

Community policing and its Influence on Community Development in Addis Ababa city administration

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Abstract: Problem statement: Community policing is seen as an important mechanism that will ensure safety and a free-crime society to achieve this, and it is deemed important as one of the many challenges that communities around the world face in the development process. The main goal of this study is to seek the relationships between the various approaches in community policing and how it can be embedded in community development. **Approach:** The implementation of community policing in the Addis Abeba municipal government was sought after in this study using the available literature and other pertinent documents. **Results:** The study's findings demonstrated that community policing is still active within Addis Ababa's municipal government, and the majority of communities support strong police-community collaboration in reducing crime. **Conclusion:** This study demonstrated the necessity for increased efforts to further solidify relationships of cooperation between the police and the community because it is clear that doing so will contribute to the improvement of society.

Keywords: Community development, community policing, security, safety

INTRODUCTION

A collection of people who live in an area with clearly defined boundaries and who also share a shared way of life, set of beliefs, and set of behaviors are often considered to be members of a community (Hamzah, 2011; Sail, 2011). In a description that is comparable, Robinson (1996) describes the community in terms of the differences between its members' racial or ethnic origin, religion, sex, degree of education, age, and socioeconomic standing. Given the limited resources available, it is crucial for community members to collaborate effectively in order to maximize what is already available and promote sustainable community growth (D'Silva et al., 2011).

Community development frequently has connections to rural development, rural sociology, and on occasion, community education. The purpose of community development is to improve people's quality of life and general wellness. While techniques in community development are referred to as ways to help a community (Samah, 2011). The process of uniting efforts from various parties, government agencies, businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local residents to create a community with the aim of enhancing and improving the quality of life among community members is another common term for it (Sail, 2011). Ploch additionally exhorts locals to take an active part in activities that can improve their quality of life.

It is frequently advised that there are six key components to community development: the composition, which gives each member of society a sense of identity and community belonging; the system of symbols, language, and practice of their rituals and feasts; the possession of the same values and norms; the mutual influence on one another; the will and commitment to community development; and finally the sharing of these elements.

A continuum line between the two fundamental notions of "directing community" and "facilitating community" can be used to visualize the community development strategy (Samah, 2011). The idea of "directing community" is seen as the readiness of the government institutions to create a holistic community in accordance with concepts, strategies, and demands. It stresses the top-down method, which is also known as the technical help strategy (Samah, 2011). In order to increase quality and well-being with the aid and direction of change agents, the concept of "facilitating community" refers to a number of approaches that make society willing to make changes collectively.

Community development approach: His phrase "community development" is frequently used to refer to a technique or a modification that can be made to a community or target group to promote well-being. As was said in the beginning, there are a number of widely used ways, including the partnership approach, the self-help approach, and the technical assistance approach. The degree of community involvement and the distribution of authority and responsibility between the community and interested or uninterested stakeholders all play a role in how well this method is implemented.

Technical assistance approach: The concept of "directing community" is the focus of the technical assistance approach to community development. This kind of development is typically funded by government organizations or local authorities to meet a

particular need or benefit a community. This strategy focuses on carrying out community development initiatives without involving local populations. Development agents play significant roles in shaping the community and bringing about change in the context of technical assistance. The goal of this concept is to serve the community. According to Samah (2011), the approach to technical support is predicated on the following premises: Parties that are effective and capable of determining what is best for the community include: (a) parties that matter; Communities that are (a) impacted by the issue or deal with life's difficulties or depression are (b) unable to determine the best course of action; (c) it is the responsibility of change agents to sway the community toward what is best for them; and (d) communities are (e) helpless and (f) responsible for enhancing their living conditions.

In general, this strategy could help communities evolve in a fundamental way. The advantages of this strategy include its ability to (a) quickly produce the desired results, (b) order the community according to needs and goals, (c) identify related issues for corrective action, and (d) ensure that the development plan is in line with top-level requirements, goals, and ideologies.

Samah (2011) noted a number of flaws in the system, including the following: (a) communities are not free to decide what they need; (b) community participation is limited to only the recipients; (c) a program may not be suitable for the needs, wants, community values, and beliefs; (d) the community has very little and limited power to make decisions; and (e) opportunities and community spaces to test abilities, skills, and talents are less common.

Since practically all components of the development are owned or controlled by the provider without the development community's approval, Kayat and Nor (2006) characterize community involvement at this point as manipulative participation.

Self-help strategy: This strategy also refers to "facilitating community" as a concept. The primary focus of this strategy is on how prepared local communities are to generate and promote local change in the direction of a more fulfilling quality of life. Samah (2011) emphasized that under this method, all issues pertaining to community growth, development, and change are discussed, chosen, and carried out by the communities themselves. In contrast to the technical assistance model, agents of change in this approach function as a facilitator in identifying issues or needs, developing goals, strategies, and action plans, and bringing monitoring and regulatory communities together. The following are some of the presumptions of this strategy: (a) community who want to learn more about the issues and needs; Community workers are not experts in determining the needs of the community because (a) the community has the capacity and desire to learn; (b) the community has the ability and potential to decide the affairs of their lives; (c) the community has the right to decide what they need; (d) the community has the power to decide; (e) the community should be given the opportunity and space to speak and make decisions for their future; and (f) the community has the right to decide what they need.

