

# Community Policing and Human Security in Nigeria: A Study of Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC)

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## Abstract

*The need to examine the problem of crime that has become a recurring feature in all states in Nigeria necessitates this study. There is no doubt that community policing has been very effective in crime reduction and control in several countries including the US, Israel, UK, Canada, and Japan. The devastating impacts in the face of apparently soaring levels of crime and violence on Nigerian individuals and communities especially in Lagos and other states in Nigeria require quick action. The need for community policing is critical to identifying those who are planning to carry out acts of violence. The objectives of the study are to i) ascertain the extent to which Neighbourhood Safety Corps is equipped and empowered to provide security to Lagosian; ii) investigate whether the establishments of Neighbourhood Safety Corps have reduced the rate of crime rate and improve human security in Lagos State. The paper employs a primary and secondary source of collecting data. Descriptive statistics and correlational analysis were used to analysed data and test the null hypotheses at 0.05 levels of significance. The study adopts the Normative Sponsorship Theory for its analysis. The study reveals that the provision of adequate equipment to community personal enhances the security of lives and properties. More so, the creation of community policing to support the government apparatus reduced the crime rate in any society. Based on the findings of this paper, it was recommended that government should redouble its efforts in providing sophisticated weapons and ammunition to the community policing personnel and also should encourage the establishment of partnership policing to curb the crime rate.*

**Keywords:** Community; Policing; Neighbourhood Safety; Crime

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## INTRODUCTION

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Crime is a global challenge that threatens not only safety and security within communities but also the peace and stability of the country itself. Thus, there is a need for a joint approach by the police and communities. A strategy that encourages efficient use of resources and shared responsibility to fight crime is an absolute necessity. Traditionally, the responsibility to fight crime is bestowed on Police Agencies. However, in modern-day societies, one of how the lives of ordinary citizens

can be improved is for police agencies to involve communities as active partners in the fight against crime. Success in the fight against crime can be attained when there is cooperation among the police, communities, and other role players. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG, 2030) agenda require service-and human-rights-oriented policing, a style of policing that focuses on protecting the vulnerable, and one committed to and practiced within rule of law requirements and entrusted to a transparent, effective, and accountable public institution.

Traditionally, community policing as a notion emanated from the United States in the 1970s as a philosophy and scheme of policing to integrate the public into police institutions, not as police workforce but as collaborators in the security affairs of the nation for best efficiency and responsiveness (Wong, 2009:2). Indeed, this approach advocates for a paradigm shift. Rather than leaving exclusively the job of policing to state and police, people are more than constantly tasked to play a lot of harmonizing roles in the security affairs of their communities. Therefore, it is not the function of the state (or government) to determine security imperatives for the people but it is the people who should have the final say in deciding their security. It is against this background that many governments of the world have begun to adopt community policing for effective security management (cited in Kasali, & Odetola, 2016: 99).

There is no doubt that community policing has been very effective in crime reduction and control in several countries including the US, Israel, UK, Canada, Japan, to mention a few (Allen-Bond, 1984; Friedmann, 1992; Holland, 1994). In many states in Nigeria, the capacity of the police to maintain law and order has continued to be undermined by the rapidly growing incidence of violent crimes. Incidences of bank robbery and kidnapping have drastically increased in many parts of Nigeria. For instance in Ogun State, many banks closed down their branches in some parts of the state due to cases of bank robbery, some of which claimed human lives (*Newswatch Times*, 2014).

The essential purpose of the government of any nation is the provision of security. This is contained in the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of the government" Section 14(2) (b). In performing this role, the government delegates the duty of maintenance of internal security to the Nigerian Police Force. The Nigeria police are by act saddled with the duty of preventing and detecting crime, preserving

peace and order, and enforcing all laws and regulations. They are expected to perform these roles efficiently and effectively. With the high rate of insecurity in the country, the question that borders every mind is whether the Nigerian Police Force is performing these roles effectively and efficiently? The majority of the people believe that the Nigerian police falls below their values of performance. They are seeing as a toothless dog that can only bark but not bite.

