Deepwell F. (2005). Design for Network Learning A Communities of Practice Perspective, Studies in High Education, 30, 57-66.

Cordner, G. W. (2005). Community Policing: Elements and Effects. In Critical Issues in Policing, ed. R. G. Dunham and G. P. Alpert, 401-419. Fifth Edition. Long Grove: Waveland Press.

Creswell, J. W. (2014). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approach. Sage Publications.

Crews, A. W., & Crews, G. A. (2007). Citizen and Officer Perceptions of Community Policing in Ghana: Policing of, by, and for the People, or just to the People?.

Crowl, J. N. (2017). The effect of community policing on fear and crime reduction, police legitimacy and job satisfaction: an empirical review of the evidence. *Police Practice and Research*, *18*(5), 449-462.

Davis, R., Henderson, N., & Merrick, C. (2003). Community policing: Variations on the western model in the developing world. *Police practice and research*, *4*(3), 285-300.

Denney, L., & Jenkins, S. (2013). Securing communities: The what and the how of community policing. *Overseas Development Institute Background Paper PhD thesis. Dept. of Economics. Adelaide University*.

Denney, L., & Jenkins, S. (2013). Securing communities: The what and the how of community policing. *Overseas Development Institute Background Paper PhD thesis. Dept. of Economics. Adelaide University*.

DeVaus, D. A. (2001). Sample size and power calculations. Research design in social research, 120-138.

Dias Felix, A., & Hilgers, T. (2020). Community oriented policing theory and practice: global policy diffusion or local appropriation?. *Policing and Society*, 1-9.

Dias, R. A. (2016). Racism creates barriers to effective community policing. *Southern Illinois University Law Journal, 40* (3), 512.

Ekblom, P., & Pease, K. (1995). Evaluating crime prevention. *Crime and Justice*, *19*, 585-662.

Ekici, N., Akdogan, H., Kelly, R., & Gultekin, S. (2022). A meta-analysis of the impact of community policing on crime reduction. *Journal of community safety and well-being*, *7*(3), 111-121.

Flick, U. (2018). Designing qualitative research. Sage Publications.

Fridell, L. (2004). Community policing: The past, present, and future. Police Executive Research Forum.

Fridell, L. (2004). The defining characteristics of community policing in community policing: The past, present and future, eds L Fridell and M Wycoff. Washington, DC: Police Executive Research Forum.

Friedmann, R. R., & Cannon, W. J. (2007). Homeland security and community policing: Competing or complementing public safety policies. *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*, *4*(4).

Friedrichs, D. O. (2015). Crimes of the powerful and the definition of crime. In The Routledge international handbook of the crimes of the powerful (pp. 39-49). Routledge.

Frühling, H. (2007). The impact of international models of policing in Latin America: the case of community policing. *Police practice and research*, *8*(2), 125-144.

Ghanney, R. A. (2018). How Parental Education and Literacy Skill Levels Affect the Education of Their Wards: The Case of Two Schools in the Effutu Municipality of Ghana. *International Journal of Education and Practice*, *6*(3), 107-119.

Gill, C., Weisburd, D., Telep, C. W., Vitter, Z., & Bennett, T. (2014). Community-oriented policing to reduce crime, disorder and fear and increase satisfaction and legitimacy among citizens: A systematic review. *Journal of experimental criminology*, *10*, 399-428.

Ghana Statistical Service, (2010). *Population and Housing Census Report,* 2012. Accra: Ghana Statistical Service.

Gilling, D. (1997). *Crime prevention: Theory, policy, and politics*. Psychology Press.

Hammersley, M. (2015). What is qualitative research? London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Hevi, S. S., Ketemepi, G. E., Dorkoo, C., & Wuttor, A. (2022). Community policing experience, public trust in the police, citizens' psychological safety and community well-being in Ghana. Safer communities, (ahead-of-print).

Hevi, S. S., Ketemepi, G. E., Dorkoo, C., & Wuttor, A. (2022). Community policing experience, public trust in the police, citizens' psychological safety and community well-being in Ghana. *Safer communities*, (ahead-of-print).

