

# MEKELLE UNIVERSITY



COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES

THE PRACTICE AND CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION: THE CASE STUDY OF SHIRE INDASLASSIE TOWN, TIGRAY REGION.

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIC AND ETHICAL STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN CIVIC AND ETHICAL STUDIES

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## **DECLARATION**

I, the undersigned, declare that this thesis, entitled "Community Policing and Crime Prevention: Practices and Challenges in Shire Indaslassie Town," is my own original work. I have duly acknowledged all sources of information used in this study through citations and references. This thesis has not been submitted for any other degree or professional qualification at this or any other university.

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## **APPROVAL SHEET**

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by **Guesh Tadesse G/mariam**, entitled "**Community Policing and Crime Prevention: Practices and Challenges in Shire Indaslassie Town**," and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Civic and Ethical Studies, complies with the regulations of the University and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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## ABSTRACT

*This study investigates the practices and challenges of community policing in crime prevention in Shire Indaslassie Town, Tigray. The primary objective was to assess current strategies, evaluate their effectiveness, identify implementation challenges, and examine the level of community involvement. A qualitative research approach with a descriptive case study design was employed. Data was collected through in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis from a sample of community members, police officers, and local leaders across five Kebeles. The findings reveal that while community policing in Shire Indaslassie is well understood concept, its implementation is inconsistent and ineffective in reducing overall crime rates. Consequently, community participation remains passive, with a significant gap between awareness and active engagement. The main strategies used in the study area include formal meetings and youth-led neighborhood patrols, which improved social cohesion to prevent crime. However, the study identifies critical challenges that severely hinder crime prevention, including a chronic lack of police personnel and logistics, widespread community fear of criminal reprisal, weak justice system, and the frequent police officer rotation. The study concludes that community policing in the town exists more as a philosophy than an effective, proactive crime prevention mechanism. It recommends urgent resource allocation for police, revision of the officer rotation policy, and concrete measures to build trust between the community and the justice system to bridge the gap between policy and practice.*

**Keywords:** *Community Policing, Crime Prevention, Police-Community Partnership, Implementation Challenges, Shire Indaslassie, Ethiopia.*

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

**CP:** Community Policing

**EPRDF:** Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front

**FGD:** Focus Group Discussion

**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization

**SIT:** Shire Indaslassie Town

**TNRS:** Tigray National Regional State

**UN:** United Nations

## Table of contents

### Contents

DECLARATION .....	I
APPROVAL SHEET .....	II
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	III
ABSTRACT.....	IV
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....	V
Table of contents .....	VI
CHAPTER ONE: COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION .....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY.....	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem .....	2
1.3. Objective of the Study .....	4
1.3.1. General Objective of the Study.....	4
1.3.2. Specific Objectives .....	4
1.4. Research Questions .....	4
1.5. Significance of the Study .....	4
1.6. Scope of the Study .....	5
1.7. Limitations of the Study .....	6
1.8. Organization of the Study .....	7
1.9. Operational Definitions of Terms.....	7
CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE .....	9
Introduction .....	9
2.1. The Concept of Community Policing.....	9
2.2. Key Components of Community Policing.....	10
2.3. Characteristics of Community Policing .....	11
2.4. The Role of Community Policing in Crime Prevention .....	12
2.4.1. The Role of Community Participation in Community Policing for Crime Prevention .....	12
2.4.2. The Role of Community Police Officers in Crime Prevention .....	13
2.5. Factors that Hamper Community Policing from Actively Playing its Crime Prevention Role .....	13
2.6. Theoretical Reviews .....	14
2.6.1. Normative Sponsorship Theory .....	14
2.6.2. Social Resource Theory .....	14

2.6.3. Social Disorganization Theory .....	14
2.7. Empirical Reviews on Community Policing Practices in Ethiopia.....	14
2.8. The Need for Community Policing in Shire Indaslassie Town .....	16
2.9. Conceptual Framework.....	17
2.10. Elements of Community Policing .....	17
2.10.1 Organizational Elements .....	17
2.10.2 Tactical Elements .....	18
2.10.3 External Elements of Community Policing.....	18
2.11. Benefits of Community Policing.....	19
2.11.1 Community Specific Benefits .....	19
2.11.2 Police Specific Benefits .....	19
2.11.3 Community and Police shared Benefits .....	20
2.12. Implementation Process of Community Policing.....	20
2.13. Analyzing the Problem of Community Policing.....	21
2.13.1 Analyzing Internal Changes .....	21
2.13.2 Three Criteria for Analysis.....	22
2.13.3 Effectiveness of Community Policing.....	22
2.13.4 Efficiency .....	23
2.13.5 Equity .....	24
2.13.6 Equal Access to Police Services .....	24
2.13.7 Equal Treatment under the Constitution.....	24
2.13.8 Equal Distribution of Police Services and Resources among Communities.....	24
2.13.9 Refining the Analysis Process.....	25
2.14. Criteria for Evaluation of the Successes of Community Policing .....	26
2.15. Conceptualizing Crime and Crime Prevention .....	26
2.15.1. Crime.....	26
2.15.2. Meaning and Types of Crime Prevention.....	27
2.15.3. Types of Crime Prevention.....	27
2.15.4. Crime Prevention and Community Safety.....	27
2.16. Causes of Crime.....	28
2.17. Basic principles underlying Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime .....	28
2.18. Community Policing and Crime Prevention .....	29
2.19. Role of Community Police Patrols in Crime Prevention.....	30

