

# The Roles of Community Policing Programmes in Reducing Crime in Morogoro Municipality

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**Abstract:** *The purpose of this study was to investigate the roles of CP programmes in crime reduction in Morogoro Municipality. A sample size of 251 respondents was used. Purposive sampling techniques were used in selection of senior police officers, ward executive officers, street chairpersons and councillors; systematic sampling techniques were used in selection of police officers; and citizens were selected by using multistage cluster sampling techniques. This study found that, CP programmes play the following roles, improvement of police-community relationships and community perceptions of police, ordinary citizens become co-producers of public safety, police officers' attitudes and behaviours has been changed, and the community capacity to deal with crimes has been increased. The study recommends that, community participation and engagement in crime control and prevention should be seriously taken into consideration, Government or Tanzania Police Force should create the better environment for community in engaging towards crime prevention and control, and CP programmes should allow citizen to be steward to public and private safety.*

**Keyword:** Community Policing Programmes

## 1. Introduction

One of the biggest problems in our communities is the increase of rate of crime. Government and law enforcement officers trying to control this phenomenon by focusing on the best ways of avoiding it, and applying their efforts in tackling crimes through repressive or police force-related methods (Barreto, 2011). Crime is an action which constitutes a serious offence against an individual or the State and is punishable by law (Kumaar & Laura, 2011). Community participation in crime prevention activities is consistently gaining global ascendancy following high crime rates in many parts of the world engendered by ineffectiveness of law enforcement. Community participation in crime prevention is grounded on the assumption that the traditional law enforcement cannot fight crime effectively without support from local communities who know their area (Liebermann & Coulson, 2004).

The concept of Community Policing (CP) programmes was popularized in North America and Europe from the 1980s whereby, it has been disseminated to many African countries due to the efforts of foreign donor governments, international organizations, and NGOs as part of police reform processes (Kudo, 2019). Basically, many African Governments have accepted CP programmes as a possible solution to increasing crime rates which have not been reduced through more traditional, reactive forms of policing, and as means to improve police legitimacy. Tanzania is among the African countries to have adopted CP programmes as part of broader police reforms (Cross & Candidate, 2013).

Among the advantages of CP programmes in crime prevention activities are, preventing and reducing crime, reducing disorder and anti-social behavior, increasing feelings of safety, improving police-community relationships as well as improving police-community accountability (Ringo, *et al.*, 2012)

CP programmes was officially introduced in Tanzania in 2006. Expressed in Kiswahili as “polisi jami” au “ulinzi shirikishi” as understood in Tanzania refers to both improving relationships and communication between the police and citizens and encouraging communities to take responsibility for neighborhood security. Police encourage citizens to cooperate with them by reporting crimes and providing intelligence, and also to perform local policing duties by organizing night patrols as to prevent crimes (Cross & Candidate, 2013).

Many studies have been documented on Community Policing programmes associated with community participation and engagement in crime prevention and control that extremely exists worldwide is the best approach in the prevention and control of crimes and building social cohesion within the Society. Sherman and Erick (2002) in the same vein, states that the community participation and engagement in crime prevention and control has been conducted to look at the importance of local communities in effective implementation of crime control and prevention. Kane (2005) argued that, the majority of local communities do not volunteer to participation in improving neighborhood safety due to lack of trust between the police officers, local residents and communities.

In Tanzania, the Police Board established the CP programmes and crime prevention as one of the effective strategies in reducing crimes but the slow progress in the implementation of the same raises many questions as to whether there is enough awareness provided to the community.

The success of CP programmes depends largely on community participation and commitment. However suitable, efficient and effective means of communication build a good relationship between community and the police force (Community Policing International Patterns and Comparative Perspectives, 2014). Furthermore, the public

perception and awareness of the community plays a great role in advancing the objectives of security in the society.

It is predicted that the police force, in collaboration with community members, would reduce the rate of crimes, violence and victims of crime hence maintain peace as well as harmony among community members. Despite efforts made by the Government of Tanzania to take initiatives to involve communities in reducing crimes, such problems persist to date.

Available evidence from various statistics show that the rate of crime incidents continues to increase. For example, in Morogoro, crime statistics from January to December 2016 indicate that, a number of offences against murder are 154, rape 425, armed robbery 34, robbery with violence 325, breaking 1101, theft of motorcycle 384 and theft in bank 488. Based on the above statistics, crimes seem to increase or remain constant annually despite the presence of CP programmes.