Hills (2014) 'What is Politeness'? on Being Police in Somalia' The British Journal of Criminology Vol. 54 Number 5 September.

Hoefnagels, G. P. (Ed.). (2013). The other side of criminology: An inversion of the concept of crime. Springer Science & Business Media.

Houghton, C., Casey, D., Shaw, D., & Murphy, K. (2013). Rigour in qualitative case-study research. Nurse researcher, 20(4), 12-17.

Hulsman, L. H. (1986). Critical criminology and the concept of crime. Contemp. Crises, 10, 63.

Imam, D. S. (2022). Community policing: An innovative approach for effective law enforcement. *Journal of Law & Social Studies*, *4*(1), 30-44.

Jannetta, J., & Lachman, P. (2011). Promoting partnerships between police and community supervision agencies. *How Coordination can Reduce Crime and Improve Public Safety. Community Oriented Policing Services. US Department of Justice*.

Kamuzora, P. (2008). Sample size determination and sampling techniques for selecting a representative sample for research. Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research, 2(4), 77-83.

Kappeler, V. E., & Gaines, L. K. (2012). *Community policing: A contemporary perspective*. Routledge.

Kelling, G. L., & Wilson, J. Q. (2000). Broken Windows: The police and neighborhood safety (1982). In W. M. Oliver (Ed.), Community policing: Classical readings. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Keyton, J. (2006). Communication Research: Asking Questions, Finding Answers (3rd ed.). McGraw-Hill.

Kothari, C. R. (2004). Research methodology: Methods and techniques. New Age International.

Lacey, N., & Zedner, L. (2007). Legal constructions of crime. The Oxford handbook of criminology, 5.

Lau, P. H., & Ali, K. (2019). Citizen participation in crime prevention: a study in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. *Journal of Criminological Research, Policy and Practice*, *5*(2), 144-160.

Levine, M. D. (1986). Working it out: A community re-creation approach to crime prevention. *Journal of Community Psychology*, *14*(4), 378-390.

Lindolf, T. R., & Taylor, B. C. (2002). Qualitative Communication Research Methods (2nd ed.). Sage.

Lombardo, R., & Lough, T. (2002). Community Policing: Broken Windows, Community Building, and Satisfaction with the Police. Police Journal, 80(2), 117-140. http://dx.doi.org/10.1350/pojo.2007.80.2.117.

Mackenzie, S., & Henry, A. (2009). Community policing: A review of the evidence.

McCombes, S. (2019). How to create a Research Design. http://www.scribbr.com/ research-process/research-design

Magers, J. S. (2004). Compstat: a new paradigm for policing or a repudiation of community policing?. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, *20*(1), 70-79.

Maguire, E. R., & Mastrofski, S. D. (2000). Patterns of community policing in

Marchuk, I. (2014). The Fundamental Concept of Crime in International Criminal Law. Springer Science and Business Media LLC, 10, 978-3.

Mammus, K (2018): Challenges and Prospect of Policing (Edo State, Nigeria in Perspective). Study Mode.

Marks, M., Shearing, C., & Wood, J. (2009). Who should the police be? Finding a new narrative for community policing in South Africa. *Police Practice and Research: an international journal*, *10*(2), 145-155.

Marzbali, M. H., Abdullah, A., Abd Razak, N., & Tilaki, M. J. M. (2011). A review of the effectiveness of crime prevention by design approaches towards sustainable development. *Journal of Sustainable Development*, *4*(1), 160.

Mastrofski, S. (2013). Critic-Community Policing: A skeptical view. In Police Innovation: Contemporary Perspectives, ed. D. Weisburd and A. Braga. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, pp. 44-73.

Meares, T. L. (2002). Law and (norms of) order in the inner city. Law & Society Review, 32, 805-838.

Mensah, R.O (2018). Asssesment of Ghana Police Service. Journal of Law, Police and Globalization, 79, 265-273.

Michalowski, R. J. (2016). What is crime?. Critical Criminology, 24, 181-199.

Murphy, K., Mazerolle, L., & Bennett, S. (2014). Promoting trust in police: Findings from a randomized experimental field trial of procedural justice policing. Policing and Society, 24(4), 404-425.

