

The Practice Challenge and Prospects of Community Policing in North Shewa Zone Amhara National Regional State

Muluken Yitayih

Debre Berhan University, Collage of Law, Ethiopia
Corresponding Author: Muluken Yitayih

Abstract: This research explores the implementations, related challenges and prospects of community policing in North Shewa Zone of the Ahmara Regional State. The study tries to demonstrate the practices, challenges and outcomes and efficiencies of community policing in the study area. The study found that currently the issue of community policing has received widespread support at least conceptually among all stakeholders. It also has strong natural appeal with the general public. Nevertheless, it has also encountered significant challenges at the operational level nearly everywhere it has been tried. The study is conducted based on critical research approach and employed in-depth interviews, key informant interviews *vis-à-vis* with analysis of relevant literatures and secondary data sources as an instrument to solicit the necessary information for the conduct of the research. The study affirmed that the philosophy of community policing have increased the involvements of the local community on crime prevention activities and brought considerable changes in the reduction of the rate of crimes. It is found out that police officers are not made frequent personal contacts with community members on their sites, and to interact in an attentive, friendly, and compassionate manner due to shortage of trained manpower and excessive workload. In addition, the functions of police officers lack uniformity and adequate collaboration with stakeholders. Still now, there is unchanged attitude among the community which largely thinks the police as sole crime fighters which, in turn, created heavy task burden on police officers. This situation in turn makes crime prevention efforts inadequate and fragile. In spite of such limitations, the study found that community policing has played remarkable role in crime prevention activities, however, it also has faced substantial challenges at the operational level which includes shortage of trained manpower, inadequate funding, logistic support and infrastructure, lack of serviceable information, lack of training and incentive to enhance the capacity and commitment of police officers.

Key word: Crime; community; policing; prevention; police

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I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1. Backgrounds of the Study

Community policing is being applied throughout the world as a key strategy for current police operations, future reforms and it has taken as the most familiar term in modern law enforcement system. So far, community policing has been variously defined; some by purpose and functions, ¹others by structure and programs. As a result, there is no universally agreed conceptual clarity about community policing as an idea or program. Although such ambiguity is existed, community policing is commonly understood as an organization-wide philosophy and management approach that promotes partnerships, proactive problem solving, and community engagement to address the causes of crime, the fear of crime, and other related community issues (Kam, 2000). The US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) defines community policing as follows:

“Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies which support the systematic use of partnerships 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” (www.cops.usdoj.gov).

Community policing is also defined as involving three key components: developing community partnerships, engaging in problem solving, and implementing community policing organizational feature (International Association of Chief of Police, 2008 -2015). In recent years, community policing is ensuring that police and other local government functions to be carried out effectively, efficiently, cooperatively and fairly.

The modern criminal justice system is not the solution to all public safety problems. It lacks both the capacity and the expertise necessary to effectively address all public safety concerns. Thus, the philosophy of community policing is important safeguards designed to ensure due process and protect citizens' civil liberties (Joel and Michael, 2009). Crime is a complex social problem and cannot be controlled by simplistic approach nor left solely to the traditional pillars of police department to address. As a result, the closer alliances between the police and the community will have vital role in the reductions of crime. Community empowerment cannot occur without community initiation and use of community resources.

Thus, success requires citizens' participation and a long term commitment, from various sectors of the community. Thus, the involvement of the community has significant role for crime prevention and reduction. Recently, there is growing interest in community policing approach internationally as a way of involving communities in their security provision. The same situation holds true in Ethiopia. Historically, the concept and functions of police was introduced in Ethiopia in the year 1905 E.C for the first time (Amhara Police Commission Revised Community Policing Strategic Document, 2007). Later, in the year 1934 E.C., the Department of Police was formally established by Proclamation No, 6/1934. The notions of community policing in Ethiopia was introduced officially in 1989 E.C as a policy at the national level and delivered as a course for trainee officer at Ethiopian Police College for 30 diploma graduates (Amhara Police Communication Revised Community Policing Strategic Document, 2007).

