

Community Policing Information Sharing in Security Enhancement in Gasabo District, Rwanda

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ABSTRACT

In Rwanda, in the aftermath of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi, the security situations were critical and the government adopted mechanisms such as community policing as a strategy for security enhancement. However, the country still struggles with insecurity challenges despite the introduction of community policing. The purpose of this study was to determine the influence of community policing information sharing on security enhancement in Gasabo District, Rwanda. The study adopted a mixed methodology approach and a concurrent triangulation design. The study targeted approximately 139,358 household heads of Gasabo District, 73 Community Policing Committee (CPC) chairpersons, 15 Community Liaison Officers, and 260 Police Officers. The study sampled 576 household heads for quantitative data whereas the CPC chairpersons, Community Liaison Officers, Police Officers, and Opinion leaders were used for qualitative data. A multistage sampling technique was used to select the participants. Questionnaires, interview guides, and discussion guides were used to collect data. The findings indicated that information sharing had a positive and significant influence on security enhancement. The study concludes that information sharing contributes significantly to security enhancement in Gasabo District, Rwanda. The study recommended the need for RNP to strengthen information sharing for security enhancement. In particular, the institution should focus on enhancing information sharing aspects including information sharing through social media, music, word of mouth, acting, and training.

Keywords: *Community policing, information sharing, security enhancement*

1.0 Introduction

Community policing is being accepted as the new face of increased security in much of the world, including Europe, the United States, Australia, Asia, South America, and Africa. In England, the police gained more power and moved closer to society after Sir Robert Peel introduced community policing as a tool for fighting crime (Douglas and Braga, 2021). This reform in London's government started in the early 1990s, along with the move to become a police officer, thereby preventing crime (Mulaphong & Cheurprakobkit, 2021). Community policing in the United States (US) began in the 1970s, although most law enforcement agencies did not fully embrace the concept until 1980. An arms exchange program was instituted in Mendoza, a province in Argentina, which led to intense participation. leads the Community's Commitment to Security Policy (Ansorg & Gordon, 2019).

The use of information systems has been emphasized to identify and analyze the problems faced by the community (Braga & Tucker, 2018). The police need to share critical information with the public on how to handle different criminal activities. In most cases, the public lacks knowledge and information on actions to take when encountering security situations. Hence, the police need to furnish people with the necessary information. Further, a suggestion is made that the required information can be gathered from various sources such as appraisals that showcase community police performance; evaluations of the overall police performance from standard indicators. He emphasizes that qualitative information should be used rather than old methods to measure success. The proposed study seeks to examine whether law enforcers in Rwanda have the necessary facilities to enhance the collection and sharing of information about community policing (Braga & Tucker, 2018).

1.1 Problem Statement

The Rwandan government has shown its commitment to improving security by establishing a community police force in 2007. However, cases of uncertainty are still widespread. A report by the Rwandan National Institute of Statistics ([NISR], 2021) recorded 34,179 crimes in 2017, 43,279 crimes in 2018, 71,360 crimes in 2019, and 86,713 crimes and child abuse in 2020. Crime has been steadily increasing since 2017 and in 2020 crime has doubled compared to 2018. From the statistics above, the provincial crime statistics for 2019 show that the city of Kigali recorded the highest crime rate with 17,092 crimes. In addition, crime statistics recorded for each district in 2015, 2016, and 2017 show that Gasabo District has the highest crime rate compared to other districts with 1,607 crime cases in 2015, 1,805 cases in 2016, and 2,884 cases in 2017 (Rwandan Bureau of Investigations [RBI], 2018). In addition, the NISR report (2021) shows that the number of crimes increased to 71,092 in 2019 and 86,731 in 2020. The above statistics confirm that there is a serious security problem in Rwanda, especially in the Gasabo district located in the city of Kigali. This situation, if left unchecked, could lead to high levels of crime and insecurity in the country. Despite the introduction of community police in Rwanda, there is still a high prevalence of crime. There is little research on the role of community policing in enhancing security. Based on this premise, this study sought to fill the knowledge gap by assessing the impact of community police information sharing on improving security in the Gasabo District, Rwanda.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Theoretical Review

Shaw and McKay (1942) initiated the social disorganization theory. It is founded on the perception that communities that are not organized face breaks in their informal social controls that translate to crime occurrence. It becomes difficult to handle crime incidence in a disorganized location. Shaw and McKay used spatial maps to inspect the residential locations of juveniles and realized that the rates of crimes were not appropriately distributed across the space and time in Chicago city. The police service is supposed to curb the social disorders that arise in the community. Therefore, their take as far as social disorganization is concerned is to take appropriate measures to increase the volume of the communities to exert informal social control.