Murray, J. (2002). Police culture: A critical component of community policing. *Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences*, *34*(2), 57-71.

Mutongwizo, T., Holley, C., Shearing, C. D., & Simpson, N. P. (2021). Resilience policing: an emerging response to shifting harm landscapes and reshaping community policing. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, *15*(1), 606-621.

Nawab, B., Ullah, S., Nyborg, I. L., & Maqsood, T. (2019). Community-oriented policing: political, institutional and technical reforms in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) police.

Ndukui, C. E. (2009). Community policing as a crime prevention management strategy in makina village, kibera, city of nairobi. University of Narobi.

Neyroud, P. (2021). Globalizing evidence-based policing: Case studies of community policing, reform, and diversion. In *The Globalization of Evidence-Based Policing* (pp. 23-38). Routledge.

Neyroud, P. (2021). Globalizing evidence-based policing: Case studies of community policing, reform, and diversion. In *The Globalization of Evidence-Based Policing* (pp. 23-38). Routledge.

Ngoveni, T. D., Maluleke, W., & Mabasa, C. (2022). Insights on the use of community policing forum for crime prevention: A case study of the Brooklyn police station, South Africa. *International Journal of Research in Business and Social Science (2147-4478)*, *11*(5), 482-494.

Nubani, L., Fierke-Gmazel, H., Madill, H., & De Biasi, A. (2023). Community Engagement in Crime Reduction Strategies: A Tale of Three Cities. *Journal of Participatory Research Methods*, *4*(1).

Okoro, J. P. (2020). *Community policing and crime management in the Wa municipality, Upper West region of Ghana* (Doctoral dissertation).

Oliver, W. M., & Bartgis, E. (1998). Community policing: a conceptual framework. *Policing: An International Journal of Police Strategies & Management*, *21*(3), 490-509.

Pattavina, A., Byrne, J. M., & Garcia, L. (2006). An examination of citizen involvement in crime prevention in high-risk versus low-to moderate-risk neighborhoods. *Crime & Delinquency*, *52*(2), 203-231.

Polit, D. F., & Beck, C. T. (2012). Nursing research: Generating and assessing evidence for nursing practice. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Ratcliffe, J. (2011). Intelligence-led policing. Cullompton: Willan.

Ren, L., Zhao, J. S., & He, N. P. (2019). Broken windows theory and citizen engagement in crime prevention. *Justice quarterly*, *36*(1), 1-30.

Ruteere, M., & Pommerolle, M. (2003). 'Democratization Security or Decentralizing Repression? The Ambiguities of Community Policing in Kenya', African Affairs, Vol. 102, 587-604.

Saldaña, J. (2016). The coding manual for qualitative researchers. Sage Publications.

Saunders, M. (2007). Research methods for business students (4th ed.). Pearson Education Limited.

Saunders, M. N. (2007). Research methods for business students. Pearson Education.

Schaefer Morabito, M. (2010). Understanding community policing as an innovation: Patterns of adoption. *Crime & Delinquency*, *56*(4), 564-587.

Scheider, M. C., Rowell, T., & Bezdikian, V. (2003). The impact of citizen perceptions of community policing on fear of crime: Findings from twelve cities. *Police quarterly*, *6*(4), 363-386.

Sekamate, P. (2015). *Community policing and crime prevention at Kampala Central Division* (Doctoral dissertation, Uganda Management Institute).

Sherman, L. W., & Eck, J. E. (2003). Policing for crime prevention. In *Evidence-based crime prevention* (pp. 295-329). Routledge.

Skogan, W. G., & Hartnett, S. M. (2012). Community Policing: Chicago Style. NY: Oxford University Press.

Skogan, W. (2006). *Advocate: The Promise of Community Policing*, In D. Weisburd and A. Braga (eds.). Police Innovations: Contrasting Perspectives. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp 27-43.

Skogan, W. G., & Hartnett, S. M. (2019). Community policing. *Police innovation: Contrasting perspectives*, 27-44.

