An Assessment of the Practices and Challenges to Community Policing: The case of Oromia Regional State

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Abstract

Community policing is a philosophy of policing that seeks creative ways to fight crime and maintain of order in neighborhoods though a number of challenges are affecting it. Besides, the practices of community policing in Oromia Regional State have not been so far articulated, and these challenges are also inadequate in the scientific literatures. The objective of this study is to assess the practices and challenges of community policing in Oromia Regional State based on primary and secondary data. Both qualitative and quantitative research approaches were employed. The study used both an exploratory and descriptive research designs. The data collected from key informants, focus group discussions and surveys have been collected from five clustered zones were critically analyzed. All questionnaires from the 389 respondents were found eligible for analysis. The findings show that there are various practices of community policing in various study areas. These include low periodic evaluation and consultation culture with the communities, infrequent problem solving, poor mobilization of communities and weak response to the communities request. Besides, due to lack of clear structure and holistic integration towards community policing, the practices of police and public partnership have not been deeply rooted. Moreover, the cultures of stake pooling were poor, community policing procedure and mandates are not clear and lack of necessary focus by local government and community policing in Oromia Regional State. Appropriate community policing strategy must be in a place that will facilitate and enforce police public partnership, bottom-up, decentralized, and democratic structure and citizen-focused that community policing should be taken into account.

Key words: *Community Policing, Challenges, Practices of Oromia Regional State*

1. Introduction

Community policing as a proactive measure to policing that requires a concerted approach between the police, community, and other relevant stakeholders to effectively fight crime in a particular area (Jacobs, 2020). Community policing provides decentralized, personalized policing services to the community. It recognizes that the police cannot impose order on the community from the outside, but that people must be encouraged to think of the police as a resource that they can use in helping to solve content community concerns (Mohanty, 2014). Community policing is the interaction between the police and the citizens in the community in a positive way and in a common effort to prevent and control crime. Its ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life in the community (Amadi, 2014). The USA is one of such country where community policing has been so successful that it has been reflected as the top priority at the National level. It works closely with local communities to reduce crime and social violations. Since 1990, community policing has become the leading concept within the policing agencies of United States. It is believed that community policing represents what is progressive and forward-looking

(Kenan Smajovic & AwaisPirach, 2013).Community policing strategies in most developing countries have been more centralized systems which are largely state-centric and militarized, with little role allocated to the communities (Caless, B., & Tong, S. 015). However, in China, the police emphasize the need for dialogue with the public as well as collective responsibility as the main security strategies in maintenance of law and order (Sun, I. & Farmer, A.).

Although in France, police officers rarely live in the neighborhood, community policing is still encouraged as a way of security management and peace, and therefore officers still receive training on neighborhood policing (Lambert, et al. 2014). In Africa, the characteristics of community policing strategies and their effectiveness in crime management in refugee related situation have never realized sufficient scholarly attention explaining why this study is significant (Diphoorn & Kyed, 2016).

There were many challenges in Africa when efforts were made to introduce community policing as a strategy for security management (Simon, 2017). Some of these challenges included poor resource allocation

for police work, poor trust by the population, and inter-community conflicts, among others, (Leting, 2017).

Community policing efforts in Kenya have largely depended on group or individual efforts as opposed to community and police efforts, as noted by (Mburu &Helbich, 2017). Most of those involved in community policing strategies in Kenya have been groups and individuals dealing with crime prevention, management, and control in given localities (Mwaniki, 2015). Perhaps due to lack of domestication of community policing strategies, the practice has not been successful in many parts of the county, and although the police department in Kenya is still optimistic regarding adoption of community policing. Nevertheless, there is need for scientific research to evaluate how community policing as a crime management strategy in Kenya has been implemented in refugee related situations, the strategies employed, as well as the successes and the challenges faced in the process (Awino&Kimani, 2017).

Likewise, in Ethiopia, community policing is a new approach used by the local government bodies for peace keeping and to prevent crimes. It is a recent development event in the country, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its services to the citizens, the Ethiopian police force has been trying to implement the strategy of community policing as an institution. Community policing has been introduced to work jointly on activities of crime prevention (Mulugeta and Mekuriaw, 2017).

