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Determinants of Nyumba Kumi Community Policing Initiative on Maintenance of Law and Order in Migori County, Kenya

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Abstract

Purpose: The study sought to determine the key factors influencing the success or failure of the Nyumba Kumi initiative in maintaining law and order within Suna West Sub-County, Migori County, Kenya. More specifically, it set out to explore how community awareness, collaboration with law enforcers, technology in use, and information sharing influence the success of this community policing endeavor. The study further points out difficulties inhibiting the success of this initiative, such as frayed relations between the community and police force, mistrust, and issues related to personal vendettas, which have undermined the initiative's goal of reducing insecurity.

Methodology: This study utilized a descriptive cross-sectional research type to investigate the extent to which selected associated factors affected the implementation of the Nyumba Kumi initiative in Suna West Sub-County. Local community members, Nyumba Kumi leaders, and local administration officials were interviewed using structured questionnaires. A total sample of 210 respondents was represented from all key stakeholder groups using a stratified random sampling technique. Statistical analyses were performed to summarize variables of interest with the help of descriptive statistics like means, and standard deviations (SD) using SPSS version 26. The study also used inferential statistics (Pearson product-moment correlation) to examine the relationships between variables. Findings were tabulated and graphically displayed for trends and comparisons between indicators.

Findings: The study achieved a high response rate, highlighting strong positive relationships between the maintenance of law and order and several key factors. Significant associations were found with community awareness ($r = 0.759$, $p < 0.001$), collaboration with law enforcement ($r = 0.793$, $p < 0.001$), technology use ($r = 0.450$, $p < 0.001$), and information sharing ($r = 0.673$, $p < 0.001$), all of which contributed to enhanced security in Suna West sub-county, Migori County. These findings indicate that the Nyumba Kumi initiative thrives on increased community awareness, effective collaboration with security agencies, and the integration of technology. Despite challenges such as strained relationships between community members and law enforcement, the initiative has led to reduced crime rates, quicker emergency response times, and more peaceful conflict resolution in the area.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: The study reinforces key theories related to community policing. It supports Collective Efficacy Theory by demonstrating how communities contribute to law and order through informal support and social control. It also bolsters Social Cohesion Theory, emphasizing the significance of strong social bonds for effective community policing. Furthermore, it validates social cognitive theory by illustrating how observational learning and social interactions influence community behavior in security initiatives. From a practical standpoint, the study recommends enhancing community training, fostering collaboration with law enforcement, integrating technologies such as mobile applications and GIS, and improving information sharing. These strategies serve as a practical framework for strengthening grassroots security efforts and enhancing the effectiveness of community policing within the Nyumba Kumi initiatives. Additionally, the study offers valuable policy recommendations that advocate for supporting community training, encouraging collaboration with law enforcement, promoting technology use, and enhancing information sharing. Implementing these policies would significantly improve community policing outcomes by facilitating better cooperation between communities and law enforcement agencies.

Keywords: *Community Policing, Nyumba Kumi Initiative, Security*

JEL Codes of Classification: H75, H83, K42

INTRODUCTION

Community-focused law enforcement is a form of reactive public protection that aims to promote and augment communication between law enforcement and local residents. Although the model originated in the USA in the late 20th century, it has become prominent globally and transitioned from its traditional illness-centric approach to a comprehensive community-based response (Abdul et al., 2021). Another review of evidence by Hamm et al., (2017) showed the positive individual-level effects that can result from community policing throughout Europe and North America, including improvements in public confidence, reporting of crime rates, and perceptions of protection at the community level. The United Kingdom has managed to decrease the offending and perceived risk of being a victim through visible presence and visibility policing combined with other strategies (Schneider, 2021).

Community-based policing is the most recent approach to combating rising crime amidst political instability, while manpower has been declining due to an unsustainable proportion of policing resources in Africa. Community policing forums in South Africa implement such partnerships to combine police efforts with those of local citizens, showing potential benefits for fewer crimes and better trust (Gaines et al., 2019). In Nigeria, community policing is an effective way to respond locally to security challenges such as limited funding and skill capacity shortages (Olonisakin, 2020). In East Africa, community policing as part of national security policies is promoted to enhance public safety through interactions with nearby communities, such as in Kenya (Stephen et al., 2024).

One of the strategies for involving the community is through an informal security framework, like Kenya's Nyumba Kumi initiative. The Nyumba Kumi program encourages citizens to group based on neighborhood proximity, watching out and communicating threats to each other, thereby promoting vigilance and collective support (Muiga, 2019). It serves as a tool for fostering social cohesion and reducing crime within local areas. Nyumba Kumi brings police and citizens together in groups of around 10 households to enhance trust and transparency (Mazerolle et al., 2020). The program is active in Migori County, a border region facing social and economic challenges, including cattle rustling, interethnic hostility, and theft (Ochieng & Ouma, 2021). However, its effectiveness depends on factors such as community involvement, confidence in security agencies, and resource availability (Mohamed, 2021).

In Migori County's Suna West Sub-County, social and economic conditions, coupled with historical conflicts, create difficult circumstances for law enforcement (Macharia et al., 2022). Research has shown that neighborhood watch programs like Nyumba Kumi reduce crime and enhance trust between law enforcement and communities (Nicholas & Muna, 2021). The success of these initiatives relies on community engagement and cooperation with the police, fostering stronger communication and information sharing (Macharia et al., 2022).

According to the National Crime Research Centre, between 2016 and 2020, Migori County experienced a significant rise in various crimes, many of which exceeded national averages. In 2020, crimes such as burglary and housebreaking (76.5%), stock theft (75.5%), and defilement (72.4%) were much higher than national rates. Substance-related offenses, including possession of illicit brews (72.4%) and narcotic drugs (50.0%), also increased. These trends, coupled with rising violent and property crimes, highlight the growing security challenges in Migori County (Ssewanyana et al., 2019). The Nyumba Kumi initiative seeks to address such issues by enhancing local cohesion and mitigating the socio-economic problems fueling crime.

Effective local policing under Nyumba Kumi requires strong leadership and collaboration between local leaders, security agencies, and residents (Leting & Chepchirchir, 2017). Modern tools such as mobile applications for reporting crimes can also enhance the relationship between the police and the community. While Nyumba Kumi has shown potential in Migori County, addressing trust and communication issues remains essential for its long-term success (Ogutu et al., 2023).