The primary goal of this theory is to develop formal social control techniques. It, therefore, emphasizes the essence of organizing communities. Organization of communities can take different angles. For example, engaging local business holders to help them identify and solve their problems, visiting residents to offer advice on matters of security, and helping in the facilitation of community meetings.

However, critics argue that the scope of this theory is narrow and that it's only applicable in the context of community policing. Further, Shaw and McKay did not differentiate between the presumed outcome of social disorganization and the disorganization itself, and there has been much confusion regarding the conceptualization of social disorganization (Lopez & Gillespie, 2017). Nonetheless, the theory is suitable for this study since the main focus is community policing.

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The social disorganization theory is important in the examination because it stresses the essence of community organization and its primary goal focusing on the development of social control techniques. In line with the theory, one of the ways of achieving community organization is through the promotion of partnerships among key players such as police and community members (Pridemore & Rogers, 2016). When there is a good working relationship between these parties then it becomes easier to organize the community and this translates into enhanced security.

Another way of organizing community as suggested by the theory is through citizen sensitization. Creating awareness among community members on matters to do with security and community policing is critical in ensuring that communities come together in the fight against crime (Schlosser, 2020). Further, information sharing is a key factor in achieving cohesion among stakeholders within a community. It also facilitates the proper organization of the community in an effect to fight insecurity. Therefore, in this research, the theory of social disorganization is essential as it provides an argument that supports the role of information sharing in enhancing security. This is achievable when communities are properly organized as pointed out by the social disorganization theory.

2.2 Empirical Review

To succeed in community policing, an implementation must be on point, hence the determinants that impact the implementation of community policing and the kind of impact it has on police work, communities, and crime rates are important. Muteti, Mbirithi, and Kiruthu (2020) in their study identified information sharing as a key determinant of effective community policing for enhanced security. In particular, the public has a responsibility of sharing vital information with the authorities. The initiative by the public to share timely information will enable the police to prevent potential crimes. This will ultimately enhance security. The proposed study also seeks to examine the role of information sharing in enhancing security in Rwanda.

Headayetullah, Pradhan, Biswas, and Puthal (2018) attempted to come up with a secure digital system for information sharing which would improve homeland security. They noted that it was important to enable the sharing of secure information among the citizens or other governments. The study emphasized the significance of information sharing in enhancing security. However, the research was centered on the United States context. The proposed study seeks to examine the effect of information sharing on security enhancement in Gasabo District, Rwanda.

It is the plea of law enforcement agencies for the IT to back their operations, from determining identification (ID) and past histories of people clogged in the field, to working hand in hand with detectives as they conduct their investigations, to passing on helpful information to commanders (Ridgeway, 2018). For effective crime prevention, readiness, response, and recovery exertions, there must be timely, accurate, and functioning information about who the culprits are, how and where they operate, the targets of the culprits, and also the method they intend to use to attack.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is an agency that is purposely designed to link up 5 U.S territories, 50

states, and major urban areas. This infrastructure is developed to utilize information and resources available at the state, federal and grassroots levels, which enhance real-time partnership and information exchange for awareness and quick response. An initiative by intelligence agencies works out well: whereby various agencies agree to assemble and share information, analyze the possible threats, plan for the response measures, and plan on the communication methods to be applied at the time of the attack. A director of Research for the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (Oyakilome City) said that the direction of readiness can be given by people who look at the possible threats (Chan, Logan, & Bennett Moses, 2022).

The community has a crucial role to play when it comes to community policing. Whereby, they must be willing to

volunteer any information on suspicious people or activities to the police. They must be willing to work closely with the police in the set forums of community policing. These include offering support to the police and exhorting communication between neighbors. More so, the members of the community should support the awareness the police make by extending it to their fellow neighbors.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

This conceptual framework presents the study variables and their components that guide the investigation leading to study findings. Figure 1 shows that the independent variable (community policing information sharing) influences the dependent variable (security enhancement).