The benefits of community policing include decreased potential for police-citizen conflict, reduction in crime rates, a better flow of information between the police and the community, and better implementation of crime prevention and crime control activities because both parties are working together towards a shared goal (Balcha, 2014, p. 22). Hence, the aforementioned studies did not adequately address the role of community policing in community policing. By exploring the role each stakeholder plays in community policing to prevent crimes in the study area, the researcher is quite optimistic about the fact that the findings of this study could have a potential to fill the research gaps. Community policing is one of the problem-solving strategies for crime management that thrives on partnerships and collaborations with the public to address issues of crime and deviance that might adversely affect communities and the public in general (Matsuda, 2017).

This view is shared by Mburu and Helbich (2017), who assert that community policing aims at ensuring that community members take the forefront in initiating plans, programmes, and policies, to reduce crime. There are some concrete rationales for conducting a study entitled the practices and challenges to community policing in selected woredas and towns of Oromia Regional State. The prime reason is that as per the information and knowledge of the researchers are concerned, there is/are the dearth of studies conducted on this issue in the Ethiopia in particular and globally in general. The studies of other researchers mentioned above also different from the current study in methodology and context. This study is thus, different conceptually, temporally, spatially, and methodologically from the studies that have been done on community policing. The objective of the study is to assess the practices and challenges of community policing in Oromia Regional State.

2. Materials and Methods

The study used qualitative research approach due to the fact that it tends to focus on how people or groups of people can have (somewhat) different ways of looking at reality (usually social or psychological

reality, takes into account complexity by incorporating the real-world context, take different perspectives on board, focuses on description and interpretation, and might lead to development of new concepts ortheories, or to an evaluation of an organizational process (Cross Well, 2007). The study also employed quantitative research approach to quantify the problem by way of generating numerical data, quantifying quantify attitudes, opinions, behaviors, and other defined variables, and generalizing results from a larger sample population, and to substantiating the qualitative data. This study used both an exploratory and descriptive research designs to acquire first hand data from the respondents. Besides, exploratory research designs emphases on discovery of ideas and insights, and flexible enough to permit the consideration of many different aspects of a phenomenon and an accurate description of a situation or of an association between variables as well as minimizes bias and maximizes the reliability of the evidence collected (Kothari, 2004). Therefore, it looks at individuals, groups, and institutions, in order to describe, compare, contrast, classify, analyze and interpret the entities and the events (Cross well, 2009). Descriptive research, as the name suggests,

enumerates descriptive data about the population being studied and to describe an event, a happening, or to provide a factual and accurate description of the population being studied. As part of descriptive research, the study used case series or studies. Case series is the descriptive study of a few cases (Singh, 2016).

This study considered the scales of measurement, which can be considered in terms of their mathematical properties. Both random and non-random sampling schemes were employed in the present research because (Onwuegbuzie, & Leech, 2007).Suggest that sampling scheme consisting of nonrandom sampling for the qualitative component and random sampling for the quantitative component is a the common combination in mixed methods research design. Therefore, in this study, mixtures of sampling techniques were used to select representative samples from various target populations Study zones were identified based on multistage cluster sampling. The study clustered the region into East Oromia, West Oromia, North and South Oromia and central Oromia. From central Oromia, East Shewa, East Oromia, West Hararge Zone, West Oromia, Jimma zone, and North Oromia Noth Shewa and Arsi zone from South Oromia were sub-

clustered to conduct the study. Multistage cluster sampling allowed the researchers to apply cluster and sub-cluster until the researchers they reached the desired size or type of group. It is also useful while collecting primary data from a geographically dispersed population and where the population is too vast and researching every individual is impossible. Accordingly, East Shewa, Arsi, West Hararge, Jimma and North Shewa zones were selected. From each zone, purposively two towns or woredas were selected. These included: Adama, Asella, Bekoj, Chiro, Jimma, Mana, Fiche, Gemechis, and Mukaturi were used. To get an adequate sample representative of respondents for the study, different strata (i.e., sex, residence, and others) of target population were considered. The study determined respondents based on a simplified formula provided by Yamane (1967: 886) to determine the required sample size at 95% confidence level, a degree of variability = 0.05,

