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## The Role of Neighbourhood Watch in the Security of Life and Property in Warri Kingdom, Delta State Nigeria

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### **Abstract:**

*Despite the continuous efforts by the Nigerian Police in combating crime and criminalities all over the century, it has become very elusive. Although, state, local government as well as communities have began to endorse and sponsor vigilante groups. Studies have also revealed that over the years, there have been significant improvement in the security of lives and property owing to the collaboration between these bodies and the Nigerian Police. Despite the continuous efforts by the Nigerian Police in combating crime and criminalities all over the country, the security of life and property has remained a challenge. Although survey have shown that over the years, state, local government as well as communities have began to endorse and sponsor vigilante groups. This significant move has to a large extent help in combating and securing lives and property, particularly with the sharing of information with the Nigeria Police. Four research questions and three hypotheses was posed to guide this study. A four point Likert scale questionnaire was structured to elicit responses from the respondents, in this regard, a total of 400 questionnaires were distributed to the respondents, out of which 378 were returned. Simple percentages were used in analyzing and answering the research questions and the chi-square was used to test the hypothesis. The result of the test of hypothesis shows that the calculated chi-square (21.65).*

**Keywords:** *Crime, Neighbourhood Watch, Security of Life and Property.*

### **1. Background to the Study**

Owing to the failure or inability of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) to tackle the increasing security challenging confronting the country in recent time. Some state government began to help form, endorse and even sponsor vigilant groups. Hisbah, Pratten (2002) believes that the rise in crime and insecurity as well as the sense of low performance by the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) led to the proliferation of these vigilante groups both at local and state levels. For instance, in the Yoruba speaking south-west of Nigeria, the O'odua people's congress (OPC), the Igbo speaking south east, the Bakassi, in most of the northern states, sharia implementation committees. Even though a lot of justification has been justify the formation of these groups a lot needs to be done to improve the performance of the groups. Despite their efforts, the Nigerian police and the general public has refused to accept the efforts of the states in seeing the complimentary roles played by the groups for reasons that are justifiable. For instance in Abia State and Anambra state the group members were arrested and scores of illegally held detainees released.

In September 2002, 24<sup>th</sup> Mobile police officers attacked the premises of Anamba state vigilante services (AVS). in and around Onitsha. One hundred members of the AVs were detained and interrogated till October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2002. The police found five illegal detention centres in Ihiala, Nnewi, Onitsha, Akwa and Ekulobia earlier in August 8<sup>th</sup> 2002 (Anucha, 2007).

There is obviously lack of trust between the police and the vigilant groups. While the vigilant groups accessed the police of corruption by releasing suspects. They handed over to them, the police on the other hand accused the vigilante group of indulging in extra-judicial executions and killing (Anucha, 2007) further stress that the vigilant groups are used by politicians and rich businessmen to intimidate political opponent during campaigns and elections against their enemies. This he says was the root of the mutual distrust between the police and vigilante groups worsened the security challenges in Nigeria. In order to tackle these worsening security challenges, the government and the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) embarked upon the reform of the police force reaffirming the need to introduce and implement community policing. This move paves the way for formal introduction of community policing in 2004.

However, before the formal launching on April 27, 2004 the police had trained officers and men both locally and internationally to help spread the gospel of community policing.

As in other parts of the world such as Britain, America, the Nigerian Method of Community Policing is modeled to adapting the best aspect of the two countries put together. This philosophy is of one that ensures community safety and crime prevention. It is not solely that of the police but a shared one between the police and the people. Secondly, that policing is not simply about reacting to incidents or calls for service from the public once a crime has been committed rather it must be pre-acting in addressing local problems in other words crime prevention. It sees policing as a process, while the thread is that this model allows community policing to entail the use of discretion flexibility as well as freedom of how the job must be carried out. According to Amuche 2007. The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) philosophy a strategy of community policing is an integrated model that captures the essence of community safety and crime prevention.

