

Views of Police and Policing: An Examination of Public Views of Patrol Method of Crime Prevention in Southern Senatorial District of Cross River State, Nigeria

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Abstract

Precisely, this study examined public view of police patrol as a technique of policing for crime prevention. Cross-sectional survey study design, requiring the use of qualitative and quantitative methods was adopted. Data was collected from 840 answerers from purposively selected local government area of the Southern Senatorial Locality of Cross River State consisting 420 males and 420 females chosen from multistage probability in addition to non-probability sampling techniques. The instrument of data collection was questionnaire which incorporated open and closed-ended questions in addition to structured and unstructured oral interview. Data were analysed by means of descriptive and inferential statistical tools. Particularly, a simple percentage method of data analysis was engaged for the analysis of the research question while chi-square statistical tool was utilized to test the research hypothesis. To lead the research, one research hypothesis was raised and tested using correlation statistical tool. The research discovered that there is a strong significant relationship between public positive views of police patrol technique of policing for crime prevention and police activity. The analysis showed the correlation coefficient of 0.492 indicating the existence of relationships between public positive views of police patrol technique of crime prevention are likely to enhance policing and police activity. The test was significant at 0.01 levels (1-tailed) and led to the rejection of the null hypothesis which finds no significant relationship. Following the research findings, the subsequent policy recommendations were made among which include: police commissioner should enhance patrolling especially in crimogenic zone thereby preventing crime and anti-social behavior from occurring, while still engage in reactive patrol, police should as well engage the neighbourhood watch.

Keywords: *Public View, Police Patrol, Police and Policing, Patrol Method, Crime Prevention.*

Introduction

The views that citizens have about the Police and the patrol method of policing are important. These views can impact on the extent and kind of intercommunication citizen's share with the Police Force and amount of assist provided to the police force (Cao and Dia, 2006). Without public support, modern policing is difficult, if not impossible (Islam and Ali, 2008). Unfavourable opinion of the police by the public can cause animosity that may deter the capability of the police force to be functional legitimate establishment of

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orderliness (Goldsmith, 2005). Policing views are hence, important to probe and appreciate (Nalla and Madan, 2011 as recorded by Khondaker *et al.*, 2013).

The Police Force in Nigeria is a governmental organization accountable for control, unmasking and forestallment of crime, the enforcement of law and order, and the safeguard of life and belongings and of all proclamations and regulations with which they are precisely commanded. Also the Police Force is anticipated to discharge complementary military obligations internally or away from Nigeria as may perhaps be necessitated of them under the authority of this act (Nigerian Police Act, Part ii section 4). Martin (1990:6) noted that:

Police officers assignment involved a collection of duties and functions. Police officers are presumed to avert crime, safeguard life and possessions, administer the regulations, perpetuate harmony and civil command, and dispense all-encompassing facilities to the public (Martin, 1990).

Ajayi and Longe (2014) noted that the Nigerian Police Force must be available in the case of exigency of almost every kind and must demonstrate relentless engagement in order to render an outstanding service delivery to the community, but quite the contrary is evidenced in Nigeria. It has been observed by scholars such as (Tankebe 2009, Sherma and Weisburd 1995) that the Police and patrol method of policing work demonstrate a varying representation to most persons in the nation. This may not be unconnected to the reason that the Police Force in the nation has often been considered as brutal, corrupt as well as ineffective (Ajayi and Longe, 2014). The implication of this observation is that, most persons in Nigeria do not give much regard to Police Force. Some persons have contempt and perceived them as an incompetent agency of crime forestallment and superintendence. The suppressive style of policing practiced by the Nigerian Police Force in the performance of their duties remains much to be desired. The implication of the above observation is the belief that the Police are not capable of controlling crime. Most Nigerians are disinclined to work together with the Police Force.

Public awareness of the Police Force generally, shows that the Chinese general public had a tremendous assurance in the police besides Taiwanese masses view point of the Police and policing work (Lai and Zhao, 2010). U.S citizens were positive in the public perception of the police besides inhabitants of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Lao and Zhao, 2005). Cao and Burton (2006) added that Turkish public view point of the Police Force showed determination in the Police though this was as not as immense as those of other European Union Member States.