Therefore, it is considered important to assess community and engagement in crime prevention and control particularly in Morogoro Municipality, in order to underline and clarify the aspects of ways of enhancing community participation and engagement as well as filter out those aspects that interfere with the implementation of CP programmes in reaching the defined goals and this research study has been used to fill the gap of other researchers.

## 2. Theoretical Literature Reviews

This study was guided by the Onion Theory of Participation that was developed by Cacave (2010). This theory is used to explain the participation of community in crime control by considering different things that correlate with topic so this statement held with by Cacave (2010) which is used to link community participation with an onion with several rings which provide different meaning and through this theory consider Onion as centre or core of explaining the part of this study where it plays attentive to the community involvement. There are few numbers of people who are highly committed to certain issues and are used to motivate other people according to Cacave (2010) this is described as Core. Those around the core are called participants who used to be involved in the activities organized by the Core and are used to provide support to the core.

According to the Cavaye (2010) terms observers as third rings, where observers are used as people who absolutely watch how the situation is or those who are used to monitor all activities initiatives by core and support participants but not involved actively in local initiatives although they have interest. This theory postulates that around the observers are larger circular band of people who are aware about the activities initiated and practising inside the community unfortunately they do not feel to participate in such kind of activities or programmes. The last rings are the members of community who do not have any ideas of the activities or programmes that are operating in their environment.

The Onion Theory of Participation was having intention to explain that whenever there is social proposed work, there

might have been people who are actively participating in those initiative projects, programmes and policies that have impact on their own interest and others can be involved passively in local initiatives and apart from participating actively and passively, others may not participate at all, in local activities that have impact on the communities. This theory acts to address that the “core” and “participants” are in twins, the core needs support from participants to fulfill its plans and objectives so to achieve effective crime control and prevention on different initiatives will need community participation who are aware with the areas and victims.

## 3. Research Methodology

This section presents the methodology that guided the study. This study was carried out in Morogoro Municipality. The study employed cross-sectional research design. The targeted population comprised all senior police officers, ward executive officers, street chairpersons, police officers, councilors and citizens from Morogoro Municipality. The sample size of this study was 251 respondents. This study used purposive sampling technique in selection of senior police officers, ward executive officers, street chairpersons and councilors, systematic sampling techniques in selection of police officers, while citizens were selected by using multistage cluster sampling techniques. Data were collected by using questionnaires and interview methods. Quantitative data were analyzed by using SPSS v. 20 while qualitative data were analyzed through thematic analysis.

## 4. Research Finding and Discussion

This section focuses on presenting the roles of CP Programmes in reducing crime in Morogoro Municipality. To gather data of this objective; questionnaire, interview and documentary reviews were applied as the data collection methods. This objective was guided by the major question stated that “What are the roles of CP programmes in reducing crime in Morogoro Municipality?”. The results of this objective were presented in sub-sections below.

### 4.1 Citizens Being Co-Producers of Public Safety

**Table 4.1:** Citizens Being Co-Producers of Public Safety

Details	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	25	27.8
Agree	37	41.1
Disagree	18	20.0
Strongly Disagree	10	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Data (2022)

Table 4.1 reveals that, out of 90(100%) respondents, 25(27.8%) respondents strongly agreed that CP allows ordinary citizens to become co-producers of public safety, 37(41.1%) respondents agreed, 18(20%) respondents disagreed and the remaining 10(11.1%) respondents strongly disagreed. The result shows that majority of respondents who filled questionnaire (68.9) have agreed that through CP programme ordinary citizens become co-producers of public safety.

This result implies that through CP programme members of community willingly became co-producers of public safety since they participated in night patrols and provided crime and criminal information to security personnel particularly police officers. Night patrols and passing of criminal information helped a lot in crime prevention as one respondent stated during an interview that:-

*Through the CP community members willingly accepted to participate in night patrols and to provide criminal information on any irregularities arising in our area. This happened because it reduces criminal incidences in our area.*

These findings are in agreement with the study by Oliver (2008) who revealed that, although CP programme is a partnership between the police officers and the community members, the police play a major role as the police officer is the foundation of CP programme.

#### 4.2 Improvement of Police-Community Relationships

**Table 4.2:** Improvement of Police-Community Relationships

Details	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	29	32.2
Agree	40	44.4
Disagree	11	12.2
Strongly Disagree	10	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Data (2022)

Table 4.2 reveals that, out of 90(100%) respondents, 29(32.2%) respondents strongly agreed that CP programme plays important roles in improving police-community relationships and community perceptions of police, 40(44.4%) respondents agreed, 11(12.2%) respondents disagreed and the remaining 10(11.1%) respondents strongly disagreed. This result shows that majority of respondents who filled questionnaire (76.6%) have agreed that through CP programme there is improvement of police-community relationships and community perceptions of police.