Notwithstanding, it has been noted that community policing in Nigeria is facing various problems such as low level of awareness on the part of the Nigerian police officers as well as the general public, which undermine the philosophy underlying community policing secondly, there is the challenge of the mind set of the police officers that the primary responsibility is to arrest, detain and interrogate suspects who commit crime any to enforce law and order in the society. Thirdly is the challenge of gaining confidence from members of the public.

## 2. Statement of the Problem

Prior to the advent of the Nigeria police force in 1889, by the British colonial administration, there were various groups performing the role of policing the communities in what is today known as Nigeria. In some cases like Warri pre-colonial societies, the role of policing or protecting lives and property of the people was the responsibilities of the entire community. Even though it was facilitated by age grade and masquerade societies. It was this model of community policing that colonial police supplanted in 1889 to provide of Uasi-military assistance to the British colonial administration in Nigeria (Tamuro,1970). Similarly, Garba (2012) notes that the idea of the modern Nigeria police is a certain of colonial rule in which its listing and function began in serving the interest of the British colonial rule.

It was organized as a quasi-military squad by the colonial government as an instrument of riot-control, oppression and suppression. In other words, the colonial police was established neither as agent for promoting the rule of law, human rights, community safety nor for delivering social services rather the police was used to primitive expedition to further the goal of colonial annexation of territories and to quench protests as well as opposition against colonial exploitation.

In the same vein, Rotini et al (2002) describe policing in the colonial era as anti-purple. HE argues that the establishment of the police was more to serve and protect the commercial interest of the colonial master. This pitched the police against the people they were meant to protect. So right from the beginning, the purpose of the Nigeria police force (NPF) was to protest government functionaries sometimes against "natives". The post-colonial Nigeria police force is a carryover from the colonial epoch (Zanreeta, 2002).

According to Ekeh (2002), he says that "In this respect, the character of the Nigeria police force has not changed. He maintained that the military rule in Nigeria only embroidered the military character of the Nigeria police. As in the colonial period, the Nigeria police force (NPF) has deliberately been designed to appear tough and intimidating before the civilians, thus, alienating or disconnecting the people from the police more.

The history of community police in Nigeria, thus, has been described as firstly as the idea of policing imposed on the country by the colonial master was calculated to foster an antagonism between the policed and the police (Ikuteyijio et al, 2012). To make matter worse, the corruption perception of Nigerian police by the Nigerian people over the years heightened, consequently, the Nigerian police is preferred as the most corrupt government institution both locally and internationally worsening community-police relation. Under this state of affairs, the Nigerian police has been unable to fight crime let alone prevent it.

In Nigeria, night guards and vigilantes groups have emerged in response to theft and armed robbery (Pratten,2008) vigilante groups existed in Nigeria for decades not only under civilian rules but also during the previous military regimes. They have traditionally been seen as an extension to the work of law enforcement office in the country. All over the country some neighborhood watch groups have encouraged and even existed in some parts of the country (Lagos, Edo, and Delta) as an appreciable form of non-state security agencies with the ultimate objective of fighting crime and ensuring safety and security of lives and properties of the people. However, with the empirical research has investigated the role played by this neighborhood watch groups in ensuring safety and security of lives and properties. This study is an attempt to fill the knowledge gap. But in specific terms, an attempt to examine the contribution of neighborhood watch groups to the security of life and property in Warri kingdom.

### 2.1. Objective of the Study

The study generally examines Neighbourhood Watch Group and security of life and property in Warri Kingdom and to identify the factors that led to the emergence of Neighbourhood Watch Groups in ensuring security of life and properties in Warri Kingdom.

### 2.2. Hypothesis

The more Neighbourhood Watch Group increases its activities, the more the security of life and property.

### 2.3. Theoretical Framework

The study is anchored on the routine activity theory, developed by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson in 1979. According to the theory, there are three elements namely a victim, a motivated offender and suitable guardian (Gaetz, 2004, 427). These three elements constitute a tripod holding a platform on which crime occurs. (Dohe, 2009:14). In terms of crime prevention methods, the RAT offers a simple solution that in order to reduce crimes, opportunities for committing crimes must be reduced (Paternoster and Bachman 2001). According to Fattah (1999:131), since classical crime prevention strategies have not worked and have not caused a salient decline in crime rate, new developments have generated in criminology regarding crime prevention.

