



Factors predisposing the emergence of community participation in combating crime in Katagum Local Government Area of Bauchi state

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Abstract

The prevalence of crime in today's world have cause for serious concern to all and sundry and has assumed a worrisome dimension in Nigeria. This paper assessed the factors predisposing the emergence of community participation in combating crime in Katagum L.G.A. The paper adopted broken window theory and Routine Activity theory for the research. The research equally adopted survey design and used cluster sampling technique to select (384) respondents out of the total population of Katagum Local Government Area. Also, frequency and Chi-square was used to analyze the data. The study found that majority of the people in the community were aware of the community participation in combating crime and that police related factors especially police ineffectiveness in Katagum L.G.A led to the emergence of community participation in the L.G.A to combat crime. The study therefore recommended the police in the local government should undergo retraining to enhance their effectiveness and that the people the police should engage community participation since they are not sufficient in themselves to fight the growing rate of crime in the community.

Keywords: Crime, community participation, crime prevention, predisposing factors

1. Introduction

Prevailing of crime in today's world have course serious concern among many analysis and scholars in recent time. Katagum Local Government Area has been bedeviled with attacks from various criminal elements thereby resulting to loss of various degrees. It has been more frustrating because the public perceived that little or no effort have been made by the security operatives control the situation. It is against this background that the study wants to accessed the predisposing the emergence of community participation in crime prevention in Katgum Local Government.

The importance of community participation in crime prevention and order maintenance efforts became clear in the mid-1980s as the rate of kidnapping, terrorism, robbery, murder, assault, rape, drug trafficking,

residential burglaries and abuse, smuggling etc., began to rise and it became clear that the police and other security agencies could not effectively control and prevent them (Hope, 2019). With the development and early success of community and block watch operations, residents understood they could do something about the local criminal issues that most affected them.

According to Matsukawa and Tatsuki. (2018) the importance of community participation in crime prevention and order-keeping efforts cannot be over emphasized. Hence, the residents of every community in Nigeria must be inspired to participate in communal crime prevention because that is the only way to take responsibility for local concerns, reestablish informal social control, and reduce crime and fear of crime that is fast dominating the society.



It is important to note that the lackadaisical attitude of the Nigerian government towards crime of various types has continues to wreak havoc on lives and homes in rural and urban areas of the country (Sambo and Sule, 2021). The entire criminal justice system of the country is fast collapsing which is evident in its ineffectiveness in discharging its responsibility. In addition to this even, the highly exulted Nigerian police who are the security representative of the government in every community have failed to achieve and maintain a secure and safe environment for Nigerians. Thus, the country is fast losing its hold to criminality thereby making the rate of crime to sky rocket. No part of the country is safe any longer. This is why this study is aimed at examine the predisposing factor leading to the emergence of community participation in combating crime in Katagum L.G.A.

Statement of the Research Problem

Many localities in Nigeria have experienced different types of crimes in recent years. According the report by National Berau of Statistic (NBS) reported that in Nigeria offences reflected a total of 134,663 cases were reported, offence against property has the highest number of cases as 68,579 cases, offence against persons recorded 53,641 cases while offence against lawful authority recorded the least with 12,443 cases respectively. In Bauchi state the NBS equally reported that 386 cases were reported, crime against person were 196, and offence against property were 186 while offence against law authority were 4. The local administration of Katagum is no exception. As a result, crime has become an issue in modern Nigeria. The police, who are the key agents in the battle against crime, need additional government backing and equipment (Lateef, 2019)

In Nigeria, particularly the Katagum Local Government Area, this has resulted in a

problem of under policing. As a result, violent and property crimes are perpetrated on a daily basis in the katagum local government without being detected or prosecuted. Many individuals are being robbed of their precious goods, while others are being murdered or crippled for life by armed bandits, Boko Haram, and others (Alemika, 2015). The increase in crime waves such as raping, pick pocketing, smuggling, homophobia, adultery, rubbering, car and motorcycle snatching, fraudsters, and cybercrime, among others, and the inability of the Nigeria police and other security agencies to deal with the situation effectively have given rise to community participation as a supplement to traditional policing. The series of attached by criminals on daily basis in Katagum Local Government had motivated me to accessed the predisposing factor for crime prevention and control technique in Katagum Local Government Area. The aim of the research was to examine the predisposing factor leading to the emergence of community participation in combating crime in Katagum L.G.A of Bauchi state.

