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EFFECT OF COMMUNITY POLICING ON THE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE SECURITY IN AWKA CAPITAL TERRITORY, ANAMBRA STATE

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Abstract

Security challenges have remained a significant concern in Anambra State particularly Awka, with various communities grappling with issues such as armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, and other violent crimes. For these reasons, this study examined the effect of community policing on the provision of adequate and effective security in Awka Capital Territory, Anambra State from 2013-2023. The study was guided by three research questions and hypotheses. The study adopted the survey research design. The population of the study were 2,500,000 residents in Awka Metropolis. The sample size was obtained using Taro Yamane's (1967) sample size determination formula. The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire. A face-to-face data collection method was employed to obtain information from respondents. The data collected from the demographic data of the respondents were analysed with simple percentage while the data from the copies of the questionnaire were analyzed using the mean scores and standard deviation. The hypotheses were tested with simple linear regression analysis at 0.05 significant level. The study found that community policing has proven to be a highly effective strategy in reducing crime and enhancing security in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 and 2023. The findings demonstrate its substantial impact, with approximately 70.1% of the reduction in kidnapping, 67.9% in cult-related activities, 78.3% in the proliferation of small arms, and 73.7% in armed robbery linked to community policing efforts. The study concluded that through strengthened collaboration between

residents and law enforcement, enhanced intelligence gathering, and community engagement, significant progress has been made in minimizing criminal activities. The study recommended that efforts should be made between the police institutions and communities to further deepen the relationship between law enforcement and local communities. This is because regular community meetings, feedback sessions, and collaborative problem-solving initiatives can promote trust and ensure that residents feel empowered to actively participate in crime prevention. To sustain and improve crime reduction efforts, it is essential for the government to invest in advanced intelligence gathering technologies and strategies. This includes training law enforcement personnel and community members on effective reporting and surveillance techniques, as well as increasing the capacity of local police to act on real-time information.

Keywords: Community, Police, Community Policing, Security

Introduction

One of the fundamental needs of humans is to live in a safe and secure environment because security ensures stability, peace, and overall well-being. Without security, people experience fear, uncertainty, and limited opportunities for growth and development. As a result, many strategies are employed to safeguard communities, one of which is community policing. Community policing is a strategy that promotes a partnership between the police and the community in identifying, preventing, and solving crimes to enhance public safety and trust (Akinyemi & Okonkwo, 2020). This approach fosters proactive engagement, where law enforcement officers work closely with residents to address security concerns and develop long-term solutions.

According to Adewale and Uche (2021), community policing is a decentralized policing strategy that shifts the focus from traditional law enforcement methods to a more interactive and preventive model. It emphasizes collaboration, problem-solving, and community participation in crime control and public safety. Similarly, Eze and Ojo (2019) described community policing as a model of law enforcement that encourages police officers to build relationships with the community, understand local security needs, and involve citizens in maintaining order and safety. Community policing is a proactive approach that fosters collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community members to prevent crime and enhance safety. It emphasizes building trust, addressing local security concerns, and promoting shared responsibility in maintaining law and order.

The concept of community policing encompasses several key elements including the promotion of partnerships and collaborative relationships between the police and the community. These partnerships involve active engagement, information sharing, and joint problem-solving efforts to address crime and safety issues (Rosenbaum & Lurigio, 2017). Additionally, community policing aims to identify and tackle the underlying causes of crime and disorder. It

encourages a problem-solving approach that involves analyzing data, conducting community assessments, and developing targeted strategies to prevent and reduce crime (Skogan & Hartnett, 2017). Notably, community policing emphasizes proactive engagement with the community. This includes increasing police visibility through foot patrols, community meetings, and other forms of direct interaction to build trust, gather information, and foster positive relationships (Troshynski & Forde, 2020).

This community policing strategy of combating crimes within Nigeria has become imminent because the Nigeria police Force (2008) in charge of keeping peace and order within the communities in their annual report noted that the police is handicapped. This is because of combination of factors that plagued them, among which are; lack of resources, poor government support, poor condition of service, lack of appropriate and adequate training and ill-equipped workforce. Coupled with these, are the issue of police extortion and corruption and other vices common among the police system which contributes to their lack of efficiency (Troshynski and Forde, 2020). Police corruption is a serious issue because they are expected to be moral as law-enforcement agents. If the police which were employed and catered for with the people's money to protect and detect crimes are themselves corrupt and also a party to crimes, then the society is at the mercy and grace of the criminal (Onyenwenxia, 2013). The above among many others contribute to the challenges the police face in handling security challenges in the communities. As a result, many security challenges arise within the communities.