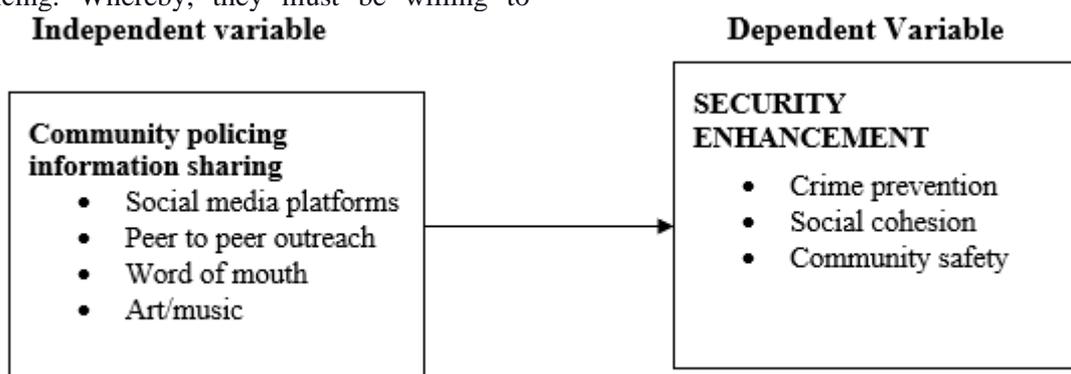


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

3.0 Methodology

The study adopted a mixed methodology approach and a concurrent triangulation design. The study targeted approximately 139,358 household heads of Gasabo District, 73 Community Policing Committee (CPC) chairpersons, 15 Community Liaison Officers, and 260 Police Officers. The study sampled 576 household heads for quantitative data whereas the CPC chairpersons, Community Liaison Officers, Police Officers, and Opinion leaders were used for qualitative data. A multistage sampling technique was used to select the participants. Questionnaires, interview guides, and discussion guides were used to collect data. The reliability of the questionnaire was tested by Cronbach Alpha. The coefficient value used was 0.7. To ensure the validity of the questionnaire, it was reviewed by the supervisors. Trustworthiness of the interview and discussion guides was ensured using both dependability and credibility. For dependability, the researcher

ensured that every step of the process was clear, while credibility was ensured through the use of appropriate research methods. SPSS software version 25.0 was used to analyze the data. Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics (frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation) and inferential statistics (regression analysis), which was used to determine the relationship between the factors of the research. Qualitative data from the interview guides were analyzed thematically and presented in narratives.

4.0 Results and Discussion

4.1 Reliability Testing

The researcher used Cronbach's Alpha (α) to check whether the instrument was reliable. Cronbach's Alpha will use 0.7 as the recommended value as the cut-off of reliability for this study.

Table 1: Reliability test

Variable	Number of items	Cronbach's Alpha	Comment
Security enhancement	7	0.817	Reliable
Information sharing	5	0.78	Reliable

The findings in Table 1 indicate that the security enhancement variable had a Cronbach alpha value of 0.817, and information sharing had 0.78. This denoted that all the variables had values greater than 0.7 implying the reliability of the data collected. According to Sheth and Naik (2016), items with alpha values greater than 0.7 are considered reliable and are adopted for the main study. Therefore, the items measuring the study variables were reliable and hence were adopted in the subsequent analysis.

4.2 Security Enhancement Indicators Findings

Descriptive Statistics on Security Enhancement

The dependent variable in this study was security enhancement. Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics on security enhancement. The results are presented in frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations. The following scale was used: strongly disagree (1), disagree (2), neutral (3), agree (4), and strongly agree (5).

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics on security enhancement

Statement on Security Enhancement	SD, f (%)	D, f (%)	N, f (%)	A, f (%)	SA, f (%)	Mean	Std Dev
There is increased crime prevention due to community policing.	20(3.5)	32(5.5)	13(2.2)	177(30.6)	336(58.1)	4.3	1.0
There is improved social cohesion due to community policing.	8(1.4)	29(5.0)	31(5.4)	225(38.9)	285(49.3)	4.3	0.9
There is increased community safety due to community policing.	10(1.7)	13(2.2)	25(4.3)	235(40.7)	295(51.0)	4.4	0.8
There is reduced number of arrests made due to community policing.	15(2.6)	52(9.0)	71(12.3)	216(37.4)	224(38.8)	4.0	1.1
There is reduced number of crime cases reported due to community policing.	17(2.9)	46(8.0)	65(11.2)	217(37.5)	233(40.3)	4.0	1.0
There is reduced number of incidents reported due to community policing.	8(1.4)	28(4.8)	32(5.5)	239(41.3)	271(46.9)	4.3	0.9
There is reduction in restricted movement due to community policing.	11(1.9)	20(3.5)	36(6.2)	196(33.9)	315(54.5)	4.4	0.9

As indicated in Table 2, most of the respondents (88.1%, m=4.3) agreed that there is increased crime prevention due to community policing. The respondents also agreed that there is improved social cohesion due to community policing (88.2%, m=4.3), there is increased community safety due to community policing (91.7%, m=4.4), and there is a reduced number of arrests made due to community policing (76.2%, m=4.0). Further, the majority of the respondents (77.8%, m=4.0) agreed that there is a reduced number of crime cases reported due to community policing, there is a reduced number of incidents reported due to community policing (88.2%, m=4.3), and there is a reduction in

restricted movement due to community policing (88.4%, m=4.4). The findings imply that most of the respondents had positive opinions towards security enhancement using community policing. Therefore, security enhancement could be attributed to community policing components. According to Javed et al. (2018), an individual feels secure if he/she has a job and health security and lives in an environment free from crime.

