

Security Measures and Crime Management in Calabar, Nigeria

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Abstract

This research explored the dynamics between various security interventions and their impact on crime management in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria, with a particular focus on the effectiveness of security personnel training and community policing strategies. Utilizing a survey research design, the study collected data from both primary and secondary sources to paint a comprehensive picture of the current security situation. A targeted selection process resulted in 384 respondents from various police stations throughout Calabar. To gather insights, the study employed a self-report questionnaire designed by the researchers, ensuring a tailored approach to data collection. The analysis was conducted using simple linear regression, with hypotheses tested at a 0.05 percent significance level. The findings revealed a significant positive impact of security personnel training and community policing on crime reduction in Calabar. The implications of these findings are clear: enhancing the quality of security measures, specifically through rigorous training of security forces and the implementation of community policing, plays a crucial role in mitigating crime. Based on the results, the study proposes several recommendations. It underscores the importance of providing security personnel with advanced technical training tailored to their operational needs, which includes but is not limited to, the use of security and surveillance equipment, mastering access control systems, and developing efficient emergency response strategies. Furthermore, the study suggests that engaging the community in policing efforts not only fosters trust between law enforcement and the public but also significantly contributes to the overall effectiveness of crime control strategies in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria.

Keywords: security measures, training, community policing, poverty, violence, women, rehabilitation, gender, Nigeria

Introduction

Insecurity has become a prominent and widely discussed social issue in Nigeria, with daily occurrences of banditry, kidnapping, insurgency, violence, political thuggery, cattle rustling, militancy, and herdsmen/farmers clashes displacing thousands from their ancestral homes (Ukwayi et al., 2018; Agba et al., 2020). This persistent state of insecurity not only threatens national integration but also fosters an environment of fear, disquiet, and anxiety, severely impacting industrial development and setting back the country's progress by many years (Imhonopi & Urim, 2012; Okpa et al., 2021).

The government has been relentless in its efforts to address this challenge, employing various strategies ranging from forceful measures to diplomatic approaches (Okpa et al., 2020; Anam et al., 2024). However, the problem continues to resurface with increasing severity, prompting calls for a multi-stakeholder approach to address the issue beyond military options alone (Imhonopi & Urim, 2013; Open Society, 2012; Ujomu, 2001; Anam et al., 2023).

Crime not only undermines social cohesion by eroding the sense of safety and security but also has far-reaching effects on society, depending on the nature and extent of the crimes committed (Adeniyi et al., 2019). It poses a threat to the economic, political, and social stability of a country and is a significant factor contributing to underdevelopment. Crime discourages investment, lowers the quality of life, destroys human and social capital, damages the relationship between citizens and the state, and undermines the rule of law, democracy, and the country's developmental capacity (Adebayo, 2013; Ukwai et al., 2019; Cobham & Ntombela, 2010).

In response to these challenges, both past and present Nigerian governments have implemented various security measures to prevent the continuous breakdown of law and order (Ukwai & Okpa, 2017; Uzoh et al., 2023). These measures include the adoption of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras for crime control, the formation of tactical units within the police force, the establishment of community policing, empowering unemployed youths, training security personnel, and strengthening their intelligence-gathering mechanisms (Okpa et al., 2017; Anam et al., 2023). Additionally, regional governments in Nigeria have established security outfits such as the Western Nigeria Security Network (WNSN) codenamed Operation Amotekun, and the Eastern Security Network (ESN) in some parts of the east to combat crime and criminality.

Historically, Nigeria's crime control strategies can be discussed in three main epochs: the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial eras (Okpa et al., 2017; Cobham & Ntombela, 2010). During the pre-colonial era, crime control strategies included the use of cults, secret societies, messengers, and palace guards. In the colonial era, the police force was established as an institution of coercion used by the colonial masters for their own purposes (Okafor, 2011; Uzoh et al., 2023; Cobham & Ntombela, 2010). The post-colonial Nigeria Police Force, largely a carryover from the colonial era, has often been criticized for serving the interests of the government and wealthy members of society rather than the general public (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2004). Despite the widespread discussion of the challenges facing policing in Nigeria, there is limited evidence of the success of current policing styles in reducing crime. There is a need for more research on the effectiveness of security measures as a method of crime control, as this area remains underexplored in academic literature. This study examines the relationship between security measures and crime management in Calabar, Cross River state, Nigeria. The specific objectives of this study are to:

- (i) Determine the relationship between training of security personnel and crime management in Calabar, Cross River State.
- (ii) Assess the relationship between community policing and crime management in Calabar, Cross River State.

