Unveiling Community Policing Challenges in Nigeria using Greenhalgh's Meta Analysis Approach

Authors:
Otuu Obinna Ogbonnia,
Computer Science Department, Swansea University UK.
Joseph Henry Anajemba,
Information Security Engineering Technology Department, Abu Dhabi Polytechnic
Chukwuemeka N. Oko-Otu,
Department of Military and War Studies, University of Buckingham
Deepak Sahoo
Computer Science Department, Swansea University UK.

Abstract

Scholars have investigated the challenges of community policing (CP) in Nigeria through socio-political, economic, and cultural lenses, with none adopting a method that can reveal these challenges comprehensively. This has led to a gap in recognizing key CP problems, thereby resulting in ineffective solutions from the government, and making government services in this context less accessible and responsive to citizens. This study employed Greenhalgh's meta-narrative approach to unveil community policing challenges that were previously overlooked in Nigerian context. Drawing from a variety of sources such as scholarly articles (ACM digital library, Science Direct), official documents, and media coverage, this study identified lack of robust technology usage, lack of citizens' participation, citizens' unwillingness to share information and lack of trust, accountability and transparency as major community policing challenges in Nigeria. This study contributes to a nuanced understanding of the challenges hindering the successful implementation of CP in Nigeria, highlights the implications of these challenges on the overall security landscape, and offers directions to policymakers and relevant government agencies, providing insights to the design of technological solutions for community policing in Nigeria.

Keywords: Community policing, insecurity, Challenges, Technology, Review

1. INTRODUCTION

With the goal of enhancing security, mutual accountability, trust, and collaboration between police forces and the citizens, community policing has garnered attention globally as a proactive strategy to law enforcement. However, there exist problems in the current practice of community policing, more especially in Nigeria where the police officers are seen as enemies by citizens (Agbiboa, 2015; Akinyetun, 2022). Police-public relations in Nigeria have been dwindled by issues of mistrust, due to the perceived amount of corruption, violence, torture, and other illicit behaviours against the citizens (Ike et al., 2022). The inability of the police to fulfil its mandate of providing security and orderliness, orchestrated by poor staffing, contributes to the worthlessness placed on the police by citizens. As reported in Ike et al. (2022) only one policeman is allocated to provide security for about 457 Nigerians, and this falls short of 268, the prescribed average by sub-Saharan African region, thereby affecting the performance of the available few and attracting hatred from the citizens who expect a better performance (Akinyetun, 2022). To boost this poor police performance, community policing was introduced in Nigeria (Akinyetun, 2022). Despite the existence of the community policing initiative in Nigeria, insecurity continues to escalate daily (Akanji, 2019), thereby prompting the below questions:

1. What are the challenges of community policing initiatives in Nigeria?
2. What can government do to enhance community policing initiatives in Nigeria?

The above questions seek answers from this research since no study has comprehensively investigated community policing challenges in Nigerian context. This study employs Greenhalgh's meta-narrative

approach (Greenhalgh et al., 2005) to explore the challenges associated with community policing in Nigeria as to provide answers to the raised questions, with recommendations and way forward.

