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INTELLIGENCE-LED POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION IN PLATEAU STATE NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated intelligence-led policing and crime prevention in plateau State Nigeria. The study employed survey design; the study sample size was 110 respondents who were sampled using purposive sampling techniques. Data were sourced from Personal interview and observation. The primary data for this study were generated from interview of selected agencies within Plateau State that have knowledge of the effect of democratic rule on national security in Nigeria: evidence from post-election violence in Plateau State,(2011-2019. data collected for this research were analyzed qualitatively through simple percentage and Chi-square.. Findings revealed that: i. Intelligence-led policing have a significant impact on crime prevention in Plateau state. ii. The Intelligence-led policing approaches are effective in crime prevention in Plateau state. iii. There are challenges associated with Intelligence-led policing in crime prevention in Plateau state. Conclusion, the study found that there

is a positive relationship between; police-community partnership and crime prevention in Plateau state, intelligence policing strategies and crime prevention in Plateau state. The study therefore concludes that intelligence policing strategies can be used in the reduction and prevention of crime rate in Plateau state. The study recommends the need for more funding; more police posts; and accessible police posts that will create collaborative synergy and partnership in community policing that will be geared towards combating crime in Plateau State. The study also recommends the need for constant police patrol on hot spots; using contact persons for information; using watch programs; intelligence sharing; effective use of door to door contacts; improve hotline responses; employ familiar police officers; and reduce response time to crimes in regard to community policing preventive strategies to reducing crime in Plateau State.

Keywords: Police, Intelligence-led Policing strategies, Crime rate, crime prevention, Plateau State.

Introduction

With the advent of advanced crime syndicates and evolving crime patterns, Police forces across the world are currently facing severe challenges in policing their respective countries and communities. A major challenge is the increasing 'globalization of criminality in the form of transnational organized crimes that threaten national and global economic development and political stability.

Crimes such as Armed robbery, terrorism, Money Laundering, Vandalizing Government properties, corruption, drug trafficking, human trafficking, theft of mineral resources, arms smuggling and trade in fake and substandard pharmaceutical, banditry, insurgency and terrorism amongst others have evolved from what it was in the 20th century.

In relation to the terrorist attack in the United States of America on the 11th September 2001, Peterson, (2005) pointed out that four critical lessons are to be learned from that tragedy. The first is that, intelligence collection is everyone's job; secondly, a culture of intelligence and collaboration is necessary to protect the United States from all types of crime and threats; thirdly, for intelligence to be effective, it should support the law enforcement agency's entire operation; and, lastly, crime prevention and deterrence should be based on all-sources of information gathering and analysis. As a way forward, the police had to develop a policing concept that embraces intelligence as its cornerstone.

The United Kingdom faced with the challenge of high and violent crimes invented the Intelligence led policing model, Presently Nigeria is faced with similar or even more dire challenges with crime, Hence the need for the Nigerian Police to revamp its policing. In order to combat and reduce crime levels, the Nigerian Police needs to find and apply an effective policing strategy. The adoption of the intelligence led policing concept may be an answer to the high increasing crime rate in Nigeria. Intelligence led policing, also known as intelligence driven policing, has been proved internationally to be one of the most effective policing models for reducing crime.

According to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistic, reported armed robbery cases perpetuated by males rose from between 10,500 cases in 2007 to over 17,500 in 2010. The need to manage and decrease crime rate in Nigeria has increased exponentially Trešdiena, (2007)

Intelligence led policing has gradually established itself as the modern approach to crime management. Its principle is that the police should not try to police an entire community, but instead use the crime intelligence products, like crime pattern analysis, crime threat analysis, and the Station Crime Intelligence Profile to police identified crime "hot spots" and known criminals or gangs.