Strauss, A., & Corbin, J. (1990). *Basics of qualitative research: Grounded theory procedures and techniques*. NewPark, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Skogan, W. G., & Williamson, T. (2008). An overview of community policing: origins, concepts and implementation. *The Handbook of Knowledge-Based Policing: Current Conceptions and Future Directions. Chichester: Wiley*, 43-57.

Somerville, P. (2009). Understanding community policing. *Policing: an international journal of police strategies & management*, *32*(2), 261-277.

Sozer, M. A., & Merlo, A. V. (2013). The impact of community policing on crime rates: Does the effect of community policing differ in large and small law enforcement agencies?. *Police practice and research*, *14*(6), 506-521.

Terpstra, J. (2010). Community policing in practice: Ambitions and realization. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, *4*(1), 64-72. the United States. *Police quarterly*, *3*(1), 4-45.

Thuku, Z. K. (2021). *Contribution of non-state actors to community policing in urban informal settlements: A case of Mlango Kubwa ward, Nairobi City County, Kenya* (Doctoral dissertation, Africa Nazarene University).

Tonry, M., & Farrington, D. P. (1995). Strategic approaches to crime prevention. *Crime and justice*, *19*, 1-20.

Trochim, W. M. (2005). Purposive sampling. The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 2nd edition.

Trojanowicz, R. C., & Bucqueroux, B. (1990). *Community policing: A contemporary perspective*. Cincinnati, OH: Anderson Publishing Company.

Trojanowicz, R., Kappeler, V.E., Gaines, L.K., & Bucqueroux, B. (2002). Community policing: A contemporary perspective (3rd ed.). Cincinnati, OH: Anderson.

Tshehla, B. (2005). Traditional leaders' role in justice and crime prevention: here to stay. *SA Crime Quarterly*, *2005*(11), 15-20.

Tyler, T. R. (2016). From harm reduction to community engagement: Redefining the goals of American policing in the twenty-first century. *Nw. UL Rev.*, *111*, 1537.

Uchida, C. D., Swatt, M. L., Solomon, S. E., & Varano, S. (2013). *Data-driven crime prevention: New tools for community involvement and crime control*. Justice & Security Strategies, Incorporated.

Van Maanen, J. (2003). Qualitative methods. In N. K. Denzin & Y. S. Lincoln (Eds.), Strategies of qualitative inquiry (2nd ed., pp. 293-337). Sage.

Virta, S (2006) 'Community Policing' in The Sage Dictionary of Criminology, eds. McLaughlin., and J., Sage: London

Walters, P. M. (1993). Community-oriented policing: A blend of strategies. *FBI L. Enforcement Bull.*, *62*, 20.

Wanjohi, D. M. (2014). *Influence of community policing on crime reduction in Kenya: A case of Machakos County* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Nairobi).

Welsh, B. C. (2006). Evidence-based policing for crime prevention. *Police innovation: Contrasting perspectives*, *2*, 439-456.

Welsh, B. C., & Farrington, D. P. (2012). Crime prevention and public policy. *The Oxford handbook of crime prevention*, 3-19.

White, R., Haines, F., & Asquith, N. L. (2017). Crime & criminology.

Wilson, J. M. (2006). *Community policing in America*. Taylor & Francis.

Wilson, J. Q., & Herrnstein, R. J. (1998). Crime human nature: The definitive study of the causes of crime. Simon and Schuster.

Wilson, J. Q. & Kelling, G. L. (1982). The police and neighbourhood safety: Broken windows. *Atlantic monthly*, 127.

Wimmer, R. D. (2002). Sampling in content analysis of television news. In Doing news framing analysis: empirical and theoretical perspectives (pp. 147-172). Routledge.

Wong, K. C. (2008). *A general theory of community policing*.Ohio. htt://works.bepress.com/kam_wong/6.

Wood, J. (1996). Building a safer society: Strategic approaches to crime prevention. *Contemporary Sociology*, *25*(5), 666.

Yero, A., Othman, J., Samah, B. A., D'Silva, J. L., & Sulaiman, A. H. (2012). RE-VISITING CONCEPT AND THEORIES OF COMMUNITY POLICING. *International journal of academic research*, *4*(4).

Zikhali, W. (2019). Community policing and crime prevention: Evaluating the role of traditional leaders under Chief Madliwa in Nkayi District, Zimbabwe. *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, *8*(4), 109-122.