### 3. Methodology

The study local is Warri Kingdom, comprising the three Local Government Areas that make up Warri kingdom in Delta State, Nigeria. The survey method was used in the study.

### 4. Review of Literature

#### 4.1. Vigilante and Neighbourhood Watch

Although, some vigilante security outfits may have started as Neighbourhood Watch, but they are not exactly the same. Vigilante and Neighbourhood Watch are both private security but that is as far as the similarity goes. Vigilante is a private individual who legally or illegally punishes an alleged law breaker, or participates in a group, which metes out extralegal punishment to an alleged lawbreaker. Following from this definition, vigilante groups therefore metes out extra-legal or extra-judicial punishment to an alleged lawbreaker. However, not all vigilant activities are illegal, because sometimes vigilante began by apprehending or catching criminals and hand them over to the police.

Vigilante justice is spurred on by the idea that criminal punishment is either nonexistent or insufficient for the crime, usually based on the perception that the government is ineffective in enforcing the law and this need community members to volunteer to protect the community. In other instances, a person may choose a role of vigilante as a result of personal experience as opposed to social demand. Persons seen as “escaping from the law” or “above the law” are sometimes the targets of vigilantism. It may target persons or organizations involved in illegal activities in general or it may be aimed against a specific group or type of activity, for example, police corruption. Vigilante behaviour may differ in degree of violence, and in some cases vigilantes may assault targets verbally, physically attack them or vandalize their property. Any person who defies the law to further justice is a vigilante, and thus, violence is not a necessary criterion.

Neighbourhood Watch, on the other hand, is an organized group of citizens devoted to crime and vandalism prevention within a neighborhood. Therefore, members of Neighbourhood Watch and others who use legal means of bringing people to justice are not considered vigilantes. In other words, Neighbourhood Crime Watch is not vigilante security apparatus, because when suspecting criminal activities, members of Neighbourhood Watch or crime watch are encouraged to contact authorities or police and not to intervene (Ikutejio & Rotimi, 2012). Neighbourhood Watches, therefore, are police informants in that they give police relevant information that helps the police in their investigations and crime preventions.

In Nigeria, ethnic militias or militant groups have been erroneously taken to be vigilante groups. Although, some ethnic militias are involved in vigilante service, they are not strictly speaking vigilante security apparatus in that they are engaged in other activities which are not necessarily or primarily vigilante service. The point is that vigilante activities are not the primary activities or roles of the ethnic militant groups like Odua People’s Congress (OPC), Movement for Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), etc. It so happened that along the line, these radical ethnic organizations began to assume or usurp the responsibilities of vigilante security. The traditional concept of vigilante in Nigeria, however, exclusively refers to an un-armed voluntary citizens or groups created in local communities to help the security agents by arresting suspected criminals or delinquents and handing them over to the police.

#### 4.1.1. Security of Life and Property

Anything that constitutes a danger to the security of a nation is a threat. A threat could be economic, political or social, and the threat of crime covers all three major categories. Crime as a threat to security of life and property impact on all aspects of human security viz; economic, food, health, environmental, personal, community, and political. Crime is one of the major factors associated with underdevelopment. The reasons are not far-fetched because of the way it lowers or discourages investment, destroys human and social capital, damages relationship between citizens and the state, and thus undermines democracy and the ability of the state to promote development. The fact that people are at the heart of security concerns suggests that crime can erode the sense of safety and security of entire community (Dambazau, 2007).

Crime impacts negatively on the Nigerian economy. The Economist Intelligent Unit (EIU) runs a service called “Riskwire” which evaluates the safety of a number of countries for foreign business. Out of the fifty-nine (59) countries evaluated, Nigeria is rated as the riskiest country for business in the world. According to the report;

- Nigeria is an insecure environment for commercial operations. Security risk arises at three levels. The first comes from rising violent crime, (from) simple armed robbery [to] carjacking and violent attacks...Second, companies can be subjected to direct attack or blackmail facilities can be vandalized and staff kidnapped. Third, incidences of inter-communal violence have risen ... Nigeria’s ill-equipped police force ... has been ineffective in stemming the crime wave (EIU, 2005:2).