In the midst of 60 surveyed Nigeria institutions of higher education students, most of them are of the view point that the Police Officer have been expeditious to take action, have been discourteous to residents, have been untrustworthy, and often utilized unreasonable force on the populace (Alemika, 1988). Low perception of the Police and policing worldwide and lack of assurance in the Police Force has been discussed extensively by countless social science scholars (Sharp and Johnson, 2009; Tyler, 2005; Stoutland, 2001; Hurst and Frank, 2000; Goldsmith, 2005; Macdonald and Strokes, 2006; Alemika, 1988; Ayodele and Aderinto, 2014). Lack of trust by the public on the police could constitute a major setback to police duties generally (Goldsmith, 2005).

The need for this exercise can be overly emphasized at this stage where the Nigeria Police Force is adjudged as unproductive, dreadful, shady plus the hue and cry to restore and reorganize the Nigeria Police Force, alongside the increasing menace of bandits and banditry in some parts of the country, and the increasing spate of electoral violence witnessed in recent times. One can rightly argue that in a constitutional state; the inhabitant has a right to make clear to the Police on what their duties are in addition to how to accomplish it (Marenin, 1989). The Police have to be hot and perturbed about how they are appraised by the people, as they are government employee (Fleek and Newman, 1969). It can be alleged that adverse discernment of the Police contributes to a record of diminished police utility, escalates criminality and to a considerable degree suspicion of the police by the public. Accordingly, the seriousness of public satisfaction

in the police force are also important bearing in mind that understanding of Police Force affect the citizen's cooperation (Weitzer, 1999).

The findings made are expected to broaden our literature and enlarge upon our current understanding of Police patrol method of crime reduction in Nigeria. Hence, this study contributes to knowledge in the sense that it contribute to extant information on Police and policing work that could assist to reform and reposition the image of the Nigeria Police and as well help police authorities enhance her proactive and reactive patrolling in crimogenic zones.

Today, there is a comprehensive notion of uneasiness and uncertainty in our nation. Nigerians by no means feel secured all over the place in their land, most especially at their place of residence, at duty post, in the market, on the expressways, at the airstrip, at social gatherings, in school, at recreational parks and even within the sacred and revered places of worship. Hardly a day progresses without the tabloid conveying report of a particular criminal behaviour or the other. The discussion of patrol as a method of policing could not be divorced from the general views of police and policing held by the public. This validates the perception and discourse of the topic. This implies that there is an intersection between police patrol and the views held by the public concerning Police and policing. Thus, if the public believe that the Police are courteous, take their cases with all amount of seriousness, the public will trust the Police and as such will be ready at every point to support them when on patrol duty.

Police patrol is the cornerstone of any police organization. It depletes the bulk of the funds allotted to police administration. Police officer's makes regular circuits or passes on patrol *via* a designated area known as a beat. Officers from time to time patrol on foot but frequently journey on cars. Patrol has three parts: answering calls, maintaining a police presence aimed at deterring crime; as well as probing suspicious circumstances. Out of the three, the preventing patrol is the most controversial. The research paper addresses the following questions among others; does random police patrol in police vehicles really discourage potential law criminals from breaking the law, does preventive patrol make upright citizen to feel safe as well as does increasing the numbers of police presence deter a crime and anti-social behaviours in the crimogenic area and or areas and beyond?

The attitude of officers on patrol is also worrisome; it is alledged that Police Officers patrol for their own selfish interest doesn't patrol the crimogenic arears in addition to intimidating and extorting the members of the public when on patrol duties. Furthermore, amidst these acclaimed patrolling duties, crime is still on the increase. Thus, prompting stakeholders to ask question on effectiveness and otherwise of patrol as a method of Police and policing for crime prevention. Worried about this development, this work was also poised to scrutinize the nature of masses viewpoint of the police to discuss why this might be so.

Although, there exist a great deal of information on the masses perception of law enforcement and police work on variables such as politeness, belief, self-confidence and dishonesty in Nigeria collectively and Cross River State as precise, but not a bit has been accomplished on public views of police patrol as a technique of crime prevention. This is the unfamiliarity this work embarks to fill out.

Research Objective

The main objective of this research is to examine views of police and policing: an examination of public views of patrol method of policing in Nigeria. Specifically the study sought to:

To examine public perception of police patrol as a technique of policing for crime prevention

Research Question

The following research question were formulated to guide the study

How do people perceive police patrol style of policing for crime prevention?

Research Hypothesis

H₀: public negative views of police patrol technique of crime prevention are not likely to enhance policing and police activity.

H₁: public positive views of police patrol techniques of crime prevention are likely to enhance policing and police activity.