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N\,(e)^2}$$

n= 389

Purposive sampling method was used to select the key informants for in-depth interview and focus group discussions in the

sense that the key informants and participants, who are expected to have rich experiences, exposures, knowledge, and information on the issues were researched. The target population of the study were political leaders, police leaders, police and security officers' community:, religious leaders and civil servants at different levels. Some target populations were selected mainly based on their exposure and experience they do have on the issues under the study. These target populations were selected mainly based on their leading role that they could play in the community policing. The study employed both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data were collected through in-depth interviews, questionnaires and:, focus group discussions, while different published and unpublished materials were consulted as second sources of data.

Methods of the Data Analysis The data were collected via qualitative research approach were analyzed using thematic categorization procedures. Kombo and Tromp (2006) bring in the issues of thematic analysiswhere data is analyzed thematically. In term of recording and transcribing, all the interviews and FGD were recorded and later on were transcribed.

Descriptive statistics was also used todescribe summarize, or explain a given set of data, particularly, multivariate statistics will be employed to look at the pattern of relationships between several variables simultaneously (Singh, 2007).Liner Regression and logistic regression analysis were also used to analyse the data. It is a set of statistical methods used for the estimation of relationships between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables. It can be utilized to assess the strength of the relationship between variables and for modeling the future relationship between them. Besides, the data were gathered through questionnaire which analyzed by using percentages and mean. For this purpose, Statistical Package for social Sciences version 23 (SPSS) was employed.

3. Results and Discussion

The results are presented in respect to challengesandpracticesofcommuni typolicingin variousselected zones and woredas. In the first section demographic characteristics of respondents werepresented. The second section presented the practices and challenges to

community policing invariousselectedzonesand woredaswerepresented.

3.1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Demographic characteristics play a key role in identifying the characteristics of therespondentsresponded to the questionnaires. Demographic characteristics are important because they help toenumerate the sample influence the study positively or negatively.In this study, demographiccharacteristics considered in the survey include gender of the respondents, education backgroundoftherespondents and family status of respondents.

Table 1. Gender Distribution of the Respondents

Valid	Frequency	Percent	ValidPercent	Cumulative Percent
Male	298	76.6	76.6	76.6
Females	91	23.4	23.4	100.0
Total	389	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, March, 2023.

The table belowindicatesgender distribution inthesample size whichshows that289outof389 (76.6%) respondents were male, 91 of 389 (23.4 %) were females. This means that most oftherespondentsweremale.Firstly,t hisdependsonaculturewhichisapred ominantlypatriarchalsociety(menar ehouseholdheads).Secondly,theme naremoreinvolvedincommunitypol icingactivities than women.

3.2. Practices and Challenges of community policing in various selected zones and woredas

Various practices and challenges of community policing were reported in this study. In different areas, there are different practices and challenges. However, the challenges include community oriented policing, low consultation with the communities, weak response to community's request, poor mobilization of communities, and solving problem infrequently. There are various practices of community policing in various study areas. Among others, low periodic evaluation and consultation culture with the

communities, infrequent problem solving, poor mobilization of communities and weak response to the

community's request were identified in many study areas.

Table 1. Practices and Challenges of community policing

Descriptive			
N		Mean	Std. Deviation
Police Evaluation (PE)	389	3.7378	.94399
Awareness	389	2.7667	1.02547
PolicePublicPartnership	389	3.4743	.58243
Logistics	389	3.3920	.70339
Institution	389	3.1216	.72421
Values	389	3.4057	.65729
Turnover	389	3.2198	.91163
Leadership	389	2.7969	1.13628
Valid N (list wise)	389		

Source: Field Survey, March, 2023.

