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EFFECTS OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COMBATING INSECURITY IN KADUNA STATE: A STUDY OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IN ZARIA LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2018-24

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ABSTRACT

Previous studies mainly discussed the problems and impacts of community participation in Nigeria, without little studies on Neighborhood Watch especially in Zaria Local Government, thus, the study examine effects of Community Participation in Combating Insecurity in Kaduna State: A Study of Neighborhood Watch in Zaria Local Government between 2018-24. Theory of collective action was used. The study used qualitative research, fifteen informants were interviewed, such as community leaders, community members, Police and Vigilante etc., in-depth interview was used to collect primary data, while the secondary data was collected using books, newspapers, magazines, periodic reports as well as journal, the data was analyzed thematically using NVivo 15. The findings shows that due to insecurity and government failure led some communities to developed Neighborhood watch initiatives to safeguard their life and properties. The finding further shows that Neighborhood watch has contributed to peace building and minimize crimes in Zaria Local Government. The study therefore suggests increase in collaboration between state and non-state actors to foster free crime society.

Key words: *Community, Insecurity, Neighborhood watch & Local Government*

1.1 Background of the Study

Neighborhood Watch is a widely-recognised community-based crime prevention activity. It usually involves local residents joining a scheme (set up with the help of police) to minimize the risk of property theft and other crimes in their neighborhood. The scheme carry out such activities as property marking, reporting suspicious activity and improving home security. The first schemes were established in the USA during the 1970s. The US administration of the time was keen to reduce expenditure on policing and urge members of the community to protect themselves. Certain pre-existing demographic characteristics seemed to be necessary for Neighborhood Watch to be successful. Schemes tended to become established best in communities with high levels of home ownership, where residents were married or cohabiting, drawn from rising rates of residential burglary (Bolton, 2005).

British police forces took up the idea, and the first scheme was started in Cheshire in 1982. The idea that the public could help to prevent crime themselves was a politically popular measure (a cheaper option than recruiting more police officers and stepping up patrols). Thus, Neighborhood Watch was quickly established throughout the UK and hailed as a success by the Home Office. Schemes continued to grow in large numbers throughout the 1980s and 1990s with the blessing of successive Conservative and Labour governments. By 2002, Neighborhood Watch schemes covered six million British homes and 10 million people. In light of these numbers, it was thriving community crime prevention movement(Bolton, 2005).

According to Kentlyn (2008) Neighborhood Watch flourished among stable, affluent communities with low mobility, where residents have time to get to know their neighbors, have the resources to obtain physical crime prevention measures such as locks, lights and alarms, and to purchase insurance .These also tend to be the very communities with the lowest crime rates, where organised crime prevention schemes are arguably least needed.

The Neighborhood Watch is explicitly intended to resolve low-level crime and disorder issues, the duties of Neighborhood Watch include working with partners and community organisations to address anti-social behaviour, the fear of crime, environmental issues and other factors that affect the quality of people's lives. For example; reporting vandalism or damaged street furniture, reporting suspicious activity; providing crime prevention advice, deterring juvenile nuisance and visiting victims of crime. Thus, the very concerns reported by Neighborhood Watch schemes are now covered by support personnel

There are Neighborhood Watch schemes that flourish, actively promote community spirit and do a valuable job in reducing crime and fear of crime in their localities. However, they seem to be the exception to the rule. Some schemes may of course be kept alive simply by the prospect of reduced household insurance premiums. In general, Neighborhood Watch has largely failed over time to engage the community, due to lack of synergy between police and the communities. y
African countries such as South Africa is also into community policing which reduce crime in areas such as West Rand, the activity is more successful in certain community than others, it the way of empowering communities to take ownership of community safety, the Neighborhood Watch is boosting security of lives and properties in South Africa (Graan & Meyer,2011)

According to Odigwe (2024) in Nigeria, the crime rate is a serious concern; although the crime rate is currently increasing day by day which led to the introduction of Neighborhood watch by some communities. Though there are institutions saddled with the responsibility to combat crime such as Police and Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), but due to their inadequacy led to emergence of neighborhood watch in Nigeria.With the increase in crime in different communities in Nigeria and considering the enormous burden on the police who struggle to manage the inadequacies in accomplishing this task necessitated introduction of neighborhood watch.It became imperative that the community security services be adopted to complement and assist law enforcement agents to combat crime in Nigeria, hence the existence of Neighborhood Watch as a solution in Nigeria to help manage the expectation of the masses to ensure security and peace(Odigwe, 2024).