Review of Related Literature

Functions Of the Police

It is challenging to delineate modern-day Police Force mostly in connection with their believed responsibility as well as their role (Kurian, 2006). Sullivan (2005 as cited in Obaro, 2014) noted that, the combining characteristic of Police work rest not on a specific social responsibility, maintenance of order or political oppression. To a certain extent, it has been established that all requests made to The Police Force include amazing matters that are not expected to happen and of which urgent collective action is needed.

The Police Force in the country carry out normal police tasks and are by and large accountable for national safety; assisting the penitentiary, immigration in addition to customs services and carrying out armed forces responsibilities, inside or beyond the shores of Nigeria as instructed (Nigeria Police Watch, 2011).

Societies within the instrumentality of the law grant their government ample authorities for the goal of effectual and efficient protection of law and order, safeguarding of the populace from distress, apprehension in addition to deprivation of life and belongings occasioned by criminal activities in addition to armed hostilities. The Police Force is vehemently the distinguishable indication of any regime might as well as control and crucial implementation of its rule; an establishment of public control empowered by those who are the superintendents of the state (Obaro, 2014).

A US national advisory commission on criminal justice standards and goals acknowledged eleven tasks of the Police Force and there is every reason to believe, that these task have worldwide pertinence. They include:

- Averting criminal behaviour
- Discovering criminal activity
- Arresting criminal lawbreakers
- Partaking in judicial proceedings
- Defending constitutional guarantees
- Supporting individuals who cannot take care of their subconscious self or individuals who are at risk of bodily injuries
- Directing traffic
- Solving everyday disagreement between family unit, acquaintances and neighbours
- Developing as well as perpetuating a sense of safety in the neighbourhood

- Conducting inquiry on unlawful activities
- Upholding and maintaining public order

In accordance with the Nigeria Police Act, the police force are engaged to avert as well as discover criminal act; arrest criminals, protect public order, guard life and belongings; put into effect set of laws and rules they are personally tasked with; in addition to perform military obligations as may possibly be obligatory to them.

Multicultural views of Police Research and Police Activity

Investigation of schedule Police Officer's job in Australia, Canada, England and Wales, Japan, and the United State, Bayley (1974) recommended among others that perambulation job chronicle mainly What Police Officer's use up their time performing, in addition the majority of this is aimed at particularly in city region by emissaries who sequentially answer calls for assist from the populace. Investigation of Police Officer's job in Canada, Ericson and Haggerty (1997) observed the extensive routine duty that Police Officer experienced--they acknowledged, for instance, that Police Office's focusing on the outlook of a road mishap were mandated to fill a loads diverse forms. The degree of these aspects of Police Force work led Ericson and Haggerty to disagree that Police Officers had turn out to be "knowledge worker" whose principal task was to communicate risk within the police service, the criminal justice system and to a host of other organizations. Khondakar *et al.* (2013) noted that college students have quite low levels of self-belief in Police Force and unfavourable assessments of various police achievement areas, including civility and fairness, work ethic, efficacy, and efforts in seeking community contribution. The researchers further observed that, with the exception of confidence in police, the Bangladesh students are, in general, less favourable about police performance than their U.S counterparts. To start with, the Bangladesh students had significantly lesser degrees of conviction and self-belief in their Police Force, with majority of the U.S. Student's vehemently voicing belief and self-confidence in the Police Force. The Bangladesh student have also held significantly lower levels of satisfaction with The Police in the areas of friendliness, industriousness, and effectiveness on crime control (Khondakar *et al.*, 2013)

As regards the notion of what police need to do and how to go about it. Khondakar *et al.* (2013) also observed that the American students particularly valued the Police and their behaviour while the Bangladesh students put emphasis on police answerability and recommend forceful policing method. In the midst of 60 surveyed Nigeria institutions of higher education students, most of them are of the view point that the Police Officer have been expeditious to take action, have been discourteous to residents, have been untrustworthy, and often utilized unreasonable force on the populace (Alemika, 1988). It is quite lamentable that the Police Force in present-time Nigeria community is taunted with reservation and suspicion by the public. Citizen's indifference towards the police demoralizes the officers to the same degree that men and women of the Police Force lose self-determination and are indecisive in taking action to avert infringements of law because of the uneasiness of masses condemnation.