3.1.1 Weak Institutional Functionality

From the above statistical output, among others, the most prevalent practice and challenges to community policing derived from the institutional functionality towards the reduction of the crime by a community policing program and its effectiveness. From the above statistical output, the most prevalent practice and challenges to community policing derived from the weakness of the institutional functionality of CP (M= 3.1216). The score of the mean depicted that the major causes for community policing inefficiency and ineffectiveness were institutionalization related problems, which included structure, which is characterized as top-down

approach, centralization, and traditional nature. Police Officers have decided many issues of community policing without engagement of community. There is also institutional constraints of community policing and lack of fixed discussion session to evaluate the existing successes or failures of community policing. CP is incident-driven reactive trends than proactive and creative resolution to crime. Volunteers were not recruited to patrol.

3.1.2 Structural and Administrative Weaknesses in Community Policing

Policing Consortium (2012) in the USA, revealed that momentous challenges still face the police and communities that want to

see their investments in community policing survive and progress. Numerous police agencies have simply overlaid community policing on their traditional policing approaches by creating special units or dedicating full-time patrol officers to that task, while the majority of officers continue with businesses as usual. The police officers allowed many departments to continue doing business as usual while dipping their toes into new approaches to policing. Fundamental changes in the way they approached their work were not made. Kenya National Center of Community Policing study found that three out of four initiatives, community policing was being conducted without the contribution of the community to identify, Prioritize and solve problems. It was found that the community policing officers were working independently of the community when identifying and providing solutions to the community issues:, making the community policing programme in effective. It was observed that specialized units tended to create an environment of isolation or cause friction between staff.

More successful community policing initiatives were found to be those that incorporated the whole of organization 'approach. It was noted that community

police officers suffered isolation within the organization where community policing is delivered through specialist officers (community constables) or through dedicated units. It is clear, however, that many incidents are resolved at the local level through customary practice or a hybrid of state and informal means. It was noted that as the officers got acquainted to their areas of jurisdiction, created a conducive working environment with the policing committees, and got to identify and know the criminals, they were transferred to other areas. This acted as a challenge to community policing:, thus reducing its effectiveness. This study targeted members of the community policing committees and private citizens in a random survey and did not include police officers. Therefore, views of these officers were not capture: and as a result: the researcher did not present information on how the police perceived members of the community.

3.1.3 The behaviors, commitment:, and values of police officers towards Community Policing

The behaviors, commitment:, and values of police officers were also identified as critical issue for community policing. The mean score for the behaviors, commitment and values of police officers were (M= 3.4057).

The indicator variables were 74.8% of the respondents argue that there has been poor coordination and mobilization of the society for crime prevention proactively. 74.3% of the respondents argue that police officers have not been willingly responding to local community 'request. Besides, there was no public confidence and safe feeling in police services in their area:, and inappropriate behavior of police officers were undermining community policing engagement. Community policing implementation is weak because of the weak commitment of Officers (KI). Community policing Officers were not visiting communities in a consistent manner. Rather the practice of community policing implementation has been situational crime prevention. This implies that the trends of off and on have been observed.

3.1.4 Police Public Partnership The statistical output depicted those poor police public partnership.

Police public partnership was considered as another challenges to community policing (M= 3.4743). 74.6%: Different organizations have not been Coordinated to support Community Policing at village. 76.9%: Police-public partnerships were not strong. There are no meaningful supports from public & other local actors to enhance

the capacities of community policing at the district level. Community policing officers do not have information about local community problem. In this regard, the results of the key and focused group discussion informants argue that communities don't have information about community policing. There is a low perception of local community on the contributions of community policing to address insecurity. The statistical output depicted that lack of periodic evaluation and meeting at the district levels was also considered as another challenges to community policing (M= 3.4743). 81.4% of the respondents argue that community policing meetings have not been organized by the police periodically. In addition to this, 57.3% of the respondents were also stated that community policing was not providing solutions to neighborhood and local problems.

High shortages and frequent turnovers of police officers have been affecting community policing. Extensive burdens have fallen on the shoulders of police officers who are assigned for community policing. Lack of necessary resources and logistic at district (CP station, office equipment, use of technology, etc).Moreover, 78.9% the respondents

depicted that officers were not conducting foot or bike patrols. The statistical output depicted that poor awareness of the community of community policing were also identified as a challenge to community policing (M= 2.7667).

Community policing encourages adoption agency-wide, not just by special units.