Intelligence led policing has a number of advantages over the traditional approach of policing. The first advantage is that policing resources are used more realistically and more effectively; the second is that, when criminal behavior is being investigated, intelligence led policing seeks to establish links and patterns between individual crimes, by identifying crime series; the third is that it takes a long-term view of combating crime by supplying a range of preventive measures, including recommending legislative and policing changes, implementing neighborhood watch schemes, using closed circuit television systems, and using more direct patrols (Zinn, 2010). The high level of crime in the country is an indication of the failure of the state, through its organs like the police, to protect its citizens. This is further confirmed by electronic and print media which show horrific scenes and tell heart breaking stories of people who are raped, robbed, and murdered on a daily basis.

Intelligence-led policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social order and fear of crime (Kenneth, 1999). Intelligence-led policing is aimed at ensuring that community members take the forefront in initiating plans, programs and policies so as to reduce crime.

Statement of the Problem

The government effort to prevent crime through intelligence-led policing initiative had raised expectations of the citizens to see its efficiency. The model has already been embraced in some counties. In Nigeria, despite establishment of intelligence policing, more crime rate has continued to rise in Plateau state.

Crime is committed mostly by people within the same community; however, members of the same community may not report criminals to the police for fear of revenge. The research shall analyze the level of understanding of the community in matters of intelligence led and crime prevention and the role it can play to prevent crime by working closely with the police during patrols and in giving information to the police to help in crime prevention in Plateau State.

Research Objectives

- **i.** To investigate the intelligence-led policing approaches adopted to prevent crime in Plateau State.
- **ii.** To examine how effective are the intelligence-led policingapproaches adopted to prevent crime in Plateau State

iii. To investigate the challenges associated with intelligence-led policing crime prevention in Plateau State
iv. To recommend ways for intelligence-led policing to be effective in crime prevention in Plateau state

Statement of hypotheses

i. Intelligence-led policing will have a significant impact on crime prevention in Plateau state
ii. The Intelligence-led policing approaches are ineffective in crime prevention in Plateau state
iii. There will be challenge associated with Intelligence-led policing in crime prevention in Plateau state

Concept of Intelligence-Led Policing

Intelligence-Led Policing**:** is a policing model built around the assessment and management of risk. Intelligence officers serve as guides to operations, rather than operations guiding intelligence. Intelligence collection in the form of espionage is one of the oldest professions in the history of mankind. Historical records show that it is the second oldest profession after prostitution (Hughes-Wilson, 2005). The creation of kings and emperors, and, later on kingdoms, empires, and states led to the institutionalization of intelligence as a means of controlling and ruling others.

Intelligence-led policing entered the police lexicon at some time around the early 1990s. As Gill (1998) has noted, the origins of intelligence-led policing are a little indistinct, but the earliest references to it originated in the UK where a seemingly inexorable rise in crime during the late 1980s and early 1990s coincided with increasing calls for police to be more effective and to be more cost-efficient. The driving forces for this move to a new strategy were both external and internal to policing.

External drivers included an inability of the traditional, reactive model of policing to cope with the rapid changes in globalization which have increased opportunities for transnational organized crime and removed physical and technological barriers across the policing domain. In the new "risk society" (Ericson & Haggerty 1997) the police were seen as the source of risk management data for a range of external institutions. With such an influence beyond the boundaries of law enforcement, it was never going to be long before the "new public management" drive to increase efficiency in public agencies reached the police.

At the same time there was an internal recognition that changes were taking place in the dynamic relationship between the private security industry and the public police. The police were losing the battle on the streets, and public confidence with it. The rapid growth of private sector security saw police marginalized in some areas of public safety.

The aim of intelligence-led policing can be interpreted from the tactical tasking priorities of the UK National Intelligence Model, as disseminated by the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS). The four elements concentrate on:

- targeting offenders (especially the targeting of active criminals through overt and covert means); the management of crime and disorder hotspots;
- the investigation of linked series of crimes and incidents; and
- the application of preventative measures, including working with local partnerships to reduce crime and disorder (NCIS 2000).