From that time onwards, the concept of community policing smoothly disseminated in all parts of the country. Nowadays, the philosophy of community policing has employed almost in all regional state of Ethiopia. At regional level, the implementations of community policing was commenced first in Tigray and followed by Oromia regional States in 1996 and 1997 E.C respectively. It was also introduced in 1999 E.C in Amhara Regional State. Since at the end of 2005 E.C. the region has implemented community policing in all Zones and Weredas. Among the total numbers of 3701 kebeles, community policing have launched at 3503 (94.65%) kebele's of the region, but all kebeles' are not fully functional due to lack of skilled man power (Amhara Police Communication Revised Community Policing Strategic Document 2007). Community policing was also commenced in North Shewa Zone since 2000 by the placement of Community Police Officers at the kebele level. In North Shewa Zone, some weredas have better performances in implementing community policing as best approach to reduce fear of crime. Among others, Kewet, Efirata-Gidim, Minjar-Shenkora, Moret and Jiru, Merhabet, DebreBirhan City and Molalewereda stands first in this regard. Accordingly, those Wereda's are selected as representative sample on the grounds of those facts for this research purpose.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Establishing public safety is one among the key obligations and responsibilities of police departments' to its citizens. Hence, creating strong connection within the public and all other stakeholders, enable police officers to solve public safety problems. Community policing assures the closer alliances between police and the public; will help reduce citizen fear of crime, improve police-society relations, and facilitate more effective responses to social problems. Based on this perspective, community policing is possibly the most familiar term in modern law enforcement system. It was introduced in the 1999 EC and put in to practice since 2000 E.C in the study area. However, the approaches of operational activities, the outcomes, efficiencies and related challenges during implementation period are not formally assessed yet. So far, it is not well recognized about what community policing looks like on the ground and its implications for peoples' safety. Thus, the approaches and significances of community policing is not yet scientifically examined by conducting empirical research so as to know its overall real picture. Furthermore, there are no explored data which demonstrate whether the activities of community policing has played considerable role in crime prevention activities or not. Above all, the awareness level and involvements of stakeholders on community policing allied activities are not explored so far. In brief, there is no updated data that shows the success or failures of community policing efforts in the study area. Thus, those situations initiated the researchers to conduct a research entitled 'practices, challenges and prospects of community policing in North Shewa Zone of the ANRS'.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective

The principal objective of the study is to examine the practices, challenges and prospects of community policing in the prevention of crime in North Shewa Zone of the Amhara National Regional state.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

- To examine the practices of community policing in the selected research sites of North Shewa Zone of the ANRS.
- To investigate the practical outcomes of community policing to prevent & reduce the rate of crime in the study areas.

- To identify major challenges that affects the actual implementations of community policing in the study areas.
- To analyze the collaborated efforts of different stakeholders in the implementations of community policing in the process of preventing and reducing crimes.
- To examine the perceptions of local communities & police officers towards the philosophy's of community policing and its actual operations.

1.4. Research Questions

Taking into account the above mentioned general and specific objectives of the study, the following research questions are formulated:-

- What community policing practices are looks like in the study areas?
- What are the practical contributions of community policing in the prevention of crime in the study areas?
- What are the challenges that hinder the smooth implementation of community policing?
- Are there genuine collaboration & partnership among stakeholders in the operations of community policing?
- What are the perceptions of the community & police officers towards community policing?

1.5. Significance of the Study

The study would have the following essential significances. Firstly, it provides valuable information about the practical contributions of community policing, i.e., the study offers up-to-date information about the practical gaps and challenges of community policing in the study areas. In addition, the study has clarified the practical involvements of different stakeholders. Moreover, it offers illustrative inputs for concerned government bodies and policy makers. Furthermore, the study may also serve as a bench mark for other related research works.

1.6. Methodology and Data Sources

The study has employed qualitative and descriptive research approaches, which allows the researchers to interrogate the respondents by using open ended questions. These methods enable informants' to express their ideas in their own words in flexible manner. The researchers have used the views, perceptions and attitudes of the concerned police officers, the society and other stakeholders to investigate and establish the pattern of the experiences in relation to the topic under study. Therefore, the research approach mentioned above helps the researchers to gather in-depth information through in-depth interview.