Moreover, poor co-producing public safety and poor use of the SARA model, absence of in-service training (officers were not accessed an opportunity to learn new information on duties) were identified as a challenge to community policing.

Table 2. Data Analysis related to Community Policing Policy and a Strategy Gaps

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	115	29.6	29.6
	Disagree	164	42.2	42.2
	Neutral	54	13.9	13.9
	Agree	37	9.5	9.5
	Agree Strongly	19	4.9	4.9
	Total	389	100	100

Source: Field Survey, March, 2023.

The above table depicted that 71.8% of the respondents agreed that there are no clear strategies of community policing. Community Policing Procedure and mandates are not clear. Community policing was not effectively decreased the rate of crime. Resources mobilization strategy for community policing is almost none. Neighborhood-oriented policing was politicized to address all contemporary problems. Lack of information driven society was also another challenges to community policing. It is essential that the

police work closely with all facets of the community to identify concerns and to find the most effective solutions. This is the essence of community policing. For this community policing program need to be governed by legal Regime. Legal institutions and regime are responsible the first line of defense against disorder and crime.

Thus, it is essential that the police work closely with all facets of the community to identify concerns and to find the most effective solutions. The key informants

argue that there is no clear guidelines and strategy that empower and enforce the police are the public and the public are the police in black and white. The above table depicted that 71.8% of the respondents agreed that there are no clear strategies of community policing. Due to a lack of clear structure and holistic integration towards community policing, the practices of police and public partnership have not been deeply rooted. Another essential element of successful implementation is communication. Communication must be timely, comprehensive, and direct. The communication and integration with the stake were ineffective and inadequate. The results of FGD implied that the cultures of stake pooling were poor in many woredas. The implementation of a community policing strategy must be in a place which will facilitate and enforce ongoing input, evaluation, and feedback from both inside and outside the police organization which are essential to making community policing work. Planning must be responsive to changing needs, conditions, and priorities. A strong research and planning capability that is open to suggestion and criticism will allow refinements and revisions to be made during the implementation process. Such flexibility is crucial to the success of

community policing. There are numerous ways in which police management can steer agencies toward community policing. Change must come from the top down. The behavior of the chief executive will set the tone and pattern for the entire organization. The key informants argue that community policing procedure, process:, and power were not clear. They further argue that, there are structural and administrative unclear has been observed in community policing. Community policing treated as an activities and usual practices rather than Philosophy of law enforcement. Due to a lack of clear strategy many elements and components of community policing were less emphasized.

 Local laws/community laws were not dominant unlike local law enforcement philosophy in the United States today, with 81% of the nation's population being served by law enforcement agencies that have adopted community policing approaches the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). Community policing is not a program; it is not a set of activities; it is not a personnel designation. Rather, community policing is a law enforcement philosophy, a way of thinking about improving public safety.

The first component of successful community policing initiatives involves transformational changes in the organizational structure and operation of a police department. This transformation can involve management policies, organizational structure, personnel practices, and information technology systems, among other aspects of how a department is structured and operates. Another hallmark of community policing is geographically-based decentralization assignments. In this context, the decentralization of a police department means a reduction in a reliance on top-down policy directives from department leadership, devolution in decision making, and a reporting structure that is less hierarchical. Decentralization gives local officers and precinct leaders more authority and discretion:, and it enables them to find creative solutions to specific, individual neighborhood problems without the restrictions of blanket, overly-rigid policies.