Low perception of the police worldwide and lack of assurance in the Police Force has been discussed extensively by countless social science scholars (Sharp and Johnson, 2009; Tyler, 2005; Stoutland, 2001; Hurst and Frank, 2000; Goldsmith, 2005; Macdonald and strokes, 2006; Alemika, 1988; Ayodele and Aderinto, 2014). Lack of trust by the public on the police could constitute a major setback to police duties generally (Goldsmith, 2005).

Public View of Police Patrol as a Technique of Policing

Increasing the degree of Police Officer's existence can take place in various forms. The main support of policing ever since the 1930s, have been random precautionary perambulation. Random patrol by and large entails officer at random riding about their round in various neighbourhood amid requests for service. The plan is to build sagacity of pervasiveness in addition to take full advantage of preclusion by keeping lawbreakers eyes open regarding when a Police Officer will patrol by. Furthermore, wrongdoing is estimated

to be discouraged by the moment in time Police Officers are patrolling throughout a remarkable region and neighbourhood. For the reason that transgression is not at random scattered across, nevertheless is alternatively extremely centralised (Groff *et al.*, 2010), random precautionary perambulation has by and large not been contemplated to be an exceptionally effectual crime management method (Weisburd and Telep, 2010).

Relevant literature evaluations of the greatest indication of “what works” in policing and police work to lessen unlawful act have underscored that noticeable Police Force perambulation have the tendency to decrease unlawful act, however, only if it is particularly destined at criminal activities hot spots (Sherman and Eck, 2002; Weisburd and Eck, 2004). One trial carried out in the Minneapolis Police in crime troubled areas at “hot times” additionally, (Sherman and Weisburd, 1995) observed that crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour decreased considerably in the investigated zones of conflict judged against the managed regions.

There exist strong and veritable proofs to propose that purposed perambulation-particularly intended foot patrol-can have an encouraging force on masses perception (Dalglish and Mayhill, 2004). The assessment of the nationwide encouragement policing programme, which investigated the influence of neighbourhood teams in the UK, revealed that destined foot patrol can advance masses assurance in the Police Force, opinions of crime, and thoughts of safety as well as decreasing crime-when executed together with neighbourhood commitment and resolution of problems (Tuffin *et al.*, 2006).

Investigation interested in people’s expectation of policing in the UK has earlier emphasized a strong preference in support of an extremely noticeable police existence (Bradley, 1998). Nevertheless, when these observations were investigated categorically, it was revealed that citizen’s apparently instructive response to demand “more bobbies on the beat” was influenced by a wish to witness crime and criminality reduced within the neighbourhood. The investigation further recommended that the Police Force can help out guarantee that the community believe as well as give backing to the focusing of funds in high preference regions by inviting them for consultation and discussion.

Out of the many impediments to executing directed perambulation, the unique one has been the long-established view that targeted crime flashpoints can basically give rise to the crisis shifting to somewhere else. Significantly, topical proof has come to conclusion that crime dislodgment does not have the propensity to happen with concentrated police activity in crimogenic regions; furthermore, crime curtailment benefits might even extend to the regions directly adjoining the focused localities (Bowers *et al.*, 2011).

Perambulating by foot was utilized by the police force to instigate encouraging, comfortable association among members of the community and in reaction to neighbourhood politics. The noticeable presence of a Police Officer on patrol *via* foot might also serve as a “control signal,” an indication that the powers that be are taking the tribulations of neighbourhood inhabitants sincerely (Innes, 2004). However, substantiation from a complementary study have emphasized that, whereas focused foot perambulation might be an indispensable element to advance masses assurance in The Police Force, that may be insufficient on its own with no general neighbourhood commitment as well as investigation to impress (Quinton and Morris, 2008).

On the other hand, indiscriminate or immediate patrol, i.e., Police Officer perambulating a region an never giving attention to crime, crimogenic areas and criminality hotspots, or basically beings, on the way between response to appeal from the masses have demonstrated to have no crime curtailment outcome (Sherman and Eck, 2002; Weisburd and Eck, 2004).

An assessment study accomplished in Kansa city contrasted one region wherein random general perambulation was enlarged generally to other regions where patrols persisted as normal or else merely in connection to calls for service. The evaluation established that random perambulation had no noteworthy result on crime reduction, chaos or the apprehension of unlawful activities (Kelling *et al.*, 1974). The overall

substantiation particularly on random foot perambulation has in the same way demonstrated that it has no significant result on level of criminality (Police Foundation, 1981).