1.7. Types of Data and Data Collection Techniques

In order to achieve the intended objectives of the study, all the necessary data have been collected from both primary and secondary data sources. In doing so, in-depth interview and questionnaire were technically administered and utilized to collect relevant data from resourceful informants. In addition, the researchers have reviewed relevant literatures and analyzed a variety of published and unpublished documents that are believed to be essential and pertinent for the conduct of the study. Interviews have made with experts of the concerned government organs of Regional, Zonal, and Wereda Administrative levels. The primary data collection covers six Weredas and one Town Administration (i.e., Debre-Birhan) as well as the Regional City (i.e., Bahir Dar). Secondary data have been collected from review of related documents, government reports, books, journal articles, research works and other published and unpublished documents.

1.8. Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

The researchers have employed purposeful sampling technique in order to select sample kebeles and experts for the intent of primary data collection. Accordingly, three kebele's have been selected from each wereda based on their prior performance and accomplishments on matters of community policing. Primary data have been collected through structured questionnaire and semi-structured interviews. Firstly, three people from each kebele have been purposely selected, i.e., one community policing officer, one person from Advisory Councils and one person from Conflict Resolving Committees (CRCs). Secondly, the researchers have made interview with Regional, Zonal and Wereda community policing core process holders. In addition, one officer from 'Militia' and one officer from Security and Justice Administration Office have been also selected. All those key informants have been selected purposively. Generally, a total number of 86 respondents were actively involved in the conduct of the study.

1.9. Methods of Data Analysis and Interpretation

The methodology employed by this research is critical analytical approach to investigate initial participant responses and collected data. The researchers have reviewed and examined various laws, policy documents, guide lines, working manuals and strategic documents that are imperative for the investigation of the study as well as to briefly clarify the information gathered.

II. MAJOR FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

1.10. The Practice Challenges and Prospects of Community Policing in North Shewa Zone Amhara Regional State

The philosophy of community policing emphasizes on prevention, early identification, and timely intervention to deal with crime issues before they become unmanageable problems. Thus, this section of the study considers facts related to the operational activities of community policing, public perception towards it, the outcomes and challenges associated with the operational process.

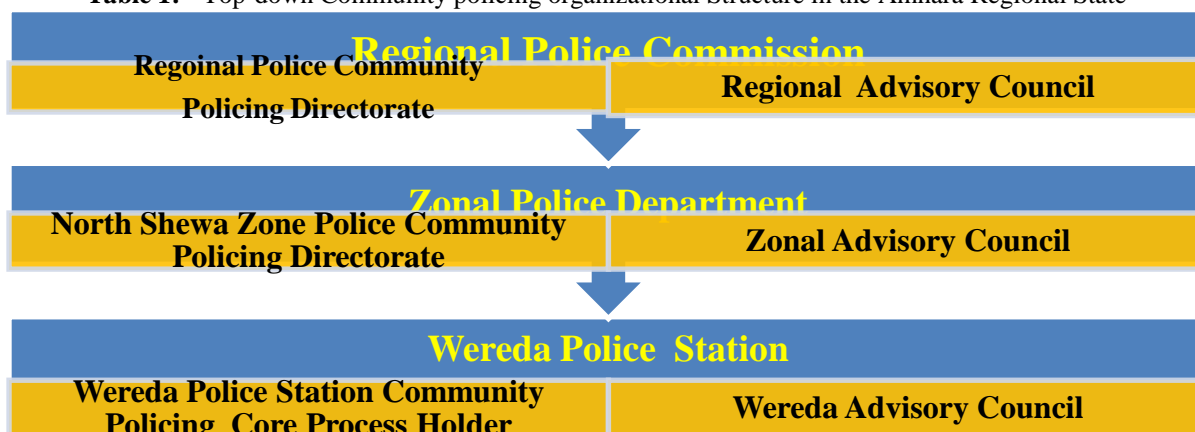
1.11. Legal and Institutional Frameworks of Community Policing

Both the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (here after called FDRE) and Amhara Regional State Constitutions have coffered the regional government to promulgate laws and policies on regional matters. On the basis of such legal grounds the Amhara Regional State Council has promulgated the Regional Police Commission establishment proclamation. Accordingly, the Amhara Regional State Police Commission has established as per Proclamation No. 66/1994 and the Revised Proclamation No. 216/2006 to maintain the peace and security of the region. According to Amhara Regional State Constitution, ensuring the peace and securities of the people of Ahmara region has conferred to the local administrative organs. Hence, pursuant to Proclamation No. 66/1994 and Revised Proclamation No. 216/2006 as well as Regulation No. 6/1995 of the ANRS, the regional police commission is responsible to ensure community participation on every crime prevention activities.