History of policing in Nigeria

The origin of the Nigerian police force can be traced to the period of the abolition of the slave trade and the transition to legitimate commerce (Tamuno, 1970). The abolition of the slave trade in the British parliament in 1807, the reluctance to halt the trade on the part of Africans and the inexorable need to protect British mercantile interests launched the use of organised armed police force in British spheres of influence. After the Berlin West African Conference of 1884/85, the British began to take effective occupation of their economic spheres of influence using gun-boat diplomacy and enforcing anti-slave laws (Tamuno, 1970). By 1861, the British had created a 30-man consular Guard to secure its economic interests in Lagos. This force was subsequently enlarged to 600 and later 1200 men in 1891. Notwithstanding the amalgamation of 1906 and 1914, the British maintained two separate police arrangements in Nigeria until 1930, when a uniform regulation for police operations was introduced and the Nigerian police force was born. In the buildup to independence, there were arguments over the establishment of regional policing or the retention of a federalcontrolled police force (Obi-Ani, 2009). The latter was implemented with regional and divisional headquarters established in different parts of the country. However, by 1963, the police had been politicised and used for the intimidation and suppression of political opposition and protesters. This further degenerated the reputation of the police, which had come under question following their use in clamping down on the nationalist movements (Obi-Ani, 2009). The incursion of the military into politics following the January 1966 coup and the outbreak of the civil war in 1967 further decimated police reputation and the different military regimes. By the end of the Nigerian-Biafra war in 1970, policing was in disarray. Violent crime spread 'like cancer' after the defeat of the Republic of Biafra and a failed reconciliation rehabilitation and reconstruction policy of the federal government (Obi-Ani, 2009). Under military rule, the military suspicion and control of the police further stalled police reform. They gave room for the corruption and failure of the police force to wrestle with the internal security problems in Nigeria (Daly, 2020). Different communities, particularly in the vanquished eastern region, began to resort to informal policing structures in a bid to secure the lives and property of the people. Poverty, unemployment, and a boom in oil production created an environment where crime was instrumentalised for survival. While armed crime was not novel in Nigeria, it assumed an unprecedented proportion following the end of the war, and the fact that it 'was carried out with a military surplus made it different from what had been before Jobless and hungry demobilised Biafran soldiers soon realised that wartime skills could be used in surviving the peace. Firearms continued to be locally produced as they were during the war and used to perpetuate armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, roadblocks, and vandalism (Daly, 2020). On the other hand, the retreating or withdrawing Nigerian soldiers engaged in a binge of looting of private and public properties, rape of women and girls, forced marriage and murder of those who tried to stop them (Badiora et al., 2016). Consequently, the annual crime rate increased, particularly in urban centres. From nearly 211,000 in 1981 to 330,000 and 355,000 in 1984 – 85. During the 1990s, the crime data grew from 244,354 in 1991 to 289,156 in 1993 and declined from 241,091 in 1994 to 167,492 in 1999. The number of crimes marginally declined to 162,039 in 2006, a reduction of 8 per cent from 2005 (Badiora et al., 2016). The first attempt to launch a community policing initiative in Nigeria was in 2004. This was enshrined in the 2004 Police Reform/Police Act (Ordu & Nnam, 2017). The reform became expedient following an increase in crime and insecurity in Nigeria. This estranged police-public relationship made policing a conundrum and the demand for police accountability and transparency since the return to democracy in 1999. Moreover, there were no defined policy documents to codify the resurgence of community policing after the Civil War (Ordu & Nnam, 2017). The renewed agitation for community policing was premised on the efficiency of the informal precolonial police machinery in crime control and prevention. The emergence of informal ethnic-based policing structures, such as the Bakassi Boys (BB) and the Egbesu Boys (EB), was due to increased crime, the lacklustre corruption, poor public perception, distrust, and integrity of the Nigerian police force (Nalla & Newman, 2013). Added to this was that police personnel

could not meet professional and family commitments owing to poor remuneration, poor working environment, and poor accommodation. Many do not seem to understand their roles and responsibilities due to inadequate training. To meet these commitments, police officers resorted to graft, bribery and excessive use of force in their relationship with the public, which degenerated police-community relations and trust building (Naankiel et al., 2012).

Policing Reforms in Nigeria

There is no shortage of recommendations for police reforms and community policing initiatives in Nigeria. There have been five high-level recommendations for police reforms between 1999 and 2020. These include the 2004 police reform, the Danmadami Committee of May 2006, the Yusufu Committee of April 2008, and the 2012 and 2019 presidential panels on police reforms (Naankiel et al., 2012). Similarly, Nigeria adopted a law criminalising torture in December 2007 and, on 27 July 2009, launched the National Committee Against Torture (NCAT). Nigeria is also a member of some international treaties to protect human rights and dignity, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT); the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) (Naankiel et al., 2012). However, the impact of these legislations on police performance and community policing is hardly noticeable in the country hitherto.