Research hypotheses

- (i) Training of security personnel has no significant relationship with crime management in Calabar, Cross River State
- (ii) There is no significant relationship between community policing and crime management in Calabar, Cross River State

Theoretical framework

Routine activity theory

The routine activity theory, developed by Cohen and Felson in 1979, is a highly influential and frequently cited framework within the discipline of criminology. This theory focuses on examining crime as an event, emphasizing the importance of its spatial and temporal aspects. It

highlights the ecological nature of crime, suggesting that criminal activities are influenced by the routine activities of individuals in their everyday environments. The theory posits that for a crime to occur, three elements must converge in space and time: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of a capable guardian to prevent the crime. This perspective shifts the focus from the characteristics of the offender to the circumstances that facilitate criminal acts, thereby offering insights into how changes in social and environmental patterns can impact crime rates (Ukwayi et al., 2017). Synoptically, this theory maintains that when youths and other unemployed or underemployed people in the society are gainfully employed and made self-reliant, the space and time available to engage in criminal activities will not be there as they will be busy with wealth creation and other activities that will make the environment non-fertile for criminality to thrive. Also, the activity of security personnel in building relationship with their host communities (ecology) goes a long way to boost confidence of residents in supplying security information to security agents for effective policing of the area.

Methodology

The research employed a cross-sectional survey design, which, as described by Kerlinger and Lee (2000), aims to ascertain the nature of a situation at the time of the investigation. This design was chosen due to its effectiveness in collecting accurate data from research participants at a relatively low financial cost.

The study was conducted in Calabar, the capital of Cross River State, located in the South-South region of Nigeria. Calabar is divided into two local government areas: Calabar South and Calabar Municipality, covering an area of approximately 1,480 square kilometers. Geographically, Calabar is positioned between latitudes 4°50'00"N and 5°10'00"N and longitudes 8°17'00"E and 8°20'00"E (Udoimuk, Osang, Ettah, Ushie, Egor, & Alozie, 2014). The city is nestled between the Great Qua River to the east and the Calabar River to the west. Calabar experiences a tropical equatorial climate characterized by high temperatures, high relative humidity, and abundant annual rainfall. The climate is influenced by two major air masses, resulting in distinct rainy and dry seasons. The rainy season extends from May to October, while the dry season lasts from November to April.

The sample size for this study was determined to be three hundred and eighty-four (384) respondents, including both males and females. These respondents were selected from the study area using a purposive sampling technique. Cochran's formula (1963) was employed to calculate the sample size, ensuring a representative and statistically significant sample for the research.

The study adopted multi-stage sampling technique. This technique consists of simple random and purposive sampling technique. In stage one, the simple random sampling technique was used to select three (3) Divisional Police Stations and the State Police headquarters in Calabar. These police stations were selected using the balloting methods of the simple random sampling technique. This was achieved by writing down names of the four (4) Divisional Police Stations, one mobile unit and the state police headquarters in a piece of paper and put in a small basket where four out of the six units were randomly selected. The following units were selected State Housing Divisional Police Station, Atakpa Divisional Police Station, Efut Divisional Police Station, and police state headquarters. The four (4) selected police units constitute four (4) clusters of this study. In stage two, the researcher will purposively select respondents from the selected four (4) police units. The spread of the selection process shows that fifty-five (55) respondents were selected from State Housing divisional police station. While, fifty-four (54) respondents were selected from Atakpa Divisional Police Station, Efut Divisional Police Station had eighty (80) and Police State Headquarters in Calabar had one hundred and ninety-five (195) respondents.