Nigeria faces a range of criminal activities affecting its communities. Kidnapping has become a significant concern, with 214 cases reported in just eight weeks, according to the Inspector-General of Police, Olukayode Egbetokun. Insecurity has led to numerous deaths, leaving many Nigerians in fear. A report highlighted that kidnapping ranked third among crimes, with 104 reported cases and 216 suspects arrested (Usman, 2025). Additionally, the rise in femicide is alarming; in 2022 alone, at least 401 women died from sexual and gender-based violence in Nigeria (Adejoro, 2024). These incidents underscore the pressing need for effective measures to combat crime and ensure the safety of Nigerian communities.

Unfortunately, communities in Anambra State are not spared of these crimes because according to Obianeri (2024) report, Awka, the capital of Anambra State has experienced various criminal incidents affecting its communities. In December 2024, unidentified gunmen attacked the Ifite-Awka area, resulting in the deaths of at least four individuals and the abduction of a hotel manager. The assailants targeted multiple locations, including Book Foundation Junction and Ukwu Aki Bus Stop, causing widespread panic. In another incident, Obianeri further reported that the

Anambra State Police Command arrested an 18-year-old suspected cultist in the Nibo community, Awka South Local Government Area. The suspect was apprehended with an AK-47 rifle and a magazine, allegedly planning to commit violence in the area. Additionally, David (2025) reported that two notorious cultists were arrested in Awka, leading to the recovery of a pump-action gun, four live cartridges, and other exhibits. These arrests are part of the police's efforts to combat cult-related activities in the region. These incidents highlight the ongoing security challenges in Awka and underscore the need for continued vigilance and effective law enforcement to ensure the state is safe.

The fact still remains that in Anambra State, community policing exists to enhancing security through collaboration between law enforcement agencies and local communities. A prominent model is the integration of local vigilante groups, such as the Anambra Vigilante Services (AVS), which work alongside the Nigerian Police Force to maintain law and order. These groups are legally recognized and operate within their respective communities to prevent and detect crimes, provide relevant information on criminal activities, and assist in preserving peace (Umeobika, 2012). Unfortunately, there is no much empirical studies on how the community policing has ensured curbing of the menace of kidnapping, increase in cultism, curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and curbing of armed robbery. But in real sense, community policing is expected to curb these menaces.

For instance, kidnapping which is described by Eze (2020) as the unlawful seizure, abduction, or detention of a person or persons against their will, often for ransom, coercion, or other criminal motives. It involves force, deception, or threats to restrain the victim, making it a serious crime under legal statutes worldwide. Okafor and Nwosu (2021) stated that through intelligence gathering, neighborhood watch programs, and proactive security strategies, community policing enhances early detection and prevention of kidnapping activities. Increased trust in law enforcement encourages residents to report suspicious movements, aiding security operations. Additionally, community policing promotes collaboration between vigilante groups and formal security agencies, resulting in swift rescue missions and arrests of kidnappers.

In another scenario, Adebayo (2021) have argued that community policing also helps in reducing the increase in cultism, curb the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and armed robbery. Okonkwo and Ibe (2022) added that by fostering trust between law enforcement and residents, community policing encourages intelligence gathering, early detection, and swift intervention in cult-related activities. Regular patrols and collaboration with youth organizations help deter recruitment into cult groups.

Additionally, Adebayo and Okonkwo (2021)

posited that community policing aids in curbing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons by enforcing stricter surveillance on illegal arms trafficking and identifying black-market sources. This reduces the accessibility of weapons used in violent crimes. Furthermore, enhanced police-community partnerships facilitate crime prevention strategies, discouraging armed robbery through intelligence-sharing and visible security presence.