Community Policing in Nigeria

Since the return to civilian rule in 1999, successive governments in Nigeria have transitioned the police from a state-centric to a civilian-centric institution through some policing initiatives (Kasali, 2016). The community policing idea emerged in the Nigerian police force in 2006 as a people-centered panacea for crime prevention and control. Under this arrangement, informal policing systems are expected to cooperate with the Nigerian police force to aid in the containment and prevention of violent conflicts and other criminal activities at the rural level (Kpae & Eric, 2017). As defined by the United States Department of Justice, community policing is a philosophy that promotes organisational strategy that supports the systematic use of partnership and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime (Kasali, 2016). This definition encapsulates the core aspect of community policing problem-solving techniques. Hence, it is expected that wherever this initiative is effective, there should be reduction of crime to the barest minimum. Countries that practice community policing like the United Kingdom and United States have positive results of the initiative (Kpae & Eric, 2017). However, in Nigeria, insecurity remains on the rise, with increased spate of police brutality and violence, murder, forcible rape, armed robbery, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and terrorism, widespread accessibility to lethal weapons, emergence of city-based criminal groups, and the cross-border influence of profit-driven organised crimes and other issues. This situation has ignited a scholarly debate regarding the workings and challenges of community policing initiative. The following section shall look at previous studies and existing knowledge related to our research.

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Studies have examined the practice of community policing in Nigeria. While some mentioned corrupt practices as the bane of its success, some looked at lack of accountability and trust. However, none has applied a comprehensive approach to explore the challenges. The research of Akinyemi (2021) observed that corruption, institutional constraints, police brutality and underfunding constitute a bottleneck in effective policing in Nigeria. Moreover, Agbiboa (2015) recommended integrating informal policing and providing incentives for community crime control groups to boost community policing in Nigeria. Their study showed that the police alone cannot effectively control crime without public support; therefore, crime control is a collective responsibility. However, the study does not show how inadequate training of informal policing

agents could complicate the policing process and the use of technology and lead to corruption. At the moment, the Nigerian Police have yet to provide adequate training for their personnel. An extension of this idea can be found in Akanji (2019), who argued that continuous training for police officers on ethics and community engagement can help reduce corrupt police practices. Furthermore, Aborisade and Fayemi (2015) argued that the high crime rate in Nigeria is attributed to widespread unemployment, poverty and political intolerance and that the ineffectiveness of the police in curbing crime is attributed to these phenomena. They recommended that the government address the root causes of crime and police training. Although their argument emphasises the imperative of addressing the political economy of crime in improving community policing, Enweremadu (2019) situates the challenges of community policing within a historical context of colonial influence on the police. He argues that policing in Nigeria has roots in colonial policies that imposed Western ideas of law enforcement, often involving oppression and misuse of power. The study recommended good governance in relation to police reform as a strategy for effective policing in Nigeria. Studies have also claimed that lack of technological implementation contribute to lapses in community policing practice in Nigeria. For instance, only communication platform has been applied in Nigeria. Confirming this, Usman Alkali Baba who is the present Inspector General of police announced that the Nigerian Police force uses NPFRescueMe; a one-way channel application used by citizens to report crime and unworthy police behaviour in real-time (THISDAY, 2022). According to Usman, the app has been upgraded with a crisis button to alert any nearby police station in emergencies. In the NPFRescueMe application, the citizens can report a crime, but can't get feedback from the police. This defeats the expected performance of a police-citizen communication technology according to Zhang et al. (2020), who posit that police community applications should allow 2-way flow of information for a genuine interaction. Apart from the NPFRescueMe, Nigerian Police force has been leveraging on social media platforms to gather crime data, like their counterparts in other countries. Facebook and Twitter have been widely used in this regard, but concerns abound on the best strategies to use these platforms for better achievements (Verma & Dombrowski, 2018). Despite being frequently used, a study indicates that government budgets for the police cover a little for their social media activities, which could limit reasonable technological impacts in Nigeria (Lieberman et al., 2013). Among all these studies, none applied a data extraction method that comprehensively selected studies in this context with reproducible database query and inclusion criteria as done in our work, hence, lacking complete reporting of existing challenges.

3. METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This employed mixed methods through a narrative review (Ferrari, 2015) and Greenhalgh's meta-narrative analysis (Greenhalgh et al., 2005). These methods were imperative as we drew inspiration from multidisciplinary areas (community policing: social science and technology: applied science), and subjectively sourced materials from electronic databases. We assembled two team of multidisciplinary researchers with background in human computer interaction and community policing research respectively, with experience in meta-narrative review. Three research questions were broadly presented in an open-ended format. Meetings were conducted via zoom where the various inputs were planned for the review. In the first meeting, two researchers discussed the research problem. The input criteria and search keywords were planned in the second meeting. This led to the generation of three different search terms: "Community policing" AND Challenge AND Nigeria AND Technology, "Community policing" AND Challenge AND Technology, Community AND policing AND Challenge AND Nigeria AND Technology.