Statement of the Problem

Despite the introduction of the Nyumba Kumi initiative in 2013 to strengthen community policing and improve local security in Kenya, its success in Migori County remains limited. Strained police-community relations, characterized by mistrust and poor collaboration, hinder the effectiveness of the program (Ogutu et al., 2023). These challenges are further compounded by socio-economic constraints, operational difficulties, and a lack of political will, all of which reduce the program's capacity to create a safer community (Macharia et al., 2022).

In Suna West Sub-County, the situation is especially dire, with crime rates such as burglary and housebreaking reaching 76.5%, significantly above the national average of 58.7% (Migori Research Center). Resource constraints, limited community involvement, and unresolved disputes between law enforcement and residents further exacerbate the challenges (Stephen et al., 2024; Leting & Chepchirchir, 2017). These issues underscore the need for improved resource allocation, enhanced community participation, and better police-community relationships to make Nyumba Kumi more effective in reducing crime and promoting security in Migori County.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The preceding scholarly survey on determinants influencing the effectiveness of Nyumba Kumi local policing efforts in observing legality and orderly behavior. The chapter offers reviews of works that are pertinent to the goal of this research, both theoretical and empirical. Based on this review of the literature, the research identifies gaps in the present body of knowledge, synthesizes previous research findings, and establishes the groundwork for an empirical inquiry based on this assessment of the literature.

Theoretical Framework

Several theories relate to neighborhood policing and directly inform the effectiveness of the Nyumba Kumi initiative. The collective efficacy theory suggests that communities with high levels of unity and informal social control can more effectively prevent crime. Nyumba Kumi leverages this by fostering collaboration and trust among neighbors, promoting community participation in local security efforts (Goddard et al., 2004). This theory predicts that where Nyumba Kumi is most successful, collective responsibility will lead to enhanced public safety and lower crime rates (Whipple et al., 2019).

Social Cohesion Theory emphasizes the importance of strong relationships between community members in fostering solidarity and collective action. Nyumba Kumi builds on this by encouraging neighborhood cooperation in addressing security issues, aligning with the idea that cohesive communities are better equipped to implement crime prevention measures (Friedkin, 2004). The theory predicts that Nyumba Kumi's success in reducing crime will depend on how well it strengthens social bonds and cooperation within the community (Fonseca et al., 2018).

Social Cognitive Theory focuses on observational learning, where individuals model behaviors they observe in others. In the context of Nyumba Kumi, residents are more likely to engage in security efforts when they see their neighbors doing the same. This peer influence fosters a shared sense of responsibility and reinforces community safety efforts (Luszczynska & Schwarzer, 2015). The theory suggests that as more residents participate, Nyumba Kumi will generate a wider community response, leading to greater success in maintaining security.

Together, these theories suggest that the Nyumba Kumi initiative's effectiveness depends on strengthening community responsibility, cohesion, and peer-driven participation.

Empirical Review

This study reviewed various literature on community awareness, collaboration, and the application of technology in assessing the effectiveness of the Nyumba Kumi initiative in Migori County. Research on community awareness highlighted how local engagement and public knowledge significantly influence the success of community policing efforts. Studies on collaboration explored the role of partnerships with local authorities and private security organizations in enhancing security outcomes. Furthermore, the literature on technology use emphasized the critical role of technology in facilitating information sharing, improving coordination, and ultimately contributing to the success of the Nyumba Kumi initiative.

The Awareness of the Maintenance of Law and Order

The long-term success of community policing initiatives, such as the Nyumba Kumi approach, relies heavily on community awareness and engagement in maintaining law and order. Effective awareness campaigns and information dissemination cultivate a collaborative relationship between residents and law enforcement, which is essential for crime prevention and public safety. This emphasis on community participation and transparency is vital for addressing security challenges. Leting & Chepchirchir (2017) focused on the effectiveness of the Nyumba Kumi approach in reducing crime. Conceptually, they did not explore the mechanisms through which community awareness enhances engagement in crime control. Contextually, their findings were generalized across Kenya, lacking specificity to Suba West Sub-County. Methodologically, their use of convenience sampling with only 60 participants limited the representativeness of their results. The current study utilized stratified random sampling to ensure a more comprehensive perspective from various community segments.

Nicholas & Muna (2021) investigated the role of communication in the Nyumba Kumi initiative in Kericho County. Conceptually, they did not examine how information flow affects community attitudes toward law enforcement. Contextually, their findings may not be applicable to the unique dynamics of Suba West Sub-County. Methodologically, their convenience sampling of 80 participants may not adequately capture community diversity. The current study addresses these gaps with stratified random sampling to include a broader range of community leadership roles.

Tumini (2023) explored legal awareness in resolving family conflicts in Indonesia. Conceptually, while it identified the role of legal awareness, it failed to connect this to community relations and attitudes toward law enforcement. Contextually, the Indonesian setting limits its applicability to the Kenyan context. Methodologically, reliance on directed discussions may not represent diverse community opinions. The current study uses stratified random sampling and structured questionnaires to provide a more accurate picture of how legal awareness influences law and order in Suba West Sub-County.

Whiteside et al., (2023) examined rural crime prevention in New South Wales, Australia. Conceptually, they did not explore how awareness initiatives shape community attitudes toward law enforcement. Contextually, their findings may not translate to the Suna West, Migori County, in the Kenyan environment, where community dynamics differ. Methodologically, their innovative strategies lacked representative sampling, potentially limiting their findings' applicability. The current study rectifies this by employing stratified random sampling to capture diverse perspectives in Suba West Sub-County.

Collaboration in the Maintenance of Law and Order

The sustained effectiveness of community policing initiatives, such as the Nyumba Kumi approach, fundamentally depends on a strong, collaborative relationship between law enforcement agencies and the community. This partnership is essential for fostering trust, enhancing public safety, and effectively addressing security challenges. Research by Gau & Paul (2019), investigated police officer sentiments toward community policing in the United States. Conceptually, the study primarily emphasized a top-down perspective and lacked insights into how community members experienced or interpreted collaborative efforts. Contextually, while their research spanned law enforcement agencies in America, it did not address the specific dynamics within local communities like Suna West Sub-County. Methodologically, they used surveys, which focused on a single police department together with ordinary least squares regression modeling which limited the generalizability of their findings. In contrast, the current study utilized systematic sampling and standardized survey instruments to enhance data representativeness and explore the nuances of collaboration between Nyumba Kumi and community stakeholders in Kenya.