Despite the expected role of community policing in curbing the menace of kidnapping, increase in cultism, curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and curbing of armed robbery, the understanding of community policing among residents vary. A study focusing on Ishielu Local Government Area in Ebonyi State, which shares similarities with Anambra, revealed that a significant portion of the population was unaware of police-community partnership strategies. Specifically, 71% of respondents indicated a lack of awareness regarding such initiatives (Onuoha et al., 2020). This suggests a potential gap in communication and engagement efforts between law enforcement and community members in regions like Anambra.

The literature on community policing in Anambra State highlights several challenges but also reveals gaps. While studies have examined the roles of vigilante groups and their collaboration with formal police structures, there is limited research on the effectiveness of these partnerships in reducing specific crime rates. Additionally, there is a paucity of data on community members' perceptions of these initiatives and the impact of socio-economic factors on the success of community policing. To build effective community support for community policing in Awka, Anambra State, this study was initiated to investigate the community policing and provision of security in Awka Capital Territory in Anambra State from 2023-2024.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Security challenges have remained a significant concern in Nigeria, with various communities grappling with issues such as armed robbery, kidnapping, cultism, and other violent crimes. Unfortunately, communities in Anambra State are not spared from these security threats. According to Obianeri (2024), Awka, the capital of Anambra State, has experienced several criminal incidents that have instilled fear among residents. In December 2024, unidentified gunmen attacked the Ifite-Awka area, killing at least four individuals and abducting a hotel manager. These gunmen struck multiple locations, including Book Foundation Junction and Ukwu Aki Bus Stop, creating panic and uncertainty in the community. Similarly, the Anambra State Police Command arrested an 18-year-old suspected cultist in the Nibo community, Awka South Local Government Area. The suspect was found in possession of an AK-47 rifle and a magazine, allegedly planning violent activities in the region (Obianeri, 2024).
Additionally, David (2025) reported that two

notorious cultists were arrested in Awka, leading to the recovery of a pump-action gun, four live cartridges, and other exhibits, further confirming the rising trend of cult-related crimes in the state.

Community policing is recognized as an effective strategy for addressing security issues by fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies and community members. However, despite its implementation in Anambra State, security challenges persist, raising concerns about the effectiveness of community policing strategies in addressing these threats. The fundamental question remains: to what extent has community policing contributed to mitigating security challenges in Awka Capital Territory between 2023 and 2024? The persistence of violent crimes, such as those reported by Obianeri (2024) and David (2025), suggests potential gaps in the implementation of community policing. Issues such as inadequate community participation, limited resources, corruption, and distrust between residents and law enforcement agencies may hinder the effectiveness of community policing in the region.

Existing studies on community policing in Nigeria have predominantly focused on its theoretical framework, benefits, and challenges (Adebayo & Okonkwo, 2021). However, there is limited empirical research assessing the specific effectiveness of community policing in Awka Capital Territory, Anambra State, in addressing recent security challenges. While studies have examined the role of vigilante groups and the police in crime prevention, there is a paucity of research investigating how community engagement, public awareness, and government support influence the success of community policing in Awka. Additionally, the rising cases of cultism, gun violence, and targeted attacks in the state necessitate an in-depth exploration of the gaps in existing security strategies. Given the escalating security threats in Awka, there is an urgent need to investigate the effectiveness of community policing in addressing these challenges from 2013 to 2024.

Research Questions

Based on the problems highlighted in the statement of problem, the following research questions were raised;

1. How has the existence of community policing contributed to curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023?
2. What is the effect of community policing in addressing the increase in cultism in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023?
3. To what extent has the existence of community policing contributed to curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023?

Research Hypotheses

In order to direct the flow of this study, the following hypotheses were formulated in a null form as thus:

H_{01}: Community policing has no significant positive effect in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023.

H_{02}: Community policing has no positive significant contribution in curbing the increase in cultism in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2024.

H_{03}: The existence of community policing has not significantly contributed to curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023.