2.19.1. Role of Vigilante in Crime Prevention .....	30
2.19.2. Community Court System and Crime Prevention .....	31
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES .....	32
3.1. Introduction .....	32
3.2. Description of the Study Area .....	32
3.3. Research Approach .....	33
3.4. Research Design .....	33
3.5. Sampling Techniques .....	34
3.6. Target Population of the Study Area and Sample Size .....	35
3.7. Source and Methods of Data Collection .....	36
3.7.1. In-depth Interviews .....	36
3.7.2. Key Informants interviews .....	36
3.4.3. Focused Group Discussion .....	37
3.7.4. Participatory Personal Observation .....	38
3.7.5. Document Analysis.....	38
3.8. Data Analysis Procedure .....	38
3.9. Ethical consideration.....	40
CHAPTER-FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND DISCUSSION .....	42
Introduction .....	42
4.1. Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Research Participants .....	42
4.2. The Practice and Strategies of Community Policing in Shire Indaslassie.....	44
4.3. The Role of Government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).....	46
4.3.1. Main Actors of Community Policing .....	47
4.4. Community Involvement in Community Policing and crime prevention.....	48
4.5. The Effectiveness of Community Policing in Crime Reduction .....	48
4.6. Perceived Achievements of Community Policing .....	50
4.7. Analysis of Crime Trends in Shire Indaslassie Town .....	50
4.8. Challenges Hindering the Implementation of Community Policing.....	52
4.9. Observed Countermeasures and Solutions .....	53
4.10. Discussion of Findings .....	54
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	55
5.1. Conclusion.....	55
5.2. Recommendations .....	55

Bibliography .....	57
Appendixes.....	65

# CHAPTER ONE: COMMUNITY POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Human security is a paramount concern for scholars and policymakers worldwide. A fundamental component of this security is the concept of 'community,' a term defining a social group residing in a specific locality, often sharing a common government, culture, and history. Within this context, community policing has emerged as a popular and influential philosophy. While the term is relatively recent and lacks a single, universally accepted definition, it is broadly understood as both a philosophy and an organizational strategy. This strategy promotes a collaborative effort between the police and the community to solve problems of crime and disorder, thereby improving the overall quality of life (Mathias et al., 2006).

The global rise of community policing reflects a shift from traditional, reactive policing models to a more proactive and inclusive approach. A policing service that upholds human rights while ensuring public safety is crucial for achieving development goals, including economic growth and democracy (Mesfin, 2006). Crime inflicts severe social, economic, and psychological damage on individuals and societies, diminishing the quality of life (Morgan, 1996; O'Block et al., 1991). In response, societies have established police forces with the primary function of "preventing crime and catching criminals" (Morgan, 1996). The police force, one of the main providers of security, can play an important role in creating conditions in which development can take place through maintaining security and order, upholding the rule of law and performing their duties with sensitivity and regard for members of the community. Hence, without sense of safety, security and order that the police can provide, the potential for wider political, social and economic development dips dramatically (Groenewald and Peake, 2004).

However, the police cannot succeed in isolation. The effective maintenance of law and order requires a community-centric approach that addresses crime collectively (Mulugeta and Mekuriaw, 2017). The traditional model, where policing was the exclusive domain of law enforcement, often resulted in a strained relationship between the police and the public. Community policing was introduced to bridge this gap, fostering partnership and mutual involvement (Mulugeta and Mekuriaw, 2017).

In Ethiopia, a modern police system was established in the early twentieth century. Historically, policing in the country, particularly during the Imperial and Dergue regimes, was often characterized by serving the state rather than the community, leading to a legacy of mistrust and brutality (Hassen, 2005). With the change in government in 1991, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) introduced a new police policy in 1992; emphasizing that police strategy should be founded on the full participation of the community. This policy was formally adopted nationwide in 2005, following training initiatives for the federal police (Denney and Demelash, 2013).

In the Tigray National Regional State (TNRS), community policing was introduced in 2005. The strategy was subsequently implemented in Shire Indaslassie Town in 2007 across all Kebeles (Tabias). The implementation involved creating action plans, training officers and community representatives, and establishing structures from the household level (family police) up to the Kebele advisory council. Despite these efforts, crime remains a significant concern in the town.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

The implementation of community policing in Ethiopia created significant public expectation for a reduction in crime and an improvement in public safety. Community policing in Ethiopia was announced officially as a policy at the national level in 2005 but development of the approach had been ongoing for a number of years before it. In 2004 members of the Ethiopian federal police undertook community policing training provided by British trainers in Addis Ababa. Following this, some senior officers travelled to Europe to undertake further training and returned to sensitize colleagues about the community policing approach. This sparked an interest within the federal police and key individuals began to read more about the approach and to articulate how it could be shaped to help address the challenges faced in the Ethiopian context (Denney and Demelash, 2013).

The model has already been embraced in all parts of Tigray region. In Shire Indaslassie Town, despite the formal establishment of community policing structures, crime rates have continued to be a major concern. Common offenses such as theft, assault, and housebreaking persist. The situation is exacerbated by the presence of refugees and internally displaced persons, which adds complexity to the social fabric and security landscape.

A fundamental challenge is the practical implementation between the philosophy of community policing and its practical application. The police and the community are meant to work as partners, with the community providing vital information and the police responding to local concerns (Wilson, 2006). However, this partnership is often undermined by several factors. Community members may hesitate to report criminals for fear of revenge. Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that police officers themselves may lack adequate training and a clear understanding of the practical aspects of community policing (Taye, 2011), leading to implementation plans that exist only on paper (Shiffa, 2005).

Previous research on community policing in Ethiopia has highlighted similar issues in other regions. Studies in Hawassa pointed to a lack of resources, passive community involvement, and failures in the justice system as major obstacles (Mesay, 2014; Abebe, 2002). Research in Addis Ababa found that the concept was often misunderstood and inappropriately implemented, yielding only minor results (Daniel, 2012). While previous studies have examined CP in major cities like Addis Ababa and Hawassa, a focused, in-depth analysis of its practices and challenges in a regional town like Shire Indaslassie, particularly in the post-conflict context, is currently lacking.