This result implies that, good relationship between police officers and community members enabled good cooperation in the number of aspects whereby members were ready to assist police officers in arrests, witnessing police search and similar practices. In the long run, this will help in reducing incidences of crime, solving problems related to crimes and redressing social as well as physical disorders in different localities.

This result was supported by one of the respondents in the Focus Group Discussion whereby he pointed the following:-

*With effective implementation of the CP, various social problems were dealt with presence of CP officers. The Police officers analysed the complaints and came up with a solution for effective collaboration with community members.*

In addition, another respondent in a FGD pointed that:-

*Recently, we were ready to appear before the police to discuss with them different issues since they have considered us to be good people. Previously, it was impossible for us to meet with the police.*

These findings concur with previous study by Cordner (1998) who noted that, police need to engage with the community in partnerships to deal with crime and related problems, which includes working collaboratively with other public and private agencies. Furthermore, Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1990) reveals that police and community should work in partnership not only to solve problems, but to reduce the fear of crime, physical and social disorder, and neighborhood decay.

#### 4.3 Increasing Community Capacity to Deal with Crimes

**Table 4.3:** Increasing Community Capacity to Deal with Crimes

Details	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	22	24.4
Agree	30	33.3
Disagree	23	25.6
Strongly Disagree	15	16.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field Data (2022)

Table 4.3 reveals that, out of 90(100%) respondents, 22(24.4%) respondents strongly agreed that CP programme helped in increasing community capacity to deal with crimes, 30(33.3%) respondents agreed, 23(25.6%) respondents disagreed and the remaining 15(16.7%) of respondents strongly disagreed. This result shows that majority of respondents who filled questionnaire (57.7%) have agreed that through CP programme, the community capacity to deal with crimes has been increased.

This result implies that, CP programme helped in increasing community capacity to deal with crimes since they have a direct involvement in setting local public safety and security priorities. Through this, community members cooperate with police force by reporting crimes and providing intelligence, and also perform local policing duties by organizing night patrols to prevent crimes. This tends to improve their capacity of dealing with crimes.

This result was supported by one of the respondents in an interview whereby she pointed the following:-

*Every community is different but, in general through CP programme members of the community can help reduce crime by developing their own non violent communication skills, mentoring youths, and supporting community centers.*

#### 4.4 Changing Police Officers' Attitudes and Behaviors

**Table 4.4:** Changing Police Officers' Attitudes and Behaviors

Details	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	24	26.7
Agree	36	40.0
Disagree	17	18.9
Strongly Disagree	13	14.4
Total	90	100

Source: Field Data (2022)

Table 4.4 reveals that, out of 90(100%) respondents, 24(26.7%) respondents strongly agreed that CP has changed police officers' attitudes and behaviors, 36(40%) respondents agreed, 17(18.9%) respondents disagreed and the remaining 13(14.4%) of respondents strongly disagreed. This result shows that majority of respondents who filled questionnaire (66.7%) have agreed that through CP programme, police officers' attitudes and behaviors has been changed.

This result implies that, with actions taken by police management through CP programme such as visiting the community, attending and discussing issues at the meetings with community members, disciplining unethical police officers, in most cases such actions improved police officers' attitudes and behaviors to the extent that criminals were swiftly arrested and they were taken to the courts of law.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

Basing on study findings, it is concluded that the implementation of CP programmes generally are vital in community engagement in crime prevention and control. According to the study, the usefulness of community policing initiatives is not limited to issues of security only, but they also play other critical roles in cooperation among community members but also between community members and Tanzania Police Force. In this case, there is a need of the Government of Tanzania to take enough measures in ensuring CP programmes are effectively implemented. Furthermore, the Government of Tanzania and other key stakeholders of security such as NGOs and community should take various measures as to minimize or even eliminate challenges facing community during implementation of CP programmes.

On the basis of the research findings and discussions, the following recommendations are made to various stakeholders; community participation and engagement in crime control and prevention should be seriously taken into consideration, Government and Tanzania Police Force should create the better and conducive environment for Ward Police Officers and Community in engaging towards crime prevention and control, hence Community Policing programmes should allow citizen to be steward to public and private safety.

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