The conversion from traditional policing to community policing is a global trend and the Nigerian police cannot be an exclusion. Community policing as an idea and practice is a veritable vehicle for police reforms (Okiro, 2007). The Nigeria police in 2004 embraced community policing as a practical approach to policy reforms. In Nigeria, community policing was adopted to address the challenges confronting the nations as a result of the high crime rate. Beginning from the middle of the 1970s, the incidence of crime in Nigeria has been on a rapid increase, reaching a pathological stage (Odekunle, 2005).

President Olusegun Obasanjo in April 2004 initiated Community policing in collaboration with police authorities under the tutelage of former Inspector General of Police, Mr. Tafa Balogun. Hence, six states including Benue, Enugu, Jigawa, Kano, Ondo, and Ogun were selected for the pilot scheme. The involvement of people in the pilot states by the Police covered issues of quality service delivery, partnership, accountability, empowerment, and problem-solving. By 2007, the number of states where community policing was introduced increased to 18, as 12 more states were added to the previous 6. Those additional states included Lagos, FCT (Abuja), Cross River, Kaduna, Anambra, Edo, Bauchi, Kogi, Oyo, Imo, Katsina and Borno.

The arena was set for a clear departure from traditional policing, that was reactive and incident-based, to a problem solving oriented policing that is proactive with the community as the cornerstone of policing objectives (Abdulrahman, 2007 cited in Okeshola, & Mudiare, 2013: 134). The crime statistics offences reported reflected that a total of 125,790 cases of crime were reported in 2016. Lagos State has the highest percentage share of total cases reported with 36.08% and 45,385 cases recorded (National Bureau of Statistics reports 2017). This societal problem is, therefore, crucial for adequate interrogation.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The occurrence of crime in the world today is a reason for serious concern for all and sundry. It undermines the social structure by eroding the sagacity of safety and security. Crime impacts in society constitute a problem when its occurrence is rampant in the society constitute a threat to the security of persons and property, as well as social order and solidarity (Onoge 1988 cited in Adebayo, 2013: 71).

Nigeria is among the developing countries of the world, and it is experiencing a high rate of crime waves, criminal intentions, and varying degrees of delinquencies. Nigeria has been on the international crime map since the 1980s (Dambazau,2007). The nature of these crimes includes armed robbery, murder, rape, car theft, burglary, fraud, bribery and corruption, food and drug adulteration, gambling, smuggling, human trafficking, kidnapping, drug trafficking, money laundering, internet scam, advanced fee fraud, and other illegal activities. It is preposterous that in Nigeria, there is no adequate measure by any government to rid the society of the criminal tendencies and manifestations, as people in the leadership positions are also guilty of corruption and crime. An example of such flagrant disregard for diligent prosecution is the case of the former Governor of Delta State, Nigeria, Chief James Ibori who was found not guilty of corruption in Nigeria but has since been jailed in the United Kingdom for money laundering crime. The trial of many former Governors for corruption while in office has been going about 8 years with no end in sight, while they have moved on to other political offices while the trial drags on without diligent prosecution (cited in Adebayo, 2013). Ayo Fayose, former governor of Ekiti state N1.2 billion Naira, Rasheed Ladoja former Oyo state Governor N6 billion Naira, Adamu Abdullahi, former Nasarawa State governor N15 billion Naira, Attahiru Bafarawa for governor of Sokoto State N15 billion Naira. In Lagos State, N9.9 billion naira was frozen in the account of Governor Ambode by the EFCC (Vanguard, 2019), Correspondingly, Governors Abdul Fatah Ahmed of Kwara State was alleged by EFCC of mismanagement of N22 billion Naira of Paris Club Fund (PmNews, 2019).

### Research Questions

1. Is Neighborhood Safety Corps well equipped and properly empowered to provide security to Lagosian?

2. Does the establishment of Neighborhood Safety Corps has reduced the crime rate in Lagos State?

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of the study is to investigate Community Policing and its impact on Human Security in Lagos State, Nigeria: Neighborhood Safety Corps as a focus.

1. To ascertain the extent to which Neighborhood Safety Corps is equipped and empowered to provide security to Lagosian.
2. To investigate whether the establishments of Neighborhood Safety Corps have reduced the rate of crime rate in Lagos State.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The concept of community is used in a variety of ways. The community may refer to the neighbourhood in which people live; or refer to a group of people with a common identity, such as race, ethnicity, or religion; or refer to people with the common profession, interest, or needs. The concept, "community", according to Hillery (in Dambazau, 2012) has multiple meaning and definitions but concluded that all they held in common was a reference to people, having at least, one of these three elements, (a) communities based on geographical areas; (b) social interaction among the people, and (c) the people have some common tie, such as social life, a consciousness of their homogeneity, or common norms, means or ends (see Ngwu & Ahuruonye, 2017:169).