Zaria neighborhood Watch, as a method of social control, is endorsed by the state and supported by security agencies while being run solely by volunteers, and provides a focus to discuss the subtler meanings and processes of symbolic contestation among state, community, and individual.The neighborhood watch groups are working along with various security agencies to tame criminality in the state.Their duties also included the arrest of criminals and other law offenders in their various localities, detect crimes; settle low-level civil disputes and petty crimes, and complement the conventional Police in the patrol of the public spaces within their local communities.There is no doubt that Neighborhood watch groups have continually carried out their duty of preserving law and order in their communities through settling disputes, and ensuring peace and order during various public occasions in the community, preserving people’s properties etc.They are empowered to recruit and

train security personnel who work with them and who be properly identified and recommended by stakeholders from their community(Odigwe, 2024).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Studies such as Haron (2015) conducted a research on Neighborhood Watch as a Mechanism to Reduce Crime in Residential Areas in Malaysia, Graan & Meyer (2011) conducted a study on Effective community policing in practice: the Rooketrans neighborhood watch case study and Abdullahi (2021) conducted a study on role of neighborhood watch on peace building. Gap exist in the literature because majority of the studies reviewed were conducted in countries like Malaysia and South Africa, also most of the studies reviewed used either quantitative or mixed methods, similar studies need to be conducted using qualitative. Thus, the study intends to cover the above geographical and methodological gaps.

Zaria Local Government has been witnessing many crimes such as kidnapping and banditry as well as armed robbery. Among the factors that contribute to the reduction of crime in recent years is because of the introduction of neighborhood watch and awareness of the community. The police had planned the awareness to harmonize security control system in collaboration with the residents for the neighborhood safety purpose.

The practices of Neighborhood Watch has brought several challenges such as human rights abuses and extra-judicial killings. There are issues of jungle justice instead of handing over suspects to appropriate authorities for proper investigation and prosecution which is affecting the community watch (Umoru,2024).

Studies such as Umoru (2024) observed that the problem of Neighborhood watch in Nigeria is that lack of Community cooperation, only few members of the community are participating in the Neighborhood watch, therefore poor commitment of the communities renders the programme ineffective. Also, lack of educating the communities about the rules of engagement, mode of operation and the importance of information sharing. That lack of synergy, coordination and communication between the security organizations and the Neighborhood Watch is affecting crime prevention.

1.3 Research questions

The following constitute the research questions guiding the study

i. What are the factors that necessitated the formation of Neighborhood Watch in Zaria Local Government between 2018-24?

ii. What are the impacts of Neighborhood Watch on security of life and properties in Zaria Local Government between 2018-24?

1.4 Research objectives

The general objective of the study is to examine the impacts of community participation on insecurity in Zaria Local Government, the specific objectives are as follows:-

i. To examine the factors that necessitated the formation of Neighborhood Watch in Zaria Local Government between 2018-24.
ii. To explore the impacts of Neighborhood Watch on security of life and properties in Zaria Zaria Local Government between 2018-24.

1.5 Research assumptions

The following are the research assumptions: -

i. Insecurity necessitated the formation of Neighborhood Watch in Zaria Local Government between 2018-24.
ii. Neighborhood Watch has impacted on crime reduction in Zaria Local Government between 2018-24.

2.1 Concept of Neighborhood watch

Neighborhood Watch also known as community based security organization is an organization established with the primary goal of boosting community safety such as petty theft, banditry and kidnapping etc(Tide,2024). Neighborhood Watch is an approach to form a relationship concerning households in the neighborhood with police and local government. The purpose is to assist the community to defend their safety and property, to reduce feelings of fear of crime and recuperate local environment by improving home security system, more vigilance, promote neighbor lines and repair their environment (Haron,2015). Essentially, members of a neighborhood watch programme engage in two activities: they call the police when they see something suspicious and they try to recruit their neighbors to join the programme. Thus, recruiting means basically convincing a neighbor that calling the police is the right thing to do if they observe something suspicious (Kubrin & Tublitz,2023).Neighborhood Watch is an organization established by the community and registered with the government to complement the efforts of security agencies and other para military organizations in combating the security challenges in the communities (Umoru,2024).