Therefore, in the Amhara regional state there exist adequate legal frameworks for the commencement and developments of community policing. Those laws underlined that without community participation, it is impossible to control crime and maintain peace & orders of the region. Regarding to institutional frameworks, there is top-down model of organizational structure to operate community policing throughout the region. That includes advisory councils, conflict resolving committees, family police, village police and other trade associations as police informants (Revised Community Policing Strategic Document of Amhara Region Police Commission, 2008 E.C).

Community policing also draws upon pre-existing customary actors, such as Militia, Security & Justice Administrator office and elders. Community policing advisory council has established in each district by encompassing eight government offices (Interview with different organs such as Chair of Wereda Administrative Council; Security and Justice Administration Office; Police Department; Women and Children Affairs; the Speaker of Wereda Council; Religious Leaders, Elders and Business Community). However, the study found that huge burden for the actual enforcements of community policing relies on the shoulders of Wereda Police Department, Militia and Security & Justice Administrator Offices. Particularly, each Wereda Police Office has played major role for the practical implementations of community policing. The table below shows the overall structural organization of community policing in the ANRS.

Table 1: - Top-down Community policing organizational Structure in the Amhara Regional State



Source: Amhara Regional State Police Commission

From the above figure, we can easily understand that for the maintenance of peace and security among the community, community policing is institutionally well established in a top-down approach in the ANRS.

1.12. Current Practices of Community Policing

Community policing in North Shewa Zone has principally been carried out by the placement of community policing officers at the kebele level. It serves for various purposes that include reducing the rate of crime, involving communities in security provision and contributing to development activities (Revised Community Policing Strategic Document, 2008). As the collected data shows, the community policing program is being cascaded in to different kebeles. However, due to shortage of trained manpower each district police departments are not able to assign police officers in all community policing centers. Moreover, the assigned police officers in each locality are not able to serve the community for a reasonable period of time due to frequent turnovers. According to the arguments of interviewees, frequent turnovers of those assigned police officers had been occurred mainly due to lack of facilities, incentives and the existence of heavy workload on them. On the other hand, the commitment and involvements of the local community on crime prevention activities are tremendous. Following the placement of community policing officers in each kebele, the community has constructed considerable number of offices and houses for officers. However, as 95% of the interviewee police officers explained during the interview, except the local community the involvements of other stakeholders' in supplying essential resources for community policing officers are very poor.

The appointed police officers in each kebele are also responsible to carry out various duties. Among others, raising the awareness level of the community about crime issues; dealing issues together with the advisory council, the conflict resolving committees, the family police, and other committees are some of the key roles and functions of such community policing officers. Community policing officers are also expected to organize shoe shiners to provide information on a regular basis about crimes, disputes or suspicious behavior (Surveyed data, 2010 E.C). In this regard, for instance, DebreBerhan City Administration Police Department organized and trained shoe shiners found in the city to serve as firsthand information sources and as a means for inspecting criminal cases.

1.13. Crime Reporting System

The community is responsible to report crimes or disputes through the following procedural orders, i.e., in the first order to the Conflict Resolving Committee \rightleftarrows the Advisory Council \rightleftarrows the Community Police Officer \rightleftarrows the Police Station or to the concerned elders. All of these fall along the community policing chain (Surveyed Data, 2010 E.C). For this process, partnership is the watchword for community policing efforts. Lastly, the research asserted that the police have made better partnership with the community, but still poor with other public and private agencies.

1.14. Community Participation on Community Policing Activities

Community policing in the study area encourages an interactive approach especially with the local community. As the collected data revealed that the commitments of rural community to participate on crime prevention activities are promising. Mainly, the placements of community policing officers in each kebele developed the participations of the local community on crime prevention efforts. As a result, considerable numbers of bureaus and houses have been constructed by the local community.