Criteria for study selection

The below criteria were considered before selecting the reviewed papers:
- Papers written in English language.
- Papers that mentioned community policing technology in Nigerian context.

- Papers published between 2010 and 2023.
- There must be a mention of the word "Challenge" in any part of the document except in the reference section.

Data extractions

These search terms were applied in ACM digital library and Science Direct as led by intuition Greenhalgh et al. (2005) to generate various results between 2010 and 2023 as shown in the table 1. The reason for the search date range was because of the security challenges in Nigeria mostly recorded in 2010 (Akanji, 2019). A total of 1,681 papers were initially generated.

Table 1: Search table

Database Sources	KEYWORDS	Number of Generated Articles
ACM digital library	"Community policing" AND Challenge AND Nigeria AND Technology	8
	"Community policing" AND Challenge AND Technology	60
	Community AND policing AND Challenge AND Nigeria AND Technology	145
Science Direct	"Community policing" AND Challenge AND Nigeria AND Technology	28
	"Community policing" AND Challenge AND Technology	311
	Community AND policing AND Challenge AND Nigeria AND Technology	1129

References to these papers were systematically tracked in a search network to reveal hidden studies which could relate to our research questions. This led to the findings of 15 articles which were not originally extracted in the preliminary search but met our selection criteria. This gave rise to 1,696 articles initially generated. These studies were evaluated for content validity, and a total of 1,400 were removed for mentioning the keywords in their reference sections only. Also, 244 studies were removed for not being relevant to our research objectives.
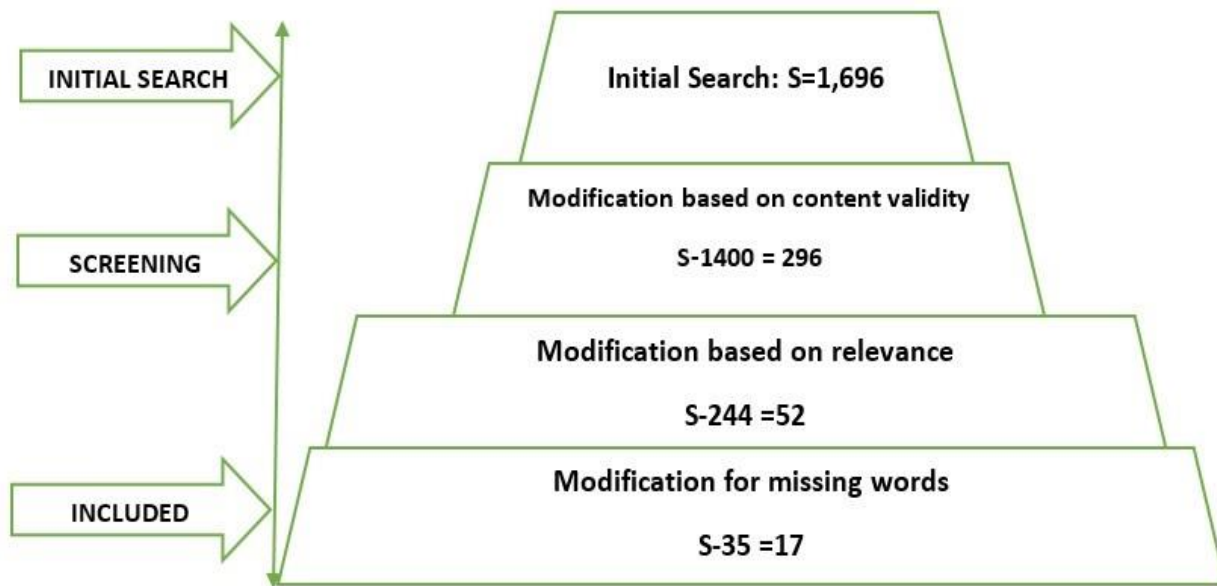
Fig. 1. Search Process Diagram

