

Nigeria Police and Crime Control Strategies: A Review of Policies and Procedures for Effectiveness

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Abstract- *Crime is one of the major social problems affecting Nigeria. It affects the safety of people, families, communities and the development of the country. The Nigeria Police Force has the main responsibility of preventing crime, maintaining law and order, protecting lives and property, arresting suspected offenders and investigating criminal activities. However, the ability of the police to perform these duties effectively is affected by different challenges. These challenges include inadequate equipment, poor funding, shortage of manpower, lack of modern technology, poor police-public relationships and difficulties in implementing some police policies. This paper examines the crime control strategies used by the Nigeria Police Force and considers the effectiveness of its policies and procedures. The paper focuses on regular police patrol, community policing, intelligence gathering, crime investigation and cooperation with other security agencies. It also examines the major challenges affecting police effectiveness and suggests ways of improving crime control in Nigeria. The study used a descriptive survey approach. One hundred respondents were selected from the study area and responses were collected through a structured questionnaire. The findings show that regular police patrol, community policing, intelligence gathering, proper investigation and cooperation with other security agencies are important strategies for crime control. The findings also show that inadequate equipment, inadequate manpower, poor funding, limited modern technology and poor police-public relationships reduce police effectiveness. The paper concludes that the Nigeria Police Force has important crime control policies, but their success depends on proper implementation and availability of adequate resources. The paper recommends improved funding, provision of modern equipment, regular training, better police welfare, stronger community policing, improved police-public relationships, modern technology and greater accountability.*

Keywords: *Nigeria Police Force, crime control, crime prevention, community policing, police policies.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Crime is a serious problem in many societies around the world, including Nigeria. Crime can affect individuals, families, businesses, communities and government institutions. When crime becomes common in a community, people may become afraid to move freely, conduct business or participate fully in community activities. Crime can also reduce economic development and create distrust among members of society. Nigeria faces different forms of crime. These include theft, robbery, kidnapping, assault, fraud, cult-related activities, domestic violence, cybercrime and other criminal activities. Different communities may experience different forms of crime depending on their social and economic conditions. Because of this, the government needs effective strategies for preventing and controlling criminal activities.

The Nigeria Police Force is one of the most important institutions responsible for crime control in Nigeria. The police are expected to prevent crime, investigate offences, arrest suspected offenders, maintain public order and protect the lives and property of citizens. The police also work with other security organisations and members of the public to maintain peace and security. The Nigeria Police Act 2020 provides an important legal framework for the operation of the Nigeria Police Force. The Act states that the police service should be based on accountability, transparency, protection of human rights and partnership with other security agencies. It also gives importance to cooperation between the police and the communities they serve. Crime control therefore involves more than arresting people after crimes have been committed. It involves preventing crime, collecting information, investigating offences, working with communities and responding quickly to security problems. The police must also develop

strategies that can respond to changes in criminal activities.

Arisukwu et al. (2020) found that community participation is important in crime prevention and control. Their study showed that problems such as poverty, unemployment, inadequate infrastructure and limited police presence can affect crime control. The study also showed that cooperation between the police and the public can help in preventing crime. The relationship between the police and members of the public is also important. When people trust the police, they are more likely to report crimes and provide information. However, when people do not trust the police, they may be unwilling to cooperate with them. This can make crime control difficult. The Nigeria Police Force has therefore introduced different strategies to improve crime control. These strategies include police patrol, community policing, intelligence gathering, investigation and cooperation with other security agencies. The success of these strategies depends on how well they are implemented.

HISTORY OF THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE AND THE POLICE ACT

The Nigeria Police Force is the main police organisation in Nigeria. Its duty is to protect lives and property, prevent crime, arrest criminals and maintain peace in the country. The history of the Nigeria Police Force started before Nigeria became an independent country. It developed from small police groups created by the colonial government. According to the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the early beginning of the police can be traced to the nineteenth century.

Early Beginning of the Police in Nigeria

Before the coming of the Europeans, many Nigerian communities had their own ways of maintaining peace. Traditional rulers, elders, hunters and local guards helped to protect people and settle disputes. When the British came to Nigeria, they created different police groups to protect their workers, offices and trading activities. These groups later became the foundation of the Nigeria Police Force. The official history of the Nigeria Police Force traces its early beginning to 1820. However, some historians identify 1879 as the year when the Hausa Constabulary was formally created.