Wolfe & Nix (2016) focused on the factors influencing police willingness to form community partnerships, particularly in the wake of incidents of police violence in the United States of America. Conceptually, they primarily considered police perspectives while neglecting how community perceptions impacted policing outcomes and the legitimacy of police actions. Contextually, their findings were derived from a U.S.A. context, whereas the current study was done in Suna West, Migori County, Kenya. Methodologically, their cross-sectional study, conducted at a single point in time, may not have adequately captured the dynamics of police-community interactions over time. In contrast, the current study involved multiple stakeholders, including Nyumba Kumi leaders and local residents, employing semi-structured questionnaires to capture a broader range of insights on the enforcement of law and order.

Adugna et al., (2019) assessed community-centered security enforcement in Harar City, Ethiopia, emphasizing the integration of community efforts in crime prevention. Conceptually, while their research demonstrated a connection between community involvement and reduced crime, it did not address the specific dynamics of the Nyumba Kumi initiative in maintaining law and social order in Migori County, Kenya. Contextually, their findings pertained to a different geographical and cultural setting, limiting their applicability to the Kenyan context. Methodologically, although they employed a mixed-method approach, their study faced limitations related to community awareness and resource scarcity. The current research aimed to overcome these challenges through a multi-centric design, using stratified sampling and structured questionnaires to ensure comprehensive coverage of community perspectives.

Technology Use in the Maintenance of Law and Order

The effectiveness of law enforcement practices increasingly relies on integrating information technology (IT) to bolster public trust. In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, the

relationship between communities and law enforcement agencies is becoming increasingly intertwined with advancements in IT. This integration not only enhances operational efficiency but also plays a crucial role in shaping public perception and trust. Community engagement and effective communication, facilitated by technology, are vital for fostering transparency and accountability within law enforcement. Marasambessy (2023), examined the relationship between information technology (IT) usage in law enforcement and public trust in agencies in Indonesia. Conceptually, the study primarily focused on the theoretical role of IT applications but lacked empirical data, creating a conceptual gap. While it provided a broad overview of IT and public trust in Indonesia, it did not address the specific dynamics of the Nyumba Kumi initiative in promoting social norms and law enforcement in the Suna West sub-county, Kenya. Methodologically, the previous research relied on a literature review and lacked real-world data. In contrast, the current study employed a stratified sampling approach and quantitative methods through structured questionnaires to gather detailed information on how IT capabilities enhanced public confidence in law enforcement.

Ivanov et al., (2021) explored barriers and solutions to the implementation of digital technologies for effective law enforcement on a global scale. Conceptually, their study offered a broad overview of digitalization's impact but did not consider the socio-technical aspects, resulting in a conceptual gap. While their research was conducted globally, the current study focused specifically on the Suna West sub-county in Migori County addressing a contextual gap. Methodologically, the previous study employed a dialectical approach based on a literature review, whereas the current study investigated how these technologies were adopted and integrated within the Nyumba Kumi framework, utilizing primary data collected through structured questionnaires and stratified sampling.

Saputra (2023) investigated the potential use of artificial intelligence (AI) in traffic law enforcement, emphasizing its effectiveness and fairness in Indonesia. The study highlighted the advantages of AI but did not address the ethical considerations crucial for social acceptability, leaving a conceptual gap. While Saputra's research focused on e-traffic enforcement in Indonesia, the current study was situated in Suna West, Migori County tackling a contextual gap. Methodologically, Saputra relied on a normative juridical approach using secondary materials, whereas the current study employed quantitative methods with structured questionnaires to assess AI's role in law enforcement and its ethical implications.

Sharing of Information on the Maintenance of Law and Order

Effective information sharing between law enforcement agencies and the community is essential for maintaining law and order. This process fosters transparency, builds trust, and enhances public safety by keeping community members informed and engaged in crime prevention efforts. In their study, Mangai et al., (2023) explored the cooperative roles of police and community members in crime prevention within Johannesburg, South Africa. However, the study did not address trust-building or the challenges encountered in diverse community contexts, resulting in a conceptual gap. While it focused on Johannesburg, this study aims to investigate information flow between Nyumba Kumi and residents in the Suna West sub-county. Methodologically, Mangai et al. employed qualitative methods, whereas the current study utilizes stratified sampling and quantitative techniques through structured questionnaires to gain a comprehensive understanding of information sharing and trust-building.

Mosis (2023) examined community involvement in policing to enhance public security in Lurambi, Kenya. While the study emphasized community participation, it did not analyze how

information sharing specifically contributes to maintaining law and order, creating a conceptual gap in the literature. Contextually, the previous research was confined to Lurambi in Kakamega County, while the present study focuses on Suna West, Migori County. Methodologically, the previous research employed qualitative methods, lacking insights into the mechanisms underpinning community-police relationships. In contrast, the current study applies stratified sampling and structured questionnaires to gather quantitative data, offering a more thorough understanding of effective strategies and challenges in community-police partnerships.

Kagame et al., (2023) investigated the dissemination of community policing knowledge and its impact on security in Rwanda's Gasabo District. Although their study established a link between information sharing and improved security, it did not specifically examine law enforcement practices within a community creating a conceptual gap. Contextually, their research was conducted in Rwanda, while the current study was done in Suna West, Migori County. Methodologically, their mixed-method approach contrasts with the current study's focus on quantitative data collection using stratified sampling and structured questionnaires to assess the effectiveness of information dissemination practices in maintaining security. Nicholas & Muna, (2021) studied the impact of information sharing on the implementation of the Nyumba Kumi community policing initiative in Kericho County, Kenya. Although they highlighted the significance of information sharing in fostering trust between locals and security personnel, their study did not explore specific dynamics in other regions, creating a conceptual gap. Contextually, their research took place in Kericho County, while the present study focuses on Suna West, Migori County. Methodologically, Nicholas & Muna (2021) employed a descriptive approach without longitudinal analysis. In contrast, the current study utilizes stratified sampling methods and structured questionnaires to uncover experiences and insights related to information sharing and community-based law enforcement in the Suna West sub-county, Migori.

Summary of Literature Reviewed and Research Gaps

Leting & Chepchirchir (2017) investigated the Nyumba Kumi local policing approach in Kenya, emphasizing community awareness and local leader participation in crime reduction. While their study established a correlation between community engagement and crime reduction, it did not explore the specific mechanisms through which awareness enhances engagement. To address this gap, the present study employs quantitative methods, including surveys and statistical analysis, to investigate how awareness influences community engagement in Suna West Sub-County.