The strength of this approach lies to the assumptions and philosophy of "working with the community". This philosophy provides plenty of space and opportunity for the community to try and work on their own feet with support from development agencies. In addition, this approach is successful in fostering a sense of ownership and increase the level of a new venture to improve and develop the community. A higher degree of decision on a matter is also a factor in the success and strengths of the community.

However, there are some drawbacks to this strategy as well. For example, if the community is not united, the likelihood of this strategy failing is very high. Sometimes, for every process of development, a lot of time and energy is spent on discussion and implementation; for some members of the community, this is difficult for them, and this will lead to passive participation and withdrawal. In this strategy, the influence and power of change agents is difficult to determine, as a result, it is difficult to gauge.

Samah (2011) also emphasized the importance of the collaborative approach. According to him, the strategy includes the idea of alliance partners and collaborative ventures between the parties looking to modify the situation of the party seeking assistance. The government or the developer are examples of parties that might want to assist. The community is then contacted by the parties who want to assist. The development agency' role is to act as a mediator and facilitator for the parties involved in the proposed development so that it can be carried out and run efficiently.

The following presumptions form the foundation of the idea of an ideal partner in community development: (a) that both parties are dependent upon one another; (b) that neither party can achieve their objectives without the support and assistance of other parties; (c) that the partnership or joint venture partners in a relationship fulfill the needs and goals for the love; (d) that cooperation can save time, energy, resources, and expertise when compared to party work on it; and (e) that the outcomes or benefits from the joint venture. According to Samah (2011), the benefits of this partnership approach to practice include the following: (a) efficient, economical, and beneficial use of resources (financial, human capital, and time); (b) ability to combine internal knowledge with outside expertise in order to achieve development goals; and (c) ability for one party's absence to be made up for by the other.

However, Samah (2011) clarified that there are some practical drawbacks to this strategy as well. Partners' opinions, traits, and personalities vary greatly. The main flaw in this strategy is more related to the issues of both parties' honesty, moral character, and attitude. If there is a suspicion, the parties may lose trust in one another, which will cause this cooperation to break down and undermine development's goals.

Community policing and community development:

According to the literature that is currently available, the establishment of community policing has a number of goals that need to be achieved, including (a) establishing close cooperation between the police and the community, (b) giving communities the chance to work together to solve local issues, (c) involving the community in addressing perceptions of increased crime and addressing community concerns over crime, and (d) establishing a structured procedure between the police and the community.

Community development is a broad topic of development with a diversified spectrum. According to Samah (2011), community development can be evaluated using metrics from the model of quality of life, which includes social, economic, political, educational, safety, and security factors, with the overarching goal of promoting human peace. In terms of security, a nation's political stability is mostly determined by how well its citizens, families, communities, and government are all living in peace. Samah (2011) also outlined two ways in which community development might be conceptualized: first, as a goal, and second, as a process. The readiness to take the initiative for community initiative and act for change is referred to as the development process. It is thought that community development can be viewed as a process to contain and prevent crime in the framework of community policing. In order to accomplish the shared goal of combating crime, particularly in residential areas and their neighborhood, attitudes, awareness, knowledge, and commitment to community also need to be improved (Oliver, 2000; Stevens, 2001; Kerley, 2005; Morabito, 2010). In order to foster a sense of mutual cooperation among all parties involved in establishing how to ensure public order and safety, an active and dynamic interaction between the police and the community is crucial.

Community policing and the theory of community development It is highlighted that community involvement in community development initiatives in democracies frequently results in active participation in state care, in accordance with Habermas' (1987) theory of communicative action. This happens in circumstances when all stakeholders should take seriously the opinions of the public and criticism (based on facts and evidence) in order to identify problems and try to find solutions to the point where the policy is changed (Habermas, 1987). It is possible to characterize this established community network as "communicatively integrated" (Friedland, 2001).

According to Habermas (1987), the "life-world" and the system interact to shape the communicative activity that is created. The system addresses the racial, ethnic, class, macroeconomic, and linguistic factors that shape community law on housing, employment, and culture. The term "life-world" was viewed as "the transcendental site" where speaker and hearer meet, where they reciprocally raise claims that their utterances fit the world, where they can assess and validate those validity claims, resolve their differences, and come to agreements (Habermas, 1987). The "life-world" under this theory includes individuals, groups, and networks, and their voices are a part of it.

The notion of communicative action is useful and efficient in promoting the formation of communal expectations. According to Habermas (1987), this theory can generally assist the community in bringing together experts from technical knowledge, corporate knowledge, local knowledge, and practical knowledge. Combining these insights will provide new knowledge (emancipatory knowledge), which offers suggestions and a feasible action plan. Furthermore, according to Habermas (1987), it is impossible for the community that desired to implement the concept of full participation to adopt this idea if just one side has knowledge without the other specialties.