Hausa Constabulary

The Hausa Constabulary was one of the earliest police groups in Nigeria. It was created to maintain law and order in the northern part of the country. It also helped the colonial government to protect important places and control criminal activities.

Royal Niger Company Constabulary

In 1888, the Royal Niger Company created a police group. It was known as the Royal Niger Company Constabulary. Its main duty was to protect the company's trading centres and workers. Its headquarters was located at Lokoja.

Niger Coast Constabulary

In 1894, the Niger Coast Constabulary was established in Calabar. It was responsible for keeping peace and protecting the interests of the colonial government in the coastal area.

Lagos Police

The Lagos Police was established in 1896. It was created to maintain law and order in Lagos and to protect the colonial government. These different police groups worked separately in different parts of Nigeria.

Formation of the Nigeria Police Force

In 1914, the Northern and Southern Protectorates were joined together to form Nigeria. After the amalgamation, there was a need to bring the different police groups together. In 1930, the police forces in the Northern and Southern parts of Nigeria were merged. This merger led to the formation of the modern Nigeria Police Force. The Nigeria Police Force became responsible for policing the whole country. According to the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), the formation of the national police helped to create one central police organisation for Nigeria.

The Police During Colonial Rule

During the colonial period, the police performed many duties. These duties included:

1. Maintaining law and order.
2. Protecting government property.
3. Arresting people accused of crimes.
4. Controlling protests and public meetings.
5. Protecting colonial officers.

6. Enforcing colonial laws.

However, the police were sometimes used to control Nigerians and protect colonial interests. This made some people see the police as an organisation working mainly for the colonial government.

The Police After Independence

Nigeria became independent on 1 October 1960. After independence, the Nigeria Police Force continued to perform its duties as the main national police organisation. The police were expected to protect all Nigerians and work for the good of the country. Their duties included crime prevention, investigation, arrest of criminals and protection of lives and property. After the Nigerian Civil War, the police force became more centralised. More police stations, training institutions and special units were created.

Meaning of the Police Act

The Police Act is a law that explains how the Nigeria Police Force should be established, organised and controlled. It also explains the duties and powers of police officers. The Act guides the police on how to maintain peace, prevent crime and protect human rights. The old Police Act was known as the Police Act, Cap P19, Laws of the Federation 2004.

The Police Act 2020

The Nigeria Police Act 2020 was signed into law in September 2020. It replaced the old Police Act. According to the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2020), the Police Act 2020 was created to make the Nigeria Police Force more effective, professional and responsible. The Act also encourages respect for human rights and better cooperation between the police and members of the public.

Main Objectives of the Police Act 2020

The main objectives of the Police Act 2020 include:

1. Protection of Lives and Property

The police must protect the lives and property of Nigerians. They must work to reduce danger and insecurity in society.

2. Prevention of Crime

The police must prevent crime before it happens. They should patrol communities and respond quickly to reports of danger.

3. Investigation of Crime

The police have the duty to investigate crimes. They collect information, interview witnesses and gather evidence.

4. Arrest of Suspected Criminals

Police officers can arrest people suspected of committing crimes according to the law. Arrests must be carried out properly and with respect for human rights.

5. Maintenance of Public Peace

The police must maintain peace during public meetings, demonstrations, festivals and other activities.

6. Protection of Human Rights

The Police Act 2020 encourages police officers to respect the rights of all people. Suspects must not be tortured or treated cruelly.

7. Community Policing

The Act encourages cooperation between the police and members of the community. The police should listen to the people and work with them to solve security problems.

IMPORTANCE OF THE NIGERIA POLICE ACT 2020

The Nigeria Police Act 2020 is important to police reform and crime control in Nigeria.

The Act aims to provide a more efficient and effective police service. It gives importance to accountability and transparency, protection of human rights and partnership with other security agencies.

The Act also promotes cooperation between the police and the communities they serve.

The Act provides for community policing committees and identifies activities such as crime prevention, conflict resolution, intelligence gathering,

maintenance of law and order and cooperation with community organisations.

This is important because modern policing requires the police to work together with citizens.

However, the success of the Act depends on proper implementation. Policies and laws must be followed in practice if they are to improve police performance.