Studies in Tigray by Gosa and Angesom (2017) and in other regions by Mesfin (2006) and Mulugeta & Mekuriaw (2017) have also focused on implementation challenges. However, to the researcher's knowledge, no specific academic study has been conducted to comprehensively assess the practices and challenges of community policing in crime prevention within Shire Indaslassie Town. Beyond, there has not been any scientific research conducted on its effectiveness while the implementation of the community policing. It is on the basis of the above rational that this study attempts to contribute its part to examine the practice and challenges of community policing in crime prevention in Shire Indaslassie Town. This study aims to fill this critical research gap. The town presents a unique case due to its specific socio-economic context and security dynamics. By focusing on this area, the research intended to provide a nuanced understanding of how community policing functions on the ground, what its real-world achievements are, and what obstacles prevent it from reaching its full potential. The researcher, as a resident of the town, is motivated to contribute actionable insights that can enhance the safety and well-being of the community.

### **1.3. Objective of the Study**

#### **1.3.1. General Objective of the Study**

The general objective of this study is to investigate the practices and challenges of community policing in crime prevention in Shire Indaslassie Town.

#### **1.3.2. Specific Objectives**

Based on the principal objective of the study, the following specific objectives are stated to attain in this study:

- ✓ To assess the current practices and strategies of community policing implemented in Shire Indaslassie.
- ✓ To evaluate the effectiveness of community policing in reducing crime rates in the study area.
- ✓ To identify the challenges faced by law enforcement and community members in implementing community policing within the town.
- ✓ To examine the level of community involvement and cooperation in community policing initiatives.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

- What community policing strategies are currently being implemented in Shire Indaslassie town?
- How effective is community policing in reducing crime within the study area?
- What challenges do police officers and community members face in the implementation of community policing?
- To what extent are community members involved and cooperating in community policing activities?

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The main benefit of this study is for the requirement to fulfill the MA Program in civics and ethical studies for the researcher. Next, it will also have benefit for the government and the community in crime prevention methods including policy formulation, joint patrols, vigilante groups, and community traditional courts. Further, this study shall inform both the police and the

community on the level of awareness of community policing, causes of crime rise and how best to engage for crime production.

The findings will provide specific, evidence-based recommendations for the Shire Indaslassie Town Administration and the Regional Police Commission on how to improve resource allocation, training, and community engagement strategies. This study is expected to yield significant academic and practical benefits. Academically, it will contribute to the body of literature on community policing in Ethiopia by providing an in-depth case study of a regional town, filling a geographical and contextual gap in existing research.

Practically, the findings will be valuable for several stakeholders:

- **For Law Enforcement:** The study will provide the Shire Indaslassie police with a clear assessment of their current strategies, highlight both strengths and weaknesses. This can inform operational adjustments and training programs.
- **For Policymakers:** The research will offer evidence-based insights for the town administration and regional government to formulate more effective security policies and better allocate resources for crime prevention.
- **For the Community:** By identifying barriers to community participation, the study can help community leaders and organizations develop initiatives to foster greater public trust and involvement in safety efforts.
- **For Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** The findings can guide NGOs working in the areas of peace, security, and development in designing targeted interventions to support community policing initiatives.

Ultimately, this research seeks to provide a practical roadmap for strengthening the partnership between the police and the community, leading to a safer and more secure environment for the residents of Shire Indaslassie.

## 1.6. Scope of the Study

This study is geographically delimited to Shire Indaslassie Town, with a specific focus on five selected Kebeles. Thematically, the research concentrates on the practices, effectiveness, challenges, and level of community involvement in community policing as it relates to crime

prevention. It does not aim to assess all aspects of policing but specifically examines the community-oriented model. The data collection is primarily centered on the perspectives and experiences of community members, police officers, and local leaders within the selected areas.

### **1.7. Limitations of the Study**

The central theme of this study is to explore the role of community in prevention of crime in Shire Indaslassie town. In so doing, attempts has made to address the issue primarily based on the perspectives of the community only. Thus, in addressing the subject, this study has the following limitations:

The research subjects were the community who are permanent residents only. Inadequate information from the respondents, lack of knowledge on community policing, mistrust and fear of giving information to a stranger may be a limitation of this study. Some respondents were lack awareness about the community policing initiative and not understand the need of sharing information on matters touching on crimes. Furthermore, the research participants show unwillingness to be involved in the study due to fear of the criminal revenge. This leads to lack of enough information for the study. However, the researcher, tried to incorporate the detailed data gathered from different source to make the study more valid. Face to face communications were made to inform all participants about the purpose of the research and its contributions for the successful prevention of crime in the study area.

In addition to this, the researcher faced limitations in conducting the research due to different reasons unwillingness of the respondents to give accurate information. This challenge solved by using cross-sectional way of gathering data via interviewee and questioners. Moreover, the researcher's data collecting instruments were used interview and questioners only.

Similarly, other limitation of the study would be pertained to the time allocated for the research conduct. Shortage of time in trying to understand the whole process of crime prevention efforts in the study area may face. Further, the availability of literatures on the areas of the study might be limited.

Lastly, in order to make the study more manageable in terms of time and finance, the researcher was purposively select Shire Indaslassie town only. Thus, the Study of this town were not representative of the other towns of Tigray and the results of this research cannot generalize for

other towns and regions in Ethiopia. Due to the above-mentioned constraints, the study focused on exploring the role of community in prevention of crime in Shire Indaslassie town. To curb the above listed limitations the researcher was conducted a continuous discussion with all research participants to build trust and foster mutual understanding on doing the thesis. To overcome all the above limitations, the researcher took necessary measures like triangulation of the data using different sources, applied qualitative approach and design, and made face to face communication with research participants, then, build trust and confidential to found reliable data and information for the study.