Concept of Crime

It has been observed and rightly too that the transient nature of crime makes it very difficult to derive any precise definition of the term, such that in spite of the attempts made by various jurists, a satisfactory definition of crime has not been achieved. This lack of uniformity in the definition of crime is evident from the following remarks by Nathalie Des Rosiers and Steven Bittle that crime is not an objective phenomenon but subject to the way in which certain behavior is understood and responded to by a society:

The word "Crime" derives originally from the Latin word *crimen –inis* and has two categories of meanings: 1) an accusation or charge 2) the fault, guilt, crime with which a person is charged. The Greek expression of the word crime is *krimos* and it is synonymous to the Sanskrit word *krama* which means "social order". We can thus say that with regard to the literal meaning of crime, in common parlance, the word crime is applied to those acts that go against social order and are worthy of serious condemnation.

The terms crime, offense, and criminal offense are all synonymous and ordinarily used interchangeably. Offense may comprehend every crime and misdemeanor, or may be used in a specific sense as synonymous with 'felony' or with misdemeanor', as the case may be, or signifying a crime of lesser grade, or an act not indictable, but punishable summarily or by forfeiture of a penalty (22 C.J.S *Criminal Law* (1989)

Theoretical Framework

The Social Bond theory was first expounded by Hirschi in 1969. Social Bond theory, that later developed into the Social Control Theory, has historically been an interesting way of approaching social problems and how we in turn explain them. Before one can apply the Social Bond theory, they must first have a firm understanding of its definition, which can be accurately described by Hirschi (1969) as, "...elements of social bonding include attachment to families, commitment to social norms and institutions (school, employment), involvement in activities, and the belief that these things are important". This theory is rooted and derived from the General Theory of Crime. The basic difference between the General Theory of Crime and Hirschi's (1969) Social Bond Theory is the focus on peers and peer groups of individuals. The four basic elements of social bond theory are attachment, commitment, involvement in conventional versus deviant or criminal activities, and lastly the common value system within an individual's society or subgroup. Attachment is described as the level of values and or norms that an individual holds in society. Attachment is especially important when it come to the person's parental figures. . According to Hirschi (1969) other attachments, such as school, play a tremendous role in conventional society. School has tended to be a middle to

upper class involvement since it was first created. The middle class children tend to make fun of or demoralize the lower class children. This treatment also does not just come from the child it also comes directly from the institution, through the teacher. In combination with each other the person starts to resent school at the earliest point. This resentment also hinders the continuation of further education. This comes full circle to the lower class standard of living for generations to come (Hirschi, 1969). Next is commitment, this can be described as the level of commitment that an individual has to abide by legal behavior (Burton et al, 1995). The norms and values taught to us as an adolescent should be to obey how society works in normal terms. From very early in our lives we hopefully learn the difference between "right" and "wrong". This understanding has an enormous effect on how we turn out and set our place in normal society. For example, if a child is raised in a home where drugs are bought, sold, and used regularly, then that child has a greater chance of having involvement with drugs in the future. Also, the "bond" between mother, father, and child in a normal nuclear family, is very strong, this in turn has made a blue print of an entire adult life on the child. Third, is a person's choice to get involved in conventional versus deviant behavior? This choice is formed not far after basic rules of life are taught. If no "right and wrong" basis are formed or provided the adolescent will make the decision that tends to make the most sense. This also ties into family involvement in the person's life. Lastly, this in many ways directly correlates many factors or aspects of the four main parts of Hirschi's (1969) theory.

Method

Research Design

This research relies on a survey method and the methods of data collection are both primary and secondary in nature.

Population, Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

The target population of the study comprises of the different agencies within Plateau State and the community leaders which include police officers, military personnel and community leaders within Plateau State. The study sample size was 110 respondents who were sampled using purposive sampling techniques. The researcher used interview method to gather opinions from the representatives of different agencies within Plateau State attached to the effect of democratic rule on national security in Nigeria: evidence from post-election violence in Plateau State,(2013-2019)

Instrument:Primary Sources: Primary data are those sourced from Personal interview, observation. The primary data for this study were generated from interview of selected agencies within Plateau State that have knowledge of the effect of democratic rule on national security in Nigeria: evidence from post-election violence in Plateau State,(2011-2019)

Secondary Sources: The secondary sources involve the use of existing, but related data, which were produced by earlier researchers for the purpose of contributing their quota to solution under study. The secondary data for this study include journals, magazines, periodical, text books and internet as well as Plateau State electoral act.