Community policing efforts to be effective partnerships are more than just frequent contact or simply sharing information. They involve on-going efforts to work together in meaningful ways to address problems facing a neighborhood. The commitme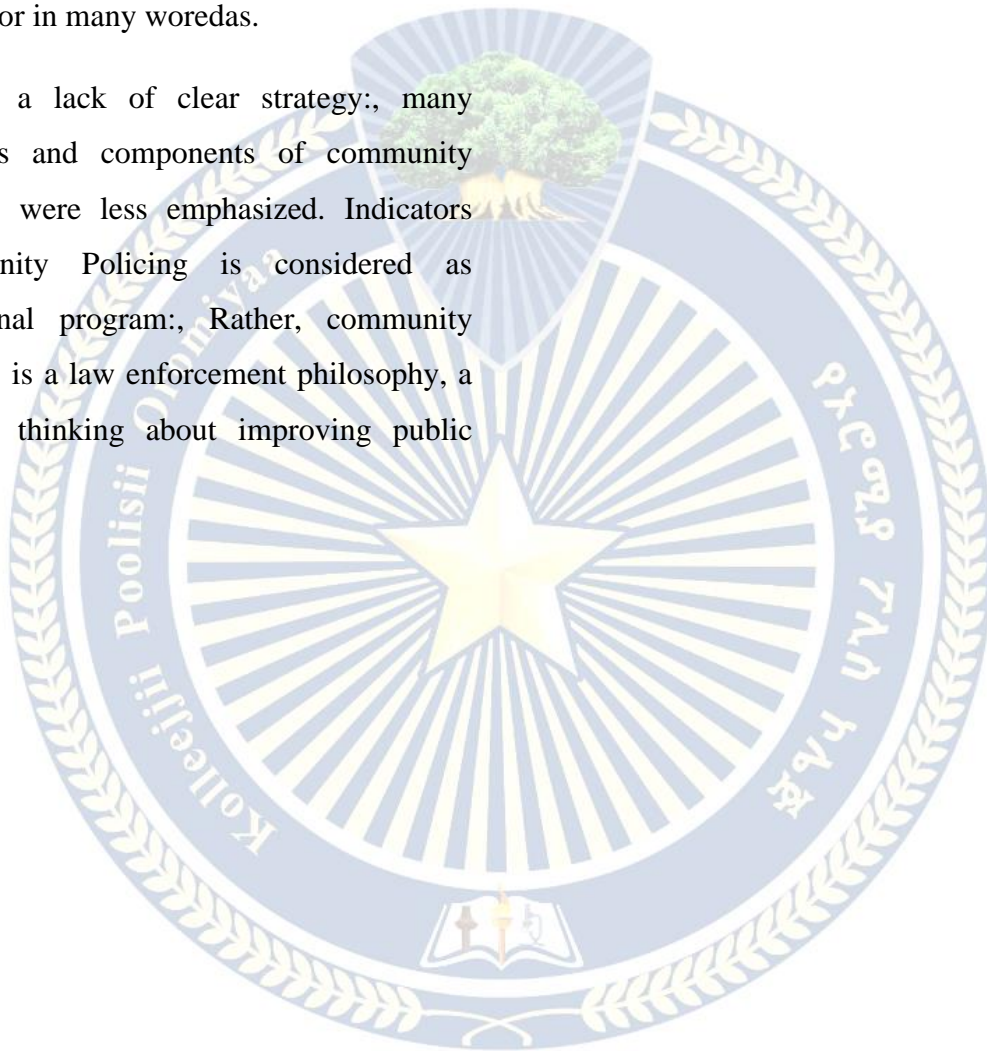nt and buy-in to community partnerships happens at all levels, from command staff to supervisors to line officers. Facilitate effective partnerships, including well-developed organizational structures, physical meeting spaces, social, political, and commercial networks, material and human resources, experienced leaders, and existing community participation.

This makes them natural vehicles through which the police can engage with local constituents to address neighborhood concerns. Improving the accessibility of police and community services can also be an effective catalyst for community engagement and a way to facilitate community partnership. Under CompStat, police department personnel are held accountable for crime levels in their geographic areas and required to regularly present on the current conditions within their areas, as well as the strategies underway or in development to address those conditions.

Continue to support systematic and standardized problem-solving approaches R-Shows correlation, which implies positive relations of both variables. When correlation is zero, and there no need to go for regression analysis due to no relationship among variables. On other hands, R Square implies the impact of independent variables

on dependent variables. Due to a lack of clear structure and holistic integration towards community policing, the practices of police and public partnership have not been deeply rooted. The results of FGD implied that the cultures of stake pooling were poor in many woredas.

Due to a lack of clear strategy:, many elements and components of community policing were less emphasized. Indicators Community Policing is considered as Situational program:, Rather, community policing is a law enforcement philosophy, a way of thinking about improving public safety.