### 1.8. Organization of the Study

This thesis is organized into five chapters. Chapter One provides the introduction, including the background, problem statement, objectives, and significance of the study. Chapter Two presents a review of related literature and the theoretical framework. Chapter Three details the research methodologies, including the research design, sampling techniques, and data collection and analysis methods. Chapter Four presents, analyzes, and discusses the research findings. Finally, Chapter Five offers the conclusion and provides actionable recommendations based on the study's findings.

### 1.9. Operational Definitions of Terms

- **Community:** A group of people residing in a specific geographical area (in this case, a Kebele in Shire Indaslassie) who share common interests, concerns, and a degree of social interaction (Gusfield, 1975).
- **Community Policing:** A philosophy and organizational strategy that promotes a partnership between the police and the community to proactively identify, prevent, and solve problems of crime and social disorder (Skogan, 2004).
- **Crime:** An act or omission that violates a law and is punishable by the state (Sowmyya, 2011).
- **Crime Prevention:** Proactive measures and strategies aimed at reducing the risk of crimes occurring and mitigating their potential harm to individuals and society (Welsh & Farrington, 2010)

- **Policing:** The activities carried out by police officers and, in the context of community policing, by community members, to maintain law and order and ensure public safety (Godfrey, 2012).

## **CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **Introduction**

This chapter consisted of the review literature part of the research on community policing and crime prevention. The conceptual and theoretical frameworks also presented here.

### **2.1. The Concept of Community Policing**

Community and policing are two important concepts. Community according to Gusfield (1975) described as the territorial and geographical notion of community-neighborhood, town, and city, whereas policing is concerned with the quality of character of human relationship, without reference to location. Furthermore, Friedman (1992) believes that communities have informal networks that are important to support formal institutions and policy makers in the world. Accordingly, Flynn (1998) also defines the term ‘community’ by the following three factors; geography (people who live or work in a given place), Shared character or identity (people share common characteristics, such as ethnicity, age, economic and religion), and common concern or problems (people tend to join together when they share common concerns or problems).

On the other hand, the term policing means the act of executing police duties to the benefit of communities to keep law and order. Policing combines best techniques in order to combat not only crime and disorder, but also the fear of crime and the likelihood of crime. It allows the police to work with the community and other organizations to address local concerns. It demands the governmental agencies, the educational system, public and private social service providers to engage in policing their localities (Godfrey, 2012). Policing as a concept, it aims at empowering the people to resist crime and unsafe conditions, resolve the root issues underlying social ills and create a safe community well-informed on public safety issues (Ibid).

After deeply reviewing about the issue of community policing, the researcher understood that there is no commonly agreed single definition of community policing. Therefore, attaining a commonly accepted definition of community policing from the existing literature remained highly elusive. For example, community policing is as a tool for attaining a diverse range of aims from crime minimizing, to more accountable policing, to better state-society relations etc. Yet it can be different in other contexts, applied by governments and local communities (Denney &

Jenkins, 2013). They have also noted that it is a vague and ambiguous term, meaning many things to many people. Therefore, the way in which community policing expresses is intimately connected to larger histories of state-society relations.

Alternatively, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) 2014 has defined community policing as: “A philosophy and organizational strategy that promotes a partnership-based, joint effort between the police and the community to more effectively and efficiently pinpoint, prevent and solve problems of crime, the fear of crime, safety and security, and social disorder in order to improve the quality of life for everyone”. Thus, this study would explain what exactly does community policing means in the study area. And also attempt would be made to find out how the partners of community policing implement it to prevent various criminal activities and neighborhood problems.

## **2.2. Key Components of Community Policing**

Lawrence and McCarthy (2013) have stated that community policing has three components: organizational transformation, community partnership and problem solving. According to them, organizational transformation involves transformational changes in the organizational structure and operation of a police department. Second, improving the accessibility of police and community services can also be an effective catalyst for community involvement and a way to facilitate community partnership. The third key component of community policing is problem solving; and, as they have stated, this component puts a heavy focus on efforts to prevent crime before it happens by systematically identifying and addressing particular social issues related with criminal activities. Here, interestingly, they have articulated the importance of a four step (process) problem solving model known as scanning, analysis, response, and assessment (SARA model). According to them, the SARA problem-solving model is one of the most common approaches to problem solving in police departments. Therefore, one can understand the importance of the above three key components of community policing; because, they are highly vital to implement community policing to prevent various crimes. To this end, these three key components can be vivacious tools to build relations between the police and community; which were previously deteriorated by reactive policing.

### 2.3. Characteristics of Community Policing

Police are obliged to provide a quality policing service which has to be efficient and effective often referred as service orientation. As it described in the works of Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1994), 'there must be equity in service delivery'. This means a principle in the delivery of police service recognizes that all citizens was have to receive effective police service, regardless of any differences. Community policing is characterized by community partnership (Skogan, 2004). Community policing encourages the police and other agencies to develop partnerships with community for constructive information sharing and effective policing activity.

As Lab (2004) says 'partnerships appear under a variety of headings and involve police in a wide range of capabilities to address specific problems.' In addition, as to Radelet (1986), community participation stresses teamwork approaches to crime problem. Problem solving is the process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified crimes to develop effective responses that are evaluated rigorously (Trojanowicz, 1990). It is also an analytic process and strategy for identifying and prioritizing in a collaborative manner to solve the specific problems of the community and its causes (Bullock & Tilley, 2003). Thus, problem solving is another distinctive feature of community policing. The other integral part of community policing is community empowerment. It refers to the processes by which people organize, attain a collective objective and learn about their own personal power. An empowered community is structured in a way that provides members with the opportunity to participate in community activities, it has to be responsible to the community and its members must be wasing to use that structure (Palmiotto, 2000).