Techniques for Data Analysis: Data collected for this research were analyzed qualitatively through simple percentage and Chi-square.

Results

Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the demographic information of the respondents which include frequency counts and percentages.

Table 1: Gender of the Respondents

Gender	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Male	75	65.6%
Female	35	34.4%
Total	**110**	**100**
Years of Experience	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
1-10	25	15%
11-20	35	38.4%
21 -30 above	26	20.%
31 above	6	12.8
TOTAL	**110**	**100**
Qualification	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
First School Leaving Certificate	6	12%
SSCE	35	38.4%
ND/NCE	26	20.%
B.Sc/M.Sc	25	15.8
TOTAL	**110**	**100**

Source field work 2020

Table 1 showed that 75 or 65.6% were malerespondents, while a total of 35 representing 34.4% were females who took part in the study. This shows that the male respondents were more represented in the study.

The Table showed that, 25 or 15.7% of the respondents have between 1-10 years of experience, while 48 or 38.1% have between 11-20 years of experience and 26 or 20.8% have 21-30 years of experience. Similarly, 6 or 12.8% have 30 years of experience. **Consequently, the table indicated that 12% respondents have** first school Leaving certificate, 38% **% respondents have** Senior secondary schools certificate(majority), 20% have ND/NCE. While 15% have B.Sc. and M.Sc.

Table 2: Specialization Based on Training

variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Cyber crimes	8	3%
Syndicate	15	11%
Detectives	15	11.%
forensic experts	12	10.8

Investigative journalist	67	75%
TOTAL	**110**	**100**

The Trend and Pattern of Crime in Plateau State

variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Kidnapping	13	6%
Armed Robbery	25	11%
Unknown gunmen	42	65.%
Sara Suka	14	10.8
Drug intake	16	15%
TOTAL	**110**	**100**

What is the intelligence led policing approaches adopted to prevent crime Plateau state

variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Planning and surveillance	32	3%
Information dissemination	7	11%
Community policing	4	11.%
Stop and search	3	10.8
Undercover operation	30	4%
TOTAL	**110**	**100**

Doe the police apply intelligence policing method in crime prevent crime in Plateau State.

variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Strongly agreed	67	75%
Agreed	10	2%
Strongly disagreed	15	11.%
Disagreed	10	10.8
Undecided	8	2%
TOTAL	**110**	**100**

How effective are some approaches used by the police in Plateau State

variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Excellent	13	4%
Very good	6	2%
Good	75	99.%
Fairly good	5	2
Poor	11	3%
TOTAL	**110**	**100**

Challenges of adopting intelligence led policing in crime prevention in Plateau State

variable	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
Lacking of training	45	35%
No motivation	9	4%
Poor funding	51	65.%
Inadequate facilities	10	6%
TOTAL	**110**	**100**

Source field work, 2020

The above table shows that 3% respondents are Cyber-crimes personnel, 11% **respondents were trained as**Syndicate personnel**, 11% respondents**are Detectives personnel,

10.8%**respondents**are Forensic experts while 75% were Investigative journalist**.The table also revealed that 6% respondents agreed that** Kidnapping is a trend and pattern of crime in Plateau State, **11% respondents agreed that** Armed Robbery is a trend and pattern of crime in Plateau State, **65% as the major respondents agreed that** Unknown gunmen is a trend and pattern of crime in Plateau State, **10% respondents agreed that** Sara Suka is a trend and pattern of crime in Plateau State, **15% respondents agreed that** Drug intake is also a trend and pattern of crime in Plateau State**.**