Policing is a process by which social order and regulations are maintained (Findlay, 2004:38). According to Francis, Davies, and Jupp, as cited in Burger (2011:27), policing involves both "the creation of systems of surveillance" and "the threat of sanctions for discovered deviance" and may be carried out through several processes, of which the modern system of public policy is but one example. Policing is meant to ensure citizens' safety and security by law enforcement agencies (Stevens, 2003:22). More so; "policing" means activities by the police and community partners aimed at protecting individuals and securing the safety of all people in the country. According to Wilson and Brewer (1995:315), policing is about diverse matters and practices that are aimed at preventing crime. It must be made clear that policing is not the responsibility of the police only, but its partners too.

According to Brown (1989), community policing relies heavily on the articulation of policing that incorporate citizen involvement in matters that directly affect the safety and quality of neighborhood life. Friedman (1992:4) sees Community Policing as follows: Community Policing is a policy and a strategy aimed at achieving more effective and efficient crime control, reduced fear of crime, enhanced quality of life, improved police services and police legality, through a proactive reliance on community resources that seeks to change crime causing conditions. It assumes a greater public share in decision-making and greater concerns for civil rights and liberties. Community Policing is a philosophy that guides police management styles and operational strategies and emphasizes the establishment of police-community partnerships and a problem-solving approach responsive to the needs of the community.

According to Palmiotto (2011:215 cited in Mabunda, 2014), community policing is a management strategy that promotes the joint responsibility of citizens and police for community safety through working partnerships and interpersonal contacts. Palmiotto (2011) writes that community policing is based on the premise that the police and community must work together to identify, prioritize and solve problems such as crime, drugs, and fear of crime, to improve the quality of life. Stevens and Yach (1995:18) see community policing as a philosophy and approach to policing that recognizes the independence and shared responsibility of the police and the community.

Community policing emphasizes the establishment of police-community partnerships and a problem-solving approach that is responsive to the needs of the community (Reyneke, 1997:12). This policing strategy allows the police and the community to work closely together to solve problems and fears of crime, physical, and social disorder. Community policing requires the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), public and private entities, faith-based formations, youth, schools, and others to participate actively in the prevention of crime. Community policy is aimed at ensuring that community members take the forefront in initiating plans, programs, and policies to reduce crime. There have been many policies initiated worldwide to curb insecurity. Community policing is, in essence, is a collaboration between the police and the community to identify and solve community problems.

Miller and Hess (2002) community policing as a belief that working together, the police and the community can accomplish what neither can accomplish alone. Community policing is a joint effort between the police and the community that

identifies problems of crime, disorder, and chaos which required the involvement of all elements of the community in the course of searching for solutions to problems. It attempts to actively involve the community with the police in the task of crime control by creating an effective working partnership between the community and the police. Under the community policing principle, community members and the police are expected to share responsibility designed for establishing and maintaining peaceful neighborhoods.

Lambert (1984: 45) indicates that if the main task of community policing strategy is to prevent crimes and bring about sustainable peace, then; the Police Force must secure active communication and cooperation with the community. However, according to the research conducted in Lagos State, it was revealed that cooperation between the police and the community is still negligible because of the ills which the police force indulges in and due to past activities. Braiden (1992:115) believes that the aims of community policing are to empower the local people to resist crime and unsafe conditions which are root issues underlying social ills and to create a safe community well-informed on the public safety issues. It also provides an adequate response to street-level (quality-of-life) complaints in the community without reducing the police capability to respond appropriately to emergencies.

Schaffer (2002) asserts that with community policing, officers who are involved create opportunities to make the traditional role of police more effective especially if there is full cooperation within the police force. To make a difference and handle violence or any other dire situation; the police force must form working partnerships within the concerned community (1992). In such circumstances, the community provides a logical and comprehensive approach to the police service delivery with a solid foundation of research (Radelet & Carter, 1994). Brown and Iles (1985:31) suggest that community constables must be equipped with the skills for the job through appropriate training and must learn how to handle the community. Gramckow and Jacoby, (1993:30) Community policing is a good strategy to address the concerns of the communities because it is decentralized, proactive, and deals with crime prevention and fear of crime.