As Whisenand and Ferguson (2002), empowerment is about power sharing. Crime develops out of disorder and decay. Disorder and decay empower criminals, who then seize control, and a spiraling rate of crime begins. The role of the Community Police officer is to empower law-abiding residents to take back control of their environment. The process of empowerment includes: Creating a highly visible police presence in the neighborhood aimed at deterring the local criminal element and facilitate the development of a cohesive neighborhood identity and to form a network through which information can flow to and from the police about activity in the area (St. Petersburg Police Department Strategic Plan, 1992). Accountability is realized by creating mechanisms through which police can be made answerable for addressing the needs and

concerns of the community they serve (South Africa, 1997). Police officers must know they will be held immediately accountable for their actions and answer personally for whatever they do if the accountability of police is established or realized. The community is also accountable by providing the necessary information, being responsive to the requests of the police and participating in every aspect of police work (Trojanowicz, 1998).

## **2.4. The Role of Community Policing in Crime Prevention**

Community policing plays its crime prevention role by changing the relationship between police and the community and through innovative and effective strategies to control crime. In the long run, the effectiveness of community policing includes involving citizens properly in solving their own crime problems by changing community norms and checking on police activities (UNODC, 2011). As Grant, (2015) articulated the strategy of community policing promises to offer proactive solutions to the root causes of crime. In addition, community-policing is the answer to disorder and problems with broken community-police relations (Chappell, 2009, cited in Imbody, 2019). As Mwaniki (2016) has stated, the aim of community policing is to minimize criminal activities and disorders by carefully examining the behavior of problems in neighborhoods and then applying proper problem-solving solutions. From the above review one can learn the role community policing plays in preventing various crimes and problems that could occur in neighborhoods.

### **2.4.1. The Role of Community Participation in Community Policing for Crime Prevention**

Hence the approach of community policing takes place by the partnership of community and the police. Rezaei (2013) has indicated that community participation is an important tool for crime prevention. Participation of the community is useful for crime prevention by police authorities or any other law enforcement body. Besides, Mukherjee and Wilson, 1987, cited in Rezaei (2013) indicated that the adequate solution for crime problems based on community participation and citizens involvements. Absence of community participation in the crime prevention can lead to failure in security (Miranda, 2007, cited in Rezaei, 2013). Likewise, Manaliyo (2016) has elaborated that community participation in crime prevention activities has undoubtedly potential in minimizing crime. To this end, this review indicated the contribution of community participation to prevent crimes via community policing. And the present study would also

attempt to examine community's participation in crime prevention based on the very essence of community policing.

#### **2.4.2. The Role of Community Police Officers in Crime Prevention**

Unlike that of traditional (reactive) policing model, in a proactive policing model to control crime, police officials seek to build relations with the population in an effort to effectively prevent crime (UNODC, 2011). Some forces need community police officers to handle calls for police, whereas many do not. Some are given responsibility for identifying the needs of communities and bringing solutions, using police and non-police resources. Others are simply responsible for delivering conventional police services but are ordered to do so in a more responsive and community oriented way (Bayley, 2012, cited in Okafor & Aniche, 2018).

Moreover, UNODC (2013) indicated that the police can play an important role in promoting communities to be actively involved in crime prevention activities and to develop a sense of collective responsibility for improving public safety. Based on the above reviews, one can learn the various roles of community police officers in crime prevention which is based on the principles and components of community policing.

#### **2.5. Factors that Hamper Community Policing from Actively Playing its Crime Prevention Role**

Lawrence and McCarthy (2013) examine factors that can hinder the community policing from successful its crime prevention role. This articulated the fact that the institutionalization of community policing via organizational transformation necessitates adequate resources and sustained commitment from police officials. Thus, establishing and maintaining a meaningful community partnership needs an education of all stakeholders, the insertion of missing voices and a shared responsibility for the results. Likewise, UNODC (2013) has also identified some factors that hinder community policing such as, infrequent consultations and not transferring information to police departments, disruption caused by change of government, high turn-over of police officers in community police stations, lack of training or ongoing guidance to help the police adapt or effectively implement new strategies and lastly lack of development of a formal community policing unit with goals.

## **2.6. Theoretical Reviews**

In this section, four theories are reviewed which are intended to be employed in the study and each is discussed in the following manner.

### **2.6.1. Normative Sponsorship Theory**

This theory is among the theories that have attempted to explain the philosophical foundations of community policing. This theory, Sulaiman, et al., (2012) described as that the majority of the people in the community have good was so that cooperation becomes an important factor to establish a harmonious and peaceful community. This theory is the most important for my epicenter of this study.

### **2.6.2. Social Resource Theory**

This theory has attempted to explain the bases of community policing; as Sulaiman, et.al (2012) have stated the theory tried to provide a radically unique perspective by addressing three major questions, (1) what is the role and function of the police? (2) what is the relationship of the police with the people? And (3) why do people call the police?

### **2.6.3. Social Disorganization Theory**

As it has been stated in Odabaş (2014), this theory suggested that the level of control by the community over adolescent groups is one of the major predictors of social control in a community. Furthermore, the theory also argued that criminal behaviors occur in neighborhoods with low social bonding. After briefly reviewing the above three theories, the researcher tries to discuss the theories in the analysis section of the study by basing on the very assumptions of each theories.

## **2.7. Empirical Reviews on Community Policing Practices in Ethiopia**

There are some studies about the different issues of community policing in Ethiopia, which are conducted by various researchers in different parts of Ethiopia. Some of them are reviewed in the following manner. For instance, in Addis Ababa, Frehiywot (2015) has conducted a study on the challenges and prospects of the implementation of community policing in Bole Sub-city. Her study has revealed that 74% respondents believed that the approach of community policing is excellent in downsizing crimes. Additionally, the wasingness of the community to attend meeting with management or/and community officers accounts 32% and 37% poor and very

poor respectively. Then again, Fitsum, Kasahun and Yared (2016) have conducted a study on the implementation of community policing in slum neighborhoods of Addis Ababa. In their study, they have revealed the role of informers as individuals who are recruited by the police for attaining crime related information.