Apprehension of criminals depends on the watchfulness of citizens, neighborhood watch programme is to protect themselves against burglars. When a burglar breaks into a house, nobody is in a better position to report the crime to the police than a neighbor, the most likely person to observe suspicious movements or to hear suspicious noises. If called, the police can intervene and the state can prosecute and punish. For all practical purposes, however, the state cannot substitute for the watchful eyes of neighbors. This is what has made neighborhood watch programmes so popular over the last two decades (Kosfeld, 2002).

Neighborhood Watch elicits and manipulates the traditional neighborhood ideal in its establishment of a network of surveillance, which exists as the community eye. People are told to peep out from curtains and report suspicious activity. This network of surveillance holds the Neighborhood Watch movement together by reinforcing the vulnerability of the individual. At the same time, it introduces the potential for collective action. Surveillance is never a one way process, and in the context of Neighborhood Watch, police watch people, people watch people, and people watch police (Hesketh & Cooper,2023). Neighborhood Watch identifies some obvious social needs in its focus on the protection of property, the person, and associated values that make up the concepts of family, home, and localized community. It requires collective participation within a person's neighborhood, and by implication polarizes social conflict: property owners against the propertyless; employed against unemployed; family, home, and community against the individual outsider; law abider against lawbreaker; morally strong against the sinfully weak(Ramdani,2024).

Neighborhood Watch, on the other hand, is an organized group of citizens devoted to crime and vandalism prevention within a neighborhood. Therefore, members of Neighborhood Watch and others who use legal means of bringing people to justice are not considered vigilantes. In other words, Neighborhood Crime Watch is not vigilante security apparatus, because when suspecting criminal activities, members of Neighborhood Watch or crime watch are encouraged to contact authorities or police and not to intervene. Neighborhood Watch, therefore, are police informants in that they give police relevant information that helps the police in their investigations and crime preventions (Ikuteijio & Rotimi, 2012). How ever, the working definition of Neighborhood Watch is that effort of the communities in collaborating with security agencies with the sole aims of preventing crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry and petty theft.

2.2 Participation in Neighborhood watch

The key element for a successful neighborhood watch programme is its members voluntary active participation. Active participation, however, involves costs. For example, neighbors who want to

report a possible crime have to interrupt what they are doing and might be ashamed if the alarm turns out to be false. This makes the issue of recruitment of new members vital for any neighborhood watch programme. Thus, successful deterrence relies on both effective punishment by the state and active monitoring by neighbors. Neighborhood watch and state punishment are complements. The agents participation in neighborhood watch is driven by two opposing dynamics. On the one hand, non-members are recruited by neighbors, who are members, to join the programme; on the other hand, agents who are members leave the programme for all sorts of exogenous reasons. The latter dynamic is captured by an exogenous drift. The former recruitment dynamic depends on the success of the neighborhood watch programme, i.e., may vary depending on whether or not burglaries occur in the neighborhood (Johnson, 2005).

If recruitment of new members is sufficiently strong (in particular in response to the programme's success, i.e., the absence of burglaries), neighborhood watch can be sustained and crime rates are bounded above whenever punishment is effective. Moreover, crime rates fall very quickly and converge to zero in the limit, as the rate of recruitment of new members rises. This is the key positive message which suggests that neighborhood watch can provide a powerful instrument for successful community crime prevention. There is a caveat, however. If recruitment is easy in times of a crime crisis but difficult in the absence of burglaries, neighborhood watch can be sustained if and only if a certain, non-zero, burglary rate remains. The intuition is that as soon as burglaries disappear completely, new members are less likely to join the programme and hence the neighborhood watch will be slowly hollowed out due to the constant outflow of members. Since neighbors monitoring is essential in order to achieve effective deterrence of burglars, burglary rates will eventually rise again and reach maximum levels in response to the decrease in participation. Thus, full deterrence in the short run leads to zero deterrence in the long run. The optimal punishment policy in this situation is to set punishment at an intermediate level that does not deter burglaries completely but maintains a certain crime rate in order to keep participation in neighborhood watch active (Kosfeld ,2002).