Table 3. Data Analysis related to Community Partnerships

Anova *					
Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean squares	F	
1 Regression	5467.603	1	5467.603	196.815	.000*
Residual	10751.030	387	27.780		
Total	1628.632	388			
2 Regression	5477.825	2	2738.912	98.430	.000*
Residual	10740.808	386	27.826		
Total	16218.632	388			
3 Regression	7165.143	3	2388.381	101.566	.000*
Residual	9053.490	385	23.516		
4 Regression	7788.508	4	1947.127	88.693	.000*
Residual	8430.125	384	21.953		
Total	16218.632	388			
5 Regression	8512.035	5	1702.407	84.606	.000*
Residual	7706.597				
Total	16218.632				
6 Regression	12298.904	6	2049.817	199.766	.000*
Residual	3919.728	382	10.261		
Total	16218.632	388			
7 Regression	12320.601	7	1760.086	172.034	.000*
Regression	12561.801	8	1570.225	163.170	.000*
Residual	3656.832	380	9.623		
Total	16218.632	388			

Source: Field Survey, March, 2023.

Alpha implies- 0.000 which indicates strong and significant effects of independent variable on dependent variables. There is public confidence and safe feeling in police services in your area. For example, in Asella, the commonly known crime acts are the first one theft. Theft is a commonly or widely committed crime in this town. The other crime act is snatching of money bags and mobile phones, attempt of murder, and

others are also there in the town. Added to these, there are also other crimes:, but these are the commonly observed crimes in the area. These crimes cause economic problems to the community. They also cause problems to the life of individuals as well. This time, people are attempting to make money or their life by being engaged in a variety of trading activities or business. Related to these, there are also crimes of beating and attempts of murder up on these traders in our towns. Although there are many causes, the major one in unemployment. These unemployed people come (migrate) from other Regional States in to Asella in search of daily labor. Specially, these migrants come from the South Region to Asella in different ways, and they are exposed to unemployment and commit these types of crimes. The other causes of the crimes are varieties of addictions like Shisha smoking, Chat chewing, and being dependent on parents and other people/guardians. These addicted people are exposed to commit these types of crimes.

The other source or the third cause of this crime is poverty. As it is obvious, the community has established various organizations (organized in various forms) to stop these crimes. The community has

good attitude towards stopping or controlling these crime acts. When we say this, especially at this moment, the key informants argue that we have trained *GaachanaSirnaa* and these structural organizations are established with the perception that these crimes harm us (the community) and the shared responsibility with the community. Then, when we critically observe, the crime that was increasing from time to time has started decreasing due to the community's participation and supporting the police. We trained a larger number of people for GaachanaSirnaa. We have trained more than 3,000. People patrol their own Ketenas, Kebeles and these people guard their own areas this way and stopped the mentioned crime acts. So, it is possible to say the community has good attitude and action to avoid these crimes.

There is community policing in our town. For our community policing, we have given them training, and they go to the grass, root level of the community and work with the people. Awareness of the community and the smaller number of police forces are some of the obstacles in the reinforcing of the community police. The strategy and the policy are clearly known. The implementation of this strategy in the life of

the community is our responsibility. What does the policy look like? What is the role of the police? What is the role of the community? If we aware the community with regard to these strategies of the police we can easily control these crime acts. So, the solutions for the crimes observed in our area can be grounded of the community policing, is the big issue. The police should make the community participate in the control of these crimes. It is possible to avoid these crimes if we aware the community. An interview with religious representative implies that there are some efforts and change in relation to community policing when compared with previous years. At kebelle levels and neighbored levels, important efforts have been observed. After the introduction and organization of community policing at different levels in the town, various kinds of crime, including robbery, harassment, rape has been reduced. The crime during night and days has been reduced upon an organization of community policing in the town. The key informants added that it addresses the observed gaps in number of enforcement agency in the town. Currently, in each kebelle, there is one officer and two police officers. Due to this, it fair to engage community in community policing. In terms of the challenges to

community policing. There is a lack of critical resources for the work. For example, a car, an office, necessary resources for office, in adequate human resource, etc.

