

Community Policing and Environmental Design: Panaceas to Crime Prevention in Ibadan, Nigeria

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Abstract: Community policing and crime prevention through environmental designs (CPTED) has provided panaceas to urbanisation challenges in developing African countries where apparatuses of formal and informal institutions have failed in combating crimes. Information was elicited from 180 household heads in 9 randomly selected communities in Ibadan. The efficiency of security apparatuses was Likert scale rated and made amenable for parametric analyses. Households' attributes: age, education, income and length of stay were correlated with involvement in community policing whereas, the effectiveness of crime prevention (dependent) was evaluated across environmental designs (independent) through Analysis of Variance. Results show that child labour (58.9%), Prostitution (55.0%) and Auto robbery (52.8%) were among the most common crimes in the study area. High correlation for community policing across locality was evident ($r = 0.642$; $p = 0.045$), Household heads' education ($r = 0.588$) and income ($r = 0.452$) also correlated positively whereas, age ($r = -0.270$) and length of stay ($r = -0.205$) were negative. The efficiency of crime prevention was significant given housing enclosure ($F = 2.793$) and street accessibility ($F = 4.980$). Therefore, improvements in security information dissemination, adoption of crime detecting technologies and designing out opportunities for crimes in the study area are suggested.

Keywords: Community Policing; Environmental Design; Peace; Security and Ibadan

I. Introduction

Community policing, a panacea to increasing complexity of contemporary security threats among rapidly urbanising cities [1], [2] remains interchangeably used with community participation in crime prevention [3], [4] and community crime control initiatives [5], [6], [7] to mention just a few. This policing strategy enhances peace, safety and security of households especially in neighbourhoods where the formal security agencies are unable to effectively guarantee this [3], [8]; and where any community feels deprived, victimised and threatened, owing to the incapacitation of the state in providing secured environment [9], [10].

Peace, which is the absence of war or conflict

[11]; the continuing presence of equitable and just social order, and ecological harmony [12] and the spread of harmony, tranquillity and serenity, a departure from social violence and discrimination against vulnerable sects of the society [13], is the target of all efforts on crime prevention. The companions of peace: safety and security, however, are enjoyed and/or restored where perceived incompatibility, feelings of deprivation, victimization and threats between two or more people are curtailed through effective conflict resolution [14] and active collaboration in crime prevention by the community and security apparatuses in the society [6], [15].

The state security apparatuses such as the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) and the Nigerian Army among others had failed in the past and have continued to fail over time [8], [16]. These failures were premised first, on inadequacies of personnel and expertise in the use of sophisticated

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firearms [17], [18]; institutional bureaucracies and incapacities in service delivery [5], [19], [20]; poor funding; and endemic corrupt practices [21]. Second, on incessant ethnic and religious crises, under- and unemployment, poverty and lop-sided distribution of benefits of governance, socio-economic inequalities and demographic factors among others which have added impetus to the existing pervasive challenges [22], [23]. Third, on the spatial structure of urbanizing cities which have played a significant role in the amplification of crimes and fear of crime in its scale and sophistication [24], [25], [26].

Therefore, people are more than ever resolute to play a lot of complementary roles in ensuring peace, safety and security of their communities rather than depending solely on the state security agencies [27], [28], [29]. Consequently, they have had contributions in final decisions on their security in recent times [15], [30]. These contributions had informed the proliferation of many private security companies and community-based security groups. Thus, the community becomes participatory in promoting peace, safety, and security of their environment through collaborations and interpersonal contacts [9]. However, the success of the partnership primarily lies on the amount of trust that exists in their relations, the commitment to duties, good conscience and integrity [2], the information acquisition system and distribution to assist communities to respond to their problems, the structure and modus operandi of security operatives, among others [31], [32].

This study like others [33], [34] proffers crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) as an additional panacea to increasing crime rate in African cities like Ibadan, Nigeria. It is opined that the incorporation of community policing with CPTED will produce sustainable panaceas to

halting the aggrandization of crime and fear of crime in the city. The physical environment has been observed to directly influence crime proliferation through the delineation of territories, creation of accessibility and facilitation of surveillance among citizenry [35]. Also, [36] linked reduction in crime, improvement in the quality of life and sustainable development with environmental design. By implication, building designs, organisation of outdoor spaces, public facilities and streets can affect the opportunity of crime and its level of fear [37], [38].