The respondents were requested to give their opinion regarding how the security could be enhanced and the opinions are presented in Figure 2.

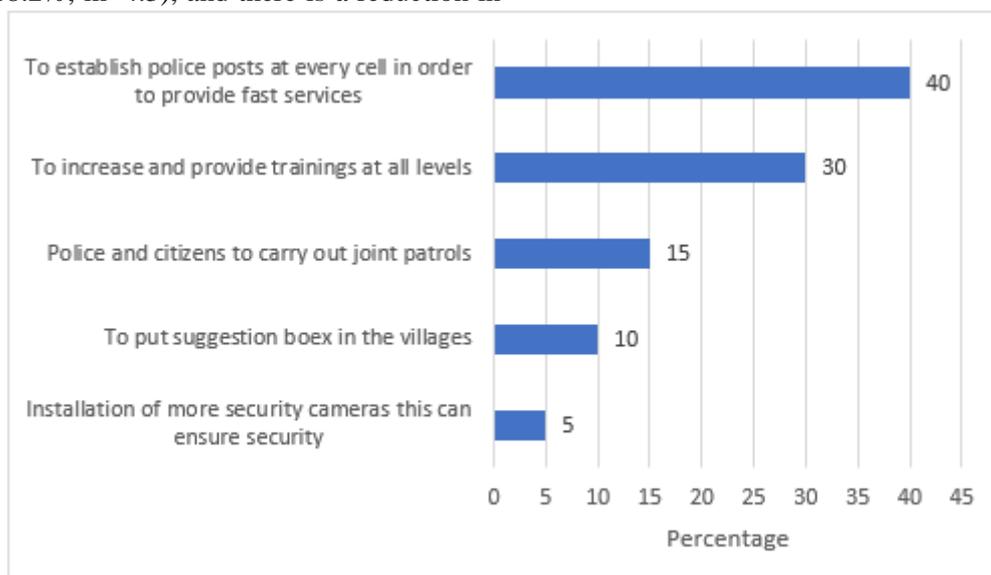


Figure 2: Respondent's opinion on how to enhance security

The highest percentage of the respondents (40.0%) indicated that police posts should be established at every cell/village to provide fast services and thus enhance security.

This was followed by those in the opinion of increased training at all levels/sectors (30.0%) as indicated in Figure 2.

Thematic Analysis on Security Enhancement

The respondents were asked to state the role of community policing in enhancing security. The respondents noted the need to put suggestion boxes in the villages, for police and citizens to carry out joint patrols, regular training to the population at all levels for both adults and youth, and establish police posts at every cell to provide the population with fast services. Rexer and Patil (2017) stated that community policing is one of the approaches by which countries can enhance their security. It makes everyone develop a sense of responsibility in promoting peace and unity.

The respondents also noted the importance of installing more security cameras, police deployments should come down to the cell level for quick intervention, an increase of police stations, and police should train the local population in villages and cells about community policing periodically. It was recommended that police should reduce brutality to enhance security.

One respondent, R3, was quoted saying... *“Crimes have reduced however; Police takes time to intervene in case of incidents thus, a need for police to increase response time where there are incidents”*.

Responses from Interview guide by CPC and CLOs

The participants were asked to explain how community policing had influenced the various security enhancement aspects in Gasabo District. The participants noted that crimes have been reduced, security information was shared timely, and use of police free call lines. Further, citizens are now living in peace and have hope for the future. Domestic violence reduced. In addition, security is guaranteed, life expectancy is increased, there are local patrols in villages and neighbors would watch.

On crime prevention, participant P1 stated that ... *“Police citizen collaboration has helped in information sharing about crimes before they happen to police which helps to prevent crimes”*.

On social cohesion, participant P3 noted that... *“Police help in resolving crime-related problems of the people living in Rwanda and this increases the trust between police and population thus, promoting harmony with one another in our community”*.

Participant P4, reiterated that... *“Due to different community policing programs in Gasabo district security has been improved and people are living in harmony with one another, there is no mistrust among the community members”*.

On community safety, Participant P1 stated that... *“The community safety is generally good no serious crimes have been registered for the last 06 months in our sector Kimihurura, people living in Rwanda work hand in hand with the police to resolve any security matter that may arise”*.

Participants P3, observed that... *“In our sector, Remera security has improved because through police sensitization we now understand how we can take part in the provision of security in our community”*.

Participant P5, reiterated that... *“The community safety has increased in Gasabo district this is because people now are partners in security matters when any incident happens members of the community report it to police immediately and work together to resolve it”*.

