

# Community Policing Strategies Include Community Patrols, Neighborhood Watch and Community Policing

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**Abstract:-** The purpose of this literature review is to discuss international research in order to identify key elements of, benefits of, and barriers to community policing so that other research studies/projects can be compared. The objective of the article was to research and evaluate on community policing strategies, neighborhood watch, and community policing. There are two sections to the article. Sections, the first section explains community policing as a concept and focuses on how to understand it. The section examines a variety of definitions and meanings of community policing in order to comprehend it. The development of community policing, understanding community policing, elements of community policing, benefits and efficacy of community policing, and impediments to community policing are the main topics covered in section one. A comparison of community policing with closely related police tactics such as problem-oriented policing and reassurance policing is given in the second section summary. The part also focuses on the Challenges of Community Police, the Impact of Community Police Forums, and the Functions of Community, as well as the Challenges and Impact of Community Patrollers. This chapter's material heavily references global literature.

**Keyword:-** Community Policing, Crime, Community Police Forum, Sector Crime Forum, Neighbourhood Watch, Social Justice and Community Patrollers.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The goal of the police is to increase public safety by engaging in community policing. Community policing focuses on reducing both crime and the fear it fosters by proactively addressing the underlying causes of criminal and disorderly behavior rather than merely responding to crimes once they have been committed. An ideology known as "community policing" places a strong emphasis on the value of fostering ties between the police and the local population. These connections are crucial for reducing crime and enhancing public safety. The police have typically been viewed as an occupying force that is present to uphold the law and maintain order. Community policing, however, adopts a different strategy. To solve issues and make neighborhoods safer, it views the police as community collaborators.

The foundation of community policing is the premise that crime affects the entire community and is not just an issue for the police. It is the outcome of social and economic issues like deprivation, unemployment, and a lack of opportunities. By engaging with the community to improve social conditions, community policing aims to address these underlying causes of crime. The community-oriented police techniques that are promoted concentrate on pursuing criminals and violent offenders. These tactics entail police officers getting out of their patrol cars and actively interacting with the public to build connections that facilitate information gathering, crime prevention, and legal action. It is intended to result in the successful prevention and punishment of criminals preying upon communities by including residents in the processes of alerting the police about crime and identifying criminals.

Organizational change, community relations, and cooperative problem-solving are the three main tenets of community policing initiatives, and police should re-examine their structures to make sure they support and facilitate their implementation (Cordner, 1999; Cordner, 2007a; Cordner, 2007b). By addressing the root causes of neighborhood violence, increasing police openness and accountability, and decentralizing operations, both individually and collectively, these three components boost public confidence in law enforcement.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

After controlling for situational factors (such as crime type, victim characteristics, witnesses present, etc.) and organizational factors (such as agency size, crime rate, call for service workload, etc.), the study found that agencies that engage in community-oriented policing had slightly higher overall arrest rates than agencies that engaged in none of the aforementioned COP activities. An agency's total rate of arrests for violent offenses was higher the more COP methods and rules it had. The agency's arrest rate grew with each additional COP strategy or policy, but the biggest gains in arrest rates—and the best value—came from including COP in the mission statement of the agency and from having official ties with the community (Tillyer, 2017, Cordner, 1999).

This comprehensive study adds to the growing body of research that supports the value of community-focused policing. We have highlighted research articles that examined various published studies of community-oriented police techniques in past research briefs. These studies found resounding evidence that certain community policing strategies (neighborhood substations, general community meetings, problem-solving community meetings, foot patrols, and purposeful informal face-to-face police-citizen contacts) consistently increase confidence in/satisfaction with the police and decrease fear of crime (Weisburd and Eck, 2004).

One element unites all of these strategies: direct interactions between law enforcement officials and law-abiding individuals in areas with the highest need. All members of law enforcement can accomplish this by regularly and proactively engaging with law-abiding citizens outside of their vehicles. The research suggests that community-oriented policing can effectively close the gap between the police and law-abiding individuals while still holding criminals accountable.

More than a shift in mindset was necessary to address the problems with police-community interactions. They also required a decentralized redistribution of resources to offer law enforcement officials a better grasp of neighborhood concerns and the assets that could be used to solve those concerns with more frequent contact between police and community members. Finding sufficient resources to distribute was challenging during a time of budget constraints when law enforcement organizations were expected to accomplish more with fewer funds. To manage support functions like dispatch, crime scene forensics, record keeping, and other administrative responsibilities, law enforcement agencies started adopting a more community-led approach to public safety.

"Civilianization" has the dual advantages of bringing more of the community into contact with law enforcement and freeing up police officers for deployment in community policing. The hiring of civilians for non-sworn positions had cost-saving benefits as well, and in certain jurisdictions, up to 50% of the law enforcement staff is now comprised of civilians. The process of altering an organization's operations is known as organizational transformation. Changes to the organization's structure, culture, or procedures may be necessary. When a company wishes to enhance its performance or adjust to new difficulties, organizational transformation is frequently required. There are many different approaches to organizational transformation. Some common approaches include:

- Redesigning the organizational structure, which may entail decentralizing decision-making, flattening the organization, or forming cross-functional teams.
- Modifying the culture of the organization: This may entail altering the organization's standards, beliefs, and practices.

- Redesigning the organization's procedures: This may entail altering how the company organizes, carries out, and monitors its operations.
- It might be difficult to transform an organization. It can, however, be a useful instrument for enhancing the performance and agility of a company.
- The following are some of the benefits of organizational transformation:
  - Performance can be improved through organizational transformation by making a company more effective, efficient, and adaptive.
  - Enhanced innovation: By fostering a culture that values imagination and taking chances, organizational change can make a company more innovative.
  - Increased employee engagement: By offering workers a sense of ownership and purpose, organizational transformation can increase employee engagement.
- The following are some obstacles to organizational change:
  - Employees may be resistant to change, especially if they are content with the status quo.
  - Cost: Organizational transformation may be costly, both financially and in terms of time.
  - Complexity: Organizational transformation may be a challenging process, thus having a solid strategy and strong leadership is essential (Mastrofski, 2006; Skogan and Hartnett, 1998).

In general, change in an organization can be a useful technique for raising an organization's productivity and adaptability. Before implementing any kind of change, it's crucial to be cognizant of the difficulties involved and to have a well-thought-out plan.

The following are a few of the fundamental ideas of organizational transformation:

- Leadership: Effective top-down leadership is necessary for organizational transformation. The transformation process must be fully committed to by the leader, who also needs to be able to communicate the future vision.
- Communication: Effective organizational transformation depends on effective communication. All staff must be informed of the change's vision, and the leader must be receptive to suggestions.
- Employee participation is essential to the change process. They must be committed to bringing about change and have a say in how the organization develops in the future.
- Measuring the change process will enable the organization to monitor its progress and make the required corrections (Young and Tinsley (1998).

The transformation of an organization is a process rather than a final result. The commitment of every employee in the firm is necessary for this process of continual improvement.

### III. PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

To combat crime and its accompanying issues, police must form relationships with the community, which involves cooperating with other public and private entities (Cordner, 1999). In addition to resolving issues, police and the community should collaborate to reduce fear of crime, physical and social disorder, and neighborhood deterioration (Wycoff, 1988; Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux, 1990). These relationships need to be built on trust by pressuring people to take responsibility for their fair share. This will help everyone identify priorities and come up with solutions to their own difficulties. (Carroll Buracker and Associates Ltd., 2007; Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux, 1990). According to Mastrofski (2006)

Community policing "seek[s] to link the police more closely to the community in 'partnership' arrangements,' giving the community a greater say in what the police do, or simply engaging with each other to produce a greater sense of police-community compatibility." (p 45).