For instance, the study 'Climate variability and individual motivations for participating in political violence' appeared as one of the studies generated as it made our selection criteria, however the study was not related to our quest to understand the challenges of community policing in Nigeria, hence it was removed. Furthermore, 35 studies were removed for not having the word 'challenge' in any part of the document. For example, the ACM digital library search with the keywords ["Community policing" AND Challenge AND Nigeria AND Technology] generated 'Anonymity and Privacy in Bitcoin Escrow Trades' as one of the articles. After going through the document, no mention of the word 'challenge' was noticed, so it was removed. At the end, 17 articles were reviewed in our study after following the steps as shown in our search process diagram (see figure 1). Nvivo (Jackson & Bazeley, 2019) was used for the qualitative analysis which led to the four themes that emerged in this study.

Risk of Bias assessment

The first review by two independent researchers using Ryann AI tool (Ouzzani et al., 2016) gave different results. During this phase, there were arguments on some papers. However, when it became too difficult to reach consensus, we set aside Ryann AI tool, since this is a narrative review guided by intuition, and introduced Kohen's Kappa Coefficient (Chang, 2014) based on our agreements and disagreements of the selected studies. This gave rise to a very slight inter-rater reliability agreement (k=0.22).

4. RESULTS

This section presents the results of the Greenhalgh's metanarrative approach only. The outcome of the narrative review can be found in the phase 1 of the discussion section. The theme table (Table 3) shows a total of 17 papers finally included of which 7 studies (41%) suggest that there is no trust, accountability and transparency in community policing in Nigeria. In the other hand, 2 studies (12%) opine that there is no proper stakeholder participation. Furthermore, 3 studies (18%) posit that Nigerian citizens are unwilling to share information with the police, while 5 studies (29%) suggest that there is dearth of modern technology in community policing in Nigeria.
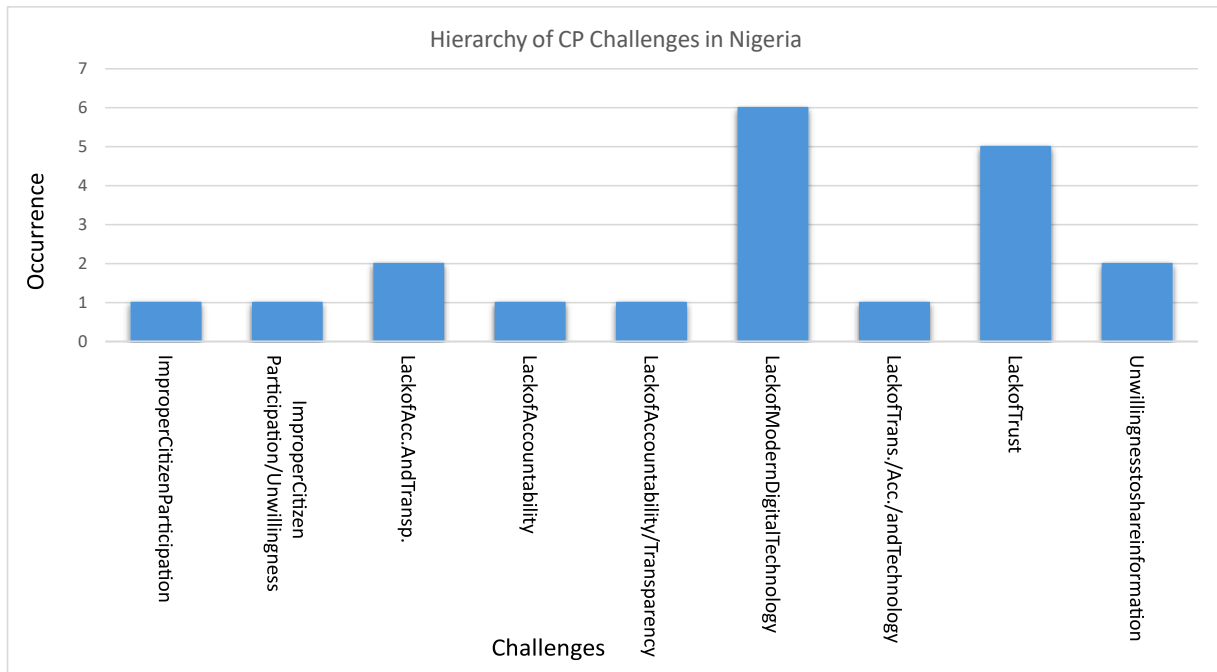
Fig. 2. Hierarchy of the Challenges found