Rawlings (2002) mentions that "at the crux of the partnerships is the belief that the prevention and reduction of crime and disorder problems require the coordinated, concentrated effort of individuals and agencies affected by and concerned with the problems. Because crime has multiple causes, solutions must be equally multifaceted and cannot be reached by the police acting alone". According to Reiner (2002), Policing has always been necessary in all societies for the preservation of order, safety, and



social relations. The necessity of policing becomes even more evident in modern societies characterized by diversities and contradictions arising from population heterogeneity, urbanization, industrialization conflicting ideologies on the appropriate socio-political and economic form of organization. However, the emergence of the police, a body of men recruited and paid by the state to enforce the law and maintain order, is a recent development in human history. Sherman (1997) argues that community policing needs clear objectives that focus on crime risk factors. While there is fairly strong evidence that community policing can reduce disorder and anti-social behaviour, overall findings are mixed about the ability to reduce crime (Mayhill, 2006). Reducing crime, although a benefit, is not always the main focus of the community policing programmes, and often the principal outcome is to reduce victimization (cited in Umar & Bappi, 2014).

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The survey research is mainly based on primary data collected from the Three Senatorial district in Lagos State. The largest Local Government in each senatorial base on the National Population Census figure was considered. The population of Lagos Central is (Surulere, 692,500), Lagos East (Kosofe 940,300), and Lagos West (Alimosho, 1,817,200) (National Bureau of Statics 2006: National Population Commission of Nigeria 2006) which constitutes the sample. A simple random sampling technique was used to select the respondent to give them an equal chance of been selected. A total number of 120 questionnaires were distributed out of which only 100 were filled and returned appropriately. The questionnaire was divided into two sections; section A focuses on demographic questions while section B bothers on questions relating to the subject matter of the research. The response format was in 5 point Likert scale forms with indicators ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree. Regression analysis was used to test the hypothesis at a 5% level of significance with the aid of the SPSS statistical package.

The Ethical consideration of the participant was sought for. The researcher seeks the full consent of the participant before the study. The research participant was assured that they will not be subjected to harm in any ways whatsoever and respect for the dignity of the research participant is been prioritised.



## RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N=100)

Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	67	67%
	Female	33	33%
Age Group	21-30	37	37%
	31-40	32	32%
	41-50	19	19%
	51 and above	12	12%
Marital Status	Single	64	64%
	Married	36	36%

The demographic characteristics of the respondents are presented in table 1 above. The table shows that of the 100 respondents, 67(67%) are male while 33(33%) are female. It also indicates that the respondents within the age bracket 21-30 constitutes the majority, which is represented by 37(37%), 31-40 are 32(32%), 41-50 are 19(19%) while 51 years and above has the least population of 12(12%).

Research Question One: Is Neighborhood Safety Corps well equipped and properly empowered to provide security to Lagosian?

Table 2: Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps Instrument

S/N	Questions	Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) is adequately equipped with needed security gadgets.	23	23%	32	32%	12	12%	23	23%	10	10%
2	Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officials were exposed to community policing training for the 21 <sup>st</sup> -century human security framework.	13	13%	44	44%	25	25%	13	13%	5	5%
3	Communication gadgets were provided for Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) to enhance prompt response to human security challenges	31	31%	43	43%	10	10%	13	13%	3	3%

<b>4</b>	A variety of mobility facilities were provided to ease the movement of the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers within the neighbourhood	20	20%	58	58%	10	10%	10	10%	2	2%
<b>5</b>	A line of communication has been established between Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officials and other security agencies in Lagos state.	27	27%	44	44%	18	18%	7	7%	4	4%
<b>6</b>	Soft ammunitions were provided for the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers to promote self-defence in a situation that called for it.	18	18%	43	43%	24	24%	12	12%	3	3%
<b>7</b>	The Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) outfit presents them to the neighbourhood as a responsible individual	32	32%	50	50%	12	12%	4	5%	2	1%
<b>8</b>	Generally, the equipment distributed to the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers is sophisticated enough to deal with human security challenges in this 21 <sup>st</sup> century	38	38%	13	13%	14	14%	13	13%	22	22%
<b>9</b>	Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers were equipped with necessary and appropriate training in operating the security gadgets provided for them.	13	13%	43	43%	31	31%	8	8%	5	5%
<b>10</b>	To promote efficiency,	27	27%	51	51%	13	13%	6	6%	3	3%

areas of coverage were demarcated for easy monitoring and supervision of human security