In fact, the notion that a certain crime rate might be necessary to maintain active participation in neighborhood watch programmes has also been emphasised in empirical work on community crime prevention. Kosfeld (2002), for example, finds that individual support for neighborhood watch correlates with anxieties about becoming the victim of burglary. Using data from the British Crime Survey, Kosfeld (2002) analyses the likelihood of a person's support for neighborhood watch based on personal characteristics, attitudes and experiences. He

finds that people who worry about becoming the victim of burglary are more likely to support neighborhood watch than people who do not do so. Furthermore, support for neighborhood watch seems to be increasing in the frequency of burglaries in the neighborhood. Kosfeld (2002) concludes that a certain level of fear arousal may be necessary to stimulate a decision to join Neighborhood Watch. The result is also in line with Rege (2004) who argues, based on early evidence from neighborhood watch programmes in the US, that moderate increases in perceived vulnerability may be necessary to induce behaviour change directed at minimizing the risk of victimization.

Participation by the public in crime prevention measures is viewed as one of the most effective responses to increasing crime in many countries. It is argued that community involvement has two effects. First, there is a direct effect whereby increased patrolling or surveillance reduces the opportunities for crime. Secondly, there is an indirect impact whereby a local community becomes increasingly active and integrated, and establishes the behavioural norms and social controls it considers appropriate, thereby pressuring those people who might otherwise be involved in criminal activity (Roberts,2021).

Community policing has provoked considerable controversy. Even at the highest police levels, there has been fundamental disagreement, while Kentlyn (2008) has severely criticised the concept. Among social scientists, there have been many criticisms. Some have seen it as a means of increasing state control and extending it to very local levels. Others have questioned the types of information that could be gathered through such schemes and the use to which they could be put . The effectiveness of community policing in reducing crime has also been questioned. The media report crime reductions of up to 40 per cent in neighborhood watch districts in the United States (New York Times, 2023), but there has been no systematic assessment of its effects yet in British cities(Kentlyn, 2008). The administration of community policing has also been criticised (Kentlyn, 2008).

Participation in formal associations and voluntary work, of course, do not constitute the only source of social capital. The networks of face-to-face contact on which social capital depends can also be based on regular interaction with others in less formal settings, such as those that involve socializing with friends, conversation with neighbors, and informally organized but regular activities undertaken with others. Many studies neglect these kinds of informal sociability because they are much harder to measure, but there is some basis for assessing trends in them in Britain(Nussio,2024).

2.3 **Theoretical framework**

Collective action theory

The study uses Collective action theory, the collective action theory is very important because it allow people to work together to bring about change, people cooperate to achieve collective goals such as improve their security, education, health, irrigation etc which is crucial for achieving complex problem and fostering social change.

The theoretical framework of the study is base on Collective action theory, The theory of collective explain how people work together to provide public goods,action, the proponents include (Ostrom,2005).The theory postulates that there is need to examine the actors in studying projects such as the family, neighborhood, community and alliance and payoff if all of them cooperate to implement the project. The theory emphasize the identification of problem as well as building trust. The collective action problem is view as common pool resource. The basic trust of the theory is that:-

1. Decisions about strategies are made independently and simultaneously.
2. All participants have common knowledge of the exogenously fixed structure of the situation and of the payoffs to be received by all individuals under all combinations of strategies.
3. No external actor (or central authority) is present to enforce agreements among participants about their choices.