Partnerships increase the likelihood that solutions are adequately targeted and hence more successful (Young and Tinsley, 1998). These partnerships, according to Flynn (2004), must be built on trust. Partnerships between the police and the community foster information sharing: the community tells the police about problem areas, crime concerns, wanted criminals, and stolen property; in turn, the police tell the community about their fears, problems, tactical information, and suggestions for preventing and reducing crime (Farrell, 1988). Police are just one of the organizations tasked with resolving issues in the community; other organizations must assume accountability and work with police at all levels to address crime prevention and other issues (Young and Tinsley).

In various legal systems, "community partnerships" can mean many things. Relationships between police and community organizations like faith-based organizations, tenant councils, business groups, local government agencies, social service providers, schools, and local businesses are forged in those areas where community policing strategies are most prevalently used. Instead of holding sporadic neighborhood watch meetings, these collaborations are ongoing initiatives to improve communication between the police and the community. Some of the best instances of community policing techniques in action involve the provision of police services or their proximity to other civic services like acquiring parking permits or paying utility bills.

Building on the organizational change mentioned above, a large portion of police interaction at co-location sites is given by local volunteers or citizens, which aids in the detection of localized issues and the development of solutions. Additionally, they offer excellent chances for law enforcement organizations to interact with neighborhood watch groups and exchange information about crime prevention. A crucial element of community policing is

community collaboration. They entail fostering partnerships between the police and community organizations like schools, tenant councils, corporate organizations, local government agencies, social assistance providers, and faith-based organizations. These collaborations have the potential to increase community and police trust while identifying and addressing the underlying causes of crime.

Community partnerships have several advantages. They can assist with:

- Recognize and address the underlying causes of crime: Community organizations can offer the police insightful information about the issues affecting their local communities. This can aid in the development of more effective crime prevention methods by the police.
- Increase trust between the community and the police: By cooperating with community organizations, the police can increase community trust and collaboration. This may increase the likelihood that people will call the police to report crimes and work with them to solve crimes.
- Boosting citizen involvement in crime prevention: Community collaborations can aid in boosting citizen involvement in crime prevention. By giving people the chance to participate in crime prevention initiatives like community organizations and neighborhood watch programs, this can be achieved.

The formation of community collaborations is fraught with difficulties. These consist of:

- Lack of resources: Community relationships might need a lot of time and money in terms of resources. For police departments, maintaining these alliances may be challenging.
- Lack of commitment on both sides: For community partnerships to be successful, both the police and the community must be dedicated. The partnership is prone to fail if one or both parties are not dedicated.
- The police and community organizations may have different cultures and ideals. Building mutual respect and collaboration between the two groups may be challenging as a result.

Community collaborations are a useful technique for lowering crime and enhancing public safety overall. They do, however, necessitate a commitment from the community and the police.

Following are some pointers for creating fruitful community partnerships:

- Start modestly and avoid taking on too much too quickly. Start with a few crucial alliances, then expand from there.
- Be explicit about your objectives: What do your community relationships expect to accomplish? Ensure that the objectives are understood by the community organizations and the police.

- Be patient: It takes time to establish trust. Don't count on seeing results right away.
- Be adaptable: Be prepared to change your strategy as you get more insight into the neighborhood and the issues it is dealing with.
- Be inclusive: Ensure that everyone's input is considered in the relationship. This includes the voices of those who are frequently marginalized, such as those of colour, those who are disabled, and those who originate from low-income areas.

Partnerships within the community can be an effective technique for lowering crime and enhancing public safety. The police can develop useful insights into the issues affecting their communities by forming relationships with community organizations. They can also foster trust and cooperation with the locals. This may increase the likelihood that people will call the police to report crimes and work with them to solve crimes.

#### IV. ASSESSING PROBLEMS TOGETHER

Police and communities identify crime concerns as part of a problem-solving process that involves collaboration (Young and Tinsley, 1998). Community policing relies on problem solving, therefore problems shouldn't be restricted to criminal activity and solutions shouldn't necessitate making arrests (Weisheit et al., 1994). According to Cordner (1999, Cordner, 2007a, Cordner, 2007b, Carroll Buracker and Associates Ltd., 2007), police and the community should be given the freedom to apply problem-solving strategies and seize every chance to address the factors that lead to events

By discouraging offenders, safeguarding likely victims, and making crime scenes less favorable to recognized problems, community policing's problem-solving approach depends more on prevention than traditional approaches (Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 2007). Bucqueroux (2007) proposes that rather than concentrating on conventional measures, such as the number of arrests, problem solving needs to be quantified by asking the question, "Is the problem solved?."

According to Cordner (1999), problem solving within a community policing approach has a number of significant characteristics. These consist of:

- Functions as a regular policing strategy rather than a one-off special endeavor;
- Adopted by all employees at all levels;
- Decisions should be based on data that has been systematically acquired.
- involves, if possible, cooperation between law enforcement and other organizations and authorities; and
- Whenever feasible, incorporates community input and engagement to ensure that problems facing the community as a whole—rather than simply the police department—are addressed and that everyone bears some of the blame.

According to Cordner (1999), there are four processes to problem solving that can include community input. These actions comprise:

- Determination of the issue;
- A study of the issue;
- A look for potential alternatives to the issue; and
- The application and evaluation of a solution to the issue.

In New Zealand's rural and provincial districts, problem-solving approaches are currently in use, but they would be more effective if they were adopted and put into practice by the vast majority of police officers on the front lines (Young and Tinsley, 1998). According to Skogan (2006), problem solving is more frequently entrusted to specialized police units due to the specialized training necessary to equip officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize when police intervention is necessary, recognize and analyze problems, pinpoint their sources, and develop solutions to address those causes.

The success of collaborative issue-solving has been the main result of corporate transformation and community partnerships. Police agencies that have implemented community policing tactics most effectively teach their officers to concentrate on innovative and proactive issue solutions in the community - and with the assistance of community people - rather than only reacting to crime or disruption. The "SARA Model" is one of the most popular methods for joint issue-solving in community policing. SARA, which stands for scanning, analysis, response, and assessment, is a process that identifies recurrent problems in the community, analyzes them, and consults the community to ascertain their causes and come up with long-term remedies.

Evidence indicates that compared to conventional response approaches, shared issue solving based on the SARA Model can significantly reduce crime. A 2010 evaluation showed that the move from reactive crime response to proactive problem solving had improved public safety significantly and led to the resolution of specific social issues and the prevention of crimes before they occur. The community policing policy of the South African Police Service (SAPS) aims to enhance interaction and collaboration between the police and the community. The policy is founded on the idea that the community and the police work together to combat crime.

The goals of the SAPS community policing policy are as follows:

- To enhance dialogue and teamwork between the police and the public.
- To boost the participation of the community in crime prevention.
- To increase problem-solving skills.
- To make the police more responsible



Several projects and programs, including the following, are used to carry out the SAPS community policing policy:

- Community-based groups called Community Policing Forums (CPFs) were created to promote interaction and collaboration between the police and the community.
- Sector Forums are more compact organizations in charge of particular facets of the community. Sector Forums often meet regularly to examine neighborhood crime issues and create crime-reduction plans.
- Crime Prevention: Through Social Development (CPTSD) is a program that works with communities to enhance social conditions to address the root causes of crime.
- Visible policing: Visible policing is a tactic intended to make the police more noticeable in the neighborhood. This is accomplished by increasing the number of police officers on patrol and by fostering relationships with the community through community policing programs.

The SAPS's attempts to lower crime and increase public safety include the community policing policy, which is a crucial component. Together, the police and the community can significantly impact how much safer it is to live in South Africa.

The SAPS community policing policy is based on a few core tenets, which are as follows:

- Respect for the protection of human rights: The SAPS is dedicated to upholding the rights of everyone, even those who are being investigated for criminal activity.
- Community policing is an overarching ideology that directs all policing efforts rather than just a specific program or unit within the SAPS. Community policing informs, guides, and sustains all policing.
- Strives continuously to enhance responsiveness to identified and prioritized community requirements: The SAPS is dedicated to continuously working to enhance its responsiveness to community needs. This entails paying attention to community members' worries and creating plans to address them.
- The SAPS is committed to involving members of the community in efforts to address the problem of crime. This will allow for constructive engagement in the fight against crime. This involves giving locals the chance to participate in decision-making processes and contribute their time and skills.
- Police and community commitment to meeting safety and security requirements: The SAPS is committed to collaborating with the community to meet the safety and security requirements of both the police and the community.