Nicholas & Muna (2021) explored communication within the Nyumba Kumi initiative in Kericho County, highlighting the necessity of effective information flow for community participation. However, their study overlooked the contextual differences in communication strategies across regions, indicating a lack of understanding regarding how communities adapt these strategies. The current study focuses on the unique communication approaches adopted in Suna West Sub-County, utilizing quantitative surveys to analyze regional adaptations. Tumini (2023) examined the role of legal awareness in conflict resolution in Indonesia, noting its importance in fostering community peace. Yet, the study did not assess how this awareness impacts community relations and attitudes toward law enforcement. This gap signifies a need for more exploration of the effects of legal awareness on community-law enforcement relationships. To fill this gap, the present research employs quantitative methods to assess the specific effects of legal awareness on these dynamics in the Suna West Sub-County. Whiteside et al., (2023) evaluated rural crime prevention strategies in New South Wales,

Australia, emphasizing the significance of awareness and local engagement. However, their study did not investigate how these initiatives shape community attitudes toward law enforcement, leaving a gap in understanding the impact of community awareness initiatives. The present study addresses this by employing quantitative analysis to assess the role of such initiatives in the Suna West Sub-County.

Gau & Paul (2019) studied community-police relationships in American law enforcement, noting the importance of community experiences. However, their focus primarily on police perspectives leaves a gap regarding community perceptions of law enforcement initiatives. This study emphasizes community perspectives within the Nyumba Kumi initiative, using quantitative surveys to address this gap. Similarly, Wolfe & Nix (2016) analyzed factors affecting police-community partnerships but did not explore community perception regarding these partnerships. The current study investigates community perceptions and experiences related to the Nyumba Kumi initiative in Suna West Sub-County using quantitative methods. Adugna et al., (2019) examined community-centered security enforcement in Harar City, Ethiopia, demonstrating the link between community involvement and crime reduction. However, their focus did not address the implications of Nyumba Kumi partnerships within Migori County, representing a significant absence of contextual analysis. The current study analyzes the dynamics and implications of the Nyumba Kumi initiative in Suna West Sub-County using quantitative methods to address this contextual gap.

Marasambessy (2023) investigated the relationship between IT use in law enforcement and public trust, noting that transparency enhances trust but lacks empirical data. This highlights the need for evidence on the impact of technology on community engagement. The present research employs quantitative methods to explore micro-level technology adoption and its role in fostering community engagement within the Nyumba Kumi framework.

Ivanov et al., (2021) discussed barriers to implementing digital technologies in law enforcement but overlooked socio-technical aspects, indicating a lack of investigation into how technology fosters community engagement. This study quantitatively examines the effects of digital technology use on community engagement within the Nyumba Kumi initiative. Ndegwa (2019) emphasized information sharing in enhancing community policing initiatives but did not analyze specific communication strategies across contexts. The current study investigates effective information-sharing practices within the Nyumba Kumi initiative in Suna West Sub-County through quantitative surveys, filling this gap. Otieno et al., (2022) focused on the impact of information dissemination on crime reporting in Nairobi, noting that timely information significantly affects community willingness to report crimes. However, they did not explore motivations for information sharing or barriers faced by community members, indicating a lack of understanding in these areas. This study quantitatively addresses these motivations and barriers to provide a comprehensive view of information-sharing dynamics within the Nyumba Kumi initiative.

Ochieng & Ouma (2021) investigated how community awareness of law enforcement activities influences public cooperation but did not address the mechanisms of information sharing that foster trust. This gap highlights insufficient exploration of the role of information sharing in building trust. The present study quantitatively analyzes the role of information sharing in fostering trust within the Nyumba Kumi framework in Suna West Sub-County, Migori County.

Khamala (2020) examined information-sharing practices in enhancing community resilience against crime but lacked a detailed exploration of the channels and formats used for sharing

information. This study addresses the need for a comprehensive analysis of information-sharing channels and formats by quantitatively providing insights into their effectiveness within the Nyumba Kumi initiative in Suna West Sub-County.

Conceptual Framework

The study's conceptual framework explored the relationship between key determinants of the Nyumba Kumi community policing project and law and order maintenance in Suna West Sub County, Migori County, Kenya. The framework identifies four independent variables expected to influence the initiative's effectiveness; residents' awareness campaigns, collaboration with law enforcers, technology integration, and information sharing.
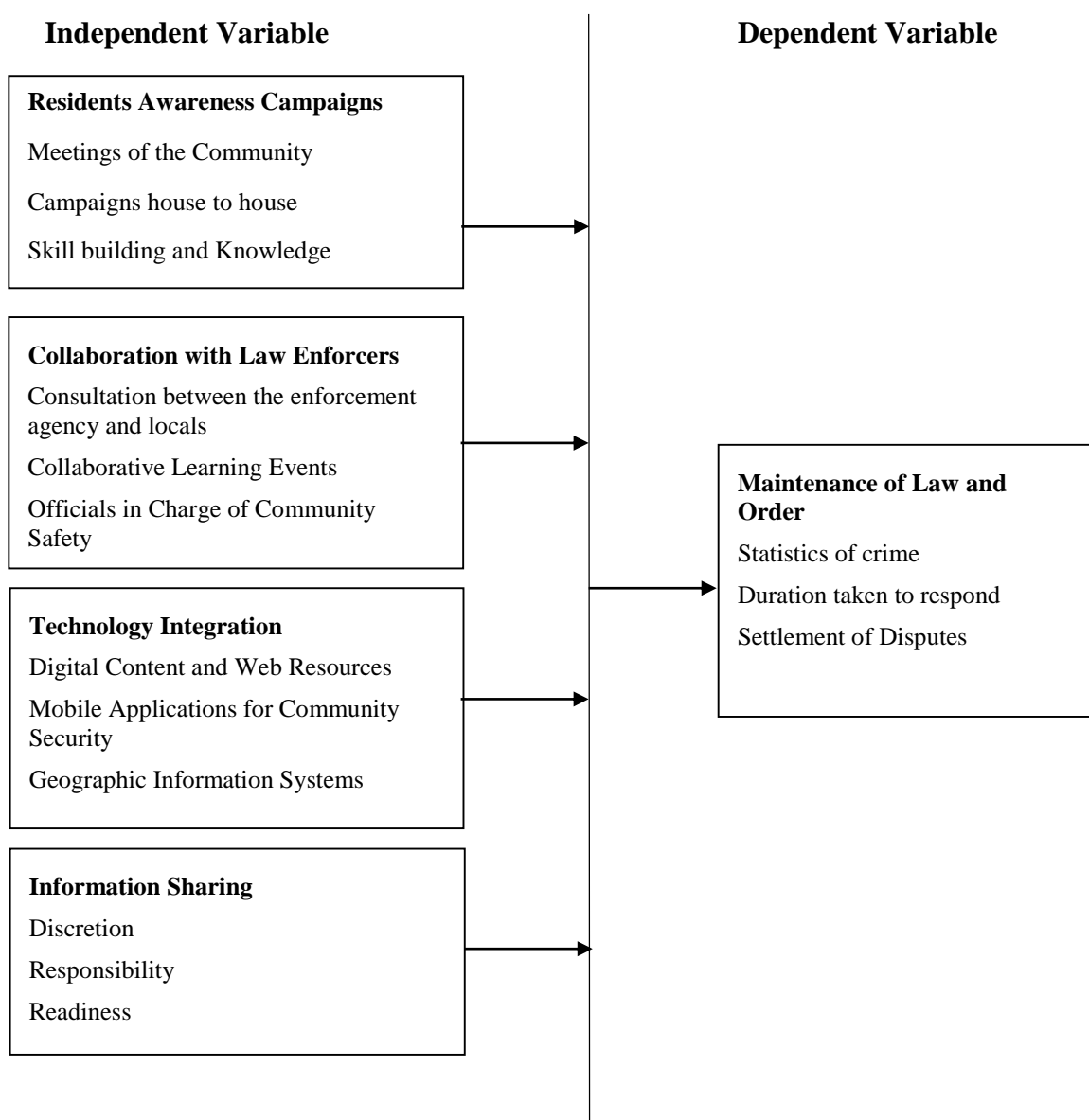