Research Methodology

The study adopted the survey research design. The population of the study are residents in Awka Metropolis. The sample size for the study is three hundred and ninety-nine (399). The sample size was obtained using Taro Yamane's (1967) sample size determination formula. The data collection instrument is a structured questionnaire titled Community Policing and Provision of Security Questionnaire. It consists of five clusters: A, B, C, D, and E. Cluster A gathers demographic information about respondents. Cluster B contains 10 items aimed at assessing the impact of community policing on curbing kidnapping in Awka from 2013 to 2023. Cluster C includes 10 items focused on how community policing has mitigated the rise of cultism within the same period. Cluster D comprises 10 items examining the role of community policing in addressing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Awka. Cluster E explores the influence of community policing on reducing armed robbery between 2013 and 2023. Each cluster is structured on a 5-point rating scale: Strongly Agree (SA) – 5, Agree (A) – 4, Neutral (N) – 3, Disagree (D) – 2, and Strongly Disagree (SD) – 1. Respondents are required to select the appropriate option to indicate their views. The reliability of the instrument was tested with 20 residents of Awka in Anambra State, outside the selected sample size and yielded an average reliability coefficient of 0.823. A face-to-face data collection method was employed to obtain information from respondents. The data collected from the demographic data of the respondents were analysed with simple percentage while the data from the copies of the questionnaire were analyzed using the mean scores and standard deviation.

RESULTS

The analyses of the questionnaire and respondents' characteristics are analyzed below:

Table 1: Questionnaire Distributions

Questionnaire Distributed	No. of Questionnaire Not Returned	No. of Questionnaire Returned	Invalid	Total Questionnaire used for Analysis
400(100%)	8(2.0%)	392(98.0%)	4(1.0%)	388(97.0%)

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 1 showed that 400(100%) copies of the questionnaire were distributed and 8(2.0%) copies of the questionnaire were not returned. Also, 392(98.0%%) copies of the questionnaire were returned after the distribution. After strict monitoring of the filled copies of the questionnaire, 4(1.0%) were invalid while 388(97.0%) of the copies of the questionnaire were fully and properly filled and used for the study.

Table 2: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Categories	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	202	52.06
Female	186	47.94
Total	**388**	**100**
Age Interval		
18-30	54	13.92
31-40	89	22.94
41-50	98	25.26
51- 60	107	27.58
61 & Above	40	10.31
Total	**388**	**100**
Categories		
Single	75	19.33
Married	175	45.10
Separated	49	12.63
Widowed	46	11.86
Divorced	43	11.08
Total	**388**	**100**
Educational Level		
FSLC	24	6.19
WASC/GCE	54	13.92
OND/NCE	67	17.27
BSc/HND	75	19.33
MBA/MSc	85	21.90
PhD	83	21.39
Total	**388**	**100**

Table 2 showed the gender distribution of the respondents. The result revealed that 158(52.67%) were male and 142(47.33%) were female. This implies that majority of the respondents were male. The result also revealed that 54(13.92%) of the respondents were between the ages of 20-30 years, 89(22.94%) were between the ages of 31-40, 98(25.58%) of the respondents were between the ages of 41-50 years old, 107(27.58%) were between the ages of 51 - 60 years and 40(10.31%) were between 61years old and above. The results further revealed that 75(19.33%) were single, 175(45.10%) were married, 49(12.63%) were separated, 46(11.86%) were widowed and 43(11.08%) were divorced. Additionally, the results revealed that 24(6.19%) have FSLC, 54(13.93%) were WASC/GCE holders, 67(17.27%) were OND/NCE holders, 75(19.33%) have BSc. qualifications, 85(21.90%) have MBA/MSC degree and 83(21.39%) have PhD qualifications.

Analyses of Research Questions

Research Question One: How has the existence of community policing contributed to curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023?

Table 6. Mean scores of the existence of community policing contributed to curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023

S/N	Community Policing and Kidnapping (2013-2023)	$\overline{X}$	SD	Decision
1	Community policing has significantly reduced the rate of kidnapping in Awka.	3.30	1.075	Agreed
2	The collaboration between residents and the police has helped in identifying kidnappers.	3.14	1.040	Agreed
3	Regular patrols by security operatives have deterred kidnappers.	3.11	1.008	Agreed
4	Community policing has improved intelligence gathering to prevent kidnapping.	3.13	.956	Agreed
5	Community policing has led to more arrests and prosecution of kidnappers.	3.11	.990	Agreed
6	The existence of community policing has reduced ransom payments.	3.11	1.085	Agreed
7	Increased police-community trust has enhanced information sharing on kidnapping cases.	3.15	1.147	Agreed
8	Community policing has enhanced security awareness and vigilance among residents.	3.09	.929	Agreed
9	Local security initiatives under community policing have been effective in stopping kidnapping activities.	3.11	.839	Agreed
10	Community policing has helped in dismantling kidnapping syndicates in Awka.	3.32	.966	Agreed
	Average	**3.16**	**1.004**	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 6 showed mean scores and standard deviations of the existence of community policing contributed to curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023. The results revealed that items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,