If such a game is finitely repeated, and everyone shares complete information about the structure of the situation, the predicted outcome of non cooperative game theory for each iteration of the game is again the Nash equilibrium of the constituent game. The assumption is that if people would not cooperate in the last game of a series, they would not cooperate in the second-to-last game, the third-to-last game. All the way back to the initial game. The extensive tentative research has shown that collaboration in finitely repeated social dilemmas is much higher than predicted using backward induction while it does decay over time as the last iteration of the series is approached (Ostrom,2005). According to Binmore (1997) & Hardin (1997) formal game-theoretic models, and computer models of evolutionary processes have generated a long list of structural variables that are frequently postulated to affect the likelihood that a set of participants will be able to achieve outcomes greater than the deficient Nash equilibrium—or, the cooperators' dividend. Let us first focus on structural variables that do not essentially depend on a situation being repeated. These include:

1. The group of participants or actors involved;
2. Whether benefits are subtractive or fully shared (i.e., public goods vs common pool resources).
3. The type of participants;
4. Direct communication; and

5. The type of the production function;
6. Evidence about former actions;
7. How individuals are linked; and
8. Whether individuals can enter or exit voluntarily.

2.3.1 Relevance of the theory

Collective action theory is super relevant to Neighborhood Watch programs. The theory explains how groups work together to achieve a common goal, like keeping a Neighborhood safe.In neighborhood watch, collective action theory helps us understand how residents can work together to prevent crime. It's all about cooperation, shared responsibility, and mutual benefit.Some key aspects of collective action theory that apply to neighborhood watch include: Free-riding: some individuals might rely on others to do the work, social norms that is Neighbors can influence each other's behaviour, effective communication is key to success and Incentives that is rewards or recognition can motivate participation.

Therefore, Zaria Local Government is befuddle with insecurity such as Kidnapping, Banditry and Phone Snatching, federal, state and local government have failed in tackling the problem of insecurity, as a result, community watch was foundered by the members of some communities in Zaria where by they work together through participation, contributing money, communicating with one another through WHATSAPP and phone calls which is reducing crimes in Zaria metropolis.

Evidence in the literatures such as Nussio (2024) discovered a whole range of great coordinated services where the police, local authorities, the voluntary sector and London's communities were working very effectively together. For example, they collaborated to address challenges such as mental health in Newham and Camden, anti-social behaviour in Sutton, domestic violence in west London, gangs in Hackney and community engagement in Haringey. Also, in Mexico, neighborhood watch is used by the community in reducing crimes through collective action (Nussio, 2024).

3.0 Methods of Data Collection

3.1 Research Design

The study use qualitative research design to gather and interpret data. The reason for choosing qualitative method is to enhance the validity of research (via in-depth interview, observation and secondary data) and at the same time, to develop, implement and evaluate interventions. Qualitative

method will be used to study different aspects of the same topic using different approaches, such as observation, in-depth interviews and secondary data to explore complex objects from many perspectives and to validate the data, which is in line with what Creswell (2008) stated as reasons for qualitative research.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of this study encompasses the major stakeholders of Neighborhood watch in Zaria Local Government such as communities, vigilante, police and civil defense. Zaria Local has population of 601,000, therefore the population of the study stood at 601,000 (City Population,2025).

3.3 Sample and sampling techniques

The study utilize purposive sampling to select participants, including community watch, vigilante, police, civil defense and Masu-unguwa who have experience with Neighborhood watch. The sample size is 15 informants, participants were selected based on specific criteria, such as their direct involvement in Neighborhood watch activities, their role within the community watch, and their diverse perspectives and experiences. The justification for selecting purposive was to interview those that have the expert knowledge of Neighborhood watch.

3.4 Sources of Data Collection

The methods of data collection include interviews and use of observation by taking pictures and notes based on the responses of the interviewees. Primary data was obtained through in-depth interview.

3.5 Methods of Data Analysis

The methods of analysis of data for the study include using thematic analysis. Analysis of qualitative data involves the understanding of theory and interpreting the data (Schwandt, 2007; Denzin & Lincoln 2008). Thematic analysis provides avenue for interpretation and involvement of the researcher; it focuses on identification of codes as well as the themes (Bernard and Ryan, 2010). Firstly, the study will collect the data from the source via in-depth interview, and then organised and interpreted the data, i.e., by elaborating and reduction which is known as coding. Finally, a report will be written in line with suggestion of (Saldana,2013). Nvivo 15 software was used to analyse the data.