Investors care about crime levels both in terms of direct and indirect losses: physical injury and the safety of both local and expatriate staff and facilities; the unpredictability of violent crimes and communal crises; and the impact of corruption. The safety of people and their assets is a concern for foreign businesses, and accordingly a US Ambassador to Nigeria, John Campbell remarked that “US firms will only invest in Nigeria if the physical security of their personnel and property is assured” (Campbell, 2004). In this regard, crime hampers a country’s ability to attract investment.

Crime undermines the social fabric of society, by first eroding the sense of safety and security. It impacts on society in a variety of ways depending on the nature and extent of crime committed. Generally, the impact of crime is in terms of costs and consequences. The costs are incurred in various ways. Firstly, the costs of crime can be incurred when people anticipate its occurrence either as victims or potential victims. In such a situation, so much time and resources are expended in order to minimize the risks perceived by the victim or potential victim, who may either be an individual, organization, community or even the society as a whole. Secondly, the cost of crime can be incurred as a result of actual experience of criminal activities, when there is physical bodily injury; when properties are stolen, damaged or destroyed; or when the victim suffers psychological or emotional pain as a result of shock due to the crime against him or her. In all these cases, the victim would have to pay for medical expenses. Thirdly, the costs of crime can be incurred in an attempt to prevent and control crime (Dambazau, 2007). But truly, these costs and consequences of crime constitute a serious threat to life and property. That is why holistic approach involving both the public police and non-state security actors should be encouraged.

The feeling of insecurity among citizens is a situation that could result in frustration, apathy, desperation, agitation, anarchy, and lawlessness, among others. It is therefore pertinent that adequate security measures be put in place to combat insecurity and crime in the country. Neighbourhood Watch Group policing is therefore a right step in a right direction in this regard.

#### *4.2. Theoretical Framework*

##### 4.2.1. Routine Activity Theory (RAT)

The RAT was first developed by Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson in 1979 (Paternoster & Bachman, 2001). The RAT varies from other crime and delinquent theories. While other theories examine the causes of crimes and characteristics of criminals, the RAT focuses on the questions how do routine activities of people affect their rates of victimization and what attracts offenders to engage in crimes (Arnold et al., 2005:346). The RAT has been accepted like a theory of victimization risk (Bernburg and Thorlindsson, 2001: 544).

According to the theory, there are three elements namely a victim: a motivated offender and suitable guardian (Gaetz, 2004: 427)). These three elements constitute a tripod holding a platform on which crimes occur (Dolu, 2009:4). If one of the legs of this tripod is broken, the platform fall down; thus crimes cannot emerge. Similar to classical theories, the RAT accepts the offender as a free individual who decides on crimes about his or her self interest. Offenders look for specific targets, which can cause lucrative gain but fewer risks. For instance, offenders prefer expensive and lightweight items. Any guardian protecting the possible targets increases the risk of being caught. Therefore, these kinds of targets are not preferable. Guardians refer not only to the official law enforcement employees, but also to other people or group of people (and in this case, Neighbourhood watch groups), animal, or devices. For example, anybody staying at home or group of persons watching over an area or community, a dog etc, is the guardian for a possible burglary or other crimes target. Additionally, a wheel lock or a car alarm device might be the guardian for a possible car-theft target.

The RAT posits that victims and offenders are related (Cohen and Felson, 1979). Routine activities of people in a daily life make them a suitable target (Arnold et al., 2005:358). These activities range from formal work to leisure activities, to the methods that people utilize to acquire food, shelter, education and other basic needs. If anybody often goes out at night for a drink, and she or he chooses a bar close to downtown, he or she is more likely to become a victim of a crime. Besides this, the house of the individual is a suitable target of burglary because there is no guardian for it at that night. If anybody chooses the local bus to go to work rather than an automobile, she or he is more likely to become a victim of a crime such as theft, pick-pocketing, assault, or harassment intimidation. This choice increases the chance of facing any type of criminals because the individuals must walk to the bus stop, wait for the bus, travel with other passengers, and finally walk to the place of his or her work. Each of these steps might contain a probability of coming across a criminal or a crime. In accordance with the RAT, studies show that being a drinker, having limited income, and frequently going out, in the evening increase the probability of victimization (Arnold et al.,2005:359).