Participant P7, stated that... *“Where there are police, security is granted in case of any issue Police can easily intervene, in Gasabo district we trust Rwanda National Police and we are ensured of security”*.

Responses from focus group discussions by community leaders

The church leaders were required to explain how community policing had influenced the following security enhancement aspects in the Gasabo district.

On crime prevention, one of the discussants, D18 stated that... *“Generally, crimes have been prevented and thus really reduced. For example, the crime of using forced labor within homes, and child labor has been reduced to some extent just because of information sharing because now before you hire a worker (housemaid) you first have to ask for a national identity card to make sure that you are preventing yourself to commit the above crime”*.

On social cohesion, the discussant D18 observed that ... *“Initially when all people have peace with belief that they have to protect one another implies such social cohesion. Because regardless of your social category whether poor or rich you just believe that even your fellow citizen is a human being hence promoting social cohesion. Also, the other initiative of the ‘Akagoroba k’ababyeyi’ evening parent meeting has indeed brought remarkable change concerning social cohesion. Simply because it is from this evening meetings where all social values are learned, and this social dialogue builds the closest relationship hence promoting social cohesion”*.

On community safety, discussant D19 cited that ... *“Concerning community safety, right from the beginning we talked about self-initiative of neighborhood watch. Everyone is now aware that he/she is responsible for his/her security. The great work of civilian local patrols is another initiative that promoted community safety because they are everywhere compared to police who cannot manage to be in every house. Lastly, the idea of making police call number to be known everywhere has also promoted community safety”*.

Mixing and Interpreting of Quantitative and Qualitative Data

Data on Security enhancement was analyzed using descriptive and thematic. From the descriptive point of view, the majority of the respondents reported that there was increased crime prevention due to community policing, there was improved social cohesion due to community policing, there was increased community safety due to community policing, there was reduced number of arrests made due to community policing, and there was reduced number of crime cases reported due to community policing. The thematic analysis had similar results where participants reported that there was a general improvement in security.

4.3 Influence of Information Sharing on security enhancement

The study sought to evaluate the influence of information sharing on security enhancement in Gasabo District, Rwanda. The section presents descriptive statistics, thematic analysis, and regression analysis results.

Descriptive analysis for information sharing

Table 3 shows the descriptive statistics on information sharing. The results are presented in frequencies, percentages,

means, and standard deviations. The following scale was used: strongly disagree (1), disagree (2), neutral (3), agree (4), and strongly agree (5).

Table 3: Descriptive statistics on information sharing

Statements on information sharing	SD, f (%)	D, f (%)	N, f (%)	A, f (%)	SA, f (%)	Mean	Std Dev
Information on community policing is shared through social media.	7(1.2)	20(3.5)	41(7.1)	214(37.0)	296(51.2)	4.3	0.8
Information on community policing is shared through music.	10(1.7)	36(6.2)	43(7.4)	229(39.6)	260(45.0)	4.2	0.9
Information on community policing is shared through word of mouth.	5(0.9)	15(2.6)	32(5.5)	242(41.9)	284(49.1)	4.4	0.8
Information on community policing is shared through acting.	10(1.7)	29(5.0)	57(9.9)	246(42.6)	236(40.8)	4.2	0.9
Information on community policing is shared through trainings.	54(9.3)	74(12.8)	85(14.7)	164(28.4)	201(34.8)	3.7	1.3

As indicated in Table 3 about the distribution of community policing of information sharing on enhancing security, most of the respondents agreed that information on community policing is shared through social media (88.2%, m=4.3), information on community policing is shared through music (84.6%, m=4.2), and information on community policing is shared through word of mouth (91%, m=4.4). Further, the majority of the respondents agreed that information on community policing is shared through acting (83.4%, m=4.2), and that information on community policing is shared through training

(63.2%, m=3.7). The findings imply that information sharing on community policing is done using various channels. Most of the respondents had positive opinions towards information sharing. Therefore, information sharing is expected to positively influence security enhancement. According to Braga and Tucker (2018), the use of information systems has been emphasized to identify and analyze the problems faced by the community.

The respondents were further requested to give their opinion about the role of information sharing to enhance security and the opinions are presented in Figure 3.