Similarly, [24], [39], [40] claimed that land use is a key factor in crime prevention whereby neighbourhoods with many functions as residential, commercial and leisure activities seemingly have less incidence of crime. This is because there is a continuous increase inflow of people which naturally enhances natural surveillance [36]. Also, [41], [24], [42] agreed that spatial layout and land use type affect the vulnerability of residents to crime. It is against this backdrop that this study seeks to examine the efficiency of community policing and environmental design in crime prevention with a view to suggesting strategies for reducing the incidence of crime in our cities.

II. Materials and Methods

A Study Area

This study was undertaken in 9 randomly selected communities of Ibadan South West and East, and Ibadan North LGAs. The choice of these communities is premised on the high incidence of urbanisation and population growth, and evident aggrandization of crime within the boundaries. Therefore, room is given to examining the variations in crime incidence and typology among localities and environmental designs. Ibadan is situated in the rainforest, along Longitude 3⁰5' East and Latitude 7⁰ 23' North, covering a distance of 145km northeast of

Lagos and extends across northwest to southeast direction. The peaks of the town range from 160-275m above sea level at Mapo, Mokola and Aremo with mean annual temperature and rainfall of about 26.46°C and 1420.06mm respectively [43]. The total population of the study area is 855,426 [43].

i. Data Collection

Primary data were collected from a randomly selected community each from high, medium and low residential densities within the study area (see Table 1). However, a hundred and eighty (180) household heads were sampled through structured questionnaires on a random systematic basis whereby the first household head was selected at random at the entrance of the community while others were selected systematically at an interval of ten (10) buildings apart.

Table 1: Size of Sampled Communities and Local Government Areas

Local Government Areas (LGAs)	Communities	Sample size
Ibadan South West	Oja Oba (High)	30
	NTC Road (Medium)	20
	Ring Road (Low)	10
Ibadan South East	Molete (High)	30
	Eyinni (Medium)	20
	Odo Ona Elewe (Low)	10
Ibadan North	Mokola (High)	30
	Ashi (Medium)	20
	Old Bodija (Low)	10
Total	9 Communities	180

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2017

ii. Data Analytical Methods

The efficiency of community policing measured with indicators of interaction, safety, procedural justice and performance were Likert rated, made amenable for parametric analyses and summed as an indicator of community policing. Household attributes: age, education, monthly income and length of stay of heads were correlated with community policing. However, across indicators of environmental designs: housing

enclosure types, nature of street accessibility and on-street activities (independents variables), the effectiveness of crime prevention (dependent variable) was evaluated making most of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA).

III. Results and Discussion

Findings of the study are discussed in across four key issues under sub-sections following:

A Proliferation of Crimes and Crime Preventing Agencies in Ibadan

The perception of household heads on the aggrandization as well as the emanating fear of crime was examined. About sixteen (16) crime indicators were identified by the communities as prevalent in their territories in the last twelve (12) months. A cursory look into the incidence shows that child labour and domestic servitude (58.9%); prostitution (55.0%); auto robbery (52.8%); gun violence (50.6%) and youths' disorder (50.0%) were top-ranking crimes. At the base of the ladder were gang and cult activities (37.2%); vandalism/graffiti (36.1%); residential theft and kidnaps (33.9%) and physical violence (13.9%) (see table 2).

For this reason, households have sought the intervention of crime preventing apparatuses of the state (26.7%), communities (35.0%) and private companies (38.3%). Among the law enforcement agencies (LEAs) of the state were the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) (59.5%) and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (40.5%). The community security operatives include the local vigilante groups (38.2%) and O'odua Peoples' Congress (OPC) (61.8%) while those of private security companies were not disclosed explicitly at the interview time (see Table 2).

Further on preference for above mentioned LEAs, households affirmed that they had been engaged for reasons including: flexibility of operations (82.2%); emergency response to

distress calls and client satisfaction (74.4%), availability (72.2%) and affordability (70.6%). The nature of contracts between households and these agencies were on part-time (37.2%), encounter driven (20.6%), part-time participatory (17.2%), full time participatory (15.6%) and full time (9.4%) bases. However, the engagement of these LEAs in crime prevention had been adjudged largely beneficial (77.8%) to households and communities in Ibadan.

As popular as the involvements of enumerated law enforcement agencies (LEAs), crime incidence still escalates in scale and dimension within the city. No doubt, there is a serious security threat to the well-being of our societies and especially on the economic viability of the people. This is why the study examines the spatial dimensions to community participation in crime prevention in Ibadan, Nigeria.