Zikhali, W. (2019). Community policing and crime prevention: Evaluating the role of traditional leaders under Chief Madliwa in Nkayi District, Zimbabwe. *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, *8*(4), 109-122.

Zumve, S. I. (2011). Community policing in contemporary Nigeria: a synthesis of models. *Guest Editors*, *2*, 9.
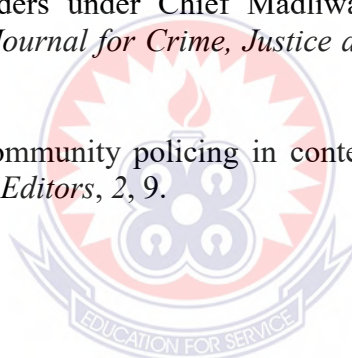
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A CONSENT FORM

This study is being conducted by Nicholas Jyuogluu Eguo of Center for Human Right, Conflict and Peace Studies Department, University of Education, Winneba. I am conducting a study on the effectiveness of community policing in crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality in The Central Region of Ghana. You were selected as a possible participant because of your knowledge in the subject of study. Please read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

Procedures:

If you agree to be in this study, I will ask you to do the following things: be present for an interview and willing to discuss the effectiveness of community policing in crime prevention in the Effutu Municipality in The Central Region of Ghana. Be willing to allow audio taping within this interview which may last 45 minutes, and to allow information that was gained from this interview to be placed within a research project. Your name and identifying traits will be kept confidential throughout this process.

Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study: The study has no direct risks or benefits.

Confidentiality: The records of this study will be kept confidential

Voluntary Nature of the Study: Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without penalty. Should you decide to withdraw, data collected about you will not be used. You are also free to skip any question that may be asked at any time.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I consent to participate in the study and to be audio taped.

_____   _____

       Name of Participant   Date

_____

       Signature of Study Participant

_____   _____

       Signature of Researcher   Date

APPENDIX B

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Research Semi-Structured Interview Guide:

Participants: Police Officers, Chiefs, Opinion Leaders, Market Women, and Fisherfolks in the Effutu Municipality.

Thank you for participating in this research on community policing in the Effutu Municipality. Your insights and experiences are valuable in understanding the implementation and effectiveness of community policing initiatives. Please feel free to share your thoughts openly and honestly. Your views will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only.

1.How is community policing implemented and operationalized strategies in the Effutu Municipality?

• Can you describe the specific community policing initiatives or programs that are in place in the Effutu Municipality?

• What are the key objectives and goals of community policing as implemented here?

• How do the police officers collaborate and engage with the community members in their policing activities?

• Are there any specific strategies or practices employed to promote community participation in crime prevention and maintaining public safety?

2. What is the effectiveness of community policing initiatives in reducing crime rates and enhancing public safety in the Effutu Municipality?

• In your opinion, how effective have the community policing initiatives been in reducing crime rates within the Effutu Municipality?

• Can you provide examples or specific incidents where community policing has led to positive outcomes in crime prevention or public safety?

• Have you noticed any changes in the community's perception of safety and security since the implementation of community policing?

• Are there any measurable indicators or statistics that reflect the impact of community policing on crime reduction and public safety?

3. What are the challenges and barriers encountered in the implementation of community policing in the Effutu Municipality?

• What are the main obstacles or difficulties faced by the police officers in implementing community policing programs?

• Are there any specific challenges related to community engagement or cooperation in the efforts of community policing?

• Have there been any resource constraints or limitations that affect the effectiveness of community policing initiatives?

• Are there any cultural or social factors that present challenges in implementing community policing strategies?

4. What is the impact of community policing on police-community relationships and public trust in law enforcement within the Effutu Municipality?

• How has community policing influenced the relationship between the police officers and the community members?

• Have there been any changes in the level of trust and confidence that the community has in the local law enforcement agencies?

• Are there any perceived improvements or concerns regarding transparency, accountability, and responsiveness of the police through community policing?

• Can you share any personal experiences or anecdotes that illustrate the impact of community policing on police-community relationships and public trust?