They also expressed their commitment by providing other necessary logistics like motor bicycles and as source of information. To make effective the contributions of the local community on crime prevention, the assigned police officers are duty bound in creating awareness and to work together with the local community in each kebele. Thus, each officer is responsible in the process of organizing and mobilizing the community to make sure citizens participation at its full capacity. The study found in this regard that the participations and contribution of the local community on crime prevention activities are meaningful; though the extent of engagements varies from one district to another. The initiation and commitments of the local communities to collaborate with police officers on crime prevention activities are so appreciable in Minjar-Shekora and Efrata-Gidim districts for instance.

Picture 1:- Motor bikes donated by the local community to EfrataGidimWereda Police Office



Source: EfrataGidim Police Station Ataye

Table 2:-The perceptions of respondents in the contributions of the local community for the effective operations of community policing.

Response	Very High	High	Average	Low	Total
No. of Respondents	46	22	16	2	86
Percentage	53.5%	25.6%	18.5%	2.2%	100%

Source: - Collected data survey, 2017

As we can infer from the above table, out of the total number of respondents, 46 (53.5%) of them considered that the involvements and contributions of the local community in the process of community policing are very high. Whereas, 22 (25.6%) of the respondents regarded high; and 16 (18.5%) of the informants assert that, the contributions of the local community in the actual operations of community policing is average. From this we may conclude that the participations of the local community on crime prevention activities have been improved.

1.15. Relationship between Police and the Community

One of the promises of community policing is the very existence of a growing tendency of police-community cooperation to facilitate problem solving and crime prevention activities. Hence, the philosophy of community policing plea that police department should transform its connection with the local community. In this regard, as the collected data revealed that recently there is better collaboration and alliance between police officers and the local community in areas of crime prevention activities. On the contrary, some people yet perceived police as oppressor of human rights. Thus, to change such undesirable attitudes of the community, police officers are expected to work hard to build trust, smooth and friendly relationship with the society. In fact, it is unlikely to say that police has undertaken radical reform. Because, still a considerable number of police officers are used force and infringe the rights of citizens knowingly or unknowingly. That is another loophole which creates hostile relationship between police and the society. Conversely, the reality shows that, it is difficult to collect any essential information when a certain crime committed without the genuine involvement and collaborations of the local community. In this regard, the table below reveals the actual relationships between the police and the community in the study areas.

Table 3:-The perception of respondents towards police- community relationships in the study areas.

Response of Respondents	Very High	High	Average	Low	Total
No. of Respondents	18	35	30	3	86
Percentage	20.93%	40.7%	34.88%	3.5%	100%

Source: - Collected data survey, 2017

From the above table, among the total number of respondents, 35 (40.7%) of them argues that the existing police-community relationships is high; 30(34.88%) regarded it as good; 18 (20.93%) of them agreed as excellent and 3 (3.48%) of them consider it as not good. From these data one can conclude that currently there is better partnership between police and the community than ever before. The commitment and efforts of individual police officers are so imperative to form productive partnerships. However, the numbers of assigned

police officers at the kebele level are not compatible with the total number of local inhabitants. Because of this, each police officer has facing high workload which, in turn, makes them unable to have frequent contact with the local community. In this regard, some of the respondents criticized that police are not yet responsive to community needs and accountable to the community for any actions they take. On the other hand, the community willingness to work with police officers to avoid criminal activity has developed. Hence, the finding of the study revealed that, from time to time there is progressive partnership between police and the local community to avoid criminal behaviors. In fact, the level of community satisfaction with services rendered by police varies from one district to another. One serious challenge in this regard is that, due to inadequate numbers of police officers almost all of the police stations are not able to work closely with community members.

1.16. The Attitudes of Local Residents and Police towards Community Policing

In comparison from the past, nowadays the perceptions of local residents and police officers towards community policing has progressively enhanced. Hence, the society recognized community policing as the best instrument to control crime and criminal acts proactively. This attitudinal change enables them to actively involve in the construction of offices as well as in the provision of necessary logistics and information when necessary to the police. All interviewee for this study affirmed that, police officers also acknowledged community policing as best approach for crime prevention. So, one may conclude that, currently common consensus has been developed between police and local community about the significances of community policing in various areas.