4.1 Results

Criminal activities

One of the themes developed is the reasons for the establishment of Neighborhood watch in Zaria Local Government, a sub-theme was developed known as criminality as the informant interviewed put it:

> The reasons for the establishment of Neighborhood watch was as a result of too much stealing in the area, thieves were entering peoples houses and stealing their properties especially in the afternoon when no one is at home, because most of the people living in the area are Civil Servants, once they monitor you, if you are not at home, they will cross the fence and carry peoples properties, they do calculate, the time the house hold goes out and the time he comes back(Inf2).

Failure of government

The failure of government to secure the life and properties of people led to the emergence of neighborhood watch as the interviews revealed "Inadequacy of security personnel such as police and civil defense, they are not much to go round the community" (Inf4).

Monitoring community

Monitoring community to prevent crime is one of the achievement of neighborhood watch as the informant put it "we monitor our community, any where we see strange faces we asked questions to know where they came from and what they are doing for a living". Similarly, another informant added that "We have people that goes round monitoring the community in order to minimize crime, any thing they see, they do call the attention of Sarki from time to time" (Inf2).

Community Form

Some communities within Zaria metropolis also printed form and give to new member of the community to know the strangers in the community as the interviews further revealed: "We printed form and give to every community members in order to know people that are within our community" (Inf1)

Volunteers

The community watch also contributed to the raise of Volunteers as the informant put it:-

> We have volunteers among the community members that goes round the community every day, the volunteers received training from the police, we choose some volunteers from military and paramilitary members such as police and civil defense as well as retire army personnel that knows the security architecture, they are the forefront in providing training to our volunteers(Inf4).

Promotion of Peace

The Neighborhood watch has also brought peace to Zaria Local Government as the interviews further revealed:-"There is relative peace in Zaria due to emergence of neighborhood watch, that is why people are building houses in the area, relatively there is peace" (Inf1).

Regular Community Meeting

Another achievement recorded as the interviews revealed is in area of meeting as the informant put it "We do call for a meeting from time to time to table the problems of the community to our members, that is how we are enrolling people into the community association". Similarly, another informant added that "We do organize meeting every Sunday of the end of the month" (Inf5).

Inculcate fear on criminals

An informant added that Neighborhood watch has led many criminal to fled the area as he put it "Due to the activities of the association, people especially criminals are afraid of coming to the area to perpetrate their evil activities"(Inf4).

Decrease in Crime

The rate of crime is drastically reducing in Zaria as the informant put it "The rate of stealing has reduced to barest minimal in Bizara" (Inf1).

Cancellation of Events like DJ, Kauyawa and Bishi

There were reduction in ceremonies such as DJ, Kauyawa and Bishi that causes crisis, before the cancelation, youths do come out during wedding for a ceremony but there are cases of such events turning into violence, in an attempt to maintain peace, such events were cancelled as the informant put it:-

> In my area, we abolished events such as DJ, Kauyawa and Bishi.Bishi is a play like tauri using stick, sword and it is always characterized by crisis. Kauyawa is dressing like village people, we have cancelled it. DJ is drumming during wedding to attract crowd we have also cancelled it due to prevalence of drugs abuse among youths during ceremony(Inf3)

Decrease in Prostitution

There is reduction in prostitution as the informant put it:-

> There is a house in the area that prostitution was very prevalence, we invited the owner and warned him that we are going to demolish the building and that is how the owner of the house asked all the tenants that are doing prostitution to pack out(Inf5)

Decrease in Drugs abuse

The area has also experience reduction in drug abuse as the informant put it :-

> Though the community association are trying, but on the issue of drugs such as Marijuwana, there is reduction in Bizara area, we are creating enlightment campaign as well as warning to the drug dealers. From time to time we do invite Drugs Law Enforcement Agency to arrest them(Inf4)

Security committee

The Neighborhood watch has led to formation of security committee in some areas such as Bizara in Zaria Local Government as the interviews revealed:-

> In my area, I set up a committee such as retire security personnel, to look into issue of insecurity in the area, any body that built new house in my area, I do go to him to brief him on the development in my area, all the inhabitant of the area are members of the sub-committees such as education, security and development of the area to prevent illegal building(Inf1)

Prohibition of planting crops around houses during rainy season

Crops such as Maize and Guinea corn that grows tall are prohibited from planting around houses during the rainy period as the analysis shows "In order to reduce insecurity, crops such as Maize, G/corn are not allow to be planted around houses due to the fact that it breed insecurity" (Inf3).