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework Model

Source: Author, (2024)

METHODOLOGY

The study utilized a descriptive research design to systematically analyze the Nyumba Kumi community programs in Migori County, Kenya, focusing on their role in preserving societal norms. This design was selected to capture authentic experiences from households participating in the program without manipulating any variables, thus providing insights into the factors contributing to the program's success. The target population comprised community members, local administrators, and Nyumba Kumi leaders in the Suna West sub-county. To ensure diverse representation, stratified random sampling was implemented, resulting in a sample size of 210 participants: 160 community members, 20 local authorities, and 30 Nyumba Kumi leaders. This approach facilitated a comprehensive understanding of the program across all key stakeholder groups. Data collection employed structured questionnaires divided into two sections: one for demographic information and another featuring Likert-scale questions aimed at gauging community engagement, perceptions of security, and trust in law enforcement. The data collection process adhered to systematic protocols, beginning with securing necessary approvals and obtaining participant consent. Questionnaires were distributed, and follow-up reminders were issued to boost response rates. Data analysis was conducted using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software, version 26. Descriptive statistics, including means and standard deviations, summarized demographic characteristics and trends, while Pearson correlation analysis explored relationships between variables such as community awareness, collaboration, and the role of technology in enhancing security. Inferential statistics were applied to draw conclusions from the sample data, with findings presented through tables, charts, and graphs for clarity and visual impact. Ethical considerations, such as informed consent, confidentiality, and compliance with data protection laws, were strictly observed throughout the study. Ethical approval was obtained from NACOSTI to ensure the research adhered to all relevant legal and ethical standards.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Descriptive Analysis

A descriptive analysis of the study variables is presented in this section. To provide a detailed depiction of the important features and a significant explanation of the quantitative data gathered from the questionnaires, descriptive analysis was used to characterize the mean and standard deviation for each variable. Using a five-point Likert scale (5 = [SA] Strongly Agree, 4 = [A] Agree, 3 = [N] Neutral, 2 = [D] Disagree, and 1 = [SD] Strongly Disagree), the respondents were asked to indicate how much they agreed with the statements. The study employed the mean and standard deviation to demonstrate the main findings, and according to Karthika et al., (2017), the mean was measured using the Likert scale ($\bar{x}$=4.2 to 5 strongly agree; 3.4 to 4.2 agree; 2.6 to 3.4 unsure; 1.8 to 2.6 disagree, and 1 to 1.8 strongly disagree). The descriptive analysis was used to depict the mean and standard deviation of each variable, which would help in presenting more detailed key points in both a descriptive and vivid explanation of the quantitative data collected from questionnaires. Respondents were asked to express their agreement with the statements on a five-point Likert scale (5 = Strongly Agree, 4 = Agree, 3 = Neutral, 2 = Disagree, and 1 = Strongly Disagree). A Likert scale of the mean ($\bar{x}$=4.2 to 5 Strongly Agree; 3.4 to 4.2 Agree; 2.6 to 3.4 Undecided; 1.8 to 2.6 Disagree, and 1 to 8 Strongly Disagree) was used in accordance to Karthika et al., (2017) to illustrate the key findings.

Community awareness of community policing practices in Suna-West Sub County

The first independent variable was community awareness in Suna-West Sub County. The study sought the awareness of community policing practices. A total of 6 statements were used and their responses were elicited on a 5-point Likert scale, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Community Awareness of Community Policing Practices in Suna-West Sub County

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Community meetings help to foster collaboration with law enforcement.	12	5.7	20	9.5	11	5.2	76	36.2	91	43.3	4.02	1.18
Increased attendance to community meetings leads to more crime reduction efforts.	9	4.3	15	7.1	18	8.6	81	38.6	87	41.4	4.06	1.08
Awareness about Nyumba Kumi increased with door-to-door campaigns.	8	3.8	15	7.1	22	10.5	89	42.4	76	36.2	4.00	1.05
Door-to-door campaigns advertise security information efficiently.	7	3.3	18	8.6	20	9.5	100	47.6	65	31.0	3.94	1.02
Training and workshops enhance the capabilities of the communities on security.	31	14.8	52	24.8	54	25.7	45	21.4	28	13.3	2.94	1.26
Training and Workshops improve comprehension on the roles to be played by everyone in the enforcement of the law.	38	18.1	50	23.8	56	26.7	34	16.2	32	15.2	2.87	1.31
Mean											**3.64**	**0.89**

On the statement that community meetings help to foster collaboration with law enforcement, the majority of the respondents 167(79.5%) agreed, with 5.2% being neutral and only 15.2% disagreed as indicated by a mean ($\bar{x}$) of 4.02 and Standard Deviation (σ) of 1.18. Most of the respondents 168(81%) agreed that there was increased attendance to community meetings leads to more crime reduction efforts, with 8.6% neutral and 1.4% disagreeing as supported by a ($\bar{x}$) of 4.06 and (σ) 1.08. The majority of the respondents 165(78.6%) agreed that awareness about Nyumba Kumi increased with door-to-door campaigns, with 10.5% neutral and 10.9% disagreed as supported by ($\bar{x}$) of 4.0 and (σ) =1.05. On the statement that door-to-door campaigns advertise security information efficiently, the majority of the respondents 165(78.6%) agreed, with 9.5% being neutral and only 11.9% disagreed as indicated by a mean ($\bar{x}$) of 3.94 and Standard Deviation (σ) of 1.02. At least 83(39.6%) disagreed that training and workshops enhance the capabilities of the communities on security, with 25.7% neutral and 34.7% agreeing as supported by a ($\bar{x}$) of 2.94 and (σ) =1.26. At least 88(41.9%) disagreed that training and workshops improve comprehension of the roles to be played by everyone in the enforcement of the law with 26.7% neutral and 31.4% agreed as supported by ($\bar{x}$) of 2.87 and (σ)1.31.