It was discovered that there are some fundamental parallels between this theory and community policing. Even though community policing programs are started at the government level, they only have a chance of success if all interested parties, including the police department, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, an expert panel, community leaders, the media, and other interested parties, actively participate in providing feedback and information in a forum or at a discussion table. It is likely that the confluence of technical and corporate knowledge with local and practical knowledge informs Habermas' (1987) theory of communicative action. They can produce new types of thoughts and actions when combined.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study is exploratory in nature, so the methodology used to gather the data was a search of the existing literature and the different documents that are available in the natural settings, which would aid in the discovery of knowledge in an open and unbiased description of various experiences in the natural settings.

RESULTS

The findings of this study demonstrated that in Addis Ababa city administration, as stated in the Police Act 1967, the Prevention and Detection of Crime, crime prevention is already ingrained in the duty and responsibilities of the police force. It can be put into practice either through proactive or reactive action. Investigative, arresting, prosecuting, and special operations to trace criminals are examples of reactive action, which is defined as action conducted after the crime has occurred. While proactive measures (guidelines for the application of community policing police) were taken before a crime was committed. Sulaiman (2012) pointed out that the development, attitudes, and behaviors of criminals have changed as a result of the nation-building process and the advancement of human civilization. Sulaiman (2012) further elaborated that the development, attitudes, and situations in the community had given the opportunities and space for criminals to commit crimes. The increase in criminal cases in Addis Ababa city administration can be seen from the statistical reports since 1997, with an increase from 121,176 cases to 156,455 cases in 2002 and further rose to 198,622 cases in 2006 (Sulaiman).

Furthermore, it was discovered that a wide range of factors contribute to crime in communities. Environmental elements that promote crime include building design, pedestrian space, population growth, educational polarization, ICT advancements, innovation, and globalization. Although the police force has always played a significant part in reducing crime, one of their biggest problems is that there aren't enough officers on the ground to cover the necessary territory and population.

DISCUSSION

The police developed a Five-Year Strategic Plan in 2007 to strategize and provide clear direction in dealing with various crisis and the challenges faced; based on this plan, one of the core elements is the increase in number of crimes and addressing communities' concerns about crime. Recognizing that policing approach can no longer be focused on reactive actions only, the police force must organize a more dynamic concept of prevention.

As a result, the idea of community policing was presented and adopted by the police as their guiding principle for executing crime prevention. In order to identify and address the linked concerns of crime and social ills in their own community, community policing necessitates collaboration between the police and the community. In an effort to avoid crime, it is a first step to closely assist the community and give them assurance about the police's presence there. Police personnel will have the chance to communicate with local residents directly using this way.

The holistic approach also incorporates a variety of stakeholders, including (a) the local authority, (b) government departments like the Immigration Department, Road Transport Department, Safe Guard Agency, and Civil Defense Department; (c) registered organizations; (d) non-governmental organizations; (e) the media; (f) politicians; and (g) the private sector as a catalyst for the development and operation of community policing in Addis Ababa city administration.

The police and the community worked together on various projects over the course of the community policing initiative's five-year operational span (2007–2011). Up until the nationwide introduction of community policing, there were several meetings and discussions, regular patrols, local censuses, awareness speeches, road shows, courses, and workshops. Information was also shared through social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. All of these initiatives have demonstrated how well the police and the community work together to fight crime, report it, and lessen public fear of it.

The majority of communities have adopted the idea of effective police cooperation with the community in lowering crime after five years of community policing deployment in Addis Abeba municipal government. Evidence from some of the communities that have benefited from community policing initiatives, like those in Selangor's Puchong and Serdang, has shown that these initiatives have a positive impact on crime reduction and have improved residents' knowledge, abilities, attitudes, and aspirations for participating in crime prevention activities, reporting crimes, and protecting property before crimes occur. Additionally, via a series of interactions with people, complaints, and community-based events, it also established a positive relationship between the police and locals to aid in the development process.

CONCLUSION

The public no longer feels safe to go out sightseeing or engaging in outdoor activities because they are worried about their personal safety and property from criminals as a result of the rise in crime and crime-related reports since 1997. This phenomenon has indirectly changed the landscape quality of life. In order to ensure the smooth operation of this nation, the Addis Abeba municipal administration government has worked extremely hard to identify the primary cause of the issue, create solutions, and put them into action through its relevant agencies, NGOs, and stakeholders in crime and security issues.

One of these measures is the precautions the police have taken to include community involvement in collaborative problem-solving efforts with public safety. The establishment of community policing has encouraged the community to actively participate in lowering crime in their area. The police and the citizens' committee established a number of community activities to give people information, comprehension, and skills for resolving crime-related cases. Community policing has improved localities' capacity to deter crime, given localities greater self-assurance, and improved the general welfare of society.

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