The RAT also explains the variation of crime rates in hours of day and the seasons of year (Hipp et al., 2004:1334; Rotton and Cohn, 2003:803). According to the theory, people mostly go out for different purposes, such as for a dinner, drink, picnic, and other entertainment, in warm and hot seasons. Staying out long in these seasons particularly increases the probability of being a victim. Offenders’ opportunities increase to commit a crime as well. In the absence of guardianship, properties of the people who are out become attractive targets for the offenders of property crimes.

In contrast, when it is cold, people prefer to stay home. Thus, opportunities for burglars are limited. Besides the weather changes, some specific times of day induce a rise in crime rates in the daily cycle (Paternoster and Bachman, 2001). When people are in their offices during the day and they are out at night, crime rates are higher at these specific periods. According to Hipp et al. 2004:1335), because the number of women in the labor market has increased, a great number of houses have become unattended during office hours. Therefore, property crime rates have risen generally.

In terms of crime prevention methods, the RAT offers a simple solution that in order to reduce crimes, opportunities for committing crimes must be reduced (Paternoster & Bachman, 2001). When people prefer low-risk routine activities rather than high-risk routine

activities, criminal victimization decreases. Simple changes in people's daily life can cause sharp decline in the crime rates (Arnold et al., 2005:347).

According to Fattah (1999:131), since classical crime prevention strategies have not worked and have not caused a salient decline in crime rate, new developments have generated in criminology regarding crime prevention. One of the important factors that cause this new trend derives from the most comprehensive study of crime prevention. The US Congress sponsored the study in order to determine the effectiveness of the 4.25 billion dollar fund, which was given to law enforcement agencies to prevent crimes. The result of the study was disappointing and making many believe that nothing works to prevent crimes (Fattah, 1999:136). This new trend suggested that effective crime prevention strategies must be available to counter the motives for deviance, to reduce the temptations, to tighten the opportunities and to harden the targets (Fattah, 1999). This definition exactly fits the rules of the RAT. Other information in Fattah's (1999) report strongly supported the theory. According to him, victimization surveys showed that people from warmer climates are more likely to be victimized than people from colder climates. The numbers of persons in a house along with more employed mothers affect the victimization risk, too. Additionally, people who differ from others with their routine activities or lifestyles suffer from crimes more than others.

Fattah (1999: 140) set forth that offenders do not choose their targets randomly. The non-professional offenders have selection criteria. In accordance with these criteria, they prefer accessible, manageable, unprotected, and insecure targets. Therefore, to get rid of being a victim of a crime, new crime prevention principles should be espoused. These are target hardening, access control, deflecting offenders, controlling facilitators, entry/exit screening, formal surveillance, surveillance by employees, natural surveillance, target removal, identifying property, removing inducements, Neighbourhood Watch Groups and rule setting. In particular, the principles of target hardening, controlling facilitators, target removal, Neighbourhood Watch Groups, and removing inducements have direct relations with the RAT.

The report of Fattah (1999) and numerous other research studies have supported the RAT in explaining crimes successfully (Bernasco and Luykx, 2003; Hakim et al., 2001; Hipp et al., 2004; Rotton and Cohn, 2003; Rountree, 2000; Tseloni et al., 2004). Although it is a relatively new theory, these supports have made the theory stronger. Therefore, the rules of the RAT should be implied into practice more frequently.

The premise of the routine activity theory is that crime is relatively unaffected by social causes such as poverty, inequality and unemployment. For instance, after World War II, the economy of western countries was booming and the welfare states were expanding. Despite this, crime rose significantly during this time. According to Felson and Cohen, the reason for the increase is that the prosperity of contemporary society offers more opportunity for crime to occur, there is much more to steal.