From the study findings, it was evident that responses to the 6 statements used to explain community awareness in Suna-West Sub County had an overall mean of 3.64 and a standard deviation of 0.89. This shows that the majority of the respondents agreed with the statements used to measure community awareness in Suna-West Sub County. The community meetings helped to foster collaboration with law enforcement, increased attendance leading to more crime reduction efforts, awareness about Nyumba Kumi increased with door-to-door campaigns, and advertised security information efficiently. Community awareness through

training and workshops has not enhanced the capabilities of the communities on security and improved comprehension of the roles to be played by everyone in the enforcement of the law.

Community Policing Collaboration

The second independent variable was community policing collaboration in Suna-West Sub County. The study sought to assess the respondents' view on community policing collaboration in Suna-West Sub County using six statements and their responses elicited on a 5-point Likert scale, shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Community Policing Collaboration

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**	**F**	**%**		
Trust and cooperation have improved due to meetings with security agencies.	4	1.9	22	10.5	16	7.6	99	47.1	69	32.9	3.99	1.00
Resident-law enforcer meetings enhance community crime prevention.	9	4.3	14	6.7	18	8.6	104	49.5	65	31.0	3.96	1.03
Joint training sessions improve resident's role in policing.	19	9.0	78	37.1	55	26.2	38	18.1	20	9.5	2.82	1.13
Training with law enforcers boosts coordination in security.	27	12.9	65	31.0	70	33.3	35	16.7	13	6.2	2.72	1.08
Community policing officers increase crime reporting.	11	5.2	11	5.2	25	11.9	94	44.8	69	32.9	3.95	1.06
Collaboration with officers enhances local security efforts.	7	3.3	13	6.2	19	9.0	98	46.7	73	34.8	4.03	0.99
Mean											**3.58**	**0.78**

On the statement that trust and cooperation have improved due to meetings with security agencies, the majority of the respondents 168(80%) agreed, with 7.6% being neutral and only 12.4% disagreed as indicated by a mean ($\bar{x}$) of 3.99 and Standard Deviation (σ) of 1.00. Most of the respondents 169(80.5%) agreed that resident-law enforcer meetings enhance community crime prevention, with 8.6% were neutral and 11% disagreed as supported by a ($\bar{x}$) of 3.96 and (σ)1.03. The majority of the respondents 163(77.7%) agreed that community policing officers increase crime reporting, with 11.9% neutral and 10.4% disagreeing as supported by ($\bar{x}$) of 3.95 and (σ)1.06. On the statement that, collaboration with officers enhances local security efforts majority of the respondents 171(81.5%) agreed, with 9% being neutral and only 9.5% disagreeing as indicated by a mean ($\bar{x}$) of 4.03 and Standard Deviation (σ) of 0.99. At least 97(46.1%) disagreed that joint training sessions improve residents' role in policing, with 26.2% were neutral and 27.6% agreeing as supported by a ($\bar{x}$) of 2.94 and (σ) =1.26. At least 92(43.9%) disagreed that training with law enforcers boosts coordination in security, with 33.3% neutral and 22.9% agreeing as supported by ($\bar{x}$) of 2.87 and (σ) =1.31.

From the study findings, it was evident that responses to the 6 statements used to explain collaboration on Nyumba Kumi initiatives in Suna-West Sub County had an overall mean of 3.58 and a standard deviation of 0.78. This shows that the majority of the respondents agreed with the statements used to measure the collaboration of community policing initiatives in Suna-West Sub County. Collaboration in community policing initiatives has enhanced trust and cooperation due to meetings with security agencies. The resident-law enforcer meetings have enhanced community crime prevention, community policing officers increased crime reporting and collaboration with officers enhances local security efforts. On collaboration, the

joint training sessions have not improved residents' role in policing, and training with law enforcers hasn't boosted coordination in security.

Technology Use

The third independent variable was technology use in Suna-West Sub County. The study sought to assess the respondents' views on technology use using 6 statements and their responses were elicited on a 5-point Likert scale, shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Technology Use

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Social media platforms improve communication between residents and law enforcers.	10	4.8	26	12.4	59	28.1	62	29.5	53	25.2	3.58	1.13
Online platforms enhance public awareness of security issues.	5	2.4	23	11.0	70	33.3	68	32.4	44	21.0	3.59	1.01
Community policing apps make reporting crime easier for residents.	10	4.8	37	17.6	79	37.6	68	32.4	16	7.6	3.20	0.98
The use of apps improves response times to security concerns.	10	4.8	51	24.3	90	42.9	47	22.4	12	5.7	3.00	0.94
Location-based technology enhances the tracking of crime hotspots.	11	5.2	48	22.9	113	53.8	29	13.8	9	4.3	2.89	0.86
Technology mapping tools improve planning for local security patrols.	17	8.1	51	24.3	101	48.1	34	16.2	7	3.3	2.82	0.91
Mean											**3.18**	**0.74**

On the statement that social media platforms improve communication between residents and law enforcers, the majority of the respondents 115(54.7%) agreed, with 28.1% being neutral and only 17.2% disagreeing as indicated by a mean ($\bar{x}$) of 3.58 and Standard Deviation (σ) of 1.13. Most of the respondents 112(53.4%) agreed that online platforms enhance public awareness of security issues, with 33.3% being neutral and 13.4% disagreeing as supported by a ($\bar{x}$) of 3.59 and (σ) 1.01. At least 84(40%) of the respondents agreed that community policing apps make reporting crime easier for residents, with 37.6% neutral and 22.4% disagreeing as supported by ($\bar{x}$) of 3.20 and (σ) 0.98.