2. Literature Review

Theoretical Framework

In 1982, James Q. Wilson and George Kelling developed the popularized Broken Window. According to the theory, failing to address minor infractions leads to a flood of greater offenses (Barley, 1994). Hoodlums will continue to shatter windows if damaged ones are not fixed. In other words, a broken window sends the message to criminals that a society lacks informal social control and is hence incapable or unwilling to defend itself against a criminal invasion (Barley, 1994).

Assumption of the theory

According to the argument, it is not so much the shattered window itself that is essential as the message that people take



from it. It is a sign of the community's defenselessness and fragility, as well as a reflection of the people's cohesion.

Strength and weakness of the theory

The clear benefit of this theory over many of its criminological forefathers is that it allows efforts in the sphere of criminal justice policy to impact change rather than depending on social policy. Modern innovations have reduced the theory's usefulness since some crimes are committed by persons who do not live in the crime's surroundings.

Application of the theory to the study

The idea is essential in understanding community engagement in crime prevention because it urges the community to concentrate on keeping order in order to battle both crime fear and crime itself. The idea also illustrates how a collaborative effort by both official security and community residents may assist reduce crime in the neighborhood.

3. Methodology

This research used descriptive survey research design. The purpose of the descriptive study was to determine the predisposing factor leading to the emergence of community participation in combating crime in Katagum L.G.A. The research was conducted in the Katagum local government region. The inhabitants of Katagum are largely Muslim and of Hausa, Fulani, and Bariberi (Kanuri) ancestry. Agriculture is the major source of income, including crops such as peanuts (groundnuts), sorghum, millet, rice (particularly in the riverine fadamas, or "floodplains"), cowpeas, cotton, indigo, and gum Arabic. According to the National Population Commission's 2006 Population Census, the total population of the Katagum Local Government Area was 295,970 people. The projected population of the Katagum local government area in

2020 is 411,700 people. As a result, the sample for this research was selected from the whole anticipated population of Katagum Local Government, which is 411,700 people (projected population 2020). The Krejcie and Morgan 1970 formula was used to calculate the sample size used to choose the sample for the population, as shown below:

$$S = \frac{X^2 NP(1-P)}{d^2(N-1)+P(1-P)}$$

Where

s = required sample size.

X² = the table value of chi-square for 1 degree of freedom at the desired confidence level (3.841).

N = the population size.

P = the population proportion (assumed to be .50 since this would provide the maximum sample size).

d = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (.05).

Hence, applying the above formula to our Population size we have;

$$S = 383.7 \approx 384$$

Using the aforementioned calculation, a total population of 384 people utilized and dispersed across the various locations under Bauchi State's Katagum Local Government Area. Furthermore, a representative sample of 184 respondents will be drawn at random from the six (6) wards chosen at random from a total of twenty (20) wards. A total of thirty one (31) questionnaires were provided to respondents in each of the wards, for a total of one hundred and eighty four (184) questionnaires.

The major data collecting tool was a questionnaire, which was given individually by the researcher with the assistance of one trained research assistant. Closed-ended questions are included in the surveys. To analyze the data acquired, the research used descriptive statistics (percentage and frequency) and chi-square. As a result, the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 21 was used in the research.