Routine activity theory is controversial among sociologists who believe in the social causes of crime. But several types of crime are very well explained by routine activity theory. The analytical focus of Routine activities takes a macro-level view and emphasizes broad-scales shifts in the patterns of victims and offender behavior. Basically it focuses on specific crime events and offender behavior decisions. Routine Activity theory is based on the assumption that crime can be committed by any one that has the opportunity. The theory also states that victims are given choices on whether to be victims mainly not placing themselves in situation where crime can be committed against them.

In the perspective of routine activity theory, Neighborhood Watch Groups in Nigeria are community security creations or agencies set up for policing purposes and maintaining law and order, ensuring safety and security of lives and property, and combating crimes. In this regard, Neighbourhood Watch Groups act as non-state security agencies which ensure general security in areas they exist.

## 5. Results and Discussion

This study is on Neighbourhood Watch and security of life and property in Warri Kingdom Delta State.

Variables	SD	D	A	SA	Total
	37	19	47	142	247
	10	24	42	53	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>378</b>

Table 1

Source: (Survey Data, 2014)

The table above shows the respondent response on factors that led to the emergence of neighbourhood watch in Warri kingdom. From the table above.

### 5.1. Test of Hypothesis

#### 5.1.1. Hypothesis One

The more Neighbourhood Watch Group increases its activities, the more the security of life and property

Computation of chi-square test ( $\mu^2$ ) table

S/N	Fo	Fe	Fo-fe	(fo-fe) <sup>2</sup>	(fo-fe) <sup>2</sup> fe
a	26	33	-7	-49	-1.48
b	15	20	-5	-25	-1.25
c	41	55	14	-195	-3.56
d	153	127	26	676	5.32
e	27	20	7	49	2.45
f	17	12	145	25	2.08
g	48	34	-14	196	5.76
h	51	77	-26	676	8.77

378

 $\mu^2 = 21.65$ 

Table 2

To calculate for expected frequency in each of the cell,

$$fe = \frac{TR \times TC}{GT}$$

$$(a) = \frac{53 \times 235}{378} = 33$$

$$(b) = \frac{32 \times 235}{378} = 20$$

$$(c) = \frac{89 \times 235}{378} = 55$$

$$(d) = \frac{204 \times 235}{378} = 127$$

$$(e) = \frac{53 \times 143}{378} = 20$$

$$(f) = \frac{32 \times 143}{378} = 12$$

$$(g) = \frac{89 \times 143}{378} = 34$$

$$(h) = \frac{89 \times 143}{378} = 77$$

### 5.1.2. Decision Rule

From the computation of the chi-square test of association. It could be deduced that the calculated  $\mu^2$  test of 21.65 is greater than table value 5.99 at 0.05 level of significance. This shows that the association between Neighbourhood Watch and security of life and property is positive. We therefore accept the alternate hypothesis that the more Neighbourhood Watch Group increases its activities, the more the security of life and property.

### 5.1.3. Discussions of Findings

In the bar chart showing the rate of response on factors influencing Neighbourhood Watch in Warri Kingdom, greater vigilance had the highest frequency. This is followed by home security, accurate reporting and fostering community spirit respectively.

This can be done in schemes which vary in size of community (ies). This support the finding from <http://www.ourwatch.org.uk> (2007) that;

- A volunteer resident co-ordinator supervises the scheme and liaises with the police, they receive information and messages to keep them in watch with activities, and some have marker kits, alarms and other security item, which are available to members. It must be recognized that the scheme is a community initiative, which is supported by the police, not run by them, so success depends on what the members make of it.

In the test of hypothesis one, Cal. Test  $X^2$  value of 21.65 is greater than table value 5.99 at 0.05 level of significance. It was accepted that the more Neighbourhood Watch Groups increases its activities, the more the security of life and property. This finding collaborate with Trojanowic; and Bucqueroux (1994) when they noted;

- If the police show they care about the mentor problems associated with community disorder, two positive dangers are likely to occur: citizen will develop better relation with the police as they turn to them for solutions to the disorder, and criminals will see that residents and the police have a commitment to keeping all crime out of the Neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Watch is a slight from incident-based crime fighting to a problem-oriented approach, in which police would be prepared to handle a broad range of troublesome situations in a city's Neighbourhoods.