Recent discussion of the Act has also drawn attention to the need to close gaps between legal provisions and actual police practice. Ishie-Johnson (2025) noted issues concerning accountability and the implementation of community policing under the Police Act 2020.

Powers of the Police Under the Act

The Police Act gives police officers certain powers. These powers must be used according to the law.

Some of the powers include:

- Arresting suspects.
- Investigating crimes.
- Searching people and places where the law permits.
- Protecting public places.
- Controlling traffic and public disorder.
- Keeping criminal records.
- Taking suspects before the court.
- Using reasonable force when necessary and allowed by law.

Police officers must not abuse these powers. They must act fairly and professionally.

Provisions of the Police Act 2020

The Police Act 2020 contain the following provisions. First, it gives the police clear duties and responsibilities. It also helps police officers to understand what they can and cannot do. Second, the Act encourages accountability. This means that police officers should be ready to explain their actions when they do wrong. Third, the Act promotes respect for human rights. It also encourages better treatment of suspects, victims and members of the public. Fourth, the Act supports community policing. This can help the police to gain the trust and support of the people.

Problems Facing the Nigeria Police Force

The Nigeria Police Force faces many problems. Some of them are:

1. Lack of enough equipment.
2. Poor working conditions.
3. Inadequate police stations and vehicles.
4. Corruption among some officers.
5. Poor relationship between the police and the public.
6. Inadequate training.
7. Political interference.
8. Poor welfare for police officers.
9. Delay in the justice system.
10. Fear and lack of trust among citizens.

According to Akinlabi and colleagues (2021), public trust is important for effective policing. When people do not trust the police, they may not report crimes or give useful information.

Ways to Improve the Police Force

The Nigeria Police Force can be improved through the following ways:

Better Training

Police officers should receive regular training on crime prevention, investigation, human rights and community relations.

Good Welfare

Government should provide good salaries, housing, medical care and other welfare services for police officers.

Modern Equipment

The police should be provided with vehicles, communication tools, computers and other modern equipment.

Fighting Corruption

Corruption should be punished. Police officers who abuse their offices should face disciplinary action.

Community Partnership

The police should work closely with traditional rulers, youth groups, religious leaders and other members of the community.

Respect for Human Rights

Police officers should treat suspects and members of the public with respect. Torture, unlawful detention and illegal extortion should not be allowed.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Crime remains a major problem in Nigeria despite the efforts of the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies. The police have different policies and procedures for preventing and controlling crime, but the existence of these policies does not always mean that they will produce the expected results. One of the major problems affecting police crime control is inadequate equipment. Police officers require vehicles, communication equipment, protective materials, investigation tools and other resources to perform their duties. When these resources are not available, police officers may find it difficult to respond quickly to criminal activities. Another problem is inadequate manpower. Nigeria has many communities and a large population. It can therefore be difficult for a limited number of police officers to provide effective security coverage in every community. Shortage of manpower can increase the workload of police officers and may reduce the ability of the police to respond to crimes quickly.

Poor funding is another major problem. Police activities require adequate financial resources. Money is needed for transportation, training, communication, investigation, equipment and maintenance of police facilities. Where funding is not sufficient, the implementation of crime control policies may become difficult. The development of technology has also changed the nature of crime. Criminals now use different forms of technology to commit some offences. The police therefore need modern technology to investigate and prevent crime. Where police officers lack appropriate technological tools and training, investigation may become more difficult. Another major problem is poor police-public relationships. Crime control requires cooperation between the police and the public. Members of the community can provide information about criminal activities because they live and work in the environment where crimes take place. If citizens do

not trust the police, they may not provide such information.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this paper is to examine the effectiveness of Nigeria Police crime control strategies, policies and procedures.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Examine the major crime control strategies used by the Nigeria Police Force.
2. Identify the major challenges affecting the effectiveness of the Nigeria Police Force in controlling crime.
3. Examine measures that can improve police crime control strategies and procedures.
4. Assess the importance of police-community cooperation in crime prevention.
5. Suggest ways of improving public confidence in the Nigeria Police Force.