**NOTE: SA+A=Agreed; D+SD= Disagreed**

Table 2: reveals the result of the responsibilities of the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps Instrument. This shows that the majority of 55 (55%) of the respondents agreed that Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) is adequately equipped with needed security gadgets. However; 57 (57%) of the respondents believe that Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officials were exposed to community policing training for the 21<sup>st</sup>-century human security framework; 74 (74%) of the respondents perceived that communication gadgets were provided for Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) to enhance prompt response to human security challenges; 78 (78%) of the respondents agreed that variety of mobility facilities were provided to ease the movement of the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers within the neighbourhood. Also, the table reveals that 71% which constitute the majority of the respondents agreed that a Line of communication has been established between Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officials and other security agencies in Lagos state.

Furthermore, the table shows that 61 (11%) of the respondents agreed that soft ammunitions were provided for the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers to promote self-defence in a situation that called for it; 82 (82%) of the respondents submitted that the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) outfit presents them to the neighbourhood as a responsible individual; 51 which constitute the majority of the respondents agreed that the equipment distributed to the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers is sophisticated enough to deal with human security challenges in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. 56 of the respondents settled that Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers were equipped with necessary and appropriate training in operating the security gadgets provided for them while, 78 (78%) of the respondents perceived that To promote efficiency, areas of coverage were demarcated for easy monitoring and supervision of human security.

**Research Question Two: Does the establishment of Neighborhood Safety Corps have reduced the crime rate and improve human security in Lagos State?**

Table 3: Reduction in Crime Rate

S/N	Questions	Strongly Agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	The creation of Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) has supported the existing security operations in Lagos State	44	44%	37	37%	7	7%	11	11%	1	1%
2	Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers are closer to the neighbourhood in terms of sourcing for information to enhance human security	47	47%	38	38%	4	4%	8	8%	-	-%
3	The synergy created between Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) and Nigeria Police Force has improved the status of security in Lagos State	39	39%	39	39%	11	11%	18	18%	2	2%
4	The creation of Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) has further worsened human security in Lagos State due to competition with other security agencies	9	9%	25	25%	17	17%	24	24%	25	25%
5	Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers have been able to identify criminal's elements in the neighbourhood thereby causing a reduction in criminal activities	13	13%	49	49%	19	19%	16	16%	3	3%
6	Residents in the neighbourhood are conscious of the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety	19	19%	27	27%	32	32%	16	16%	6	6%

Corps (LNSC) officers  
 before perpetrating an act  
 of public nuisance

**NOTE: SA+A=Agreed; D+SD= Disagreed**

The table above shows responses to the reduction in the crime rate in Lagos state. 81 of the respondents submitted to the fact that the creation of Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) has supported the existing security operations in Lagos State. 85% of the respondents strongly agreed that the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers are closer to the neighbourhood in terms of sourcing for information to enhance human security. 78% of the respondents gave a positive nod to the question that the synergy created between Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) and Nigeria Police Force has improved the status of security in Lagos State. Also, 34% of the respondents admit that the creation of the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) has further worsened human security in Lagos State due to competition with other security agencies. 62% of the respondents strongly believed that the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers have been able to identify criminal's elements in the neighbourhood thereby causing a reduction in criminal activities while 46% of the respondents agreed that residents in the neighbourhood are conscious of the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) officers before perpetrating an act of public nuisance.

## RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS ANALYSIS

The research hypotheses are as follow:

Null Hypothesis one: Neighbourhood Safety Corps does not significantly equip in providing adequate security to Lagosians.

Table 4: The result of Chi-square test for the first hypothesis

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	167.066 <sup>a</sup>	36	.000
Likelihood Ratio	155.798	36	.000

Linear-by-Linear Association	2.494	1	.114
N of Valid Cases	1000		

Null Hypothesis two: The establishment of Neighborhood Safety Corps does not significantly affect the reduction in crime rate and improve human security in Lagos State.