Besides, informers are the sources of criminal activity associated information to the community police officers. Individuals enlisted as informers are those who are working in the informal sector and non- taxpayers. Melese and Tesfaye (2019) have carried out a study entitled, crime prevention through community policing interventions. They took evidence from Harar City, Eastern Ethiopia. In their study, they have found that a better proportions of the respondents recognized that community policing practices had helped in preventing crimes; burglary 94 (27%) and robbery 77 (22%) as most frequently recurring and reported types of crimes in the city. They have also revealed the presence of limited awareness among the residents, inadequate financial resources and professionally ill-qualified human power as major obstructions to properly gain the role of community policing in crime prevention. The other empirical evidence is from Hawassa, Ethiopia. This is a study that has been conducted by Mesay (2014) about the role of community policing in crime prevention including the challenges and prospects. In his study, he has depicted that 75.83% of the respondents believed that community policing has a role in crime prevention and most of the participants of his study acknowledged that community policing has reduced the crime rates.

Additionally, he has also pointed out the most common challenges that hamper community policing from playing its role: the presence of people who hide criminals in the community, presence of many illegal khat chewing and other drug use houses, the existence of abundant local and modern liquor houses, anarchic situation in the night clubs, corrupt police officials, insufficient number and lack of trained police force, rural urban migration and extreme poverty, passive participation by most police members, and the existence of dark area in some places, among other factors. In 2017, Mulugeta and Mekuriaw have conducted a research in East Gojjam Administrative Zone on practice, roles, challenges and prospects of community policing in crime prevention. In their study, they have revealed that community policing is an essential tool to minimize crime incidences.

In the same study, they have found that 51.7% respondents replied that community policing has positive role to reduce crime, however, surprisingly, 48.3% of their respondents have indicated that it did not reduce crime. To this end, 68% of the respondents replied that they have good level of participation on community policing activities, such as crime prevention.

Lastly, Jackson, Shearon and Demelash (2018) have conducted a research in Dire Dawa city on community policing. They have found that the police themselves very much see community policing as a means of reducing crime. Furthermore, in their research they have revealed that the police are very keen to present community policing as effective in giving the general public responsibility to tackle crime and support the police. Additionally, according to these researchers, the police officers felt community policing was effective in gaining intelligence on criminal activity, but also in empowering citizens to exchange to community police officers about crimes and other neighborhood problems. Having reviewing the empirical evidences of community policing in Ethiopia, the researcher tries to make discussions with the findings of the current study.

## **2.8. The Need for Community Policing in Shire Indaslassie Town**

Community policing is the most popular and the most demanded policing method among law enforcement authorities, and has been implemented by many places in recent years. Despite the expected benefits of the strategy in policing and the success in the pilot sites, there are still major obstacles to security reform in Shire Indaslassie town. In this town crime rates are still high, there is wide spread accusation of corruption, and policing approaches and actors are often politicized. Shire Indaslassie town police office annual record report indicate that the town recorded a total of 781 crime cases in the last twelve months with the prevalent crimes being assault, offences against the person, breakings, rape/attempted rape, general stealing and stock theft. (Source: Shire Indaslassie town police office annual report 2017E.C).

When Community Policing was officially launched in Shire Indaslassie in 2005 E.C, it was lauded as the solution to Shire Indaslassie's policing problems. Furthermore, community policing was supposed to introduce partnership and problem-solving approaches aimed at improving the relations between the security agencies and the community and to subsequently improve quality of police services, notably reduced crime levels. However, the fruits of the much praised and publicized strategy have not been forthcoming in Shire Indaslassie. Crime levels are

still high. There are wide spread accusations of corruption among security agencies and mistrust between the community and security officers. It also is not known to what extent the Security Agencies in Shire Indaslassie have implemented the community policing strategy, whether the strategy is working as expected. Specifically, thus the study established the efficiency of community policing in crime prevention in Shire Indaslassie. The fundamental principles of community policing includes but not limited to, Policing by consent rather than by coercion, the police and the community working together, identifying the security priorities of the community and tailoring policing to meet community needs and priorities.

## **2.9. Conceptual Framework**

It is believed that community policing plays a notable role in preventing various crimes that occur in the society. Hence the whereabouts of the criminals and potential offenders is not hidden from the society at large; with the help of community policing many crimes could be prevented before they occur, before they impose short term or long term impacts either on individual or the public at large. Moreover, the sketch below tries to show the relationship of some of the relevant concepts that are associated to community policing with specific reference to crime prevention.

## **2.10. Elements of Community Policing**

In order to understand community policing, one should take note of the following core elements, which constitute the community-policing philosophy. They are summarized as follows by Cordner (2001; cited in Segrave & Ratcliffe, 2004).

### **2.10.1 Organizational Elements**

Segrave and Ratcliffe (2004) stated that, there are a number of essential elements that help to execute the community policing in the study area. For them, the philosophical elements are crucial to community policing implementation, as without an understanding and commitment to the central tenets of community policing, both the implementation and the potential benefits to be gained was be limited. According to Segrave and Ratcliffe (2004), the philosophical elements include:

- ✓ The community as the key priority for police work;
- ✓ The community playing a pivotal role in identifying crimes and other safety issues; and

- ✓ The broadening of the role of the police.

Decentralized decision-making and accountability for field officers are vital. It gives them greater authority to solve problems and held accountable for their actions. Concerning fixing accountability, the Shire Indaslassie Police Department organized the people and created community-policing structure that begins from the household level to the sub city community policing advisory council. As to Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1990), community policing requires daily, direct, face to-face contact with the people they serve in a clearly defined area. Suitable police officers should be assigned to a fixed geographical area for a long period, in order to foster close communication and create a partnership between the police and the community.