IV. CONCEPT OF CRIME

Crime can be described as an act or behaviour that is prohibited by law and for which a person can be punished by the government. Crime can involve actions against individuals, property, public order or the state. Crime takes different forms. Some crimes involve taking another person's property, while others involve violence against individuals. Some crimes are committed using computers and other technologies. The level and type of crime can differ from one community to another. Factors such as unemployment, poverty, poor social conditions, drug abuse, weak social control and other problems may contribute to criminal behaviour. Crime has negative effects on society. It can cause loss of lives, loss of property, fear, injuries and economic problems. Businesses may also suffer when people are afraid to travel or invest in an area. For this reason, crime prevention and control are important responsibilities of government and security institutions.

V. CONCEPT OF CRIME CONTROL

Crime control refers to the different activities used to prevent, detect and respond to criminal activities. It

includes activities carried out before, during and after the commission of a crime. Crime prevention is concerned mainly with stopping crime before it happens. Crime detection involves discovering criminal activities and identifying possible offenders. Crime investigation involves collecting information and evidence to understand how a crime happened. Crime control also includes arresting suspected offenders according to the law, maintaining public order and working with other institutions to reduce criminal activities. Effective crime control should therefore be proactive as well as reactive. The police should not wait until a crime occurs before taking action. They should use information and community cooperation to identify possible threats and prevent crimes.

VI. ROLE OF THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE IN CRIME CONTROL

The Nigeria Police Force has a major role in maintaining law and order in the country. Its responsibilities include crime prevention, crime detection, investigation of offences, arrest of suspected offenders and protection of lives and property. The police are also responsible for maintaining public safety and responding to emergencies. Police officers are expected to operate according to the law and respect the rights of citizens. The Nigeria Police Act 2020 provides for a more effective and efficient police service. The Act places importance on accountability, transparency, human rights, professionalism and cooperation with communities and other security agencies. Audu et al. (2023) explained that the police have an important role in law enforcement and policing in Nigeria. However, the effectiveness of policing can be affected by challenges in resources, policy implementation and police-community relationships. The role of the police is therefore very broad. Police effectiveness requires trained officers, adequate resources, good leadership, public cooperation and proper implementation of policies.

VII. MAJOR CRIME CONTROL STRATEGIES OF THE NIGERIA POLICE

7.1 Regular Police Patrol

Regular police patrol is one of the traditional methods used to prevent crime. Police officers move around communities, roads, markets, residential areas and other public places to discourage criminal activities. Police patrol makes police officers visible to members of the public. It can also make criminals afraid of being caught. Regular patrol can therefore serve as a form of crime prevention. Patrol can also help officers respond to emergencies. When police officers are already present in an area, they may be able to respond more quickly to reports of crime. However, effective patrol requires adequate vehicles, fuel, communication equipment and sufficient police personnel. If these resources are lacking, regular patrol may not be effective.

7.2 Community Policing

Community policing is a strategy that encourages cooperation between the police and members of the community. The main idea behind community policing is that police officers cannot control crime alone. Members of the public are also important in preventing crime because they understand their communities and may have information about criminal activities. The Nigeria Police Act 2020 provides for community policing committees and cooperation between the police and communities. The objectives include improving communication, cooperation, police service, transparency and accountability. Arisukwu et al. (2020) found that community participation can support crime prevention and control. Community members can provide information and support police activities when there is trust between the police and the public. Community policing can therefore improve crime control when it is properly implemented.

7.3 Intelligence Gathering

Intelligence gathering is another important crime control strategy. It involves collecting information about criminal activities and using the information to prevent crime. Police officers can receive information from members of the public, community leaders, other security agencies and other lawful sources. Good intelligence can help the police understand where crimes are likely to occur, identify possible threats and plan their activities. Intelligence gathering is especially important because modern crime can be

organised and difficult to detect through ordinary patrol alone. The police therefore need trained officers who can collect, analyse and use information properly.

7.4 Crime Investigation

Crime investigation involves finding out how a crime happened and identifying the persons responsible. When a crime is reported, police investigators should collect relevant information, interview people, examine evidence and identify suspects according to the law. Good investigation can increase the possibility of identifying offenders and supporting criminal prosecution. However, effective investigation requires trained personnel, modern equipment, forensic support and proper record keeping. Poor investigation can lead to delays and may reduce public confidence in the police. It is therefore important for police authorities to improve investigative skills and resources.