Poor relationship among neighbors

The relationship among neighbors is not cordial, many members of the communities in Zaria Local Government complained that they don't even know their neighbors as the interviews revealed:-

> Neighbors pack into their various houses without informing neighbor, see my neighbor, since the time he packed into his house we have not met, due to I don't care attitude, all my neighbors I don't even know any one of them, they will just pack and enter their house without even greeting, none of them ever come and greet me to tell me that they are my neighbor, there is poor relationship among neighbors due to lack of trust(Inf1) .

In another development, another informant put it that "If you asked me, the names of my neighbors, I cant not tell you even three names due to poor relationship among neighbors" (Inf3). Another informant put it that:-

> Yesterday, my son came and told me that, some one climbed the fence of my neighbor house, it was my neighbor himself, he has never greeted me since the time he packed in to the house, he packed in without introducing himself to the neighbors, up till now, I don't know the husband, neither did I know the wife, for instance, if some thing happen do you think I will go to rescue him?, I will not go (Inf5).

Arrogancy

Arrogancy is another problem identified by the informant, that some neighbors are feeling too big to the extent that they don't talk to their immediate neighbors as the interviews revealed:

> Some of the neighbors are very arrogant, they are feeling that they can do every thing for themselves as a result, they don't bother about their neighborhood and neighbors role is greater than that of family tied(Inf4)

Lack of commitment

Poor commitment of members also constitute problem to neighborhood watch as the informant revealed :-

> Any time we called for a meeting, people don't come, which is the biggest problem, there are instance where we went for a meeting, we waited for more than an hour before others came, majority don't normally come, to attend the meeting, if people will come, it will improve the situation of things(Inf2).

Poverty

Poverty also contributes a lot as the result of the interviews revealed:-

> Some members are very poor in the community, even if you goes round to collect contributions, there are people that by merely seen them, you will not like to collect their money contributions due to poverty. Some if you visit their houses you have to bring money out from your pocket and dash them. Due to the situation that you see them, our major problem is poverty(Inf1).

Lack of Cooperation

Another sub-theme that the informant talked about is poor cooperation as the informant revealed:-

> There is no cooperation among members of the community, that is why we are calling on the people for maximum support, if we put our head together, we know how to call government for assistance, all of us constitute government, without cooperation, there is problem, but when you invite them for a meeting, they don't come(Inf4)

Another informant added that

> Lack of cooperation, every community member is on his own, every one is feeling big, the problem came as a result of failure of Maiunguwa, because Maiunguwa are doing nothing, there are many strangers in our area that the Maiunguwa are not aware of their settlement in the community, because they are doing nothing, if any thing happen to you, the Maiunguwa don't normally come to peoples house(Inf3).

Lack of support from government

Another factors that informant talked about is Lack of support from government as he put it:-

The community association serves as complementary role to government, government supposed to be supporting us with touch and other equipment or even stipend or allowance being that it is the responsibility of government to provide security to encourage our members, but nothing is coming out from government(Inf3).

5.1 Discussions of the Findings

The finding shows that part of the reasons for the establishment of Neighborhood watch in Zaria was because of crime rate had increased over the years. Kidnapping, banditry was the order of the day, so in order to bring Banditry and Kidnapping to the barest minimal constitute the reason. Similarly, government failure was another reason for the establishment of Neighborhood watch in Zaria Local Government and also need to complement the role of government. In a related development the study of Haron (2015) rhymed with the above findings that part of the reasons for neighborhood watch is the desire to control crimes in the community such as Getto joint etc. The finding also supported the theory of collective action which states that people participate in a project to address issues affecting the community such as education, health and education as evidence from work of Pokharel,Forester,Lejano,Kan, Heinila & Mattila (2024) that people participation in the affairs of their community enable them to address their felt needs in the areas of education and security. The implication is that through introduction of Neighborhood watch Zaria metropolis has witnessed crimes reduction.