B Community Policing as a Panacea to Crime Incidence

The efficiency of community participation in crime prevention activities is evaluated upon their readiness to engage and/or collaborate with available security apparatuses in Ibadan. Four major indicators were employed which are: interaction between law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and community; safety measure put in place; procedural justice and performance measures. The mean scores of households' judgements of these variables were adopted in explaining variation in community policing across localities.

Given the mean scores of interaction ranging from 2.32 to 3.08 at Ring Road and Old Bodija respectively, it was observed that only at Molete (2.73), Oja Oba (2.79) and Old Bodija (3.08) do households enjoyed better interaction with the LEAs. Interaction with the LEAs has been improved through enhanced communication, acceptance of

suggestions/opinions and tackling crimes to root cause, such that these communities were better served. However, the reason might have been driven by the frequency and intensity of crime related encounters and/or literacy level.

Table 2: Crime and Agencies Preventing its Proliferation

Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<u>Crimes</u>		
Sexual Assault	71	39.4
Physical Violence	25	13.9
Child Labour/Domestic	106	58.9
Servitude	90	50.0
Terrorist Activities	95	52.8
Auto Robbery	61	33.9
Residential Theft (Burglary)	90	50.0
Disorder Youths	84	46.7
Child Sex Predators	61	33.9
Kidnapping	75	41.7
Identity Theft (Fraud)	74	41.1
Drug Abuse/Dealing	91	50.6
Gun Violence	99	55.0
Prostitution	65	36.1
Vandalism/Graffiti	69	38.3
Domestic Violence	67	37.2
Gang and Cult Activities		
<u>Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs)</u>		
Government (State)	48	26.7
Private Security Companies	69	38.3
Community Security Operatives	63	35.0
	31	64.6
<u>LEAs Typology</u>	17	35.4
Nigerian Police Force (NPF)	24	38.2
Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)	39	61.8
Community Vigilante Group		
Oodua People Congress		
<u>Why Choice of LEAs?</u>		
Emergency Response	134	74.4
Flexible Operations	148	82.2
Client Satisfaction	134	74.4
Affordability	127	70.6
Availability	130	72.2
<u>Nature of LEAs Contract</u>		
Full Time	17	9.4
Part Time	67	37.2
Full Time Participatory	28	15.6
Part Time Participatory	31	17.2
Encounter Driven	37	20.6
<u>Outcome of Synergy</u>		
Beneficial	140	77.8
Not Beneficial	40	22.2

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2017

On safety measure, experiences have ranged from 1.86 to 2.93 at Ashi and Old Bodija respectively\.. This implied that households at Eyinni (2.66), Ring Road (2.83), Mokola (2.84)

and Old Bodija (2.93) have enjoyed safety better than other communities, day and night whether they are inside or outside. However, procedural justice ranged from 2.90 to 3.29 at Ring Road and Oja Oba respectively. With a mean value of 3.03, households from Molete (3.05), Eyinni (3.10), Ashi (3.16), NTC Road (3.27) and Oja Oba (3.29) have enjoyed fairness, concerns, respects, prompt response on distress calls of the LEAs and so could better trust their services than others.

The mean of performance of the synergy between LEAs and communities ranged from 1.23 to 1.84 at Odo Ona Elewe and Oja Oba. It was thus observed that households from NTC Road (1.38) were at par with what is obtainable in the city in terms of crime prevention participation. Households at Molete (1.55) and Oja Oba (1.84) had enjoyed action clarification, adherence with community suggestions/opinions and service satisfaction more than households elsewhere in the study area.

Table 3: Efficiency of Community Policing in Ibadan

Locality	Interaction	Safety	Procedural Justice	Performance	Community Policing
Oja Oba	2.79	2.33	3.29	1.84	2.56
NTC Road	2.48	2.53	3.27	1.38	2.42
Ring Road	2.32	2.83	2.90	1.30	2.34
Molete	2.73	2.37	3.05	1.55	2.43
Eyinni	2.53	2.66	3.10	1.30	2.40
Odo Ona	2.42	2.45	2.92	1.23	2.26
Elewe	2.49	2.84	2.99	1.29	2.40
Mokola	2.41	1.86	3.16	1.27	2.18
Ashi	3.08	2.93	2.60	1.27	2.47
Old Bodija					
Mean Score	2.58	2.53	3.03	1.38	2.38

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2017

$r = 0.642$; $p = 0.045$

In overall, the result shows that with a range between 2.18 and 2.56 for households as observed at Ashi and Oja Oba respectively, community policing vary across locality. Given the mean value of 2.38, households at Oja Oba (2.56), Old Bodija (2.47), Molete

(2.43), NTC Road (2.42) and those from Eyinni and Mokola (2.40) have been better involved in crime preventing activities in their communities than elsewhere in the city.