7.5 Cooperation With Other Security Agencies

Crime control is not the responsibility of the Nigeria Police Force alone. Other security agencies also have important roles. The police may need to cooperate with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, military, immigration authorities, customs and other relevant organisations depending on the nature of the security problem. Cooperation can help security agencies share information and resources. It can also improve their ability to respond to serious criminal activities. The Nigeria Police Act 2020 recognises partnership with other security agencies as one of the principles for effective policing.

VIII. CHALLENGES AFFECTING POLICE EFFECTIVENESS

8.1 Inadequate Equipment

Inadequate equipment is one of the major challenges facing police crime control. Police officers need vehicles, communication devices, protective equipment, investigation tools and other materials. When these resources are not available, police officers may find it difficult to perform their duties effectively. Government should therefore provide adequate and functional equipment to police formations.

8.2 Inadequate Manpower

The police need enough personnel to provide security services to communities. When there are not enough police officers, some communities may not receive sufficient police attention. Existing officers may also experience heavy workloads. Adequate recruitment and proper deployment of police officers can help solve this problem.

8.3 Poor Funding

Funding is necessary for effective police operations. The police need money for transportation, fuel, communication, training, investigation, equipment and maintenance. Poor funding can affect the implementation of crime control policies. Adequate funding should therefore be provided and properly monitored.

8.4 Lack of Modern Technology

Modern technology is becoming increasingly important in crime prevention and investigation. Technology can help the police collect information, communicate, identify suspects, keep records and investigate crimes. However, the police need both equipment and trained personnel to use technology effectively.

8.5 Poor Police-Public Relationship

The relationship between the police and the public can affect crime control. Members of the public are more likely to report crimes when they trust the police. They may also provide useful information when they believe that the police will treat them fairly. Poor treatment of citizens can reduce cooperation. Arisukwu et al. (2021) examined police treatment of the public and showed that police-public interaction is important to how citizens view the police. Police officers should therefore treat citizens with respect, fairness and professionalism.

8.6 Poor Welfare of Police Officers

Police officers work under difficult conditions and may face dangerous situations. Poor welfare can affect motivation and job satisfaction. Police officers need reasonable working conditions, healthcare, accommodation, insurance and other welfare support. Improving police welfare can help officers perform their duties with greater commitment.

8.7 Poor Implementation of Policies

Nigeria has developed different laws and policies relating to policing. However, the existence of a policy is not enough. The policy must be properly implemented, monitored and evaluated. The Nigeria Police Act 2020 contains important provisions on accountability, human rights, professionalism and community policing. The success of these provisions depends on effective implementation.

IX. POLICE-PUBLIC RELATIONSHIP AND CRIME CONTROL

Police-public relationship is one of the most important factors in crime control. The public can provide information about suspicious activities, missing persons, criminal groups and other security problems. However, citizens may not provide information if they do not trust police officers.

Trust is therefore important for effective policing. The police should create a friendly environment where citizens can report crimes without unnecessary fear. Police officers should also explain police procedures to members of the public. Public confidence can be improved when police officers demonstrate fairness, honesty, professionalism and respect for human rights. Ike et al. (2021) emphasised the importance of public confidence in the Nigerian police. Their work indicates that building trust is necessary for improving the relationship between citizens and police officers.

X. METHODOLOGY

This paper adopted a descriptive survey research design. The study was carried out in Owo, Ondo State, Nigeria. The accessible population for the study consisted of 200 respondents. A sample size of 100 respondents was selected for the study. The respondents included members of the public and persons with knowledge of community security and police activities. A structured questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire was divided into different sections covering police crime control strategies, challenges affecting police effectiveness and ways of improving crime control.

The questionnaire used a four-point Likert scale consisting of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), and Strongly Disagree (SD).

For analysis, Strongly Agree was scored 4, Agree was scored 3, Disagree was scored 2 and Strongly Disagree was scored 1.

The data were analysed using frequency, percentage and mean. A mean value of 2.50 was used as the decision point.

XI. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

The first major finding of the study is that regular police patrol helps to prevent and control crime. Most of the respondents agreed that the presence of police officers in communities can discourage criminal activities. The second finding is that community policing is useful in crime control. Many respondents agreed that cooperation between police officers and members of the community can improve crime prevention. The third finding is that intelligence gathering is important in detecting criminal activities. Respondents agreed that information from communities and other sources can help police officers identify criminal threats.