TABLE II
CHARACTERISTICS OF SELECTED STUDIES

SN.	Authors	Method applied	Year	Challenge Identified
1	Ezenkwu, C. P., Ozuomba, S., and Kalu, C.	Quantitative (Survey)	2013	Lack of Trust, Accountability and Transparency
2	Kpae, G., and Eric A.	Qualitative (Content Analysis)	2017	Lack of Trust
3	Kasali, Monsuru Adegboyega	Qualitative (Content Analysis)	2016	Lack of Accountability
4	Oluwaniyi, O. O.	Qualitative (Content Analysis)	2020	Lack of Trust and Transparency
5	Oluwaniyi, O. O.	Quantitative (Survey)	2011	Lack of Transparency, Accountability and Technology
6	Elntib, S., Nass, Z. S., Ioannou, M., Ryan, S., and Christiansen, P	Quantitative (Survey)	2018	Unwillingness to share information and lack of Trust.
7	Aborisade, R., and Fayemi, J.	Qualitative (Content Analysis)	2015	Lack of Accountability, Transparency and Trust
8	Doane, E., and Cumberland, D. M	Qualitative (Focus group and Interview)	2018	Improper Citizens' participation
9	Audu, A. M.	Qualitative (Focus group)	2016	Unwillingness to share information

10	Adedeji, O. A	Qualitative (Content Analysis)	2012	Improper citizens' participation and Unwillingness to share information
11	Johnson Oluwole Ayodele and Adeyinka Abideen Aderinto	Mixed Method (Interview and Survey)	2014	Lack of Trust
12	Hussein, M. D., Sarki, Z. M., Sarki, U. S.	Qualitative (Content Analysis)	2016	Lack of digital technology
13	Agwanwo, Destiny Eze	Qualitative (Content Analysis)	2014	Lack of modern digital technology
14	Onuoha O.O.	Qualitative (Literature review)	2024	Lack of modern digital technology
15	Mustapha, A., and Abubakar, M. B.	WD XSWSSSSSSSSSSSS	2023	Lack of modern digital technology
16	OSAWE, C. O.	Qualitative (Content Analysis)	2021	Lack of modern digital technology
17	Taiwo, A. A.	Qualitative (Content Analysis)	2016	Lack of modern digital technology

5. DISCUSSION

This section discusses the findings of the Greenhalph's meta-analysis on the challenges of CP in Nigeria, and presents lack of Trust, lack of accountability, lack of transparency, improper stakeholders' participation, unwillingness to share information, and technological inefficiencies as themes challenging CP initiatives.

1)   *Dearth of modern digital technologies:* Odeyemi and Obiyan (2018) suggest that the use of modern technologies in Nigerian domain will improve community policing practice therein. However, some articles from this study (Agwanwo,2014; Onuoha, 2024; Mustapha & Abubakar, 2023; Osawe, 2021; Taiwo, 2016) reveal the dearth of technologies in community policing context in Nigeria. Specifically, one of the generated studies conducted 10 years ago Agwanwo (2014) asserted that community policing was facing various challenges because such modern technologies didn't exist in Nigerian domain. Fast forward to 2023 and 2024, and reaffirming Agwanwo's assertion, two recent studies in our review (Mustapha & Abubakar, 2023; Onuoha, 2024), record the same dearth of digital technologies for community policing in Nigeria which has caused major setback to its success, apart from surveillance and communications applied sparingly by private individuals. The implication of this is not farfetched from non-availability of crime evidence, and exacerbation of communication gaps which hinder data-driven decision making and increase the rate of crime.

2)   *Lack of Trust, Transparency and Accountability :* The initial challenges discovered in this study were lack of trust, lack of transparency and lack of accountability. We had to put the three together because they were mostly used interchangeably in various studies. Notably, these were the primary challenges seen as most relevant for CP strategy to thrive in any setting (Freilich et al., 2020). Meanwhile, our results show that these three elements of trust, transparency and accountability are lacking in Nigerian CP context, thereby affecting the success of the initiative.