When a question is asked if perambulations focused on regions where unlawful act is preponderant are most probable to be efficient? What should be the role of officer's when they found themselves in criminogenic hotspot? An up to date united state investigation, at random allotted 83 hotspots of mass violence to receive problem solving, high intensity foot perambulation or the normal Police Force reaction (Taylor *et al.*, 2011). During the 90 day involvement time, the concentrated perambulation hotspots demonstrated better early curtailment in violent behavior and infraction of the law. On the other hand, the result was not continuous, and criminality comes again to its earlier stage in the 90-day check out time when the involvement was taken off. In contrast, while problem solving took somewhat prolonged to have an outcome, its influence on violence criminal behaviour was larger and long-lasting accompanied with substantiation of continued crime curtailment for the period of the 90-day check out time. This sample of result recommends that a joint perspective might be an effectual stratagem: by means of focused foot perambulation to cut down crime primarily together with problem solving to exhibit a more permanent impression on crime and violence reduction.

The study by Famega *et al.* (2005) on the status of proactive patrol noted that an extremely important percentage perambulation time is used up on the fence that might be greater utilized in engaging in proactive, problem-oriented policing as well as police work activities.

Braga (2001) stated that conceivably the most convincing substantiation for the usefulness of placed-oriented precautionary perambulation as opposed to random precautionary perambulation analysis and systematic review of hotspot policing studies is that, place-oriented precautionary perambulation showed worthy crime reduction. It ought to be pointed out that involvement categories varied amongst three extensive groupings: enforcement problem-oriented-policing (pop) interventions, directed and aggressive patrol programs, and the utilization of clampdowns and surprise attacks.

Additionally, Braga *et al.* (2012) noted that hot spots policing is an effective and efficient crime prevention strategy. Directing Police Force hard work on extremely active unlawful prone regions does not without doubt cause crime being displaced and in addition crime management benefits might spread into the regions directly adjoining the focused localities. Veritable evidence from the study shows that introducing police organizational structure of any kind, patrol is considered the skeletal foundation. It is indeed the backbone of any police department.

Research Methodology

In the present study, the survey research design was used. Survey research design assists in the gathering of important data that should be useful for explaining phenomena.

The thematic preoccupation of cross sectional research design is on the conscientious laying out of a state of affairs, conditions, or series of happening to understand and narrate what is taking place or what has taken place (Rosenthal and Rostow, 1991 as quoted in Mcnebb, 2012). Cross sectional research also furnishes the investigator with crucial facts that will inform action to be taken. Cross-sectional research finding will help explain postulations and restores them with actual facts on the particular variables studied for a length of time covered for in the cross sectional study. Consequently the survey research design was apt in this study of the notion and standpoint of persons in Nigeria towards police patrol technique of policing.

This present study was carried out in Cross River State of Nigeria. Cross River State is among the sovereign state that makes up the South-South geo-political zone of the country. Cross River is located on latitude 4°30' and 7°00' N, and longitude 7°50' and 9°28' E. The sovereign state has natural seam alongside Akwa-Ibom, Abia and Ebonyi states to the West, Benue State to the North, republic of Cameroon to the East, with the Atlantic Ocean to the South. The state inhabits a space of about 20,156km²

Distinctively, this academic work is carried out in the Southern Senatorial Area of Cross River State. It is made up of six local government areas which include: Calabar South, Odukpani, Biase, Calabar City Council, Akamkpa, and Akpabuyo. Out of the six local government areas in the study population, three were preferred purposively for the investigation. They are Calabar South, Calabar City Council area and Akamkpa.

The population of this study is made up of individuals between 18 years and beyond resident in cross river southern senatorial area. The study concentrated on intelligible populace which comprised the unmarried, married and the widowed. This class of the respondents incorporated the well-read and the hoi polloi.

The study do not in any way incorporate all population groups in Cross River Southern Senatorial Area, in view of this, the researcher come to conclusion to select a sample whereby data were raised. For this reason, a sample size of 840 respondents that included 420 men and 420 women were purposively selected from three (3) urban council areas (LGAs) of Southern Senatorial locality of Cross River State. This is due to the fact that, the three (3) LGAs harbours institutions of higher education, ministries and agencies. The study used multi-stage randomized and non-randomized sampling procedures. The purposive sample procedure were utilized to pick local government areas (lgas), / and institutions of higher education, random sample procedure were utilized to pick the faculties and departments studied, and convenience sample procedure were utilized to hand-pick the individual respondent.