However, there is a high positive correlation between crime incidence and community participation in its prevention in Ibadan given coefficient $r = 0.642$ and $p = 0.045$. It implies that the crime rate increases with increasing efforts in community policing.

C Socio-Economic Correlates of Community Policing in Ibadan

The study observed that involvements of household heads in crime preventing activities vary along their socio-economic status. Results show that majority of household heads were aged 46 – 55 years (40.6%), others were aged 56 – 65 years (35.6%), less than 45 years (17.8%) and above 65 years (6.1%). In terms of education, majority of them had HND/B. Sc (36.1%), others had OND/NCE (26.7%), SSSCE (23.9%), Higher degrees (5.5%), JSSCE and Primary (3.9%) certificates. Majority of the household heads earn N35,000 – N55,000 (38.9%) monthly while, others earn N55,001 – N75,000 (35.0%), N75,001 – N95,000 (13.3%), above N95,000 (7.8%) and less than N35,000 monthly. Lastly, most of the heads of household had stayed in their communities for 11 – 20 years (68.9%) whereas; others had stayed for 21 – 30 years (18.9%), less than 10 years (8.9%) and over 30 years (3.3%) (see Table 4). It was assumed that advancement in the socio-economic status of household heads would be positive motivations for involvement in community policing.

However, using Pearson's correlation coefficient analysis, results show that there are positive relationship between community policing and education of household heads (in years) ($r = 0.588$) and income of household heads ($r = 0.452$) given $p > 0.05$ in both cases

(see Table 4). This implies that as education and income of household heads increase, their involvements in community policing increases. They are presumed to have more motivations to supporting and/or collaborating with law enforcement agencies on crime prevention for the protection of their lives and properties.

Table 4: Household Attributes Influencing Community Policing

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentages	Community Policing
<u>Age of HH</u>			
< 45 years	32	17.8	$r = -0.270$; $p = 0.450$
46 – 55 years	73	40.6	
56 – 65 years	64	35.6	
>65 years	11	6.1	
<u>Education of HH</u>			
Primary	7	3.9	$r = 0.588$; $p = 0.074$
JSSCE	7	3.9	
SSSCE	43	23.9	
NCE/OND	48	26.7	
HND/B. Sc	65	36.1	
Higher Degrees	10	5.5	
<u>Monthly Income</u>			
< N35,000	9	5.0	$r = 0.452$; $p = 0.190$
N35,000 –	70	38.9	
N55,000 –	63	35.0	
N55,001 –	24	13.3	
N75,000 –	14	7.8	
N75,001 –			
N95,000 –			
> N95,000			
<u>Length of Stay</u>			
< 10 years	16	8.9	$r = -0.205$; $p = 0.570$
11 – 20 years	124	68.9	
21 – 30 years	34	18.9	
> 30 years	6	3.3	

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2017

On the contrary, involvements in community policing among household heads in Ibadan reduce with advancement in age ($r = -0.270$) and length of stay (in years) ($r = -0.205$) given $p > 0.05$ in both cases (see table 4). This is blamed on reduction in agility among the aged, and lack of commitment on peace, safety and security matters among new residents and those who had stayed longer. Therefore, the need for an alternative strategy to halting incidence of crimes is sought in environmental designs.

D Environmental Designs as a Panacea to Crime Incidence

With indicators of environmental designs: housing enclosure types, nature of street accessibility and on-street activity, the incidence of crime were subjected to scrutiny. This, as envisaged will capture observed lapses of community policing as abatement for crime proliferation [45].