The results of interview conducted with an investor implied that there are some of the known acts in their area. These are thefts, robbery of simple crime acts like snatching of mobiles, robbery during the night when there is no electric power in the area. The causes of such crimes are when there is no electric power or during the night, the thieves get opportunity to commit the crimes. So, power failure is one of the cause's theft crimes in Asella town. This is one of the big problems. The cause is the existence of newly constructed empty houses in the town; and these became hiding places for these thieves. Besides, the cause of the problem is that there are young boys (mask and other item vendors) moving around with masks and other items of sell There are thieves among these young boys.

The residents or the community of the town are ready to help the police. The community has the interest to help the police in this regard. Do you think that there are the practices of the police to protect these crime acts? The police are diligently doing their duties without any breaks, day or night. All

of them are doing these; however, to arrive at crime sights quickly, they have difficulty of transportation or vehicles, and in all these they have short comings. There are also people coming from other areas/places as if they are in search of labor/employment these people are moving here and there in the town, and this situation is also one of the obstacles guarantying peace and security of the people in the town. This situation is also controlled; for example, if the young boys and vendors in this town carrying lottery and masks and moving here and there are controlled and well managed, the situation can be improved. However, these boys i do not think these boys are registered and known by the Kebeles. Hence, these situations should be controlled to minimize crime acts in the town. What do you think are the solutions that you recommend or suggest to solve these problems? If the government discharges enough budgets and vehicles for the police and facilitates other important inputs like offices, and if the community and the police work in close contact, things will be improved. If the community is also organized to support the police, the situation can be changed.

The police participation in crime prevention activities is often constrained by limited resources. For a long period, the police have lacked facilities to ensure the enhancement of community policing. Dilapidated structures, including lack of improved police stations, are the order of the day in the police stations. Therefore, the public may lack confidence in the police due to the lack of these facilities. Moreover, the government has not done enough to improve facilities that, including the police cells and station facilities in the country. Renovations and funding should be done to improve such facilities. An improved facility entails improved service delivery to the community members, thus improved security. Accordingly, there have been attempts to improve the current ailing situation facing the police. This is through the implementation of the police reforms.

4   Conclusion and Recommendation

Establishing and maintaining meaningful community partnerships require an education of all stakeholders, the inclusion of missing voices, and a shared responsibility for the outcomes. Engaging in effective problem solving requires input from several information sources, high quality and reliable data, officer autonomy to craft and implement targeted and creative solutions, and on-going communication. High rigid hierarchies couldn't address the root causes of neighborhood crimes.

Necessary components of community policing efforts were not observed (organizational transformation, community partnership, and problem solving).The community policing implementation is dominantly depending on the efforts of police departments and officers. There was a lack of certain skills in police personnel, including the ability to conceptualize problems, synthesize and analyze information, low recruitment of local policing, which was required to meeting local needs; a lack of sufficient in-service training, a lack of financial or necessary logistic for implementation community policing were another challenge to community policing.

Lack of appropriate communication mechanisms between the police and public and internally within the police, inflexible attitudes and systems of community policing, a lack of media, poor coverage to promote the implementation of community policing were also another challenges to community policing, and poor information systems. The ability to collect, organize, analyze, and record information of a trust-based partnership with the citizens was also poor. Lack or unclear a strategy for encouraging Police Public Partnership (PPP). Appropriate community policing

strategies were not in a place that would facilitate and enforce PPP. Local laws/community laws were not dominant. Bottom-up, decentralized, and democratic structure and citizen-focused of CP were not taken into account.

An Appropriate community policing strategy must be in a place which will facilitate and enforce PPP. Local laws/community laws must be dominant. Bottom-up, decentralized, and democratic Structure and citizen-focused of CP should be considered. Create system of independent and responsive. Establish bold, flattening, empowered, and accountable CP at bottom level. During assignments, community police officers are required to maintain high visibility KAS to create the relations between the police organization and the public.

Administrative problems in CP must be addressed. Contemporary crime and social problems needs modern CP. Needs shift from incident-driven reactive practices to proactive and creative solution to crime. High-quality training programs for police officers and community members are critical.

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