The study made use of unstructured oral interview and questionnaire which encompasses 420 men and 420 women with a total 840 respondents, drawn from a segment of learned Nigerians inhabiting the three (3) purposively selected urban council areas in southern senatorial area of cross river state. The *raison d'être* for the handpicked rested on the presupposition that, the majority of the opinion makers fall under the hierarchy of the chosen population whereas the views of the ordinary people are not found undesirable. It is accepted as true that it is the views of the chosen population that help to educate the less educated about the business of police and policing activity. Consequently the “the research public” incorporated of students, the tutorial as well as non-tutorial staff from four purposively picked higher educational institutions which covered; college of education Akamkpa, University of Cross River State, University of Calabar as well as School of Health Technology Calabar and middle-income group in both private and public sectors, as well as the banks, state and federal civil service departments. The researcher utilized the hat and draw means of probability sample procedure. The names of the faculties in each of the four purposively preferred institutions of higher education were penciled down on detached paper sheets and tucked; the tucked paper sheets were painstakingly variegated in a holder, some tucked papers were pulled out with no substitute in both the University of Cross River State and University of Calabar. In all, four faculties were picked. The same hat and draw process was also utilized to pick one department each in the four randomly picked faculties. Additionally, the same hat and draw method was also used to pick four departments each from school of health technology Calabar and college of education Akamkpa.

To guarantee commensurate delineation from the research population, the respondents (subjects) were chosen using the multi-stage probability and non-probability sample procedures. The first step incorporated the random picking from the register of students, tutorial as well as the non-tutorial staff in the four purposively picked institutions of higher education. In all, two hundred research participants were picked apiece of the institutes of higher education. Furthermore, an overall of forty subjects (respondents) were picked from middle class employees in each of the civil service sectors, hence making the number of research participants to 840. Stage two incorporates the utilization of convenient sample to pick the research subjects. The students were particularly picked out at convenience *via*: offices, reading rooms, auditorium and amusement centers to mention but a few. Whereas, the tutorial as well as non-tutorial staff was picked out at convenience *via*: workplaces, conference hall and auditorium. One hundred oral interview sessions were exploited for the study.

To enhance the primary sources of data, the investigator utilized auxiliary sources. Such are firsthand information in the form of textbooks, journals, magazines, vital records, vital statistics, published and unpublished materials relevant to the study objective.

The medium for data collection for this enquiry is mostly structured as well as unstructured questionnaire as well as unstructured oral interview guide. The *raison d'être* for this choice is because the investigator utilized mixed method, that is, the researcher combined the constituents of both qualitative and quantitative methods for the sole aim of an all-inclusive understanding as well as validation of the variable studied. The questionnaire incorporated close and open ended questions. The questions were based on the key variable to be measured in the study. The closed ended question in addition to ensuring sameness of responses by the respondents also provided information for quantitative analyses while the open ended questions provided information for qualitative analyses.

In the questionnaire, two sets of questions were utilized. First were questions that dwelled on the social-demographic characteristics of the interviewees, the second were questions that addressed the objective of the study.

To meet the objective goal of this survey, the unstructured oral interview encompasses open ended questions which sought explicit information on the research objective. Interview guide was used in order to generate qualitative data, and as such to obtain a comprehensive discernment of the masses disposition of police and policing activity in relation to the study objective. The unstructured oral interview questions inspired follow-up-questions which *ab initio* were not part of the preliminary guide but which have relevant to the study objective and which equally brought forth a wide variety of responses or in depth explanations of the issues raised in the study objective.

The study exploited the mixed method, that is, the researcher combined elements of qualitative and quantitative approaches of information collection, analysis of information and inferential technique.

Two sets of statistical instrument were utilized in this study for the processing and analyzing data. They encompassed the descriptive statistical measure which involved the use of percentages to analyze the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents and the research question and the inferential statistical measure which comprises the use of chi-square (χ^2) statistical significance in the testing of the research hypothesis.

Data gotten from the unstructured oral interview was grouped into themes for the purpose of proper analyses of the interview conducted.

This research work addressed the basic principles of research ethics in social sciences by obtaining informed consent from the study participants

Findings

Hypothesis Testing and Analyses of Research Findings

Hypothesis

- H₀- Public negative views of police patrol technique of crime prevention are not likely to enhance police and policing activity.
- H₁- Public positive views of police patrol technique of crime prevention are likely to enhance police and policing activity.