Beside utilization of voluntary resources from the community is one of the organizational elements of community policing. Community policing encourages the use of citizens to assist the law enforcement agency in every aspect. Voluntary participation of citizens in community policing initiatives is really appreciated. Finally, a number of enhancers and facilitators, including updated technology and information systems, which help or support better resources and police personnel development, were needed in the organization of community policing.

### **2.10.2 Tactical Elements**

Enforcement of the law is the cornerstone of any organization. The police are expected to identify laws that need to be amended or enacted, together with the community. This all helps the police organization to address underlying causes of crime with the help of the community. Proactive focus: crime-oriented law enforcement focuses not only on response to calls for services but also on collaboration with the community in prevention and problem-solving activities. In addition, the focus of the police is broadened from a reactive focus on serious crime prevention of crime and the solution of community problems (South Africa, 1997). Problem solving: Police officials, must work with the community to address the underlying problems that contribute to crime and disorder.

### **2.10.3 External Elements of Community Policing**

Public involvement and community partnership; At first, community policing requires co-operation among the police and the other members of the community including individual citizens, citizen groups, business associations, legislative bodies or other local agencies and

community development offices. These institutions must all be involved in identifying and solving all sorts of community problems (Lab, 2004).

In community policing, government and other agencies are called upon to recognize their abilities to respond and address crime and social disorder issues. In order to succeed, the police must establish partnerships with other government departments, citizens, community leaders, business owners, schools, non-governmental organizations, other service providers and other criminal justice agencies. They are all considered equal partners. They all work together in order to improve the quality of life in the community (South Africa, 1997).

### **2.11. Benefits of Community Policing**

The success of community policing relies on problem solving through a partnership between the police and the community (Ziembo-Vogl & Woods, 1996).

#### **2.11.1 Community Specific Benefits**

A community involved in community-policing initiatives benefits as follows:

- It is committed to crime prevention.
- It focuses on the most efficient means of reacting to incidents.
- It ensures accountability, customized police service, community organization.
- It is mobilized and empowered to identify and respond to concerns.
- It experiences a reduction in problems and issues of concern as they are prioritized and addressed.

#### **2.11.2 Police Specific Benefits**

When community policing implemented successfully, police organizations in general and officers in particular, benefited. According to Whisenand & Ferguson (2002) and Dempsey (1999:234), the following benefits of community policing suggested as police specific benefits:

- ✓ A realistic acknowledgement of police functions;
- ✓ An improved police community relationship;
- ✓ An increased community perception of police legitimacy;
- ✓ An increase in officers' satisfaction with their work;
- ✓ An increased awareness of community problems enabling the police to formulate a more effective response;

- ✓ A more effective use of personnel;
- ✓ A greatly increased use of the knowledge gained by the police of the patrol area;
- ✓ An acknowledgement of the limited capacity of the police to fulfill their duties and the importance of an alliance between the police and the public; and
- ✓ A recognition of the inter-relationship among police functions.

### **2.11.3 Community and Police shared Benefits**

As mentioned by different scholars such as Whisen and Ferguson, (2002) and Dempsey (1999), community and police work together based on the principles of community policing. Owing to the close partnership between them, they might have the following benefits:

- Decreased potential for police-citizen conflict;
- Reduction in crime rates;
- A better flow of information between the police and the community; and
- Better implementation of crime prevention and crime control activities because both parties are working together towards a shared goal.

### **2.12. Implementation Process of Community Policing**

According to Sparrow, Malcolm, K. (1988), the implementation of a community policing strategy is a complicated and multifaceted process that requires planning and managing for change. Implementation plans vary from agency to agency and from community to community. Internal and external factors determine the appropriate implementation method of community policing. One factor is the extent of change that is required. In some agencies, current operations procedures may already conform closely to community policing, while in others extensive changes may be necessary. Identifying priorities for change was also permit police agencies to establish interim milestones for monitoring progress.

The other factor is communication. Communication must be timely, comprehensive, and direct. All participants must understand their role in community policing efforts. Successful implementation requires the smooth flow of information. Ongoing input, evaluation, and feedback from both inside and outside the police organization are essential to making community-policing work. Planning must be responsive to changing needs, conditions, and priorities. Flexibility is crucial to the success of community policing. This offers guidelines that

can be adapted to the circumstances of different organizations and communities. According to Couper and Lobitz (1991), there is no sufficient way to implement community policing. Each of the following three approaches has strengths and weaknesses.

1. Plan, then implement. This method entails developing a detailed long-range plan, with tasks and timelines, and assigning officers to execute the plan. However, the initial planning stage for a large agency can take months or even years.
2. Plan and implement. In this approach, planning and action occur simultaneously. However, the agency risks false starts, confusion, and major blunders unless effective, rapid, and regular communication takes place between planners and implementers.
3. Implement with little planning. The third option is for an agency with little preparation or knowledge of the nature of community policing to launch quickly into the action phase and then, based on feedback, to retool the effort and begin the cycle again.

According to Cordner (1991), resistance within the agency is inevitable as restructuring occurs. During the implementation of any change, employees may feel threatened and seek ways to resist. This was be especially true if community policing perceived incorrectly as being soft on crime and as making social service activities the patrol officers' primary responsibility.

According to Meese (1991), teamwork, flexibility, mutual participation in decision-making and citizen satisfaction are concepts that initially may threaten the supervisor who is more comfortable with the authoritarian role and reutilized operations inherent in traditional policing.

## **2.13. Analyzing the Problem of Community Policing**

### **2.13.1 Analyzing Internal Changes**

Large gaps can exist between policy and actions, therefore, management must take nothing for granted in the implementation of community policing policies and procedures. In every organization, the chief executive should hold regular meetings with the personnel responsible for overseeing community policing implementation and should ask for reports on efforts with the goal of both reinforcing accountability and allowing for immediate discussion of problems. Members of the implementation team should supply regular reports on progress and problems relating to specific community policing objectives and timetables.