9, and 10 have mean scores 3.30, 3.14, 3.11, 3.13, 3.11, 3.11, 3.15, 3.09, 3.11, 3.32 and 3.32 respectively with the corresponding standard deviation of 1.075, 1.040, 1.008, .956, .990, 1.085, 1.147, .929, .839 and .966. More so the average mean score and the standard deviation were 3.16 and 1.004. These results showed that all the mean scores of the items 1 to 10 were above the decision point of 2.50; hence, they agreed.

Research Question Two: What is the effect of community policing in addressing the increase in cultism in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023?

Table 7. Mean scores of the effect of community policing in addressing the increase in cultism in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023

S/N	Community Policing and Cultism (2013-2023)	$\bar{X}$	SD	Decision
11	Community policing has helped in reducing cult-related violence in Awka.	3.40	.947	Agreed
12	The collaboration between the police and local communities has led to the periodic arrest of cultists.	3.50	.869	Agreed
13	Community policing initiatives have discouraged youth involvement in cultism.	3.47	.864	Agreed
14	The presence of community policing has helped in disrupting cult meetings and activities.	3.49	.811	Agreed
15	Increased intelligence gathering through community policing has identified some cult leaders.	3.48	.850	Agreed
16	Community policing has played a role in preventing recruitment into cult groups.	3.48	.910	Agreed
17	Residents now feel more confident reporting cult -related activities due to community policing.	3.09	1.191	Agreed
18	Community policing has helped in addressing the root causes of cultism in Awka.	3.46	.815	Agreed
19	The existence of community policing has enhanced the safety of students and youths in Awka.	3.48	.737	Agreed
20	Community policing has improved the rehabilitation of former cult members.	3.19	1.099	Agreed
	Average	**3.40**	**.909**	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 7 showed the mean scores and standard deviations of the effect of community policing in addressing the increase in cultism in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023. The results revealed that items 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 have mean scores 3.40, 3.50, 3.47, 3.49, 3.48, 3.48, 3.09, 3.46, 3.48 and 3.19 respectively with the corresponding standard deviation of .947, .869, .864, .811, .850, .910, 1.191, .815, .737 and 1.099. More so the average mean score and the standard deviation were 3.40 and .909. These results showed that all the mean scores of the items 11 to 20 were above the decision point of 2.50; hence, they agreed.

Research Question Three: To what extent has the existence of community policing contributed to curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023?

Table 8. Mean scores and standard deviation of the extent the existence of community policing contributed to curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023

S/N	Community Policing and Proliferation of Small Arms & Light Weapons (2013-2023)	T	$\overline{X}$	Decision
21	Community policing has reduced the illegal possession of small arms and light weapons in Awka.	3.19	1.143	Agreed
22	The presence of community policing has discouraged arms trafficking.	3.23	1.225	Agreed
23	Community policing initiatives have led to the recovery of illegal firearms.	3.22	1.251	Agreed
24	Local security collaborations have helped identify individuals included in illegal arms trade.	3.26	1.209	Agreed
25	Community policing has created awareness relating to the dangers of illegal arms.	3.28	1.220	Agreed
26	Law enforcement has become more effective in tracking illegal arms due to community policing.	3.32	1.193	Agreed
27	Community policing has facilitated the reporting of illegal arms storage locations.	2.96	1.230	Agreed
28	Community policing efforts have made it harder for criminals to access weapons.	3.26	1.232	Agreed
29	Local security volunteers have assisted in reducing arms-related crimes in Awka.	3.23	1.238	Agreed
30	Community policing has enhanced government efforts in controlling illegal possession of weapons.	3.05	1.193	Agreed
	Average	**3.20**	**1.213**	**Agree**

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 8 showed the mean scores and standard deviations of the extent the existence of community policing contributed to curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023. The results revealed that items 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 have mean scores 3.19, 3.23, 3.22, 3.26, 3.28, 3.32, 2.96, 3.26, 3.23 and 3.05 respectively with the corresponding standard deviations of 1.143, 1.225, 1.251, 1.209, 1.220, 1.193, 1.230, 1.232, 1.238 and 1.193. More so the average mean score and the standard deviation were 3.20 and 1.213. These results showed that all the mean scores of the items 21 to 30 were above the decision point of 2.50; hence, they agreed.