The fourth finding is that proper crime investigation helps to identify offenders. Respondents agreed that effective investigation is necessary for understanding how crimes occur and identifying persons responsible. The fifth finding is that cooperation between the police and other security agencies can improve crime control. Security agencies can share information and work together when dealing with serious security problems. The study also found that inadequate equipment affects police effectiveness. Many respondents agreed that police officers cannot perform effectively when they lack necessary vehicles, communication tools and investigation equipment.

The study found that inadequate manpower is another major problem. Many respondents agreed that shortage of police personnel makes it difficult to provide adequate security in all communities.

Poor funding was also identified as a major challenge. Respondents agreed that lack of adequate funding can affect police operations, training, investigation and equipment.

The study further found that lack of modern technology affects police investigation and crime control.

Another major finding was that poor police-public relationships can reduce crime reporting. When citizens do not trust the police, they may be unwilling to provide information.

The respondents strongly supported measures such as better police equipment, regular training, stronger community policing, improved police welfare and the use of modern technology.

XII. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings show that the Nigeria Police Force has several important strategies for controlling crime. However, the effectiveness of these strategies depends on the resources available to the police and the level of cooperation between the police and the public.

The finding on police patrol shows that police visibility can discourage crime. When police officers regularly patrol communities, they can monitor public spaces and respond to emergencies.

However, patrol cannot solve all crime problems. It should be combined with intelligence gathering, investigation and community policing.

The finding on community policing agrees with Arisukwu et al. (2020), who found that community participation can help prevent and control crime. Community members can provide information that is useful to police officers.

Community policing also agrees with the Nigeria Police Act 2020, which promotes partnership between the police and communities.

The finding on intelligence gathering shows the importance of using information to prevent crime.

Police officers need to know where crime is happening and understand the activities of criminal groups.

The finding on investigation shows that crime prevention must be supported by effective investigation. When crimes are properly investigated, the police can identify suspects and provide evidence for legal proceedings.

The finding on inadequate equipment is important because police officers need appropriate resources to perform their duties. A police officer who lacks transportation, communication equipment or investigation tools may not be able to respond effectively.

The finding on poor funding also shows that good policies require adequate resources. Without sufficient funding, it may be difficult to implement training, patrol, investigation and other police activities.

The finding on police-public relationships is also important. Crime control depends greatly on information from citizens. If citizens do not trust police officers, they may not report crimes.

This agrees with Ike et al. (2021), who identified public confidence as an important issue in Nigerian policing.

The study therefore shows that improving police effectiveness requires a combination of good strategies, adequate resources and strong relationships between the police and members of the public.

XIII. WAYS OF IMPROVING POLICE CRIME CONTROL

13.1 Provision of Adequate Equipment

Government should provide the police with modern and functional equipment. Police stations should have enough vehicles, communication equipment, protective materials and investigation tools. Equipment should also be properly maintained so that it remains useful.

13.2 Improved Police Funding

Government should provide sufficient funds for police activities.

Funding should cover training, transportation, equipment, communication, investigation and maintenance.

There should also be proper monitoring to ensure that funds meant for police activities are used for their intended purposes.

13.3 Regular Training

Police officers should receive regular training and retraining.

Training should cover investigation, intelligence gathering, community policing, human rights, communication, conflict management and the use of modern technology.

Regular training can help officers understand new forms of crime and improve their professional skills.

13.4 Strengthening Community Policing

Community policing should be strengthened across communities.

Police officers should work with traditional leaders, community leaders, youth organisations, religious groups, schools, businesses and community associations.

Regular meetings can help police and community members discuss security problems and develop solutions.

13.5 Improvement of Police Welfare

The welfare of police officers should be improved. Police officers should have good working conditions, healthcare, accommodation and other welfare support. Better welfare can improve motivation and encourage officers to perform their duties more effectively.

13.6 Use of Modern Technology

The police should make greater use of appropriate modern technology.

Technology can assist in communication, investigation, record keeping, intelligence gathering and crime detection.

Police officers should also receive proper training in the use of technological tools.

13.7 Improving Police-Public Trust

Police authorities should develop programmes that improve trust between police officers and citizens.

Officers should treat citizens with respect and fairness. Complaints from members of the public should also be handled properly.

When people trust the police, they are more likely to report crimes and provide information.