TABLE III
THEMES GENERATED

Themes	Studies	Key Take away
Dearth of modern technologies	(Agwanwo,2014; Onuoha, 2024; Mustapha & Abubakar, 2023; Osawe, 2021; Taiwo, 2016)	There are no advanced technologies presently in Nigeria.
Lack of Trust, Accountability and Transparency	(Ezenkwu et al., 2013;Kpae & Eric, 2017; Kasali, 2016; Oluwaniyi, 2011, Elntib et al., 2018; Aborisade & Fayemi, 2015; Nyam, 2020)	1.There is no trust for community policing to thrive in Nigeria. 2. There is no accountability in the discharge of the duties of the Nigerian Police officers. 3.Nigerian police officers are not transparent in their anticrime dealings.
Improper Citizens' participation	(Doane & Cumberland , 2018; Adedeji, 2012)	Citizens don't participate in community policing at present in Nigeria.
Unwillingness to share information	Ayodele & Aderinto , 2014; Hussein et al., 2016; Audu, 2016)	There is no willingness to share information to the police at present in Nigeria.

Schilke et al. (2021) defined trust as "the willingness of an entity (i.e., the trustor) to become vulnerable to another entity (i.e., the trustee)". They went further to opine that "In taking this risk, the trustor presumes that the trustee will act in a way that is conducive to the trustor's welfare". According to Aston et al. (2023), established accessibility and communication between the police and the public are vital tools to achieving trust in policing. In the other hand, accountability can be seen as making the police accountable for their deeds or choices, and it is strongly related to transparency which is the attribute of openness and honesty of the police in the context of actions and decisions which allows for observable evidence (Doane & Cumberland, 2018).

3)   Improper Citizens' participation: Another challenge as shown in our result is the lack of citizens' participation. The citizens (community workers, non-governmental organization) are part of the stakeholders in community policing apart from the policemen (Zhang et al., 2020). These group of people must work together for an effective community policing. The community members supply information, the police carryout law enforcement duties, while the government provides enabling policies and finances for the smooth running of community policing programme. Meanwhile, all the stakeholders have a part to play in the failure or success of community policing in Nigeria. This is because, there are policemen who do not participate properly in community policing activities for lack of managerial lapses, lack of monitoring, low logistics, lack of equipment, and most especially, lack of training on community policing strategies (Akinyetun, 2022; Ike et al., 2022). Hence, the government is to be blamed in the failures of community policing strategies for lack of enhancement policies, programme stimulation, proper welfare package for the police and provision of needed resources (Enweremadu, 2019). According to Zhang et al. (2020), citizen participation is the major reason for community policing initiatives, and when the citizens resist participation, the aim of community policing is defeated. Hence, improper citizens' participation implies a defeat on CP objectives.

4)   Unwillingness to share Information: The third challenge recorded by our study is the unwillingness of citizens to share information to the police. A study by Hussein et al. (2013) concludes that the unfriendly relationship between the community members and the police, is the major impediment to effective and successful Community Policing in Nigeria. Because of this hostile relationship, Nigerian citizens are not willing to share information to the police, coupled with slow responses and inactiveness of the police to such information shared in the past. Another study by Elntib et al. (2018) concludes that Nigerians are not willing to share information with the police in their survey of 200 Nigerian participants. According to a Stalcup and Hahn (2016), getting help or assistance, reporting a crime, volunteering information that might help in solving crime, or to be a witness is made difficult by policemen who normally avoid being invited to crime scenes for lack of combatant preparedness. Another study (Ayodele & Aderinto, 2014), with 948 participants recruited from Southwestern Nigeria found among other things that, 69.7% of respondents had no trust in the police and were less likely to share information or report crimes. The implication of this is that there is always high crime rate in the society when citizens decide not to inform the police when crime is being committed (Freilich et al., 2020).

6. IMPLICATIONS OF FINDINGS AND THE WAY FORWARD

A. Strengthening Trust and Collaboration

Addressing the reluctance of Nigerian citizens to participate in community policing necessitates a concerted effort to strengthen trust and collaboration between law enforcement agencies and communities. Building transparent and accountable relationships, demonstrating the impact of community policing, and actively involving citizens in decision-making processes are vital steps toward fostering greater participation.