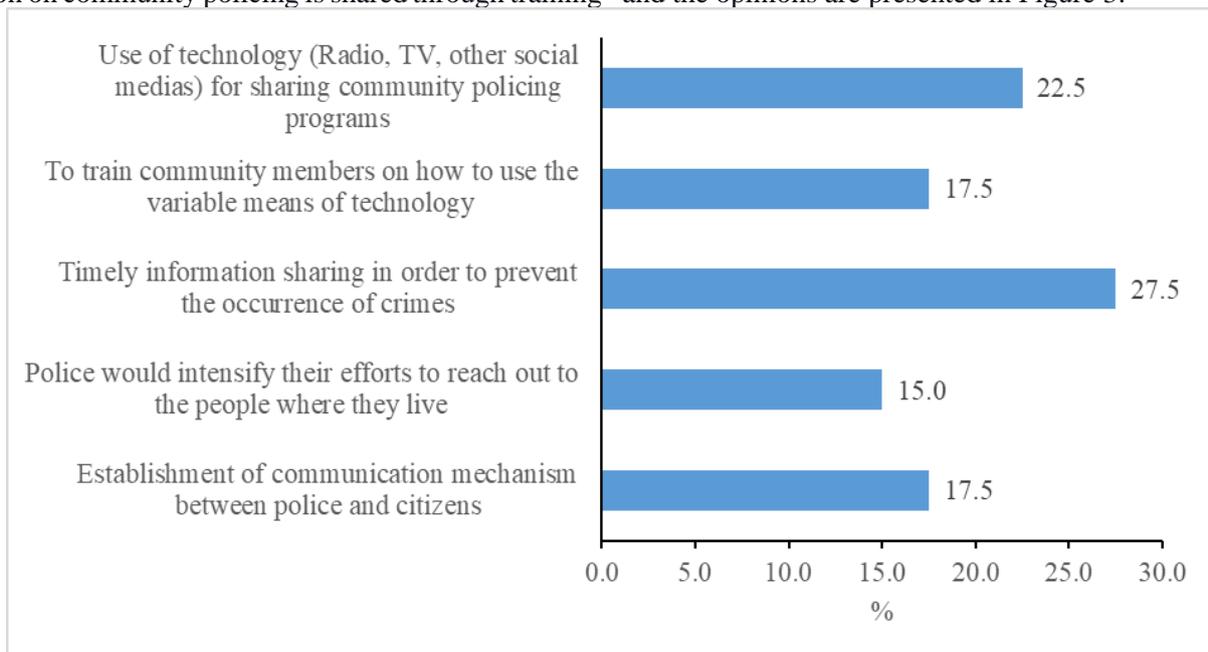


Figure 3: Respondents' opinion on the role of information sharing in enhancing security

According to Figure 2, the common strategies of information sharing to enhance security mentioned by the respondents were timely information sharing (27.5%), use of technology (22.5%), training community members, and effective mechanisms of communication between police and citizens (17.5%).

Thematic Analysis on Information Sharing and Security Enhancement

The respondents were asked to explain ways in which community policing information sharing can help enhance security. The respondents noted the importance of timely information sharing to prevent the occurrence of crimes, increase meetings with the community and convince them to give information about crime on time, have suggestion boxes in all



villages, and social networks to be set up for each village to share information with police. According to Braga and Tucker (2018), the use of information systems has been emphasized to identify and analyze the problems faced by the community.

The respondents also observed the need to train community members on how to use the variable means of technology. One respondent, R7 stated that ... *“Toll-free lines at the cell level are needed and it should be communicated to everyone in the cell to be used in case of any security issue”*.

Another respondent, R5 observed that... *“Information sharing is not properly done because not everyone has means of communication thus a need to provide means of communication”*

Further, a respondent, R8 stated ... *“Kindly Police make communication easy by direct reply to the message received by Police related to security.”*

The respondents further noted the need to use more radio and TV stations in information sharing, for police to work with telephone companies to share information with the local population about community policing to those with telephones and increase radio programs on community policing the ones we have are not enough.

Responses from Interview guide by CPC and CLOs

The participants noted that information sharing as a component of community policing is essential for security enhancement. They reported that police interventions were done timely.

Participant P1, noted that... *“Timely reporting of crimes about to be committed that were reported to police has helped in arresting offenders, for example, some prostitutes locked up their children in Remera Sector and went for prostitution and when their neighbors heard children crying, they called Police for intervention”*. This has helped in protecting children rights”.

Participant P5 stated that... *“crimes are reducing in our sector kimihurura this is because of the timely information shared with police”*.

When asked what should be done regarding information sharing to achieve security enhancement in Gasabo District, the participants highlighted the following key themes; to provide communication equipment like telephones for easy communication; to provide professional services by police to the population; police should work together with local patrols to prevent crimes.

Participant P4, stated that... *“Information is shared timely and this has helped in crime prevention. Citizens reporting of crime has increased this has contributed to crime prevention and reporting of crime”*.

He also recommended the following: Free police call lines to be used by the population just in case of any problem; regular meetings with citizens and use of police free lines; providing telephone to CPCs for them to be able to give information to the police; and citizens that have helped police in broking serious crimes should be rewarded to encourage other to do so.