The broad and ambitious SAPS community policing approach can significantly impact South Africa's crime rate and level of public safety. The police and the community can realize this objective by cooperating. Community policing places a strong emphasis on cooperative issue-solving. It entails identifying and resolving crime problems

in collaboration with the community. The SARA Model (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment) can be used to do this. Community policing places a strong emphasis on cooperative issue-solving. To identify and address issues that have an impact on the community, the police and residents must collaborate. Instead of merely responding to crime or unrest, this may be a more efficient way to handle issues.

Shared problem-solving has several advantages. First off, it might contribute to increased community and police trust. People in the community are more likely to perceive the police as partners in crime prevention when they collaborate to find solutions to issues. The police and the community may work together more as a result, which may make it simpler to resolve issues in the future. Second, group problem-solving techniques can aid in locating the underlying causes of issues. When the police and residents collaborate, they can share their knowledge and understanding of the issue. This can aid in figuring out the root reasons for the issue, which can lead to better solutions. Third, shared problem-solving can help to develop creative and innovative solutions to problems. When the police and community members work together, they can come up with solutions that neither group would have thought of on their own. This can lead to more effective and lasting solutions to problems.

Implementing shared problem-solving can be done in a variety of ways. Making a team comprising police officers, residents, and other stakeholders to solve problems is one approach. To find and address problems, this team could meet frequently. Using the SARA model is another method for putting shared issue-solving into practice. Scan, analyze, respond, and assess (SARA) are the four steps of the problem-solving process. Identifying the issue is part of the scanning process. The analysis stage entails comprehending the issue and its underlying causes. In the response phase, a problem-solving strategy is created and put into action. Evaluating the solution's efficacy is part of the assessment stage.

Building trust between the police and the community and enhancing public safety can both be accomplished through shared issue-solving. The police and the community must be committed to this long-term strategy. However, the advantages of collaborative problem-solving make the effort worthwhile.

## V. SARA MODEL TO FIGHT CRIMINALITY

The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) established the SARA Model as a method for settling issues. It is a methodical strategy for locating and addressing crime issues. Four steps make up the SARA Model:

- Scanning: The first step is to look around you to see if there are any crime problems. This can be accomplished by reviewing crime statistics, speaking with locals, and conducting surveys.

- Analysis is the second stage after identifying the crime issue. Understanding the issue's root causes and influencing variables is necessary for this.
- The third step is to come up with a solution to the criminal issue. This can entail putting in place a fresh program for preventing crimes, altering police procedures, or collaborating with neighborhood organizations to deal with the root causes of the issue.
- The effectiveness of the reaction is evaluated in the fourth phase. This entails assessing the response's effect and making any necessary modifications.
- Public safety can be increased and crime can be decreased by using shared problem-solving. The police can create more effective crime prevention measures and foster community trust by collaborating with residents to identify and address crime problems.

The following are some advantages of group issue-solving:

- It can aid in the reduction of crime: The police are better able to create successful crime prevention programs when they collaborate with the community to identify and address crime concerns.
- It can increase collaboration and trust between the police and the community: When the police cooperate with the community to address crime issues, they can increase mutual respect and trust.
- It can promote citizen involvement in crime prevention: By giving individuals the chance to participate in resolving criminal issues, shared problem-solving can serve to increase citizen involvement in crime prevention.

Shared issue-solving faces a variety of difficulties. These consist of:

- Lack of resources: Collaborative problem-solving might need a lot of time and money. The implementation of programs for joint issue resolution by police departments may be challenging as a result.
- Lack of commitment on both sides: For shared issue-solving to be successful, both the police and the community must be dedicated. The initiative is likely to fail if neither side is dedicated.
- The police and community organizations may have different cultures and ideals. Building mutual respect and collaboration between the two groups may be challenging as a result.

The use of cooperative problem-solving methods can generally contribute to a reduction in crime and an improvement in public safety. The police and the community must both be committed for it to succeed, though.

## VI. COMMUNITY POLICING STRATEGIES FACE DIFFICULTIES

The necessity of fostering relationships between the police and the community is emphasized by community policing tactics, which are a way of organizing and providing police services. This strategy is founded on the idea that the police are more productive when they collaborate with the community to address issues and stop crime.

However, community policing initiatives may confront several difficulties. These difficulties include:

- Lack of funding: It can be expensive to adopt and maintain community policing strategies. For police forces that already have limited resources, this may be difficult.
- Lack of community involvement: Community policing tactics are only successful if the community is ready and prepared to become involved. Communities that are divided or that have a long history of mistrusting the police may find it difficult to accomplish this.
- Lack of police cooperation: Not all police personnel are in favor of community policing tactics. In police agencies that take a more traditional policing approach, this can be difficult.
- Changing demographics: Communities are dynamic and must adapt to these changes, which can be difficult for community policing techniques. To satisfy the demands of the new people, a community that is rapidly expanding or that is seeing a significant influx of immigrants, for instance, may need to modify its community policing techniques.

Community policing tactics can be a successful strategy to increase public safety despite these obstacles. The police can establish a relationship of trust with the community and create plans to deal with the underlying causes of crime by cooperating with them.

Following are some suggestions for overcoming the difficulties community policing strategies face:

- Come up with innovative ways to raise money. Community policing tactics can raise money in several ways, such as by hosting bake sales, raffles, or concerts. They can also submit a grant application to government organizations or non-profit organizations.
- Reach out to residents: Community policing tactics can make contact with residents in several ways, including door-to-door canvassing, newspaper ads, and social media. Incentives like discounts at nearby merchants or free admission to events are another way they might encourage neighborhood members to get involved.
- Building relationships with the police can be accomplished by participation in ride-a-longs, attendance at police station meetings, and offering comments on policing procedures. They can collaborate with law enforcement to create cooperative crime prevention plans.

- Resolve internal disputes: Mediation, arbitration, or other conflict resolution procedures can be used as part of community policing initiatives to resolve internal conflicts. To assist avoid disagreements altogether, they can also create explicit policies and procedures.
- Adapt to shifting demographics: By conducting surveys, hosting focus groups, and interacting with residents, community policing techniques can adapt to changing demographics. Additionally, they can design services and programs that are catered to the need of particular populations, such as seniors, young people, or immigrants.

Community policing tactics can improve their ability to make communities safer and more liveable by tackling these difficulties.

## VII. COMMUNITY POLICING

Community policing is an all-encompassing idea built on two main pillars: involving residents in policing activities and fostering a new sense of respect for and concern for human rights. Rebuilding trust between the police and their communities was deemed to be crucial during the early years of democracy in the 1990s, and as a result, several projects were born from this concept (Minnaar, 2009).

According to Skogan (2006), Virta (2006), Innes (2003), Tilley (2003), and Fridell (2004), community policing is a well-liked modern policing strategy in response to the public's declining trust in the police and mounting evidence that police forces cannot combat crime on their own. Community policing as it is currently understood is not a brand-new idea. In the newly established Metropolitan London Police District at the beginning of the 19th century, Sir Robert Peel instituted community constables, also known as "bobbies" (Patterson, 2007). According to Sir Robert Peel, "the police are the public and the public are the police" (Fridell, 2004: 4). The fundamental tenet of community policing, according to Fridell (2004), is that "police should not be separated from, but rather joined in partnership with, the community" (p. 4).

According to Weisheit et al. (1994), the desire for police to be more accountable to the public by being more receptive and integrated into the community came about as a result of a number of social trends and movements (namely victims rights and civil rights). According to Bucqueroux (2006), two unforeseen outcomes of a modernizing policing profession led to the emergence of community policing. The ties between the police and the community were first altered by technology, such as the police radio and patrol cars. In the past, cops got to know members of the community personally and relied on them to be open to sharing information. Second, police used scientific management in their policing, which gave the impression they were in charge of maintaining community safety. Previously, the community was aware that it was ultimately its duty to uphold the social standards that supported public safety.