The table shows that 3% respondents attested that Planning and surveillance is an approach adopted to prevent crime in Plateau State, **11% respondents attested** Information disseminationis an approach adopted to prevent crime in Plateau State, **11% respondents attested** Community policingis an approach adopted to prevent crime in Plateau State, **10% respondents attested** that Stop and searchis an approach adopted to prevent crime in Plateau State, **4% respondents attested** that Undercover operationis an approach adopted to prevent crime in Plateau State**.**

The above shows that 75% of the respondent strongly agreed that police applied intelligence policing Method in crime prevention in Plateau state, 2% of the respondent s agreed police applied intelligence policing Method in crime prevention in Plateau state, 11% of the respondent strongly disagreed police applied intelligence policing Method in crime prevention in Plateau state, 10% of the respondent disagreed police apply intelligence policing Method in crime prevention in Plateau state. While 2% of the respondent are undecided that police applied intelligence policing Method in crime prevention in Plateau state

The table shows that 4% agreed that the approach adopted by the intelligence led policing is excellent **,** 2% said very good and 99% respondents of the opinion good.in the same vien, 2% of the respondent attested that is fairly good. While 3% disagreed with the assertion and said the approach adopted by the police is poor

The above table shows that 35% respondents agree that lack of training is a major challenge of adopting intelligence led policing in crime prevention in Plateau State, 4% agreed to lack of motivation and 65% respondent said is poor funding While 6% agreed that inadequate facilities is a challenge to intelligence led policing will be adopted in crime prevention in Plateau State.

Test of Hypothesis

The three hypotheses formulated for this study were tested using Analysis of Chi-square at 0.05alpha level of significance.

Hypothesis One: Intelligence-led policing will have significant impact on crime prevention in Plateau state

Summary of Analysis of Chi-square Statistics on Intelligence-led policing will have significant impact on crime prevention in Plateau state

Df	X2 – Calculated	X2 – Table	Ə	Decision
3	32.48	7.815	0.05	Rejected

From the table above, it could be seen that the X2 – Calculated (32.48) is greater than the X2 – Table (7.815) at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is hereby rejected. This means that Intelligence-led policing have significant impact on crime prevention in Plateau state

Hypothesis Two: The Intelligence-led policing approaches are ineffective in crime prevention in Plateau state

Summary of Analysis of Chi-square Statistics on the Intelligence-led policing approaches are ineffective in crime prevention in Plateau state

Df	X2 – Calculated	X2 – Table	Ə	Decision
3	28.08	7.815	0.05	Rejected

The table above revealed that the X2 – Calculated (28.08) is greater than the X2 – Table (7.815) at 0.05 level of significance. Thus, the hypothesis is rejected. This means that Intelligence-led policing approaches are effective in crime prevention in Plateau state

Hypothesis Three: There is no challenge associated with Intelligence-led policing in crime prevention in Plateau state

Summary of Analysis of Chi-square Statistics on there will be a challenge associated with Intelligence-led policing in crime prevention in Plateau state

Df	X2 – Calculated	X2 – Table	Ə	Decision
3	83.30	7.815	0.05	Rejected

From the table above, it can be seen that X2 – Calculated (83.30) is greater than the X2 – Table (7.815) at 0.05 level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis is consequently rejected. This means that there are challenges associated with Intelligence-led policing in crime prevention in Plateau state.

Discussion of findings

The study findings revealed that intelligence led policing strategies influenced crime prevention in Plateau State. The major finding of this objective was that majority of Plateau State respondent strongly disagreed with community based police officers who were effectively using door-to-door contacts as a crime prevention strategy while a large proportion of the respondents disagreed to: community-based intelligence is shared with the police, and police patrols are visible, accessible and familiar to their community. Other major findings are that majority of the respondent strongly disagreed with watch programs being used (residents keep their eyes on possible criminal activities) as a crime prevention strategy, however, agreed that community members are provided with hotlines to report crime related incidences or signs. From the study findings majority of the respondent further agreed that community-policing department has created new prevention strategies after recent criminal activities in Plateau State, and some of the prevention strategies include: visible police patrols; initiative; more street lighting; and existence of CCTV cameras. The findings support Roth (2004) findings that state prevention has, in many ways, been the gateway to community policing, as many of the earliest collaborative interactions with the public have been for prevention and

Sherman and Eck (2006) findings that cite neighborhood watch and community meetings as core strategies in crime prevention.