B. Technological Implementation

Technologies aimed at enhancing the framework and support of community policing are imperative. This technologies must be designed in a way that they would be usable by all community policing stakeholders (police and citizens), as to encourage engagement and participation.

C. Empowerment and Inclusivity

Empowering communities and ensuring inclusivity within the framework of community policing can mitigate reluctance and foster a sense of ownership among citizens. Providing opportunities for meaningful participation, addressing socioeconomic disparities, and recognizing the diverse needs of communities are fundamental to creating an environment conducive to active engagement.

D. Long-Term Vision and Evaluation

Developing a long-term vision for community policing and implementing robust mechanisms for evaluation and feedback are essential. Continuous assessment of the impact of community policing initiatives, coupled with adaptive strategies based on community feedback, can engender confidence and enthusiasm among citizens, laying the foundation for sustained participation.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT

The following are recommendations for the government and advice for future research:

- This study highlights lack of transparency, accountability, and trust. While transparency and accountability are understood clearly, trust is vague. Hence, government should employ transparency mechanisms as a way of checkmating the excesses of the Nigerian police. Also, further research is advised to reduce the ambiguity in the trust used in community policing context.

- This study highlights on technologies used in community policing on the surface, hence, there is need to conduct a systematic literature review that will comprehensively explore relevant technologies applied in this context and how each has fared from inception. This will comprehensively expose designers to what has been done well and what has failed, as to know the features to integrate for a better community policing outcome.
- Researchers and designers of community policing technologies should strive to create surveillance and communication systems that take into cognizance the privacy concerns of individuals within surveillance environments.
- Since this study highlights on lack of trust for the police, it is imperative to create a platform that can foster trust between the police and the community members.
- To effectively measure the success of community policing strategies in Nigeria, it is essential to implement a multi-faceted approach that incorporates metrics for trust, participation, and technological adoption. Regular data collection and analysis will provide insights into the effectiveness of these strategies, allowing for continuous improvement and adaptation to community needs. Engaging with the community throughout this process will also foster a sense of ownership and collaboration, ultimately enhancing the overall effectiveness of community policing initiatives.

8. LIMITATION OF STUDY

This work is limited majorly by the databases used, as expanding this review to other scientific databases like Scopus, Web of Science, google scholar etc would have yielded a broader and better result. However, we did a rigorous and extensive search with the two databases used, as to cover for this limitation. Secondly, the Greenhalgh's meta-narrative review approach used in this research has a higher level of subjectivity as it is based on intuition and as such, can't be exactly reproduced like PRISMA guideline of a systematic literature review. However, our choice of approach was deliberate as it allows for highlighting of studies related by reference of a social and physical scientists, and as such is comprehensive enough to achieve our objectives.

9. CONCLUSION

This study has been able to reveal community policing challenges in Nigeria with insights on how same can be ameliorated. The study implications highlight how Nigerian government can foster trust and participation by implementing policies that increase transparency, accountability, and community engagement in law enforcement activities. This can be achieved by establishing clear guidelines for information sharing, ensuring accountability among police officers, and creating feedback channels where citizens can express concerns and provide input into policing strategies. Moreover, the study posits how the government can introduce and support educational programs aimed at raising awareness about the benefits of community policing. These programs would encourage citizens to participate actively in crime prevention efforts and collaborate with law enforcement, thus overcoming reluctance to share information. The lack of modern technology in Nigerian community policing efforts was also presented as a significant challenge. To address this, the study recommended that the government should invest in technological infrastructure, such as digital reporting systems, real-time crime data analytics, and mobile applications that allow community members to report incidents discreetly and receive updates on security issues. Integrating these technological solutions will strengthen the community policing framework and align it with broader e-governance initiatives, which aim to make government services more accessible and responsive to citizens. Such digital enhancements would support quicker information flow, more accurate crime reporting, and ultimately more effective policing across the country. The study implications for e-governance are substantial as the government can leverage technology to create a collaborative environment where data from community policing activities feeds directly into national security strategies. This integration could promote transparency, reduce corruption, and build public trust in government operations, further reinforcing the role of community policing as a pivotal component of Nigeria's security architecture.

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