4. Results and Discussion

Below is the presentation of results of the study followed by discussions on the findings.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics

| Sex Distribution | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Male | 272 | 74.1 |
| Female | 95 | 25.9 |
| Total | 367 | 100.0 |
| Age Distribution | | |
| 18-25 | 91 | 24.8 |
| 26-45 | 165 | 45.0 |
| 46 and above | 111 | 30.2 |
| Total | 367 | 100.0 |
| Marital Status | | |
| Single | 100 | 27.2 |
| Married | 253 | 69.0 |
| Divorced | 12 | 3.3 |
| Widow | 02 | 0.5 |
| Total | 367 | 100.0 |
| Level of Education | | |
| Primary | 25 | 6.8 |
| Secondary | 75 | 20.4 |
| Tertiary | 264 | 72.0 |
| others specify | 3 | 0.8 |
| Total | 367 | 100.0 |
| Occupation | | |
| Civil Servant | 131 | 36.0 |
| Farming | 88 | 24.0 |
| Hunting | 04 | 1.0 |
| Okada | 11 | 3.0 |
| Plumber | 13 | 3.5 |
| Trading | 48 | 13.0 |
| Truck pusher | 05 | 1.3 |
| Vulcanizer | 08 | 2.2 |
| Others specify | 59 | 16.0 |
| Total | 367 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Work, 2021

Table 1 above shows the sex distribution of respondents, 74.1% were male while 25.9% were female. This shows that the males were more involved in crime prevention and control activities than the female counterpart. This is probably due to the fact that women are not allowed to mix freely because of the culture and traditions of the

people in the study area.

The table shows age distribution of the respondents which 24.8% of the respondents fall within the age group of 18-25years 45.0% fall within the range of 26-45years, and 30.2% fall within 46 and above years. This indicates that most of the respondents fall within the age bracket of



26-45years. This shows that majority of the respondents are within range of 26-45 years.

The table above also shows that 27.2% of the respondents are single, while 69.0% are married, 3.3% are divorced and 0.5% are widowed. By way of analysis married people were easily available at the time of this research and they have more reliable knowledge on role of the community in combating crime.

On the educational background of the respondents, table 1 above indicates that 6.8% respondents have primary education, 20.4% have secondary education 72.0% have tertiary education, while 0.8% of the respondents have other educational background. Therefore, respondents with

tertiary education in the study area have the highest percentage among the respondents. This is clear indication that majority of the respondents are enlighten and can contribute immensely to crime prevention in their community.

The data on the occupational distribution of respondents shows that 36.0% were civil servants, 24.0% are farmers, 1.0% are hunters, 3.0% are okada, traders (including petty traders and women/house wives) , 3.5% are plumbers, 13.0% are traders, 1.3% are truck pushers 2.2% are vulcanizers ,and 16.0% engage in other occupational activities not stated. It is therefore; clear that majority of the respondents in the study area are civil servants and farmers.

Table 2: Community Participation

| Awareness of Community Participation in Combating Crime | Frequency | Percentage |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| Yes | 314 | 85.6 |
| No | 53 | 14.4 |
| Total | 367 | 100 |
| Factors that Necessitate the Introduction of Community Participation in Combating Crime | | |
| Increase in crime wave | 88 | 24.0 |
| Lack of presence of police | 75 | 20.4 |
| Police ineffectiveness | 129 | 35.1 |
| Shortage of Personnel | 38 | 10.4 |
| Don't know | 37 | 10.1 |
| Total | 367 | 100 |
| Emergence of Community Participation in Combating Crime | | |
| Yes | 331 | 90.2 |
| No | 36 | 9.8 |
| Total | 367 | 100 |
| Level of Community Participation in Combating Crime | | |
| Average | 121 | 33.0 |
| High | 87 | 23.7 |
| Low | 22 | 6.0 |
| Very High | 137 | 37.3 |
| Total | 367 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Work, 2021

Table above shows that 85.6% of the respondents are those that are aware of community participation in combating crime in their area while 14.4% of the

respondents are those that are not aware of community participation in combating crime in their area. Therefore, respondents that are aware of the existence of



community participation in combating crime constitute majority of the respondents.

In addition, during the administering of the questionnaire, I noticed that Majority of the People are fully aware of the existence of community participation in the area, and they normally operate at a regular basis, more especially at the night as they arrest several criminals in the course of their action.