Findings from the study reveal that police-community problem solving influence crime prevention in Plateau State. The study findings revealed that in regard to problem-solving strategies on crime prevention, majority of Plateau State respondent disagreed to: police carrying out proactive arrests to solve criminal activities; specific crime and disorder issues or concerns are identified and the most appropriate remedies to counter the problem(s) implemented; and police scan, analyze, respond and assess crime and insecurity. The study results reveal a large proportion of the respondent disagreed to; failure to adapt to changing technological trends deters the process of identifying criminal activities and solving of criminal activities is an uphill task for both the community and the police are the statements regarding problem-solving strategies and crime. Other major findings reveal majority of Plateau State respondent disagreed with problem-solving strategies in community policing have been effective in the fight against crime and disorder in their area of jurisdiction. Majority of the respondent also indicated that the items commonly used by community police officers during their daily operations in minimizing criminal activities in the area are: having adequate police officers and communication technology. The findings support Kelly (1988) who notes that problem solving is essential to community policing and as such, problems should not be limited to crimes, and solutions should not have to involve arrests. The findings also support Cordner (1998) who states that police and the community should be empowered to adopt problem solving techniques and take every opportunity to address the conditions that cause incidents

The study findings revealed that police-community partnership influence crime prevention in Plateau State. The major finding of this objective was that respondent of Plateau State rarely involve the community in policing practices nevertheless they agreed that involving the community in community policing has helped eliminate or reduce crime levels in the area. The study findings reveal that the most common techniques employed to facilitate community policing partnership to combat crime and incidents in Plateau State is through accessible mini-stations and police-community forums. Majority of Plateau State respondent strongly disagreed to trust between the police and the community has enhanced crime prevention and also disagreed with the community being familiar with common trends of crime acts due to frequent notices from the police. Other major findings are that in regard to police-community partnership and crime prevention, majority of the respondent agreed that: they work with the community towards a common interest; the community is interested in solving crime problems just as police are; and they often have forums to discuss crime issues with the community. The study findings are in line with Chumba (2012), Cordner (1998) and Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1990) who state that police need to engage with the community in partnerships to deal with crime and related problems, which includes working collaboratively with other public and private agencies not only to solve problems, but to reduce the fear of crime, physical and social disorder, and neighborhood decay.

Summary

Major Findings revealed that:

i. Intelligence-led policing have a significant impact on crime prevention in Plateau state

ii. The Intelligence-led policing approaches are effective in crime prevention in Plateau state

iii. There is challenges associated with Intelligence-led policing in crime prevention in Plateau state

Conclusion

The study found out that there is a positive relationship between; police-community partnership and crime prevention in Plateau state, intelligence policing strategies and crime prevention in Plateau state. The study therefore concludes that intelligence policing strategies can prevention crime rate in Plateau state.

Recommendations

The study recommends the need for more funding; police community forums; more police posts; and accessible police posts in as far as partnership in community policing is concerned so as to achieve long term community partnership to combat crime in Plateau State.

The study also recommends there is need for using patrols; using contact persons for information; using watch programs; use sharing of information; effective use of door to door contacts; increasing patrols; improve hotline responses; employ familiar police officers; and reduce response time to crimes in regard to community policing preventive strategies employed to reduce crime in Plateau State.

The study further recommends there is need for better detection techniques; employing more police officers; better equipment's; use technology; use of detection equipment; and make proactive arrests in regard to problem solving as a strategy of community policing employed to counter crime in Plateau State. The study also recommends need to strengthen the relationship between the police officers and members of the public as there is a high level of mistrust especially by members of the public towards the police.

Similar research is advocated to be conductedto cover more areas in the country to assess the challenges faced during the implementation of intelligence led policing Initiative by the Department of Internal Security as well as Government agency.

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