Table 5: The result of Chi-square test for the first hypothesis

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	177.683 <sup>a</sup>	20	.000
Likelihood Ratio	164.273	20	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	49.690	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	606		

The second hypothesis is also examined and analyzed using a *Chi-square test*, as shown in Table 5 below. The chi-square value is 177.683, with a p-value of 0.0001 (less than 0.05 level of significance), which is highly significant indicating that the null hypothesis is not valid and that there are some associations between the variables of interest. The findings indicated that the Establishment of Neighbourhood Safety Corps significantly affect the reduction rate and improve human security in Lagos State.

## DISCUSSION ON FINDINGS

The study finding from hypothesis one shows a significant relationship in the effect of the level of satisfaction on equipment provided in curbing security challenges in Lagos state. This corroborates the findings of Dickson (2007) who added that the challenges confronting the implementation of community policing in Nigeria can be

blamed entirely on several factors that are responsible for the inability of the personnel to meet the desire goals. This includes inadequate equipment. The implication of this is that when there is a shortage of equipment by the community policing personal it will be difficult to curb criminal activities and this will result in the insecurity of life and properties.

Hypothesis Two reveals that the establishment of Neighbourhood Safety Corps significantly affects the reduction rate and improve human security in Lagos State. This finding correlated with Segrave and Ratcliffe (2004:2) that community members must work together with law enforcement agencies to assist them to reduce crime locally. Roman, Moore, Jenkins, and Small (2002:11 cited in Mabunda, 2014) hold a similar view that crime can only be reduced when citizens, police, and other organizations work together in partnership. It requires commitment from role players to make such a partnership to succeed. Crawford (1997:25) postulates that crime cannot be tackled solely by the police or any other single agency but requires a holistic and partnership approach, based on shared effort, information, resources, and expertise among key agencies. This shows that effective and efficient partnership of police and community members automatically reduced the crime rate in the society

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Adequate effort should be made not only at improving the condition of service and welfare package of the Neighborhood Safety Corps officers but also to ensure an adequate supply of adequate and modern operational equipment. For this would enable Neighborhood Safety Corps on patrol to withstand all the real and emerging threats from the criminally minded individuals and also improve security in Lagos.

The Federal government should make community policing a national policy whereby all State governments can establish the State Neighborhood Corps so that there will be an improvement in the reduction of crime rate in Nigeria. More so, it will improve the levels of human security in society.

## **CONCLUSION**

Generally, community policing has improved human security and attract tremendous progress in the control of crime as a result of the effectiveness of the approach and adequate application of the concept and good implementation. Studying



the attitude of neighbourhood safety corps towards the citizen, it appears that the neighbourhood authorities realize that the implementation of community policing largely depends on a better understanding of community policing among neighbourhood safety corps personnel so that they can support the policy and make it a success. The training of men and officers of neighbourhood safety corps needs to expand beyond arrest procedures to include building effective inter-personal skills, anger-management, emotional intelligence, and adequate community orientation.

Also, for neighbourhood safety corps to achieve a better relationship with the community, various commands, area offices and, zonal offices and stations need to become and operate more like open systems. This will have huge implications on the organization of Neighbourhood Safety Corps. The structure of neighbourhood safety corps departments needs to be more decentralized to allow better deployment in the community and more effective use of officers and response to citizens and in building the network relations with citizens. It is important to have a more flat rank structure; this will allow officers to continue good performance without necessarily aspiring for command positions, and it will improve the quality of neighbourhood safety corps personnel in the field. The use of more civilians in auxiliary and liaison functions will generate closer ties with the community as well as free officers to do neighbourhood safety corps works.

Community policing calls for long-term commitment; it is not a quick fix. Achieving constant partnerships with the community and eradicating the underlying causes of crime will take planning, flexibility, time, and patience. The state government can measure progress by their success in meeting internal security and must reinforce the concept inside and outside the organization that success is reached through a series of gradual improvements.

Finally, inter-agency cooperation should be improved among various agency levels (not only between department heads). They should develop a better understanding as to what constitutes overall community needs and how they can, by working together and improve their response to those needs.

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