Participant P2, stated that... *“Improvement on information sharing can be achieved if police provided mobile phones and airtime to CPC members especially the ones in charge of security at cell and village levels”*.

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Participant P3, noted that... *“To train people living in Rwanda about information sharing, where to report, how to report, and also to have police officers assigned to analyze the information reported”*.

Participant P4, observed that... *“To re-energize CPCs at village level because some of them have left the committee and there was no replacement and those present some of them are not motivated”*.

Participant P6, cited that... *“There is a need for police to improve on sensitization for citizens to know their role in community policing because some do not understand this concept of community policing”*.

Participant P7 reiterated that *“Police should be attending cell meetings like “akagoroba kababyeyi” referring to parents' evening meetings to know what citizens are going through if there are any security challenges and advise them”*.

He recommended the need to provide communication equipment like telephones to easily communicate and to adopt modern technology.

Participant P11 observed that... *“police should provide security equipment like CCTVs, handcuffs, water cannons and motivating police officers by increasing their salaries, and other incentives”*.

Responses from focus group discussions by community leaders

The religious leaders were asked their opinion on whether information sharing as a community policing strategy has been successful in reducing cases of crime and insecurity within the GASABO district. One of the discussants, D11 opined... *“Indeed, as we said before, because of different online platforms, information sharing has become easy, a thief can commit a crime here in one village and because of this strategy of using the Village WhatsApp platform, SMS, and phone when he/she goes to hide in another village, he/she can be easily apprehended”*

Another discussant D12 observed that ... *“There is a thing that police have introduced to the public which is making their Toll-free lines address to be known everywhere by everyone and this has helped in reducing crimes. This has brought a positive impact because in every situation a citizen will not hesitate to call the police hence reducing a number of crimes”*

Further, discussant D14 stated that ... *“Information sharing has helped in crime reduction, road accidents have reduced, family issues have also reduced, theft in villages have reduced all these are coming out of this strategy of information sharing”*

The university lecturers, secondary and primary school teachers also supported the role of information sharing in enhancing security. Discussant D6 opined... *“Yes, information sharing has played a big role in reducing crimes. A good example is that citizens share with police information on people who are engaged in drug trafficking. It is going to help police in fighting against those people and in return there will be crime prevention”*

Discussant D7 observed that ... *“Concerning information sharing, it is also an issue whereby it will depend on the nature of the crime committed. At times you may give out information to the police and they hold you until the investigation*

is over. As we said before there should be effective means that will allow people to give information when they are safe”.

4.4 Regression Analysis

The study sought to determine the influence of information sharing on security enhancement. A simple linear

regression was performed to examine the influence of information sharing on security enhancement. The model summary results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Model summary for information sharing and security enhancement

R	R square	Adjusted R square	Standard error of the estimate	Durbin-Watson test
.566 ^a	.321	.319	.53729	1.933

Independent variable: information sharing

Dependent Variable: security enhancement

Table 4 presents R and R square values for the coefficient of correlation and extent of variation respectively for information sharing on security enhancement. The R-value of 0.566 indicates a positive association and this implies a fairly moderate level of correlation between information sharing and security enhancement. The R-square value of 0.321 explains that 32.1% of the security enhancement is contributed by information sharing. The

remaining 67.9% of the security enhancement variation could be explained by other factors other than information sharing.

In addition, Table 4 above shows that there is no autocorrelation or the residuals are uncorrelated as the Durbin Watson is 1.933 (which is within the acceptable range of 1.5 to 2.5). Moreover, to validate the regression analysis, the histogram and P-P plot presented in Figure 4 shows reasonable normality of data.

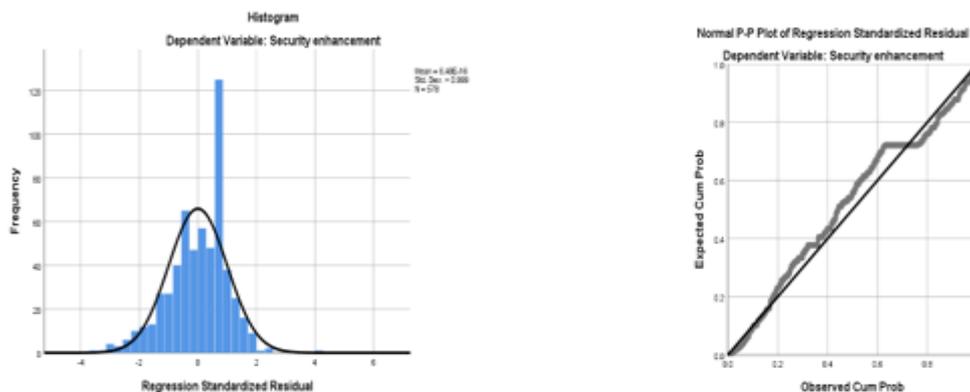


Figure 4: Histogram and P-P plot for information sharing and security enhancement