A cursory look at housing enclosure type shows that majority of households (40.0%) had no fencing at all. Some other households had tall and/or non-perforated fencing (24.4%), short and/or perforated fencing (21.1%) and shrub, thatched and/or artificial fencing (14.4%). Consequently given the mean scores of incidence of crime, households with short and perforated fencing (9.89), those with shrub, thatched and artificial fencing (10.19) and those with tall, non-perforated fencing (11.05) had incidence of crimes relatively lower than those with no fencing at all (12.15) (see Table 5). Cross examining these scores around overall mean = 11.12 suggests that keeping relatively short and perforated fencing might be safer because it maximises natural surveillance from the street to the building and vice versa thereby, minimising hideouts for intruders. This corroborates the findings of [45] on designing out crimes. However, not having any fence might be as good as leaving the property open and inviting to intruders [46]. The observed variations in crime incidence is significant given housing enclosure type ($F = 2.793$; $p = 0.042$).

Similarly, results on street accessibility show that majority of the neighbourhoods had open end for thoroughfare (63.3%), others had dead end (cul-de-sac) (22.2%) and gated end (14.4%). Given mean scores, incidence of crimes was reduced within gated neighbourhoods (9.40) whereas; it escalated within open end (11.13) and dead end neighbourhoods (12.45) (see Table 5). For the

porosity and clumsiness within open- and dead-end neighbourhoods respectively, households find it difficult to trap down criminals for whom it becomes easier to disappear into the thin air. This is in consonance with the observations of [47], [48], [49]. However, most gated neighbourhoods are accompanied with the services of security operatives which provide enhanced surveillance thus, limiting crime incidence. The observed variations in crime incidence is significant given accessibility ($F = 4.980$; $p = 0.008$).

Table 5: Effectiveness of Crime Prevention by Environmental Designs (Descriptive ANOVA)

Environmental Design	Description	Frequency	Mean Score	Community Policing
Housing Enclosure Type	No Fencing	40.0	12.1	$F = 2.793$; $p = 0.042$
	Tall and Non Perforated	24.4	5	
	Short and Perforated	21.1	11.0	
	Shrub and Artificial	14.4	5	
			9.89	
Street Accessibility	Dead End	22.2	10.1	$F = 4.980$; $p = 0.008$
	Open End	63.3	9	
	Gated	14.4	11.1	
On-Street Activity			9.04	$F = 1.006$; $p = 0.406$
	Residential	46.7	10.7	
	Commercial	36.7	9	
	Educational	10.6	11.8	
	Religious	4.4	2	
	Social/Hospitality	1.7	9.89	
			11.2	
			5	
			12.6	
			7	

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2017

Overall Mean of Crime Incidence = 11.12

On-Street Activity (land use) is known for the propensity as growth pole and influencer of criminal behaviours as it pulls population to itself. The study area comprises of residential (46.7%), commercial (36.7%), educational (10.6%), religious (4.4%) and social/hospitality (1.7%) land uses. However, with mean scores of 9.89 and 10.79, crime incidence was lower within educational and

residential land uses compared to other land uses in the city. The religious (11.25), commercial (11.82) and social/hospitality (12.67) land uses had an increasing incidence of crimes in recent times compared to the overall crime incidence (11.12) in Ibadan. This is due to the increase in the flow of people (timbre and calibre) found around these land uses thus, corroborating the findings of [35], [24], [42], [41].

Results show that variations in crime incidence though not significantly different along dominant on-street activities ($F = 1.006$; $p = 0.406$), is a pointer that there is no land use in Ibadan that is not besieged with security threats. This is in line with the findings of [50], [51] that residents in geographically concentrated areas are faced with more security threats. Therefore, to forestall criminal activities around these land uses, planning authorities and allied professionals should ensure compliance with crime deterring master plans; and in collaboration with peace and conflict resolution professionals and law enforcement agencies place concerted attention on enhancement of natural surveillance and improvement of community participation in crime prevention in our cities [39], [42], [38], [48].

IV. Conclusion and Recommendations

The following recommendations enhance the ability of the people to further cope with the challenges of crime prevention. First, there should be the promotion of cooperation and collaboration among stakeholders where it is lacking else, maintenance of law and order, as well as peace and security, will become a farce. Second, physical planners and allied professionals should place closer attention to environmental designs that enhance natural surveillance and reduce opportunities for the proliferation of crimes in our cities. Third, households' welfare, reduction of poverty,

illiteracy and social disintegration among societies should be sought pro-actively. Fourth, reengineering and equipping of formal institutions, communities and private companies in order to actively and promptly respond to distress calls of community members. Lastly, the study suggests improvements on collaboration, education and information dissemination on community policing; incorporating crime detecting technologies in our built environment and designing out opportunities for crime aggrandisement in new areas of Ibadan, Nigeria.

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