1.17. The Outcomes of Community Policing in Crime Prevention

Different study denotes that the vigorous involvements of the society have played considerable role to prevent crime proactively. Thus, the recent operations of community policing has advanced the participation of the society and brought measurable impacts in the study sites by reducing crime. According to the views of key informants of the study, community policing has played a prominent role in increasing information flows from the community to the police and hence the rate of crime has declined compared to the past. However, the accomplishments vary from one district to another. In this regard for instance, in Kewet and MinjarShenkoraWeredas the rate of crime significantly decreased as a result of enhanced community policing activities, whereas, in the remaining districts of the study areas, the rate of crime fluctuate from one year to another (see table 4 below).

Table 4:- Major crime statistics over the last four years from seven districts of North Shewa Zone (i.e., from the year 2006-2009 E.C)

No.	District (Wereda)	Rate of Crimes per Year in Ethiopian Calendar				Average Total Rate of Crimes
		2006	2007	2008	2009	
1	Minjar-Shenkora	87	50	58	45	60
2	Efirata-Gidim	45	67	52	107	67.75
3	Kewet	35	49	28	25	34.25
4	DebreBerhan Town	144	136	146	176	150.5
5	Mort &Jiru	55	44	47	65	52.75
6	Merhabete	54	49	72	72	61.75
7	Molale	90	104	127	109	107.5

Source: - North Shewa Zone Police Department

According to Joel B. Plant and Michael S. Scott (2009), the safety of one’s person and security of one’s property are widely viewed as basic human rights and are essential to the community’s overall quality of life. They underlined that, when the citizenry is not, and does not feel, reasonably safe, other critical local government functions such as economic development, government finance, public education, stable housing, and basic local government services become that much more difficult to provide. This situation shows us that the link between community policing and human right is two sides of a coin. In this regard, the collected data’s from the study site revealed that the increments of society participation in the efforts of crime prevention activities have played substantial role by reducing criminal acts and securing communities for development.

Table 5: - The perceptions of respondents on the impacts of community policing in crime Prevention and reduction in the study area.

Response	Very High	High	Average	Low	Total
No. of Respondents	33	30	18	5	86
Percentage	38.4%	34.88%	20.9%	5.8%	100%

Source:- Collected data survey, 2017

As we can infer from the above table, regarding to the impacts of community policing on crime prevention, 33 (38.4%) of the respondents responded very high; 30 (34.88%) of the respondents asserts high and 18 (20.9%) of them agreed on average impacts. From this, one may conclude that, the operations of community policing have brought generous results by reducing the rate of crime. Mainly, it has improved police-community relationships, developed positive community perceptions towards police; increased community capacity to deal with crime; changed officer's attitudes and behaviors and increased public safety.

1.18. Challenges to Community Policing Activities

The operational activities of community policing at the local level have encountered various form of challenges. Thus, most apparent and pressing challenges have dealt below.

1.18.1. Institutional Constraints and Lack of Efficiency

So far, key operational decisions are being made by the regional level. According to informants, except circulations of the upper levels decision through a rigid chain of command, there are no meaningful supports from upper organs to enhance the capacities of police institution and police officers at the district level. Hence, police bureaus' at the district level have faced a variety of constraints such as shortage of necessary logistics, adequate man power, budget and genuine involvements and supports from stakeholders. The existence of such challenges in turn makes their efforts less effective and unsustainable. The top -down organizational structures have no fixed session time vertically or horizontally to evaluate the existing successes or failures of community policing efforts periodically. Thus, the finding of this study asserted that, all district police offices' has substantial logistic problems. Besides, concerned stakeholders lack genuine commitment to take it as one of their major task and duty. As a result, extensive burdens have left on the shoulders of police officers who are assigned at kebele level. On the other hand, the existing system lacks promotion incentives and other positive reinforcement mechanisms for best achievers. All such obstacles negatively affect the success and motivation of police officers.

1.18.2. Lack of Adequate Man Power and Resources

Interviewee explained that due to high shortages and frequent turnovers of police officers, in each district police department are not able to placed police officers in all kebeles. In consequence, the numbers of local residents and the assigned police officers to coordinate are not proportional. However, each officers placed at the kebele level have a duty to coordinate and mobilize the society for crime prevention proactively. Consequently, the assigned police officers in each kebele have faced with high workload. For instance, in Efirata-GidimWereda, one police officer is responsible to mobilize and coordinate up to 17,000 rural communities. The finding from the research also confirmed that the major challenge to employ adequate man power for all centers is shortages of budget. Every police officer placed at the kebele level is expected to have frequent personal contacts with community members and interact in an attentive and friendly manner. However, shortage of manpower (in terms of number, strength and expertise) and logistic support including shelter make them unable to accomplish such responsibility in their full potential.