The validity of the model in Table 4 is also validated using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and results are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: ANOVA test for information sharing and security enhancement

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F value	p value
Regression	78.469	1	78.469	271.815	.000 ^b
Residual	166.282	576	.289		
Total	244.751	577			

Independent variable: information sharing

Dependent Variable: security enhancement

Table 5 demonstrates the analysis of variance (ANOVA) test and shows a positive significant relationship between information sharing and security enhancement (F = 271.82; p-

value < 0.05). This confirms that information sharing significantly predicts security enhancement.

The regression coefficient results are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Regression coefficients for information sharing and security enhancement

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	p value
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	2.102	.132		15.963	.000
Information sharing	.516	.031	.566	16.487	.000

Dependent Variable: security enhancement

As indicated in Table 6, the statistical coefficients of information sharing on security enhancement showed that the value of the unstandardized coefficient (B) was 0.516 (p-value <0.05). This implies that information sharing is significantly predicting security enhancement.

The linear regression model equation is presented as follows;

$$Y = 2.102 + .516X$$

Where;

Y = Security Enhancement

X = Information sharing

From this equation, the model predicts that when information sharing is zero, the security enhancement is 2.102. It also predicts that for a one-unit increase in information sharing, security enhancement increases by 0.516 units holding the other predictors fixed. The study findings corroborated Muteti et al. (2020) conclusion that information sharing was a key determinant of effective community policing for enhanced security. Similarly, results supported Headayetullah et al. (2018) assertion on the significance of information sharing in enhancing security.

Mixing and Interpreting of Quantitative and Qualitative Data

Data on information sharing and security enhancement was analyzed using descriptive, thematic, and inferential methods. From the descriptive point of view, the majority of the respondents observed that information on community policing is shared through social media, information on community policing is shared through music, information on community policing is shared through word of mouth, information on community policing is shared through acting and information on community policing is shared through training. The thematic analysis had similar results where participants supported the role of information sharing in security enhancement. Further, inferential statistics revealed a similar outcome that a positive and significant association exists between information sharing and security enhancement. The statistical coefficients revealed that information sharing had a positive and significant influence on security enhancement in Gasabo District, Rwanda ($\beta=0.516$, $p<0.05$).

4.5 Discussion of the Findings

The study findings established that most of the respondents agreed that information on community policing is shared through social media (88.2%), information on community policing is shared through music (84.6%), information on community policing is shared through word of mouth (91%), information on community policing is shared through acting (83.4%), and information on community policing is shared through training (63.2%). The findings imply that information

sharing on community policing is done using various channels. Most of the respondents had positive opinions towards information sharing. Therefore, information sharing is expected to positively influence security enhancement. According to Braga and Tucker (2018), the use of information systems has been emphasized to identify and analyze the problems faced by the community.

The R-value of 0.566 indicates a positive association and this implies a fairly moderate level of correlation between information sharing and security enhancement. The R-square value of 0.371 explains that 37.1% of the security enhancement is contributed by information sharing. The statistical coefficients of information sharing on security enhancement showed that the value of the unstandardized coefficient (B) was 0.516 (p-value <0.05). This implies that information sharing is significantly predicting security enhancement.

The study findings corroborated Muteti et al. (2020) conclusion that information sharing was a key determinant of effective community policing for enhanced security. Similarly, results supported Headayetullah et al. (2018) assertion on the significance of information sharing in enhancing security.

The findings of this study address various research gaps as pointed out in chapter two. Firstly, the contextual gap was addressed since this study concentrated on the Rwandan context. Secondly, the conceptual gap was addressed since this study examined the relationship between information sharing and security enhancement. Finally, the methodological gap was addressed since this study employed mixed methodology. This study also confirms the theoretical prediction of securitization theory and social disorganization theory that linked information sharing as a component of community policing to security enhancement.

5.0 Conclusion

The study concluded that information sharing had a positive and significant influence on security enhancement in Gasabo District, Rwanda. This implies that information sharing contributes significantly to security enhancement in Gasabo District, Rwanda. The key aspects of focus in information sharing were information sharing through social media, music, word of mouth, acting, and training.

6.0 Recommendations

The study recommended the need for RNP to strengthen information sharing for security enhancement. In particular, the institution should focus on enhancing information sharing aspects including information sharing through social media, music, word of mouth, acting, and training. It was also recommended that RNP should provide secure pathways for information sharing from citizens such as guaranteeing security of informants.

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