Problem solving requires a lot more thought, energy, and action than traditional incident-based police responses to crime and disorder. In full partnership, community residents and business owners identify core problems, propose solutions, and implement a solution. Thus, community members identify the concerns that they feel are most threatening to their safety.

Using a crime triangle analysis might result in a view of crime and disorder as an interaction among three variables; a victim, an offender, and a location. This respondent to the theoretical foundation on the questions how do routine activities of people affect their rates of victimization and what attracts offenders to engage in crimes (Arnold et al., 2005: 346). The three elements are necessary for a crime; a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of guardians.

## 6. Conclusion

As we evaluate the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Watch program to persuade the Divisional Police Officers (D.P.O) in the three district of Warri-North, Warri South and Warri South West in the towns of Urborodo, Ogidigben, Deghele; Koko, Tebu, Gbokoda and Okere, Ugbuwangwe, Ubeji of how effective the Neighbourhood Watch program has been thus far. Over the past few years the crime statistics have shown that the crime rate has continued to rise throughout the state. However, with the staggering numbers constantly growing, Warri has kept low numbers of crime statistically that have been committed in Warri. The Neighbourhoods watch program in Warri has shown to be very proactive in determining crime. Delta state Neighbourhood Watch program had lead several community based programs to educate residences of Warri and its environs how to protect themselves against violent acts of crimes. Property crimes in the city of Warri has been on the rise, and what better way to educate the Neighbourhood of such crimes by the Neighbourhood Watch program. Despite the population in the studied area, there will always be crimes that are being committed throughout the city.

Method involves evaluations of Neighbourhood Watch that met certain criteria were identified and subjected to systematic "narrative" review or meta-analysis, in which data from multiple studies are pooled and analyzed as if there were a single larger study. See histogram on community spirit, funding etc as factors mitigating the implementation of Neighbourhood Watch in chapter four. To be eligible:

- Program had to include Neighbourhood Watch as a core component. Additional components, such as property marking and security surveys, were often present.
- Studies had to include before and after measures of crime-whether determined by police reports or victimization surveys – in experimental and comparison areas.

However, our major findings shows that

- Sources of fund for the actualization of the scheme are a major challenge. This could be adduce to unemployment.
- 85 percent of participants are youths residing in areas. The changing demographics need to synchronize with retirees who are mature in disposition to reduce juvenile decisions on the field.
- The public perception of Neighbourhood Watch group taking care of core police functions negates the participation of the public to protection of life and property.
- Warri has instituted several new projects intended to increase the utility of beat meetings. Since the field work for this evaluation was completed, the police department has conducted new rounds of training for heat sergeants, civilian facilitators, and some patrol officers. New WAPS training has also been offered to lieutenants and watch commanders, key midlevel managers in the organization. A small team of civilian 'and sworn trainers is on hand to assist districts that need help in developing a problem solving orientation and in conducting effective beat meetings. Since early 1998, the civilian side of the program has expanded significantly. A number of civilian organizers who have been hired and assigned to some of the city's most troubled beats have the mission of increasing meeting attendance and facilitating the development of local problem solving projects.

## 7. Recommendations

Public police agencies such as the Neighbourhood Watch program should be aided in terms of special trust fund for elementary activities of the scheme.

Since most crime are socio-culturally denied, Neighbourhood Watch scheme can directly security personnel to do precisely what is needed to prevent crime in a particular locality. The Nigerian Police Force should take note of the socio-cultural milieu in drawing up crime checks and prevention.

Information drawn from the activities of Neighbourhood Watch should be use in developing index crime statistics in the study area.

- (8) Neighbourhood watch programme should be outline in the following format;
- i. Neighbourhood substation
  - ii. Increased officer visibility
  - iii. Citizen block watches
  - iv. Involvement in Neighbourhood function

- v. House visits

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