Table 1 (A): Respondents Views of Police Patrol Technique of Crime Prevention and Police/Policing Activity

Views	Male (n=420)	Female (n=420)	Total (n=840)
Positive	345 ^(a)	316 ^(b)	661
Negative	58 ^(c)	95 ^(d)	153
Don't know	17 ^(e)	9 ^(f)	26

	420	420	840
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Source: Authors fieldwork 20223

Table 1(B): Correlations Result of The Relationship Between Public Negative Views of Police Patrol Technique of Crime Prevention Are Not Likely to Enhance Police and Policing Activity

		Gender of the respondents	Responses
Gender of the respondents	Pearson correlation	1	.492**
	Sig. (1-tailed)		.000
	N	840	840
Responses	Pearson correlation	.492**	1
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.000	
	N	840	840

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (1-tailed).

Source: Authors fieldwork 20223

The evaluation demonstrated a coefficient of correlation of 0.492 indicative of the presence of positive association linking public negative views of police patrol technique of crime prevention and enhancement of policing and police activity. The test was significant at 0.01 levels (1-tailed) which resulted in the refutation of the null hypothesis which affirms that: public negative views of police patrol technique of crime prevention are not likely to enhance policing and police activity. The alternative hypothesis was consequently accepted and conclusion reached that there exist a meaningful relationship linking the perception that public positive views of police patrol technique of crime prevention is likely to enhance policing and police activity.

The study findings show that preponderance of the answerers has a positive perception of police patrol technique of crime prevention as a veritable tool of police and policing. The study also reveals that police patrol improves public safety, creates positive impact of police perception, reduces crime, improves public confidence in the Police, protection of lives and property and improves negative perception of crime.

In addition, the study further indicates that though bulk of the interviewees have a favourable judgment of police patrol, they were of the view that the police should not be involved in reactive patrols alone because it shows no effects on crime but should also be involved in proactive patrol to crimogenic areas or areas that exhibit anti-social behavior. The study also reveals that while engaging in a proactive patrol, the Police should endeavour to engage everyone in the neighbourhood. One male respondent interviewed drove home this point thus:

“while they (police) are moving around or patrolling as the police call it, they should carry the neighbourhood along, this is because the people in the neighbourhood knows the terrain (area) more than they do, at times we even know who is engaging in anti-social behaviour (male interview respondent, personal communication, january 12, 2020)”.

Analysis Of the Research Question

Table 2 Respondents' Views on Police Patrol as A Method of Policing for Crime Prevention

Views	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
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	(n=420)		(n=420)			(n=840)	
Warning signal	45	10.7	52		12.4	97	11.5
Increases deterrence	62	14.8	60		14.3	122	14.5
Increases public safety	63	15.0	68		16.2	131	15.6
Reduces crime	64	15.2	60		14.3	124	14.8
Advances public confidence in the police	58	13.8	66		15.7	124	14.8
Increases perception of crime	50	11.9	51		12.2	101	12.0
Positively creates impact on police perception	47	11.2	36		8.5	83	9.9
Advances negative impact on police perception	31	7.4	27		6.4	58	6.9

Source: Authors fieldwork 20223

Field data from table 2 show respondents' view on police patrol as a method of policing. The research subjects detailed a lengthy list of opinions/views. Some of the views of the respondents on police patrol as a method of policing and police activity were warning signal (11.5%); (14.5%) of the total answerers have the notion that police patrol increases deterrence and (15.6%) of the total examinees has the impression that police patrol as a method of policing increases public safety. Other views reported by the respondents include: police patrol reduces crime (14.8%); police patrol advances public confidence in the police (14.8%); increases perception of crime (12.0%); additionally, (9.9%) of the respondents reported that police patrol creates positive impact on police perception. The last but not the least (6.9%) of the total population reported that police patrol advances negative impact on police perception.

The emerging implication from the above qualitative data is that preponderance of the examinees has an encouraging discernment of police patrol technique of crime prevention as a method of policing and police activity. Consequently, despite the encouraging opinion of the police by the respondents, the respondents also observed that Police Officers often times engage in patrol for their own selfish interest other than for legitimate reasons.

The overall consequences is that police chain of command should put programmes and strategies in place to hold on to the veritable resources of police patrol technique of crime prevention as a method of policing observed by the respondents in table ii, and also put in checks and balances to make sure that Police Officers who are on patrol are always engaged in patrol for legitimate reasons.