The primary tool for data collection in this study was a questionnaire, which was composed of closed-ended questions divided into three sections. Section 'A' gathered demographic information from respondents, including their age, gender, marital status, and educational level. Section 'B' focused on key topics related to the research questions, such as the use of CCTV cameras, training of security personnel, community policing, and empowerment programs (employment opportunities). Section 'C' aimed to assess the dependent variable, crime control. The questionnaire was distributed and collected with the assistance of research assistants, ensuring minimal impact on its validity and reliability. Three research assistants were employed for efficient management in terms of training, funding, and supervision. These assistants were selected from the Sociology Department at the University of Calabar and underwent a two-day training session on questionnaire administration and collection. The collected data were coded and analyzed using statistical methods such as frequency distribution, simple percentages, and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) analysis. Ethical considerations were addressed by obtaining approval from the Cross River State Ministry of Health Research and Ethics Committee (CRS-EREL) to ensure the anonymity and confidentiality of the research respondents and to enhance the overall outcome of the study.

Result

The distributed questionnaire were three hundred and eighty-four (384) questionnaires, the returned questionnaires were three hundred and fifty-eight (358). Results of analysis of demographic data of respondents as presented in Table 1 showed that; 241 respondents representing 67.31 percent are males, while 117 representing 32.68 percent are females. The result of the age distribution of respondents showed that 71 (19.83 percent) are below 20 years, 111 (31.00 percent) are between 20 – 24 years, 146 (40.78 percent) are between 30 – 34 years, 30 (8.37 percent) are 40 years and above. For respondents' marital status, 137 (38.26 percent) are single, 155 (43.29 percent) are married, 28 (7.82 percent) are divorced, 22 (6.14 percent) are widows, 16 (4.46 percent) are widowers. The result of respondents' level of education showed that; 27 (7.54 percent) have FSLC, 61 (17.03 percent) have secondary SSCE, 82 (22.90 percent) have tertiary OND/NCE, 168 (46.92 percent) have HND/BSC and 20 (5.58 percent) have M.Ed/Ph.D. The result of police station showed that; 195 (54.46 percent) are serving in Police State Headquarters, 78 (21.78 percent) are serving in Efut, 39 (10.89 percent) are serving in the State Housing, while 46 (12.48 percent) are serving in Atakpa. For number of years in service, 87 (24.30 percent) have worked with the police for between 8-14years, 104 (29.05 percent) have worked with the police for between 15-21 years, 93 (25.97 percent) have worked with the police for between 22-28 years, 74 (20.17 percent) have worked with the police for between 29-35 years.

TABLE 1: Respondents' demographic data

Variable	Category	N	Percent (%)
Sex	Male	241	67.31
	Female	117	32.68
	Total	358	100
Age	Below 20 years	71	19.83
	25 – 29 years	111	31.00
	30 – 34 years	146	40.78
	40 years and above	30	8.37
	Total	358	100
Marital status	Single	137	38.26
	Married	155	43.29
	Divorced	28	7.82
	Widow	22	6.14
	Widower	16	4.46
Educational qualification	Total	358	100
	Primary education	27	7.54
	Secondary education	61	17.03
	OND/NCE	82	22.90

Service area	HND/BSC	168	46.92
	M.Ed/Ph.D	20	5.58
	Total	358	100
	Police State Headquarters	195	54.46
	Efut	78	21.78
	State housing	39	10.89
	Atakpa	46	12.48
	Total	358	100
Service years	8-14 years	87	24.30
	15-21 years	104	29.05
	22-28	93	25.97
	29-35	74	20.17
	Total	358	100