The notion of community policing has been difficult to define due to a variety of definitions, interpretations, and methods (Brookes, 2006; Palmiotto, 2000; Young and Tinsley, 1998). According to Cordner (1999), community policing is a notion that is frequently misunderstood. He acknowledges that community policing is:

"...not the solution to every issue modern policing is confronting... It is not opposed to battling crime or to law enforcement. It does not attempt to reclassify police work as social work. Additionally, neither a rigidly defined concept of community policing nor a list of required particular duties exist. The implementation of a set of universally applicable concepts and elements should and must vary from location to location because jurisdictions and police agencies have different demands and conditions (Cordner, 2007b: 1).

In order to address the root causes of crime, fear of crime, physical and social disorder, and neighborhood decay, it is generally acknowledged that community policing entails problem-solving and community engagement (Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux, 1990; Palmiotto, 2000). Community policing is also described as "a philosophy of policing that promotes community-based problem solving strategies to address the underlying causes of crime and disorder and fear of crime and provides reassurance" by the Sage Dictionary of Criminology. It is a process by which crime control is shared, or co-produced, with the public, as well as a way to develop communication with the public, improving the quality of life in local communities and increasing police legitimacy (Virta, 2006: p. 52).

In addition to outlining efforts like the creation of Community Police Forums (CPFs) and the implementation of an extensive training program on community policing, the Community Policing Policy Framework and Guidelines (CPPFG) of 1997 emphasized the value of the partnership approach. Community policing may highlight criminality to those in lower socioeconomic strata, so reaffirming the social divides it was designed to bridge. According to the Community Policing Policy Framework and Guidelines from 1997, CPFs have improved interactions between the police and the public.

When people and organizations work with conventional police forces to reduce crime and make their communities safer, this is known as community policing. According to the US Department of Justice, community policing is an ideology that encourages community-based organizational tactics to address possible threats to public safety. Partnerships within the community, problem-solving, and prevention are the core components of community policing.

Community policing's goal is to uphold the law and maintain order in localities without the continual presence of a police force. Ethnic, religious, and other oppressed groups have long been accused of being discriminated against by the system of organized law enforcement. By preventing the emergence of circumstances that could result in crime, community policing is one idea for upholding the law

without discrimination. A policing ideology known as "community policing" places a strong emphasis on the value of fostering relationships between the police and the communities they serve. It is predicated on the idea that crime can be prevented and issues can be resolved more successfully when the police and the community work together.

Community policing's two main pillars are:

- Police must attempt to establish a relationship and earn the trust of the community as part of community involvement. This can be accomplished in several ways, including by participating in neighborhood gatherings, setting up foot patrols, and collaborating with neighborhood organizations.
- Problem-solving: This entails the police and neighborhood residents cooperating to recognize and resolve issues that have an impact on the neighborhood. This can involve activities like drug peddling, graffiti, and abandoned structures.

When several nations were making the transition to democracy in the early 1990s, community policing first emerged. During this time, it became increasingly clear that the police needed to regain the trust of the communities they served. This was thought to be accomplished by bringing the police in closer contact with the community they serve through community policing. Since that time, police departments all across the world have embraced community policing. It has been demonstrated to be successful in lowering crime and enhancing public safety. It's crucial to remember that community policing is a long-term solution. Building connections and trust between the police and the community requires time and effort.

Here are some of the programs that the idea of community policing has inspired:

- Neighbourhood watch programs enable locals to collaborate in keeping an eye on their neighborhoods and informing the authorities of any questionable activity.
- Police officers who have received specialized training in community policing make up the community-oriented policing (COP) units. They strive to establish connections with neighbors and find solutions to issues that affect the neighborhood.
- Problem-oriented policing (POP): This method of policing is concerned with locating and resolving certain issues that have an impact on the neighborhood.

Increasing community trust and enhancing public safety can both be accomplished through community policing. The police and the community must be committed to this long-term strategy. The advantages of community policing, though, make the work worthwhile.

### ➤ *Benefits of Community Policing*

In essence, community policing is a philosophy with guiding principles (Carroll Buracker and Associates Ltd, 2007) that is based on the idea that by collaborating to achieve common goals, changes made today will make communities safer and more desirable tomorrow (Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux, 1990). In addition to improving relations between the police and the community, community policing has many other advantages. According to Palmito, community policing has the following advantages:

...A contest that the Police can't lose. The Police can be credited as change agents if coproduction through community involvement results in reduced crime rates and higher arrest rates. The public is unlikely to decrease support for policing if community policing doesn't result in an increase in public security because a new strategy didn't succeed. The appearance of more police is also comforting, even if they are unable to achieve the major objective of reducing crime. Community policing thereby lessens people's fear of crime and, from the standpoint of the political advantages for police, sends the sense that officers are concerned (Palmito (2000: 207).

The synopsis written by Andy Mayhill (2006) is where this chapter's structure comes from. The advantages comprised:

- enhancing police-community ties and public opinion of police;
- strengthening the community's ability to address problems;
- altering the attitudes and actions of police officers;
- An improvement in safety perceptions; and
- Decreasing criminal activity, chaos, and antisocial behavior.

## VIII. COMMUNITY PATROLLERS

To reduce crime and enhance public safety, community patrollers collaborate with the police as volunteers. On foot or by bicycle, they frequently patrol their neighborhoods, alerting the authorities to any questionable activities they see. In addition to helping to forge connections between the police and the community, community patrollers can tell the police about hotspots and trends in crime.

The following are some of the duties and obligations of community patrollers:

- Patrolling their neighborhoods: Community patrollers often bicycle or walk through their neighborhoods. They keep an eye out for unusual behavior, such as people loitering in odd places, cars that are left parked for a long time, or people carrying peculiar goods.
- Reporting suspicious activities: Community patrollers are instructed to contact the police if they observe any questionable activity. If they observe a crime in process, they may also call the police.



- Information sharing with the police: Community patrollers can inform the police about hotspots and trends in crime. They may also contribute to improving relations between the community and the police.

Educating the neighborhood about crime prevention: Neighborhood patrol officers can instruct the neighborhood about crime prevention. They can assist spread awareness of crime prevention initiatives and teach individuals how to defend themselves from criminal activity.

Community patrol officers can make a significant contribution to lowering crime and enhancing public safety. They may contribute to making their neighborhoods safer by collaborating with the police.

The following are some advantages of having neighborhood watchmen:

- Community patrols have a deterrent impact by making it more difficult for criminals to commit crimes. Criminals are less likely to conduct crimes when they are aware that neighborhood patrols are in place.
- Relationship-building: Community patrol officers can aid in fostering goodwill between the police and the locals. Residents are more likely to trust the police and cooperate with them if they sense that they are working together to make their communities safer.
- Building relationships: Local patrol officers can help to promote goodwill between the police and the community. If locals believe that the police and they are working together to make their areas safer, they are more likely to have residents' trust and cooperation.
- Greater police visibility: Community patrollers can contribute to greater police visibility in the neighborhood. This can reduce crime and increase public safety.
- Better communication between the police and the community: Community patrollers can contribute to this improvement. In addition to helping to develop trust and rapport, this can result in a greater understanding of one another's needs and priorities.
- Enhanced community participation in crime prevention: Community patrollers can contribute to enhancing community participation in crime prevention. This can be accomplished by planning campaigns and activities for crime prevention and by offering chances for residents to donate their time and skills.
- Lower crime rates: Community patrollers can contribute to lower crime rates by preventing crime and informing the police about hotspots and trends in crime.

An excellent way to get engaged in your neighborhood and contribute to its safety is through community patrolling. I recommend getting in touch with your neighborhood police station to find out more about how you can become involved if you're interested in becoming a community patroller. The community policing concept relies heavily on community patrollers. They can help to prevent crime, strengthen ties between the police and the community, and disseminate knowledge about hotspots and trends in crime.