The majority of the respondents were undecided on the statement that, the use of apps improves response times to security concerns 90(42.9%); location-based technology enhances tracking of crime hotspots 113(53.8%) and; technology mapping tools improve planning for local security patrols 101(48.1%) with mean of 3.0, 2.89 and 2.82 respectively. From the study findings, it was evident that responses to the 6 statements used to explain technology use on Nyumba Kumi initiatives in Suna-West Sub County had an overall mean of 3.18 and a standard deviation of 0.74. This shows that the majority of the respondents were undecided with the statements used to measure the collaboration of community policing initiatives in Suna-West Sub County. On technology use social media platforms have improved communication between residents and law enforcers and online platforms enhance public awareness of security issues.

Information Sharing

The fourth independent variable was information sharing in Suna-West Sub County. The study sought to assess the respondents' views on information sharing using 6 statements and their responses were elicited on a 5-point Likert scale, shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Information sharing

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
My security information is kept confidential by law enforcers.	14	6.7	15	7.1	16	7.6	93	44.3	72	34.3	3.92	1.14
I feel safe sharing information with law enforcers because it is handled securely.	14	6.7	11	5.2	21	10.0	92	43.8	72	34.3	3.94	1.12
Law enforcers are accountable for the information shared by the community.	9	4.3	13	6.2	27	12.9	95	45.2	66	31.4	3.93	1.04
Law enforcers use shared information responsibly	9	4.3	17	8.1	26	12.4	95	45.2	63	30.0	3.89	1.06
I am willing to share security-related information with law enforcement.	13	6.2	12	5.7	18	8.6	97	46.2	70	33.3	3.95	1.10
I am willing to report suspicious activities to the authorities.	8	3.8	14	6.7	16	7.6	103	49.0	69	32.9	4.00	1.01
Mean											**3.94**	**0.98**

On the statement that security information is kept confidential by law enforcers, the majority of the respondents 165(78.6%) agreed, with 7.6% were neutral and only 13.8% disagreed as indicated by a mean ($\bar{x}$) of 3.92 and Standard Deviation (σ) of 1.14. Most of the respondents 164(78.1%) agreed that they feel safe sharing information with law enforcers because it is handled securely, with 10% being neutral and 11.9% disagreed as supported by a ($\bar{x}$) of 3.94 and (σ) 1.12. The majority of the respondents 161(76.6%) agreed that law enforcers are accountable for the information shared by the community, with 10.5% neutral and 10.9% disagreed as supported by ($\bar{x}$) of 3.93 and (σ) =1.04. On the statement that law enforcers use shared information responsibly, the majority of the respondents 158(75.2%) agreed, with 12.4% were neutral and only 12.4% disagreeing as indicated by a mean ($\bar{x}$) of 3.89 and Standard Deviation (σ) of 1.06. Most of the respondents 167(79.5%) agreed that they were willing to share security-related information with law enforcement, with 8.6% were neutral and 11.9% disagreeing as supported by a ($\bar{x}$) of 3.95 and (σ)1.1. The majority of the respondents 172(81.9%) agreed that they were willing to report suspicious activities to the authorities, with 6.7% neutral and 10.5% disagreed as supported by ($\bar{x}$) of 4.0 and (σ) 1.01.

From the study findings, it was evident that responses to the 6 statements used to explain information sharing in Suna-West Sub County had an overall mean of 3.97 and a standard deviation of 0.97. This shows that the majority of the respondents agreed with the statements used to measure the maintenance of law and order in Suna-West Sub County. On information sharing the findings showed that security information was kept confidential by law enforcers and felt safe sharing information with law enforcers because it is handled securely. The law enforcers were accountable for the information shared by the community and shared information responsibly. The community members were willing to share security-related information with law enforcement and were willing to report suspicious activities to the authorities.

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Maintenance of Law and Order in Suna-West Sub County

The dependent variable was the maintenance of law and order in Suna-West Sub County. The study sought to assess the respondents' views on the maintenance of law and order in Suna-West Sub County using 6 statements and their responses elicited on a 5-point Likert scale, shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Maintenance of Law and Order

	Strongly disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly agree		Mean	Std. Dev
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
Nyumba Kumi has been able to reduce criminal activities.	13	6.2	14	6.7	16	7.6	89	42.4	78	37.1	3.98	1.13
The Nyumba Kumi initiative has helped with controlling local crime.	7	3.3	15	7.1	22	10.5	102	48.6	64	30.5	3.96	1.00
The Nyumba Kumi has increased the speed of emergency responses.	10	4.8	15	7.1	16	7.6	99	47.1	70	33.3	3.97	1.06
The Nyumba Kumi alerts are the source of faster police action.	7	3.3	21	10.0	18	8.6	92	43.8	72	34.3	3.96	1.06
Nyumba Kumi has enhanced peaceful conflict resolution.	11	5.2	16	7.6	8	3.8	107	51.0	68	32.4	3.98	1.07
Nyumba Kumi prevents conflicts from escalating.	13	6.2	13	6.2	15	7.1	88	41.9	81	38.6	4.00	1.13
Mean											**3.97**	**0.97**

On the statement that Nyumba Kumi has been able to reduce criminal activities, the majority of the respondents 167(79.5%) agreed, with 7.6% were neutral and only 12.9% disagreed as indicated by a mean ($\bar{x}$) of 3.98 and Standard Deviation (σ) of 1.13. Most of the respondents 166(79.1%) agreed that the Nyumba Kumi initiative has helped with controlling local crime, with 10.5% being neutral and 10.4% disagreed as supported by a ($\bar{x}$) of 3.96 and (σ) =1.00. The majority of the respondents 169(80.4%) agreed that Nyumba Kumi have increased the speed of emergency responses, with 7.6% neutral and 11.9% disagreed as supported by ($\bar{x}$) of 3.97 and (σ) =1.06.

On the statement that Nyumba Kumi alerts are the source of faster police action, the majority of the respondents 164(78.1%) agreed, with 8.6% being neutral and only 13.3% disagreed as indicated by a mean ($\bar{x}$) of 3.96 and Standard Deviation (σ) of 1.06. Most of the respondents 175(83.4%) agreed that Nyumba Kumi has enhanced peaceful conflict resolution, with 3.8% neutral and 12.8% disagreeing as supported by a ($\bar{x}$) of 3.98 and (σ) =1.07. The majority of the respondents 169(81.5%) agreed that Nyumba Kumi prevents conflicts from escalating, with 7.1% neutral and 13.4% disagreeing as supported by ($\bar{x}$) of 4.0 and (σ) =1.13.