Source: Field survey, 2022

Research question two

What is the relationship between training of security personnel and crime control in Calabar, Cross River State? Descriptive statistics (frequency and percentages) were used to answer this research question and the result is presented in Table 2. Results of analysis as presented in Table 2. shows participants responses as follows; police officers are sent on special training in the use of CCTV camera; 196 (54.74 percent) strongly agreed, 118 (32.96 percent) agreed, while 24 (6.70 percent) disagreed 20 (5.58 percent) strongly disagreed. On whether workshops are organised for police officers to expose them to new trend in policing; 215 (60.05 percent) strongly agreed, 91 (25.41 percent) agreed, 41 (11.45 percent) disagreed and 11 (3.07 percent) strongly disagreed. Police officers are sent to routine promotional course where they are trained on the act of policing; 199 (55.58 percent) strongly agreed, 116 (32.40 percent) agreed, 28 (7.82 percent) disagreed, and 15 (4.18 percent) strongly disagreed. Police personnel are encouraged by their superior to attend security conferences; 202 (56.42 percent) strongly agreed, 120 (33.51 percent) agreed, 27(7.54 percent) disagreed and 9 (2.54 percent) strongly disagreed. Incentives that encourage police personnel to attain training are provided by the police management; 166 (46.36 percent) strongly agreed, 128 (35.75 percent) agreed, while 42 (11.73 percent) disagreed and 22 (6.14 percent) strongly disagreed.

TABLE 2: Responses on training of security personnel and crime control

S/N	STATEMENTS	SA	A	D	SD
1	Police officers are sent on special training in the use of CCTV cameras.	196 (54.74)	118 (32.96)	24 (6.70)	20 (5.58)
2	Workshops are organized for police officers to expose them to new trend in policing.	215 (60.05)	91 (25.41)	41 (11.45)	11 (3.07)
3	Police officers are sent to routine promotional course where they are trained on the act of policing.	199 (55.58)	116 (32.40)	28 (7.82)	15 (4.18)
4	Police personnel are encouraged by their superior to attend security conferences.	202 (56.42)	120 (33.51)	27 (7.54)	9 (2.54)
5	Incentives that encourage police personnel to attend training are provided by the police management.	166 (46.36)	128 (35.75)	42 (11.73)	22 (6.14)

Source: Field survey, 2022

Research question two

How does community policing relate to crime control in Calabar, Cross River State? Descriptive statistics (frequency and percentages) were used to answer this research question two and the result is presented in Table 3. Results of analysis as indicated in Table 3, shows participants responses as follows; the police partners with local communities in their daily operations; 218

(60.89 percent) respondents strongly agreed, 122 (34.07 percent) agreed, while 8 (2.23 percent) disagreed 10 (2.79 percent) strongly disagreed. On whether the locals provide intelligence to the police, which aid the operations of the police; 194 (54.18 percent) strongly agreed, 107 (29.88 percent) agreed, 32 (8.93 percent) disagreed and 25 (6.98 percent) strongly disagreed. The police respond to distress calls swiftly as a result of the collaboration between them and the local community; 211 (58.93 percent) strongly agreed, 98 (27.37 percent) agreed, 27 (7.54 percent) disagreed, and 22 (6.14 percent) strongly disagreed. On whether community policing encourages local communities to take part in policing; 164 (45.81 percent) strongly agreed, 144 (40.22 percent) agreed, 31(8.65 percent) disagreed and 19(5.30 percent) strongly disagreed. As of if police partnership with local communities is yielding the required result of reducing crime and safeguarding the public; 177 (49.44 percent) strongly agreed, 138 (38.54 percent) agreed, while 23 (6.42 percent) disagreed and 20 (5.58 percent) strongly disagreed.

TABLE 3: Responses on community policing and crime control

S/N	STATEMENTS	SA	A	D	SD
6	The police partners with local communities in their daily operations	218 (60.89)	122 (34.07)	8 (2.23)	10 (2.79)
7	The locals provide intelligence to the police, which aid the operations of the police	194 (54.18)	107 (29.88)	32 (8.93)	25 (6.98)
8	The police respond to distress calls swiftly as a result of the collaboration between them and the local community	211 (58.93)	98 (27.37)	27 (7.54)	22 (6.14)
9	Community policing encourages local communities to take part in policing	164 (45.81)	144 (40.22)	31 (8.65)	19 (5.30)
10	Police partnership with local communities is yielding the required result of reducing crime and safeguarding the public	177 (49.44)	138 (38.54)	23 (6.42)	20 (5.58)