Being a neighborhood watch volunteer can be rewarding. It is a chance to support your neighborhood and contribute to its safety. I recommend getting in touch with your neighborhood police agency to learn more about community patrol initiatives in your region if you're interested in getting involved.

## IX. FOOT PATROL

Foot patrol is one of the main components of community policing. Officers on foot patrol develop friendships and get to know the residents in their neighborhoods. By doing so, they can spot possible issues before they develop into significant crimes. Additionally acting as a visible deterrent to crime are foot patrol personnel. Community organization is a crucial component of community policing. This entails collaborating with neighborhood community groups to identify and resolve issues that are affecting local areas. Community organizing can help to improve social conditions and foster trust between the community and the police. Community policing is a proactive strategy for reducing crime. Creating connections and addressing the root causes of crime takes time. However, it has been demonstrated that community policing is beneficial in lowering crime and enhancing public safety.

Listed below are a few advantages of community policing:

- Decreased crime: It has been established that community policing tactics are successful in lowering crime. For instance, research by the Police Executive Research Forum discovered a 13% drop in crime was related to community policing initiatives.
- Increased public safety: Community policing tactics can raise public safety by giving residents a sense of security and safety. This is because they help to identify and address the underlying causes of crime as well as foster trust between the community and the police.
- Enhanced citizen involvement: Community policing tactics can also boost citizens' involvement in crime prevention. This is because they provide residents with a voice in identifying and resolving crime issues.
- The following are some difficulties with community policing:
- Lack of resources: Police departments may find it challenging to deploy community policing tactics since they might be resource-intensive.
- Internal opposition from the police force: Some police officers may oppose community policing tactics because they believe they are ineffective or limit their abilities to combat crime.
- Lack of community support: Community policing initiatives need the backing of the locals as well. These techniques are less likely to succeed if the community does not support them.

Community policing tactics are a useful strategy for lowering crime and enhancing public safety overall. However, they demand a sustained effort from the community and the police.

## X. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A neighborhood watch is a community-based crime prevention program that relies on the cooperation of residents to identify and report suspicious activity. Neighborhood watches are often organized by local police departments, but they can also be organized by community groups or individuals.

The following are some advantages of having a neighborhood watch:

- Greater police visibility: Neighbourhood watches can contribute to greater police visibility in the neighborhood. This can reduce crime and increase public safety.
- Greater police presence: Neighborhood watches can help the police be more visible in the area. Public safety can be improved and crime reduced as a result.
- Enhanced neighborhood participation in crime prevention: Neighbourhood watches can support enhancing neighborhood participation in crime prevention.

This can be accomplished by planning campaigns and activities for crime prevention as well as by offering chances for residents to donate their time and skills:

- Lower crime rates: Neighborhood watches can help lower crime rates by discouraging crime and informing the authorities about hotspots and patterns in crime.
- Neighbourhood watches have a deterrent impact by making it harder for criminals to commit crimes. Criminals are less likely to commit crimes when they are aware that neighbors are keeping an eye on them.
- Relationship-building: Neighborhood watches can aid in improving connections between the police and the locals. Residents are more likely to trust the police and cooperate with them if they sense that they are working together to make their communities safer.
- Information gathering: Neighborhood watches can tell the police about hotspots and trends in crime. The police can use this information to better target their resources and make their communities safer.

Getting engaged in your community and making it safer is easy with neighborhood watches. I recommend getting in touch with your neighborhood police department to find out more about how you can become involved if you're interested in forming a neighborhood watch in your area.

The following advice will help your neighborhood watch be more productive:

- Be noticeable: Being noticeable in your community is one of the most crucial things you can do. This entails keeping a constant eye on what's going on and constantly monitoring your neighborhood.
- Interact with one another: It's critical to regularly interact with one another. This entails discussing suspicious behavior information and cooperating to find solutions.
- Cooperate with the police: Neighborhood monitors and the police should cooperate closely. This entails sharing information with the police about ominous activity and collaborating to create crime prevention plans. Be patient: Establishing a good neighborhood watch takes time. If you don't notice results right away, don't give up. Simply persevere, and you will ultimately notice a change.

## XI. COMMUNITY PATROL-NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH RELATIONSHIP

To fight crime, South Africa has created two significant community policing programs: neighborhood watch and community patrollers. Community members are actively involved in the battle against crime through these activities. Volunteers who patrol their communities to reduce crime are known as community patrollers. They frequently collaborate closely with law enforcement, and they are a significant source of knowledge regarding crime trends and ominous activities.

A more informal form of community policing is neighborhood watch. It entails neighborhood people cooperating to discover and resolve crime issues. Block watches, in which neighbors take turns patrolling their neighborhood, are frequently organized by neighborhood watch groups. Additionally, they might coordinate programs to raise public awareness of crime and neighborhood clean-ups. It has been demonstrated that neighborhood watches and community patrols both work well to cut down on crime. They do not, however, completely eradicate crime. They work best when integrated into a complete plan for preventing crime that also includes other activities like stronger social programs and policing.

In the literature, the phrases "neighborhood watch" and "community patrollers" are sometimes used interchangeably. But there is a difference between the two. The organizations that community patrollers belong to are often more official, having a defined structure and set of protocols. The atmosphere of neighborhood watch is more relaxed and frequently unorganized. Neighborhood watch and community patrol functions are intertwined. Community patrollers can help neighborhood watch organizations by sharing important information, and neighborhood watch organizations can encourage and promote community patrolling. Both programs are crucial weapons in the battle against crime, and combining their efforts can make them more potent.

Van Steven and Broekhuizen's (2015) 2014 study investigated citizens' involvement in policing activities through fieldwork police-citizen interactions in a setting with an ethnically diverse population. The survey revealed that boisterous youngsters lingering in the streets and public areas regularly irritate the police. This demonstrates how police patrols in these neighborhoods interact with the community, especially minority youth, to maintain order. According to Van Steden and Broekhuizen (2015: 106) despite the police's decreased willingness to interact with and patrol these groups, they were still able to maintain logical relationships with ethnic minority groups because of their adept emotional control and awareness that a harsh police response would only make matters worse, exemplifying how the patrolling police may also have a social function in managing any conflict or difference that may arise within communities.

According to Sytsma and Piza's (2018) study, bicycle patrols outperformed motor vehicle patrols in terms of both proactive and reactive crime control methods. The study, which was carried out by the Toronto Police Service, entailed polling police officers who were in charge of either bicycle or car patrols. According to the study, bicycle patrol officers were more likely to report making contact with members of the public as well as having solved crimes. Furthermore, the research revealed that bicycle patrol officers were happier in their positions than motor vehicle patrol police. The study's findings suggest that bicycle patrols can be an effective way to improve police-community relations and reduce crime. However, it is important to note that the study was conducted in a specific context, and it is possible that the findings would not be replicated in other settings.

Bicycle patrols may be more successful than motor vehicle patrols for the following reasons:

- Patrols on bicycles are more noticeable. Bicycles can get into narrow areas and see things that automobiles cannot since they are smaller and more nimble than cars. They become more noticeable to the public as a result, which may discourage crime.
- Bicycle patrols are easier to access. Bicycles can travel in spaces that automobiles cannot, such as parks and small passageways. Because of their increased public accessibility, police officers may find it simpler to establish ties with the neighborhood.
- Bike patrols are more environmentally friendly. Bicycles don't emit any pollution because they are propelled by human power. They become more environmentally friendly patrols as a result, which is crucial for environmental preservation.

Overall, Sytsma and Piza's (2018) study indicates that bicycle patrols can be a successful method of enhancing police-community ties and lowering crime. However, it's crucial to remember that the study was carried out in a particular situation, so, likely, the results wouldn't hold in different contexts. In contrast to motor vehicle patrols, bicycle patrols had a greater percentage of proactive

policing, according to a study by Sytsma and Piza (2018). The study, which was carried out by the Toronto Police Service, entailed polling police officers who were in charge of either bicycle or car patrols.