Discussion Of Findings

There is a tremendous awareness by the study participants regarding policing and police activity with specific emphasis on police patrol technique of crime prevention as shown in the analysis. The implication of the survey findings prove that, positive perception of policing as well as police activity is necessary to maintain law and order, and public confidence in policing and police work is a *sine qua non* for police-public cooperation that is seriously needed for efficient and effective policing and police work.

A central part of evaluation of police patrol is the frequent, duration and time during which the community catches sight off police officer on guard in their locality. Majority of the respondents had a positive perception of police patrol technique of crime prevention as a veritable tool of policing and police work as shown in table 1(a). There is very good evidence from the study that Police Force patrol is connected optimistically to assurance and conviction in policing and police work. Police patrol improves public safety, creates positive impact of police perception, reduces crime, improves public confidence in the police, protection of lives and property and improves perceptions of crimes as shown in table 2. The findings corroborate the work of Talis *et al.* (2012) which observed that police perambulation enhances public safety, public assurance in the police force, and the protection of lives as well as property. Though, majority of the

respondents boast of an encouraging discernment of police patrol. They were of the view the police should not be involved in reactive patrols alone but should also be involved in proactive patrol of crimogenic zone or zones with anti-social behavior thereby preventing infraction of the law and adverse social behavior from occurring from the very beginning, while still engaging in reactive patrol. This finding re-echoes the works of Sherman and Eck (2002) and Weisburd and Eck (2004) which observed that accidental or reactive perambulations, that is, officer perambulating a locale with no focus on infraction of the law or adverse social behaviour hot spots, or basically be on the way between attending to calls from the community, demonstrated to have no abatement result in infraction of the law. While carrying out patrol the police should as matters of urgency engage the neighbourhood. Discernability of police patrol is one of the ingredients that sway perception of the Police Force. This is because increased visibility of police has an encouraging association not just with masses assurance in the Police Force, but as well as comprehensive thoughts of security and protection. The emergent consequence of the aforesaid results is that the respondents believed that patrolling as a method of crime prevention and policing, is a veritable resource to police and policing work if it is legitimately and properly directed.

Summary/Conclusion

The views that citizen have about the Police are important. These views can impact on the extent and kind of intercommunication citizen's share with the Police Force and amount of assist provided to the police force (cao and dial, 2006). Without public support, modern policing is difficult, if not impossible (Islam and Ali, 2008). Unfavourable opinion of the police by public can cause antagonism that can retard the capability of the police force to be functional legitimate establishment of orderliness (Goldsmith, 2005). Policing views are therefore, imperative to probe and appreciate (Nalla and Madan, 2011 as cited in Khondaker *et al.*, 2013).

In addition, the study shows that though 661 of the total number of the examinees had a positive perception of police patrol technique of crime prevention as a veritable method of policing, as was shown in table 2, they were of the view that Police should not be involved in reactive patrols alone because it shows no effects on crime control and prevention but should also involve in proactive patrol to crimogenic area or areas that exhibit anti-social behavior. The study also reveals that police patrol method of policing improves public safety, reduces crime, and improves public confidence in the police among others.

This survey was conducted to probe the people's perception of policing and police activity with specificity in police patrol technique of crime control in southern senatorial area of cross river state as well as to ascertain if there was a meaningful relationship in the hypotheses set. Consequently the way with which the community views the police force is tremendously important, hence positive perception of policing and police officer's activity is necessary for a successful and proficient police public relationship *vis-à-vis* crime prevention

Furthermore, from the results of the investigation, it can be inferred that respondents had positive perception of police patrol as an effective and efficient method of crime prevention. There is convincing evidence from the study that police patrol technique of crime prevention is tied up to self-belief and trust in the policing and police work. Evidence from the study shows that police patrol technique of crime prevention improves public safety, reduces crime, serves as warning signal, increases deterrence, advances masses assurance in the police force, leads to protection of lives and property among others. Though respondents had favourable discernment of police patrol, the examinees also believed that the police should not be involved in reactive patrol alone but should also get involved in proactive patrol of crimogenic area, and should also engage the neighbourhood watch.

Recommendations

Taking into account the conclusions of the investigation, the subsequent policy recommendations are presented:

The police commissioner should enhance her proactive patrolling especially in crimogenic zone thereby preventing crime and anti-social behavior from occurring, while still engaging in reactive patrol as well. The police should also engage neighbourhood watch. This will ease operations since the people in the neighbourhood know where criminals hide and can as well assist the police to fish them out of their hiding places. Consequently this co-operation between the police and the neighbourhood has helped in reducing crime in some other parts of the state with less police patrol method.

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