Source: Field survey, 2022

Test of hypotheses

Hypothesis one

The hypothesis tested in this study posited that the training of security personnel does not significantly relate to crime control in Calabar, Cross River State. In this hypothesis, the independent variable is the training of security personnel, and the dependent variable is crime control. Both variables were measured on a continuous scale, and simple linear regression was utilized as the inferential statistical method to test the hypothesis at a 0.05 level of significance. The results are presented in Table 4. The analysis, as shown in Table 4, revealed an R-value of 0.244a. The correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of the observed degree of relationship between variables, commonly used to gauge the size of an effect. In this context, values of ± 0.1 represent a small effect, ± 0.3 indicate a medium effect, and ± 0.5 signify a large effect. Additionally, the R^2 value of 0.060 implies that 60 percent of the total variance in crime control is accounted for by the predictor variable (training of security personnel).

The regression ANOVA results showed that $F(1, 356) = 14.608$; $p < 0.05$, indicating statistical significance. Consequently, the null hypothesis was rejected, suggesting that there is a significant linear association between the training of security personnel and crime control in Calabar, Cross River State. The adjusted R^2 value of 0.058, slightly lower than the unadjusted R^2 value of 0.060, indicates some shrinkage but suggests that the model could be generalized to the population. Based on these results, it was concluded that there is a significant relationship between the training of security personnel and crime control in the study area, highlighting the importance of proper training for security personnel in enhancing crime control efforts.

TABLE 4: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of training of security personnel to crime control

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation						
Training of security personnel	12.5084	7.60651						
Crime control	24.8436	9.85881						
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	537.934	1	537.934	14.608	.244 ^a	.060	.058	.000 ^a
Residual	41557.306	356	116.734					
Total	42095.240	357						

Source: Field survey, 2022

Hypothesis two

The hypothesis tested was that there is no significant relationship between community policing and crime control in Calabar, Cross River State. Community policing was the independent variable, while crime control was the dependent variable. Both variables were measured on a continuous scale, and simple linear regression was used for inferential statistics at a 0.05 level of significance. The results are presented in Table 5. The analysis, as shown in Table 5, indicated an R-value of 0.211a. The correlation coefficient is a standardized measure of the observed relationship between variables, with values of ± 0.1 indicating a small effect, ± 0.3 a medium effect, and ± 0.5 a large effect. The R²-value of 0.045 suggests that 45 percent of the total variance in crime control is explained by the predictor variable, community policing.

Furthermore, the regression ANOVA showed that the F-statistic ($F(1, 356) = 12.392; p < 0.05$) is significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected, indicating that there is a significant linear association between community policing and crime control in the study area. The adjusted R²-value of 0.043, slightly lower than the unadjusted value of 0.045, suggests that the model can be generalized to the population. In conclusion, the results indicate that there is a significant relationship between community policing and crime control in Calabar, Cross River State.

TABLE 5: Summary simple linear regression analysis of the contribution of community policing to crime control

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation						
Community policing	19.8352	6.21268						
Crime control	24.8436	9.85881						
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Sig
Regression	281.011	1	281.011	12.392	.211 ^a	.045	.043	.000 ^a
Residual	41814.230	356	117.456					
Total	42095.240	357						

Source: Field survey, 2022

Discussion of findings

Training of security personnel and crime control

The result of the first hypothesis indicates that there is a significant relationship between training of security personnel and crime control in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. From the findings,

majority of respondents believed that police officers are sent on special training in the use of CCTV cameras and other security gadgets, and also that workshops, seminars and other training programs are organized for police officers and members of other security outfits from time to time to update functionality with current and emerging acts of policing. A good number of respondents also maintained that promotional causes undergone by police officers equally help to sharpen their skills on modern policing. The study revealed that training helps in deepening the knowledge, skills and competence of security personnel, which enable them solve security related issues and at the same time help them realize their career goals and aspirations in planned system. The findings of this study corroborate those of Tembur (2017), who demonstrated that police officers' knowledge and skills significantly impact their job competencies, which in turn substantially affect job performance. The study also highlighted that job security is a crucial environmental working condition that positively influences job performance, and that compensation plays a vital role in enhancing officers' social welfare, thereby improving their performance in the police service.