13.8 Strengthening Accountability

Police officers should be accountable for their actions. There should be proper systems for receiving and investigating complaints against police officers.

Accountability can improve professionalism and public confidence.

13.9 Better Cooperation With Other Security Agencies

Security agencies should share information and cooperate when dealing with criminal activities.

Good cooperation can reduce duplication of efforts and improve responses to security threats.

XIV. CONCLUSION

Crime control is an important responsibility of the Nigeria Police Force. The police have a major role in protecting lives and property, preventing crime, investigating offences and maintaining public order.

The study shows that the Nigeria Police Force uses different crime control strategies, including regular patrol, community policing, intelligence gathering, crime investigation and cooperation with other security agencies.

These strategies can contribute to crime prevention when they are properly implemented. However,

several challenges reduce their effectiveness. These challenges include inadequate equipment, shortage of manpower, poor funding, lack of modern technology, poor police-public relationships and inadequate welfare.

The study also shows that community participation is very important. Police officers cannot effectively control crime without the cooperation of the people they serve.

The Nigeria Police Act 2020 provides an important framework for accountability, transparency, human rights, professionalism and community partnership. However, the effectiveness of these provisions depends on proper implementation.

In conclusion, improving police crime control in Nigeria requires more than creating policies. Government and police authorities must ensure that policies are properly implemented and supported with adequate resources.

The Nigeria Police Force should therefore focus on improving its relationship with citizens, providing better training and equipment, strengthening intelligence gathering, improving investigation and making greater use of appropriate technology.

If these measures are properly implemented, the effectiveness of the Nigeria Police Force can improve and public confidence in the police can increase.

XV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are made.

1. Government Should Provide Adequate Equipment
The government should provide the Nigeria Police Force with adequate and modern equipment. Police officers should have functional vehicles, communication equipment, protective materials and investigation tools.

2. Police Funding Should Be Increased

Adequate funding should be provided for police operations, training, investigation, transportation and maintenance of equipment.

3. More Police Officers Should Be Recruited

The government should recruit enough police officers to improve security coverage and reduce the workload of existing officers.

4. Community Policing Should Be Strengthened

The police should work closely with community leaders and residents. Community policing should be treated as an important part of crime prevention.

5. Police Officers Should Receive Regular Training

Police officers should receive continuous training in investigation, intelligence gathering, human rights, communication, community policing and technology.

6. Police Welfare Should Be Improved

The welfare of police officers should be improved through better working conditions, healthcare, accommodation and other support.

7. Modern Technology Should Be Introduced

The police should be provided with appropriate technological tools for communication, investigation, intelligence gathering and crime detection.

8. Police-Public Relationships Should Be Improved

Police officers should treat citizens with respect and fairness. The police should create safe and accessible channels for citizens to report crimes.

9. Accountability Should Be Strengthened

There should be effective systems for monitoring police activities and handling complaints of misconduct.

10. Security Agencies Should Cooperate

The Nigeria Police Force should strengthen cooperation with other security agencies through information sharing, joint operations and coordinated responses to serious crimes.

11. Police Policies Should Be Regularly Reviewed

Police policies and procedures should be reviewed regularly to determine whether they are achieving their objectives. Where weaknesses are found, changes should be made.

12. Community Members Should Participate in Crime Prevention

Members of the public should support crime prevention by reporting criminal activities and cooperating with legitimate police activities. Community members should also participate in local security programmes.

XVI. CONTRIBUTION OF THE STUDY

This study contributes to the understanding of crime control strategies used by the Nigeria Police Force. The study shows that crime control requires cooperation between the police and the public. It also shows that police patrol, intelligence gathering, investigation and community policing can contribute to crime prevention.

The study identifies important challenges that affect police effectiveness. These challenges include inadequate equipment, manpower, funding and technology.

The study also highlights the importance of police welfare and public trust.

The findings can be useful to government, police authorities, community leaders, students, researchers and other people interested in crime control and community safety.

XVII. SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Future researchers should conduct similar studies in other parts of Nigeria to compare the experiences of different communities.

Future studies can also examine the effect of community policing on crime reduction, the effect of police welfare on police performance, the use of technology in crime investigation and the level of public confidence in the Nigeria Police Force.

Researchers can also study the implementation of the Nigeria Police Act 2020 and examine whether the objectives of the Act are being achieved in different communities.

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