Test of Hypotheses

Test of Hypothesis One

$H0_1$: Community policing has no significant positive effect in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023

H_1: Community policing has significant positive effect in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023.

Table 10: Summary of the Results of Test of Hypothesis One

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	F	P-value
1	.838[a]	.702	.701	.51293	910.001	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Community policing

Table 10: Summary of the Results of Test of Hypothesis One

Table 10 shows the results of hypothesis one and it revealed that the R value was 0.838 while R Square value is 0.701. This means, the R square signifies that 70.1% of the existence of community policing has contributed to curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka between 2013 to 2023. More so the p-value is .000 < than .05, which signifies that the null hypothesis that states that community policing has no significant positive effect in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023 was rejected. The alternative hypothesis was retained and thus, community policing has significant positive effect in curbing the menace of kidnapping in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023.

Test of Hypothesis Two

$H0_2$: Community policing has no positive

significant contribution in curbing the increase in cultism in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2024

Table 11: Summary of the Results of Test of Hypothesis Two

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	F	P-value
1	.824[a]	.679	.678	.65677	815.176	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Community policing

Table 11 shows the results of the test of hypothesis two. The results revealed that the R value was 0.824 while R Square value is 0.679. More so, the p-value was .000 < .05 which means that the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternative hypothesis was retained. This implies that community policing has positive significant contribution in curbing the increase in cultism in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2024. Moreover, the R square revealed that 67.9% of community policing curb the increase in cultism in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023.

Test of Hypothesis Three

$H0_3$: The existence of community policing has not significantly contributed to curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023

Table 12: Summary of the Results of Test of Hypothesis Three

Model Summary						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	F	P-value
1	.885[a]	.783	.783	.45329	1396.358	.000

a. Predictors: (Constant), Community policing

Table 12 shows the results of the test of hypothesis three. The results revealed that the p-value is .000 < .05. This indicated that the null hypothesis was rejected while the alternative hypothesis was retained. This implies that the existence of community policing has significantly contributed to curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 to 2023. More so, the R square value is 0.783 signifies that 78.3% of the existence of community policing has significantly contributed to curbing the menace of proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

Conclusion

In conclusion, community policing has proven to be a highly effective strategy in reducing crime and enhancing security in Awka Capital Territory between 2013 and 2023. The findings demonstrate its substantial impact, with approximately 70.1% of the reduction in kidnapping, 67.9% in cult-related activities, 78.3% in the proliferation of small arms, and 73.7% in armed robbery linked to community policing efforts. Through strengthened collaboration between residents and law enforcement, enhanced intelligence gathering, and community engagement, significant progress has been made in minimizing

criminal activities. The approach has not only disrupted illegal operations but also fostered trust between the community and law enforcement, leading to improved crime prevention and public safety. These results highlight the critical role of community policing in achieving lasting security improvements.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following were recommended:

1. Efforts should be made between the police institutions and communities to further deepen the relationship between law enforcement and local communities. This is because regular community meetings, feedback sessions, and collaborative problem-solving initiatives can contribute to curbing the menace of kidnapping.
2. To sustain and improve crime reduction efforts, it is essential for the government to invest in advanced intelligence gathering technologies and strategies. This includes training law enforcement personnel and community members on effective reporting and surveillance techniques, as well as increasing the capacity of local police to act on real-time information to curb the increase in cultism.
3. Ongoing public awareness campaigns should be conducted to educate residents about the dangers of crime, particularly regarding the proliferation of small arms. These campaigns can help to deter involvement in criminal activities and encourage residents to report suspicious activities of proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

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