According to the study, bicycle patrol officers were more likely to report making contact with members of the public as well as having solved crimes. Furthermore, the research revealed that bicycle patrol officers were happier in their positions than motor vehicle patrol police. The results of the study indicate that using bicycle patrols to increase police-community relations and decrease crime may be beneficial. However, it's crucial to remember that the study was carried out in a particular situation, so, likely, the results wouldn't hold in different contexts. Bicycle patrols may be more successful than motor vehicle patrols for the following reasons:

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- Bicycle patrols are easier to access. Bicycles can travel in spaces that automobiles cannot, such as parks and small passageways. Because of their increased public accessibility, police officers may find it simpler to establish ties with the neighborhood.
- Bike patrols are more environmentally friendly. Bicycles don't emit any pollution because they are propelled by human power. They become more environmentally friendly patrols as a result, which is crucial for environmental preservation.

Overall, Sytsma and Piza's (2018) study indicates that bicycle patrols can be a successful method of enhancing police-community ties and lowering crime. However, it's crucial to remember that the study was carried out in a particular situation, so, likely, the results wouldn't hold in different contexts. This led the Toronto Police Service to acknowledge the value of bicycle patrols and community watch, proving that utilizing bicycles for patrol is an effective approach for both the police and neighborhood watch to make progress, according to Sytsma and Piza (2018: 347). According to these findings, the police in South Africa may employ a range of patrolling strategies, such as foot, bicycle, horse, and motor vehicle patrols, as well as several other community patrols, such as neighborhood watch and community patrollers, to fight crime.

Two significant community policing programs that have been introduced in South Africa to fight crime are community patrollers and neighborhood watches. Community members are actively involved in both initiatives' efforts to combat crime:

- Community patrollers: Volunteers who patrol their neighborhoods to reduce crime are known as community patrollers. They frequently collaborate closely with the police, and they can offer useful information regarding crime trends and ominous activities.

- Neighbourhood watch is a neighborhood-based initiative for preventing crime that depends on the participation of locals to spot and report suspicious activities. Local police agencies frequently conduct neighborhood watches, although they can also be created by civic associations or private citizens.

Neighborhood watch and community patrol are complementing organizations. Neighborhood watch organizations can benefit from the information that community patrollers can supply, and community patrollers can benefit from the tools and support that neighborhood watch groups can offer:

- Community patrol officers and neighborhood watch programs can both be successful in reducing crime and securing neighborhoods. But when they collaborate, they are most successful. Community patrol officers and neighborhood watch organizations can:
- Improve visibility: Community patrollers and neighborhood watch organizations can improve the visibility of law enforcement in the community by jointly patrolling their neighborhoods. By making criminals less likely to operate in locations where they are likely to be observed, this helps reduce crime.
- Collect information: Neighborhood watch groups and community patrol officers can compile data on crime trends and ominous activities. The police may utilize this information to better target their resources and keep neighborhoods safer by sharing it with them.
- Build relationships: Neighbors can be gotten to know through neighborhood watch programs and community patrols. This can foster a sense of community and increase the likelihood that individuals will call the police to report suspicious activities.

In general, neighborhood watch and community patrols are two crucial community policing programs that can be successful in reducing crime and enhancing neighborhood safety. Together, they can increase their effectiveness and significantly impact the battle against crime.

## **XII. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH'S IMPACT ON COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Neighbourhood Watch, an educational program for crime prevention, empowers locals to deal with crime rationally (Stegenga, 2000: 10). By reporting suspicious activities in their neighborhood, it encourages locals to participate in safety and security initiatives (Stone & Ward, 2000: 11). As a result, it transforms into a neighborhood-based program where residents are in charge of reporting and dealing with criminal activity and commotion in their area. It largely focuses on observation and knowledge of potential criminal behaviors as a means of preventing crime and adopting measures, such as promoting interaction among society members and engaging in active citizen patrols (Stone & Ward, 2000: 12). This is carried out in the name of protecting and safeguarding one another.

The viability and effectiveness of neighborhood watch organizations, which are concentrated in particular neighborhoods, depend on their ability to cooperate with law enforcement (Atkinson, Hutchison, Reich & Alaimo, 2017: 138). Since the police cannot always be everywhere, volunteers who donate their time and resources act as the force's eyes and ears when the police are not. When private security companies are less prevalent than they are in wealthy areas, this approach is regularly used in lower-income neighborhoods. Despite potential barriers to their establishment, neighborhood watch programs have been shown to lower crime in the areas where they are active, according to Cozens (2008: 272). The neighborhood watch program in the United States of America has reportedly aided in fostering interpersonal trust and social relationships among neighbors while also enhancing the quality of life, claim Ruef and Kwon (2016: 159).

As stated by Matz (2016:10), the fundamental idea behind neighborhood watches is to bring neighbors together to re-establish authority inside neighborhoods to raise residents' quality of life and reduce crime. Communities, therefore, created other methods for improving informal social control and reestablishing a sense of community. Neighborhood watch has, for the most part, dealt with social inefficiency and a lack of neighborly cooperation, especially when more established social control agencies are ineffective (Walker, 2017: 105). According to Messner, Zhang, and Zhang (2017), neighborhood watch is becoming more and more recognized by residents as a successful tool for combating crime.

In the South African business district of Roodepoort, the Roodekrans Neighbourhood Watch, Van Graan (2016) studied the practicality and effectiveness of multi-sector collaboration in 2015. According to Van Graan (2016), neighborhood watch enables the community to take ownership and care, facilitating community safety and security. He also underlines the need to enhance knowledge and skills on how to avoid crime inside communities. For the South African Police Service's crime prevention measures to be effective, communities must be aware of them and make use of them.

There were some similarities between the study mentioned above and the one conducted in China in 2016 by Zhang and Wildermuth (2009). This study assessed the outcomes of three different crime control efforts that were planned and implemented in contemporary China by neighborhood committees with the assistance of the local police. This comprises neighborhood patrols, drug searches, and other activities that demonstrate how China's Neighbourhood Watch handles conflicts and infractions, such as providing residents who have committed such violations with guidance or looking after those who have been freed from incarceration centers to hasten reintegration. The Neighbourhood Watch, which is governed by neighborhood committees, offers community members guidance on crime reduction initiatives, according to Zhang and Wildermuth (2009: 544-545).



According to Fleming (2005: 1), the Neighbourhood Watch has been a crucial supporter of police work and efforts as well as the basis for potential community-police ties. The argument that policy reforms are required for neighborhood plans to function correctly is further supported by the requirement that those reforms rethink the outcomes they are intended to achieve. In this way, community police partnerships are justified because they have the potential to boost confidence and reassure communities that their property and safety are protected. According to Fleming (2005: 1), one benefit of the neighborhood watch is that it enhances residents' sense of security and protects their way of life. Neighbourhood Watch has also encouraged neighborhood involvement in more comprehensive crime prevention programs that focus on street crimes and social problems.

In Spokane, Washington, research was conducted in 2016 by Dixit, Gabriele, Spindola, and Wilson (2017: 1) to try and expand the limits of neighborhood life using the Emerson-Garfield design. The Emerson-Garfield plan is a neighborhood watch initiative designed to promote neighborhood collaboration and make an effort to bring about change as opposed to only responding to issues (City of Spokane, 2012: 7). This study by Dixit et al. (2017: 2) aims to plan and evaluate the strategies to create a more vibrant and comprehensive community that puts a focus on quality neighborhood life through a caring neighborhood and has identified better opportunities for other residents within the neighborhood through interaction and collaboration, which is indicative of community initiatives, that seek strategies to improve the quality of life of communities.