Another finding is that of Monitoring community to prevent crime is one of the achievements of neighborhood watch, forms were also distributed to the members of the community in order to know the strangers coming and going out of the community, the community watch also contributed to the raise of volunteers that goes round the community from time to time to keep surveillance. The implication is that monitoring helps in putting eyes in the communities in Zaria Local Government, crimes were reduced to the barest minimal.

The Neighborhood watch has also brought peace to Zaria Local Government, therefore, relatively there is peace in Zaria metropolis, there is also meeting at the end of every month to examine the problems facing the community in Zaria metropolis, the communities in Zaria metropolis were able to inculcate fear on criminals. The rate of crime is drastically reducing in Zaria as well as Cancellation of Events like DJ, Kauyawa and Bishi. The study of Pokharel,Forester,Lejano,Kan, Heinila & Mattila

(2024) highlighted that through coming together of people, they are able to improve their lives, the implication is that through introduction of Neighborhood watch Zaria metropolis has witnessed peace.

Another important achievement as a result of Neighborhood watch is reduction in drugs abuse in Zaria metropolis. The Neighborhood watch has led to formation of security committee in some areas such as Bizara in Zaria Local Government as well as Prohibition of planting crops around houses during rainy season. Crops such as Maize and Guinea corn that grows tall are prohibited from planting around houses during the rainy period. The study rhyme with Messner,Zhang & Gruner (2017).The implication is that through collaboration and participation, neighborhood watch has succeeded in bringing other social verses to the barest minimal.

The finding further shows that there is poor relationship among neighbors and some neighbors are very arrogant as well as lack of commitment at the same time poverty is very rampant in some communities, the implication is that there is need for government and other stakeholders to support neighborhood watch activities in Zaria Local Government. Another implication is that, government needs to come out with policy that supports the activities of neighborhood watch in Zaria Local Government.

There is also lack of cooperation among members of the community and also lack of support from government leading to poor implementation of neighborhood watch in Zaria. Therefore, the implication is that lack of support from both government and communities in Zaria is affecting the sustainability of the programme.

Finally, the study limitation is that some informants did not allowed the researcher to record their voices during the conduct of the interviews, therefore, the study relied on field notes.

6.1 Conclusion

The study contributed to literature by filling a gap both methodologically and geographically in the sense that the study used qualitative research as well as using Zaria metropolis as a unit of analysis. The study also contributed to literature the reasons for the establishment of Neighborhood watch in Zaria Local Government include due to criminal activities and failure of government. The Impacts of Neighborhood watch in Zaria Local Government include Monitoring community, Community Form, Volunteers, Promotion of Peace, Regular Community Meeting, Inculcate fear on criminals and Decrease in Crime. The implication is that Neighborhood watch in Zaria metropolis has witnessed crimes reduction.

The finding further shows that the Neighborhood watch also serve as eagle eyes in the community, through surveillance in the community it helps in minimizing crimes in Zaria Local Government. Events such as DG, Kauyawa and Bishi were cancel during ceremony such as wedding. The Formation

of Security Committee is another future of neighborhood watch in Zaria Local Government in order to address the problem of insecurity as well as prohibits planting of tall trees during the rainy season, the implication is that through introduction of Neighborhood watch Zaria metropolis has witnessed peace.

Neighborhood watch receives training at Police College Kaduna as well as from NDLEA. Crimes such as kidnapping and banditry have drastically reduce in Zaria Local Government.The communities in Zaria metropolis have witnessed Improved in Community Communication such as phone calls and some community also created WHASAPP group to enhance security in the area. The Neighborhood watch initiatives have play vital role in arrest of suspects and handed them over to the police. How ever, the Problems of Neighborhood watch in Zaria Local Government include Poor relationship among neighbors, Arrogancy, Lack of commitment, Poverty, Lack of Cooperation and Lack of support from government.The implication is that government need to bring out a policy framework that will provide institutional guide to Neighborhood watch in Zaria Local Government.

6.2 Recommendations

The following are some of the recommendations:

1. Empower security agencies with equipment as well as intelligent sharing of information between security agencies and community watch.
2. Government should ensure regular meeting with the populace to know their problem and how to address problems of the populace.
3. Zaria is strategically located with many serving and retire security personnel such as Army, Police, Immigration and Civil Defense community should explore the avenue and provide strong collective action on security matters.

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