From the study findings, it was evident that responses to the 6 statements used to explain the maintenance of law and order in Suna-West Sub County had an overall mean of 3.97 and a standard deviation of 0.97. This shows that the majority of the respondents agreed with the statements used to measure the maintenance of law and order in Suna-West Sub County. On the maintenance of law and order the Nyumba Kumi has been able to reduce criminal activities, help with controlling local crime, increase the speed of emergency responses, alerts are the source of faster police action, enhance peaceful conflict resolution, and prevent conflicts from escalating.

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Reliability of the Research Instrument

Cronbach's alpha coefficients were used to assess the reliability of the variables in this study.

Table 6: Reliability Statistics

	Cronbach's Alpha	No. of Items
Variable		
Awareness	.860	6
Collaboration	.839	6
Technology	.848	6
Information Sharing	.956	6
Maintenance of law and order	.953	6
Overall	.965	30

Table 6 summary of reliability test results. The study utilized Cronbach's alpha to assess the internal consistency of the survey instrument. All constructs demonstrated high reliability, with coefficients exceeding the acceptable threshold of 0.70. Specifically, the reliability scores for the constructs were as follows: awareness (0.860), collaboration (0.839), technology (0.848), information sharing (0.956), and maintenance of law and order (0.953). The overall Cronbach's alpha for the 30 items was an impressive 0.965. These results indicate strong internal consistency, suggesting that the items reliably measure the intended constructs with minimal measurement error. This high overall alpha enhances the credibility of the study's findings, confirming that both independent and dependent variables are consistent within the acceptable range. Consequently, the questionnaire was deemed suitable for use in the main survey (Dźwigoł & Dźwigoł-Barosz, 2018).

Validity of the Research Instrument

The study ensured validity through a comprehensive expert review, engaging subject matter experts to evaluate the research instruments employed. A preliminary examination, or pilot testing, was conducted with a sample of local participants to refine and clarify the survey questions. The pilot test revealed ambiguities in the survey items related to the Nyumba Kumi initiative. Based on participant feedback, several questions were reworded or removed to enhance clarity and relevance. This iterative process ensured that the tools accurately captured the constructs being assessed, particularly concerning the Nyumba Kumi concept of law and order. By confirming validity, the study ensured that its findings accurately aligned with the intended objectives, enhancing the reliability of the results.

Correlation Analysis of the Variables

Correlation analysis was employed to establish the association between a dependent variable and an independent variable (Forsyth et al., 2019). A correlational analysis was performed to ascertain the direction and strength of the relationship between the two variables. Table 7 below is a summary of the Pearson Moment Correlation Coefficient (r) between the variables used in the study.

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Table 7: Correlation Analysis of the Variables

		Maintain law and order	Awareness	Collaboration	Technology	Information Sharing
Maintain law and order	Pearson Correlation	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)					
Awareness	Pearson Correlation	.759**	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000				
Collaboration	Pearson Correlation	.793**	.761**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000			
Technology	Pearson Correlation	.450**	.517**	.499**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		
Information sharing	Pearson Correlation	.909**	.756**	.786**	.455**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

b. Listwise N=210

It is worth noting that the results obtained highlighted an important positive and strong connection between community awareness (r = 0.759, P-value 0.000) and law and order maintenance. That indicated that greater community awareness and the response to maintain law and order increased. Collaboration displayed a large, positive correlation (r = 0.793, p = 0.000) and was the main predictor of law and order. That meant that, in areas where a greater level of conflict was controlled by more collaboration, there was also law and order. Technology (r = 0.450, p = 0.000) was statistically significant and had a strong positive correlation with the maintenance of law and order. This illustrated a further law and order increase from technology adoption. Information exchange and law enforcement were highly positively correlated (r = 0.909, p = 0.000) with each other. This means that as there was more information sharing, law and order maintenance also improved.

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary of Findings

According to the study findings, the variable maintenance of law and order in Suna-West Sub County has an overall mean of 3.97 and a standard deviation of 0.97, respectively. The findings showed that the Nyumba Kumi initiative has been able to reduce criminal activities, helped with controlling local crime, increased the speed of emergency responses, alerts are the source of faster police action, enhanced peaceful conflict resolution, and prevented conflicts from escalating.

Conclusions

This study reveals the significance of community awareness in policing and its tremendous role in promoting law and order in Suna West, Migori County. The most important aspect of this study is that it affirms that when people are more equipped or informed to be able to do more for themselves, they generally become much more proactive in their approach concerning safety issues in general, making an area safe. These initiatives can also help to sensitize residents, making them more likely to be able to identify dangers and respond quickly when they need to, thereby localizing the effort of communal safety.

The study emphasizes the importance of teamwork within communities. The study indicated

that a strong social network and support in the community make law enforcement more effective. By working in cohesion, not only valuable information is shared when things go wrong, but more importantly, it fosters a sense of vigilance and helping one another. Cooperation of this nature is vital in promoting a bond of trust between the residents and security officers and hence part of an overall community-based policing strategy effort.

It also reaffirms the game-changing nature of technology in community policing. Since more and more of these new, innovative technologies are being adopted in mobile crime reporting applications or social media platforms for information dissemination, there is a clear need to make those tools accessible and useful by law enforcement agencies. Residents can report incidents and receive instantaneous updates thanks to modern communication. It increases community engagement as well as makes the residents part of the law and order preservation process.

The study also finds information sharing crucial to maintaining law and order. Information sharing about threats of specific groups of people by their fellow neighbors during neighborhood meetings, on online platforms or community forums can also help one to appreciate the security environment within his localities. Their hive awareness could also mean more efficiently concentrating law enforcement resources and responding to incidents in a more targeted way.

The study results showed that a comprehensive package, including community sensitization, collaboration, technological interface, and information sharing across the aspects of security in the Suna West sub-county, Migori County, is needed for an enabling security environment. The relationship between these factors stresses the importance of perpetual law enforcement community engagement work to instigate lasting enhancements in public safety and police effectiveness.

Recommendations

Several concrete recommendations are suggested to assist in improving the maintenance of law and order. The Ministry of Interior and National Government Coordination should come up with training programs for the community members highlighting the importance of Nyumba Kumi as a structure to enhance security at the neighborhood level. Both the community members and the public have to be urged to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by giving them leads about security threats. Its healthier approach to the cementation of its entire area will make the area much safer. Technology should be central in deploying and implementing within community policing. This allows real-time updates, automation of certain tasks, and alerts to be sent by law enforcement when necessary. Training programs targeted to inform the public and community members on best practices for sharing online security threat information. This will improve the speed of communication and response by law enforcement, resulting in a more safe and secure community.

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