Neighbourhood Watch is an instructional program for preventing crime that empowers locals to deal with crime rationally. It encourages locals to participate in safety and security initiatives by disclosing suspicious activities in their community. There is some evidence to support the claim that Neighbourhood Watch may effectively lower crime. Programs for neighborhood watch can cut crime by up to 15%, according to National Sheriffs' Association research. It's crucial to remember that not every Neighbourhood Watch program is equally successful. The degree of citizen participation, the police's cooperation, and the type of crime problem in the neighborhood are just a few of the variables that affect a Neighbourhood Watch program's performance.

### **XIII. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH OPERATING DIFFICULTIES IN COMMUNITY SAFETY**

The challenges of neighborhood watch regarding community safety have been extensively researched by several authors, including Britch and KO (2003), Payne and Williams (2008), and Rouf, Mustafa, Xu, Xu, Miller, and Gruteser (2012). Bullock and Fielding (2017: 88) assert that it is difficult to create cutting-edge neighborhood-focused policing methods using the guiding principles of the South African Police Service. But neighborhood watch is an essential part of the Community Police Forums' plan to fight crime and criminality in neighborhoods.

Santos (2016: 25) claims that some police officers are unaware of the functions and organizational frameworks of neighborhood watch. Manning (2015: 45) previously stated that some police officers are not aware of the difference between neighborhood watch and standard policing. This is a concern since successful neighborhood watch programs require collaboration between law enforcement agencies and the community to combat crime and criminal behavior. Some police officers, according to Cordner (2014:148), believe the neighborhood watch restricts their authority by making them share in the responsibility of maintaining the safety and security of the community.

According to Wellman (2018: 2), some locals are less supportive of the neighborhood watch and its operating methods. This is brought on by many things, such as residents' confusion about how the neighborhood watch operates and, in certain cases, their dread of the unknown (Rosenbaum, 1987: 104). Average people may be reluctant to sign up for this system since they are unfamiliar with neighborhood watch programs. Since local drug traffickers will fight any attempt to interfere with their business, some local politicians are reluctant to participate in neighborhood watch programs.

This tactic may hinder the growth, operation, and effectiveness of neighborhood watches in South Africa and around the world. According to Boettke, Lemke, and Palagashvili (2016: 305), it is also challenging to measure the efficacy and impact of neighborhood watch. Given that a program's efficacy is determined by its ability to accomplish its objectives, the significance of evaluating a neighborhood watch's impact on its neighborhood cannot be emphasized. Because people's attitudes can periodically alter depending on their subjective experiences of their situations, Roberts (2018: 30) emphasizes the difficulties of using opinion surveys to gauge the effectiveness of this program. He also asserts that rather than a cumulative interpretation, people have individual interpretations of events and criminal activities that determine how they see crime. As a result, the community does not perceive the neighborhood watch's effectiveness in a way that adequately captures its consequences.

David (1995: 57) asserts that neighborhood watch struggles to persuade society of its value, in large part because there isn't a standardized method for evaluating its effects. This is true even though some communities see neighborhood watch as common sense and rational approach in the battle against crime. As noted by David (1995: 59), neighborhood volunteers have posted neighborhood-wide posters warning against criminal conduct as well as individual stickers on windows and cars as part of the associations' spectacular expansion. This also includes collaboration between police officers and neighborhood watch responders stationed in different neighborhoods, which will enhance the operation and functioning of neighborhood watch around the world. Observing how the neighborhood watch incorporates locals in its awareness-raising initiatives and campaigns regarding the local increase in crime.

Despite all these initiatives and associations established to assist with the neighborhood watch, it is stated that there is still a problem with trust and ineffective networking between residents and outsiders when it comes to crime prevention, especially when the neighborhood watch depends so heavily on the support of the residents (Davids, 1995: 61). This implies that pertinent associations and departments must figure out strategies to ensure that the community would support their neighborhood watch efforts. Residents should feel secure knowing that their belongings and way of life are being protected through neighborhood watch programs.

Because some neighborhood monitors are placed in rural and village settings where the majority of residents have low incomes and few viable commercial enterprises, establishing and maintaining them also presents significant resource issues. According to Van Graan (2016: 136), most towns that need to set up neighborhood monitors don't have the necessary funding. To make ends meet, most people work numerous jobs, which makes it difficult for them to take part in neighborhood initiatives, meetings, and events (Bayley, 2016: 163).

The development of a successful strategy to combat crime and criminality in the neighborhood is another essential factor in determining the usefulness and efficiency of the neighborhood watch. However, some neighborhood monitors in their coverage regions don't do this, according to Bayley (2016: 163). This is illustrated by some neighborhood monitors' resistance to enlisting the help of the local population in identifying potential criminal trends in their neighborhoods.

Given that neighborhood monitors are intended to act as a vital link between the community and law enforcement authorities, they occasionally struggle to build relationships and effective lines of communication with both residents and other law enforcement agencies (Fielding, 2017: 20). The fact that oftentimes neither the police nor the neighborhood watch is aware of the requirements of the neighborhood, according to Kang (2015: 188), frequently makes this worse. As a result, ideas and strategies that reduce crime in these neighborhoods are not used.

In the opinion of Collier (2017: 19), effective neighborhood watch leadership is necessary for selecting and training a dedicated group of volunteers. Given that Millie (2018: 1–13) mentions that retaining the trained cadre is also essential to the project's success, it is obvious that volunteers want inspiration and motivation to keep leading and taking part in the neighborhood watch. It may be easier to create effective neighborhood watch programs that will encourage community engagement if they have clearly defined goals that are properly communicated to the entire neighborhood.

Although neighborhood watch can be a useful tool for enhancing community safety, it can sometimes encounter difficulties. The following are a few of the neighborhood watch's most frequent difficulties:

- Lack of participation: The success of neighborhood watch initiatives depends on how many people take part in them. The program won't be able to succeed if there is not enough participation.
- Lack of police assistance: The police can be a helpful resource for neighborhood watch initiatives. They can offer instruction, materials, and guidance. However, neighborhood watch programs will be less successful if the police do not back them.
- Lack of funding: Maintaining neighborhood watch programs can be costly. They must cover the costs of things like instruction, supplies, and communication. Insufficient money could prevent the initiative from being successful.
- Crime trends can also have an impact on how well neighborhood watch programs work. Programs for neighborhood watch may be more effective in areas with high crime rates. However, neighborhood watch programs might not be as successful if crime is low.

Despite these difficulties, neighborhood watch can still be a useful tool for enhancing neighborhood safety. There are several things you can do to improve the likelihood that your neighborhood watch program will be successful if you're interested in beginning one. Make sure there is sufficient participation in the program first. Additionally, you ought to make an effort to get funds for the program and the backing of the police. Finally, you should be aware of local crime trends and modify the program as necessary.

#### **XIV. OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNITY PATROL AND NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

Community patrollers are likely the most popular form of community policing at most police stations worldwide (Rosenbaum & Lurigio, 1994: 303). As was previously mentioned, several countries all around the world use this approach to crime prevention. Community foot patrols are the key element of a federally funded Community Police Forum program in America that aims to reduce crime through street patrols and door-to-door control measures (Ratcliffe & Sorg, 2017: 7).

In South Africa, a designated area is given to community patrollers to patrol and monitor to reduce crime rates in neighborhood-specific locations (Baloyi, 2013: 50). For instance, in a town or city suburb, the policing patrol is limited to a single neighborhood, like Mamelodi, and even the policing patrol cars will be marked "Mamelodi," designating the territorial patrol for the vehicle. Their patrol territory is just as delineated as the police's.

The Department of Community, Safety, and Security has a strategic plan in place to ensure community safety and security, according to the department's 2012 report (p. 13). This strategy plan reflects the department's objectives to guarantee community safety, lower crime rates, and foster accountability within the policing sector. The acts of the Community Policing Forums and its operational supporting structures, such as neighborhood watch groups and

community patrollers, should be by these departmental strategic goals and objectives. Community patrollers and neighborhood watch groups help to realize the objectives of the Community Police Forum and those outlined in the Department of Safety and Security strategic plan (Department of Safety, Security and Liaison, 2010: 1).