1.18.3. Lack of Training Recognition and Reward

Training is essential for the professional development of any workers, but this is another serious gap identified by this research in the study areas. The provision of training is so far inadequate or totally non-exist in some localities of the study areas. In this regard for instance, the level of knowledge and awareness in relation to human right issues among the majority of police officers is poor. This is due to the existence of inadequate educational and training background. According to informants, most of the time, police officers who assigned at the kebele level as a coordinator of community policing activities are new graduates of police colleges. Majority of police officers are not well informed about basic principles of community policing. As a result, they lack basic skills on crime prevention, methods of community mobilization and creations of awareness.

The other is absence of recognition and reward for best achievers. Recognition and reward increases the commitment and performances of participants. But such kinds of motivational approach are inadequate or not existed. Those situations make desperate and causes for frequent turnovers of police officer.

1.18.4. Lack of Genuine Collaboration

The finding of this study found that the established organizational structures are not properly functional due to the nonexistence of effective collaboration, lack of will and commitment among stakeholders. Most of the stakeholders perceive that, tasks of community policing are the sole duties of the police department, i.e., police still deemed as a sole crime fighters. This problem became pervasive mainly because of the fact that, less attention is paid by political leaders. Even some of the stakeholders consider issues of community policing as a political program. In addition, absence of consistent media engagement in the process of enhancing the awareness and attitudes of all stakeholders towards community policing is another crucial problem. As a result of the above mentioned factors, most activities of community policing issues are left to the police department.

III. CONCLUSION

Currently, community policing is increasingly becomes an increasingly popular approach among communities, police departments, and government in Ethiopia to prevent crime proactively. However, this study found that the extent of its actual implementation and outputs varies substantially from one district to another. Relatively, the attitudes of police and rural community have changed in the areas of crime prevention activities. Hence, people's levels of consciousness and concern on crime issues have developed since the implementation of community policing. Nowadays, the will, commitment and involvements of the community on crime prevention activities have increased. However, the study also affirmed that the old systems of crime prevention efforts and relationship between police force and the society still practiced in some other areas.

Moreover, the study identified various types of challenges that hinder the successful implementation of community policing in study areas. Still there is a big gap in realizing genuine collaboration and sharing responsibilities between stakeholders particularly in urban areas. In brief, most of the community policing actors is not fully cognizant about basic principles and components of community policing approaches. Senses of shared responsibilities among stakeholders are not properly functional yet. Hence, crime prevention activities remain on the shoulders of police force. In a nutshell, the operational activities of community policing have faced diverse kinds of impediments. The most commons challenges and limitations are inadequate allocation of logistics and human resource, lack of recurrent training to enhance the capacities of officers, lack of incentive and rewards, poor collaboration among actors, less attention given from the side of government to the program and high turnovers of police officers. Besides, the practices of community policing lacks uniformity and consistency, many consider it as a sole responsibility of police officers.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The regional police commission should provide consistent and pre-scheduled on job training for police officers so as to update and scale up their knowledge and skill on crime prevention activities.
- Mobilization of the society on peace building and crime prevention must be planned & consistent activity in all districts and localities.
- Both the regional government and police commission should give due emphasis to the community policing program by allocating adequate budgets, man power and logistics to realize sustainable and visible result.
- Police must create strong linkage and partnership with all concerned stakeholders to change and improve the existing poor collaboration among actors.
- Police should increase media role in creating awareness of the public about community policing and increase opportunity in working together with the community in any local crime prevention activities.
- The regional police commission must develop adequate incentive and rewarding mechanism for best achievers to motivate officers and sustain their positive roles.
- The regional police commission must adopt detail guidelines, policies, and working procedures which enable officers to work together with modern criminal justice system in collaboration with all concerned stakeholders.
- The regional police commission should also establish a system which enables to conduct periodic monitoring and evaluation in different parts of the region and fill the gap accordingly.

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