Additionally, this study aligns with Ramsey (2015), who explored the relationship between formal education and the academic performance of police recruits undergoing basic training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) in Richmond, Kenya. The results indicated that recruits with higher education levels academically outperformed their peers without degrees, suggesting that formal education provides an academic advantage during basic training. Furthermore, Mburu, Maina, and Waithaka (2017) examined the impact of on-the-job training on the performance of police officers in the Kenya Police Service. Their findings, which support the present study, revealed that on-the-job training has a positive, albeit statistically insignificant, effect on officers' performance. The study also emphasized that reducing crime is a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders, not solely dependent on police training.

In a similar vein, Jagero, Kamba, and Mlingi (2012) investigated the relationship between on-the-job training and employee performance in courier companies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Their study concluded that there is a significant relationship between on-the-job training and performance, particularly in DHL, where training programs positively impact employee performance. On-the-job training is crucial for skill enhancement, especially for job-specific tasks or work environments, and promotes a learning-by-doing approach, offering ample opportunities for addressing doubts and queries.

Community policing and crime control

The statistical analysis for the second hypothesis reveals a significant correlation between community policing and crime control in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria. Many respondents acknowledged that the collaboration between the police and local communities in daily operations enhances effective policing. They also noted that local communities could enhance their security by providing intelligence that the police can utilize to carry out their duties more efficiently. While there are limited empirical studies specifically establishing the relationship between community policing and crime control, existing research indicates that community policing can lead to a reduction in serious crime rates (Connell, Miggans, & McGloin, 2008). However, the effectiveness of community policing can vary depending on factors such as police leadership, the geographic area, and the demographic characteristics of the communities involved (Thatcher, 2001). Additionally, some studies suggest that certain police departments may have simply rebranded old tactics as community policing without making significant structural changes to their activities.

Conclusion and recommendations

In an attempt to reduce crime to its barest minimum, both political and community leaders have evolved different security measures in order to safe guard the lives and properties of their citizens. The primary objective of this research was to investigate the connection between security measures and crime control in Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria, with a particular focus on the impact of security personnel training and community policing on crime control. Data were collected from three hundred and eighty-four respondents in the study area. Following a comprehensive analysis, the study yielded the following findings:

- (i) The training of security personnel has a significant positive impact on crime management in Calabar, Cross River State. This suggests that well-trained security personnel are better equipped to handle crime-related issues effectively.
- (ii) There is a notable significant relationship between community policing and crime management in Calabar, Cross River State. This indicates that collaborative efforts between the police and the community can lead to more effective crime control and safer neighborhoods.

The study therefore concludes that there is a significant relationship between security measures adopted by security agencies in Calabar and crime management.

Recommendations

Security personnel should be equipped with the necessary technical skills related to their duties. This could include training in the operation of security equipment, surveillance systems, access control systems, and emergency response protocols. During training security operatives should be trained using realistic scenarios and case studies during training to simulate situations that security personnel may encounter on the job. This helps them develop problem-solving skills and apply their knowledge in practical situations. Also, training should be an ongoing process, not a one-time event. Provide regular refresher courses to reinforce knowledge and skills, and keep security personnel updated on new techniques, technologies, and threats. This point has also been emphasised by Agba, Agba & Obeten (2023) to the effect that artificial intelligence technologies can be deployed to enhance public security and the protection of life and property in developing market economies. In addition, the police authority should regularly assess the effectiveness of the training programs by gathering feedback from security personnel and supervisors. Use this feedback to make necessary adjustments and improvements to future training initiatives. The study also recommends that police authority should implement community engagement programs that promote interaction and collaboration between police and residents. These programs can include neighbourhood watch groups, citizen academies, community forums, and youth outreach initiatives. The police authority should encourage community members to actively participate and provide feedback on security concerns. Encourage open and transparent communication channels between the police and the community. This can involve establishing dedicated hotlines, social media platforms, or community policing websites where residents can report concerns, provide information, or seek assistance. Police should actively listen to community feedback and respond promptly to address concerns.

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