Sector Crime Forums and Community Police Forums provide strategic and interactive guidance to neighborhood watch volunteers and community patrol personnel. This enhances the police's effectiveness, efficiency, and capacity for interacting with the public. The collaboration and cooperation between the police and other local stakeholders are ultimately used via Community Police Forums. This is supported by the studies listed below:

- In the post-apartheid Johannesburg region, Bénit-Gbaffou's South African study from 2008 examined community policing and challenged social control norms. It became evident that it is difficult to successfully implement safety and security in South African communities due to the multicultural and various beliefs that individuals may aspire to. The line between what the community is allowed to do and what they should leave to the police is blurring, according to modern security governance, as evidenced by the emergence of community policing principles and involvement through neighborhood watch and community patrollers (Bénit-Gbaffou, 2008: 93).
- This variation necessitates the use of various community policing strategies in various settings, which complicates the monitoring process and makes it impossible to conduct a standardized evaluation of the national program, and makes it challenging to compare the program's successes and failures in various contexts.
- According to Bénit-Gbaffou (2008: 94), communities and public officials within those communities must discuss the security rules before they can be applied at the local level by the neighborhood watch. This demonstrates how distinct policing traditions and social order ideas about community policing are at odds with the current socioeconomic and political system. This demonstrates how the present strategy seeks to harmonize the policing systems by encouraging communities to participate in and contribute to safety and security through neighborhood watch and patrols.

Bénit-Gbaffou (2009) assessed the management of the streets in high-crime areas of Johannesburg and Durban in post-apartheid South Africa. This illustrates how the then-apartheid government closely controlled metropolitan regions by deploying an oppressive bureaucratic-military apparatus to put down communities that were rebelling. As a result, the Townships grew out of control and were recklessly handled by the apartheid government. Bénit-Gbaffou (2009: 96) goes on to explain how the democratically elected administration that took office after the apartheid state fell supported the revitalization of towns and communities by working to combat racism and enhance community safety and security. The topic of controlling public areas has resurfaced in light of the values of safety

and security as well as enhancing opportunities for previously neglected groups. Community Neighbourhood Watch was started in South Africa at that time to keep an eye on the townships and neighborhoods, including the community in attempts to prevent crime and streamline the policing process.

In the West Rand town of Roodekrans, Meyer and Van Graan (2011) investigated the efficacy of community policing. They found that the concept of community policing utilized several techniques and applications. Because of the disparity between this and the community policing strategy used by traditional policing, certain communities in South Africa were successful while others weren't as effective. This depended heavily on how local governments implemented the concept of neighborhood watch. This study shows that when a neighborhood fully grasps the idea of neighborhood watch, they effectively contribute to community policing and so provide an opportunity for the community to contribute to their safety and security. This suggests that the police should make the most of neighborhood watch programs as proactive community-policing initiatives.

Hattingh (2015: 2) assessed how the Community Policing Forum used Facebook to prevent crime in 2015 through neighborhood watch and community patrols. This example shows how the Community Police Forum, the neighborhood watch, and the patrolling crew use social networking sites like Facebook to help them interact and share information among themselves to carry out their mandate. The study discovered that communities on Facebook communicate in two different ways: they share information about building their community through shared goals to fight crime, and they share information about raising community awareness of potential criminal activity. This was learned through the application of the Facebook thematic content analysis method.

The information is shared with all organizations that try to prevent crimes, including private security, Community Police Forums, neighborhood watches, and other patrolling individuals dedicated to lowering crime in their neighborhood. Another way that locals are encouraged to get active in crime prevention is through online neighborhood groups, particularly those on social media networking platforms like WhatsApp. The use of social media platforms like WhatsApp in crime prevention strategies is crucial in this digital age as the Internet is irrevocably blending into every aspect of daily life (Hattingh, 2015: 10).

In several nations throughout the world, community policing is carried out using neighborhood watch and community patrol. These techniques entail the active involvement of neighborhood residents in the battle against crime:



- Neighbourhood watch is a neighborhood-based initiative for preventing crime that depends on the participation of locals to spot and report suspicious activities. Local police agencies frequently conduct neighborhood watches, although they can also be created by civic associations or private citizens.
- Volunteers patrol their neighborhoods as part of a program called "community patrol" to reduce crime. Police frequently train community patrollers, and they collaborate closely with them to spot and report suspicious conduct.

Depending on the particular program, the operational organization of neighborhood watch and community patrol programs can change. However, a few components are present in most programs regularly. These components consist of:

- A program should have a clear goal in mind, such as lowering crime rates or enhancing public safety.
- A clear plan: The program needs to have a clear plan outlining its goals, objectives, and tactics.
- Adequate resources: The program has to have enough money, personnel, and other resources.
- Effective communication should exist between the community, the police, and other stakeholders in the program.
- Evaluation: To determine the program's efficacy, regular evaluations should be conducted.

Two effective methods for enhancing neighborhood safety are neighborhood watch and community patrol. They do not, however, completely eradicate crime. These initiatives work best when they are part of a holistic crime prevention strategy that also includes other tactics like more police presence, better lighting, and economic growth.

## XV. CONCLUSION

By supporting the initiatives of the forum as an organization, CPFs participated primarily in a constructive way that benefited the communities in which they worked. According to the study, until everyone is taught to conduct night shift patrols, stop criminal activity, and make arrests, a lot of criminal activity could occur without the work of CPFs. The study comes to the conclusion that CPFs are very helpful to communities. They bring together those who fight crime. This is required by the efficient training of CPFs to give them the information and abilities necessary to function in the communities. Therefore, while not being paid or receiving any incentives, CPFs are performing an excellent job inside the communities. Despite the issues that were brought up, it can be said that the CPFs' work is producing fruitful outcomes. The majority of the issues identified might be remedied by management's actions, made in their own time and in collaboration with continued education. Additionally, CPFs meet a need in the community because there are not enough police officers to supervise community affairs on every corner of the street. As a result, CPFs offered community-based law enforcement mechanisms that were simple to access. The investigation also came to the

conclusion that CPFs had significantly lowered local crime rates. The establishment of CPFs is anticipated to lower crime in Durban, and the SAPS has a significant role to play in crime prevention efforts. "The vision of SAPS is to create a safe and secure environment for all the people in South Africa," The News 24 (2016:1) states. These CPFs are meant to be used by members of various communities as a means of looking for crime-solving strategies and ensuring that the police uphold accountability and carry out their jobs properly. Importantly, Section 19(1) of the S.A.P.S. Act, Act 68 of 1995, gives the CPFs the legal authority to cooperate with the police in fostering a safe environment for community members.

Police stations develop or host Community Policing Forums. The primary goal of these forums is to improve ties between the police and the local population, particularly in places where there is antagonism and mistrust. In other terms, it may be said that CPF was designed for communities where there is a poor attitude toward the police. By attitude, the research refers to how the general population reacts to the roles and responsibilities of the police. Typically, the public's impressions of the police are what shape that attitude. Accountability plays a significant role in determining how the public views the police, which in turn influences their behavior when interacting with them. "Accountability means that the institution must explain the manner in which it performs every specific function for which it has been made responsible," state Lawrence and McCarthy (2013:16).

According to the research, there is a general knowledge of what CPFs are and how they relate to community policing. However, power continues to be the fundamental barrier in how the CPF and SAPS view each other's responsibilities. While CPF members accuse the police of being overly protective over their operational responsibilities (by refusing to report everything back to society), the police have accused CPF members of injecting outside politics into the department. Thus, despite the fact that the SAPS and CPF are meant to cooperate on paper, they don't seem to agree on perceptions that would give one of them more authority while hindering the other's ability to operate independently. When the police are in dispute with a community, such as during violent strikes, protests, or conflicts amongst political party members, the police may resort to employing force to subdue the crowds. In these circumstances, neighborhood security is regarded as acting in the public interest, whereas the police are perceived as the state's arm.



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