The table also shows that 24.0% of the respondents believe that community participation emerges as a result of the increase in crime wave, 20.4% are those that are of the opinion that it is lack of presence of police, 10.1% the emergence of community participation in combating crime was because of police ineffectiveness to crime, 10.4% are of the opinion that it is shortage of personnel that lead to emergence of community participation in combating crime while 18.6% are of view

that they don't know the reason for the emergence of community participation in combating crime.

The table also shows that 90.2% of the respondents believe that community participation helped in combating crime, 9.8% of the respondents do not believe that community participation helped in combating crime. The above is a clear indication that the emergence of community participation helped in combating crime.

As indicated in the table, 33.0% of the respondents believe that the level of community participation in combating crime is average, 23.7% are of the opinion that it is high, 6.0% believe that the level is Low, 37.3% believe that it is very high. From the above table, it shows that those that say is very high constitute the largest proportion of the respondents while those that say are low constituted minority respectively.

Table 3: Relationship between Factors that Necessitate the Introduction of Community Participation in Combating Crime and Emergence of Community Participation in Combating Crime Cross tabulation

| | | Emergence of Community Participation in Combating Crime | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|------------|------------|----|-------|-------|------|
| | | No | Yes | Total | df | X-cal | X-tab | Sig |
| Factors that Necessitate the Introduction of Community Participation in Combating Crime | Increase in crime wave | 15(4.1%) | 73(19.9%) | 88(24.0%) | 3 | 8.139 | 5.991 | 0.43 |
| | Lack of presence of police | 4(1.1%) | 71(19.3%) | 75(20.4%) | | | | |
| | Police ineffectiveness | 9(2.5%) | 120(32.7%) | 129(35.1%) | | | | |
| | Shortage of Personnel | 8(2.2%) | 67(18.3%) | 75(20.4%) | | | | |
| | Total | 36(9.8%) | 331(90.2%) | 367(100%) | | | | |

Table 3 shows the relationship between factors that necessitate the introduction of community participation in combating crime and Emergence of community participation in combating crime. The result shows that all the factors; increase in crime wave (19.9%), lack of presence of police (19.3%), police ineffectiveness (32.7%) and shortage of personnel (18.3)

necessitated the introduction of community participation to combat crimes. And from the result is was obvious that police ineffectiveness as the most predominant factor that necessitated it. Also, the statistical relationship between factors that necessitate the introduction of community participation in combating crime and Emergence of community participation in



combating crime using chi-square test tool shows that the Chi-Square Calculated (X-Cal) which is 8.139 is more than the Table Value (X-tab) which is 5.991 at 0.05 level of significance. This, therefore, means that the H_0 which states that, police related factors had not led to the emergence of community participation in combating crime in Katagum L.G.A shall be rejected while the H_1 which states that, police related factors led to the emergence of community participation in combating crime in Katagum L.G.A will be accepted.

Discussion of the findings

The findings of these study were discussed based on the objective of the study. As revealed by the findings of the study, the people in Katagum L.G.A are aware of community participation in combating crime. Also, the study found that people in Katagum L.G.A believes that community participation has helped in combating crime. The study found that police related factors especially police ineffectiveness in Katagum L.G.A led to the emergence of community participation in the L.G.A to combat crime.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concluded that since police related factors especially police ineffectiveness in Katagum L.G.A led to the emergence of community participation in the L.G.A to combat crime. This is a Known fact among the people living in the community and they are aware on the ongoing community participation to combat this crime. Since, the police is becoming ineffective there is need for the police in this local government to undergo retraining so that he can become more effective.

Based on the study carried out, the following recommendations are made.

That the police should come to terms with their incapability to fight the growing rate of crime in the community alone and encourage community participation. The

government must provide adequate mechanism for checkmating the police function in protecting the life and property in the study area to that the crime rate will be reduce. The community leader to make sure that they provide full support to the security agencies to ensure that the community are safe and report all the suspected crime in their area.

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