### **2.13.2 Three Criteria for Analysis**

Evaluating the impact of community policing is critical for many reasons. Key decision makers must be able to judge the strategy's impact and cost-effectiveness. The police organization must be able to measure the success or failure of its policies and activities. As with implementation methods, analysis measures vary depending on the size of the organization and the nature of its current policies. Ongoing monitoring expedite the implementation process, attract support, and problem solving, and reveal new opportunities for productive partnerships with the community.

Traditional crime-control activities should become only one of the ways in which the community policing strategy and individual officers are assessed. Many indications of the success of community policing efforts are intangible (e.g., absence of fear, quality of interaction with community members, among others); therefore, assessing a community policing strategy is a qualitative as well as a quantitative process. The values that the department promotes form the basis of sound qualitative measures of effectiveness. Analysis should reward organizational and individual behavior that assists in deterring crime and solving other neighborhood problems. Creativity, initiative, and ingenuity should be emphasized in the evaluation of individual officers.

Three major criteria effectiveness, efficiency, and equity can be used to provide the quantitative and qualitative measures needed to assess the success of a community policing strategy.

### **2.13.3 Effectiveness of Community Policing**

An effective community policing strategy was reduce neighborhood crime, decrease citizens' fear of crime, and enhance the quality of life in the community. An important goal of community policing is to provide higher quality service to neighborhoods; therefore, customer satisfaction becomes an important measure of effectiveness.

One of the core components of community policing is community partnership. Therefore, an early measure of effectiveness was be the number and type of community partnerships that have been formed. The cooperation and participation of community members is necessary to deter crime and reduce the fear of crime in the neighborhood. Assessing the effectiveness of community policing efforts includes determining whether problems have been solved and judging how well the managers and patrol officers have applied the community partnership and problem-solving components of community policing. In community policing, the police function

includes the provision of services that in the recent past have been regarded as outside policing purview. These services include aiding accident and crime victims, arbitrating neighborhood and domestic disputes, and providing emergency medical and social services. An analysis of the nature of calls for police service (e.g., a lower percentage of calls reporting criminal activity in proportion to calls requesting social assistance) was provide a measure of how well the strategy is working.

#### **2.13.4 Efficiency**

Efficiency means getting the most results with available resources. To measure the efficiency of community policing, the resources of the police agency, local government and private agencies, citizen groups, the business community, and the neighborhood must first be defined. Agencies that can successfully enhance and realign their resources by forming community partnerships was be able to make community policing more efficient and cost-effective.

According to Moore and Stephens (1991), two major shifts must occur within the police organization if community policing is to work efficiently. Staunch partnerships and collaborative efforts must first be established with the community. The command structure of the police organization must then be decentralized so that problem solving, decision-making, and accountability are spread to all levels of the organization. Such decentralization challenges personnel to be more creative and more effective because the decisions they make are timelier and influenced by firsthand knowledge of the facts. Decentralization also gives higher-level managers more time to formulate strategies that was improving the organization's performance.

Patrol officers were experience greater job satisfaction as they accept higher levels of responsibility and accountability. Officers are often able to resolve issues quickly, allowing them to see the immediate results of their efforts. According to Prinslow (1993), community help was increase the efficiency of the program and relieve some of the strain of tight police budgets. Partnerships in the community can bring fresh resources to problems, even those traditionally considered "police-only" business. According to one sheriff, "There is virtually no limitation on how much more effective and efficient a sheriff's office can become, working collectively as a partner with community members while, at the same time, saving resources, dollars, and frustration on the part of constituents."

According to Goldstein (1990), central to achieving efficiency in time and dollars is controlling calls for service. Sophisticated technological advances can help prioritize calls and facilitate communication among community policing partners.

### **2.13.5 Equity**

A foremost tenet of community policing is equity; that is, all citizens should have a say in how they are governed. Officers may relate better to citizens as individuals because they cooperate closely with and are recognized as an integral part of the community. Community policing can thus become a force for enhancing democratic principles. Community policing provides an opportunity to emphasize uncompromising integrity, unyielding standards of fairness, and unwavering equality because officers have to work closely with the community and was be increasingly confronted with ethical dilemmas.

### **2.13.6 Equal Access to Police Services**

All citizens, regardless of race, religion, personal characteristics, or group affiliation, must have equal access to police services for a full and productive partnership with a community. The paramount commitment of community policing should be respect for all citizens and sensitivity to their needs.

### **2.13.7 Equal Treatment under the Constitution**

Police must treat all individuals according to the constitutional rights that officers are sworn to protect and enforce. Careful attention to the constitutional rights of citizens, victims, or perpetrators was help to engender bonds of trust between the police and community. Police must treat all persons with respect and impartiality including the homeless, the poor, and the mentally or physically handicapped. They must reject stereotypes; ignore skin color, and use reason and persuasion rather than coercion wherever possible because inequitable or harsh treatment can lead to frustration, hostility, and even violence within a community. Such unethical behavior was imperiling the trust so necessary to community policing.

### **2.13.8 Equal Distribution of Police Services and Resources among Communities**

Because community policing customizes policing services to the needs of each community, services should distributed equitably among poor and minority communities. Care must be taken. For equitable distribution of resources among communities, each community must articulate its

needs and be wasing to work with the police to ensure its share of police services. According to Sparrow et al. (1990), some neighborhoods may appear unwasing to help police in their efforts to improve life in the community. Officers must realize that sometimes “the community seems so helpless because it feels abandoned and would discover new strengths if only the police could make an effective alliance with important community elements.

One community must not be given preference over another; all communities must have equal access to police services. Equity, however, may not always mean equal distribution of police services and resources. Wealthier communities are often able to contribute more resources to the problem-solving process than can poorer communities.

### **2.13.9 Refining the Analysis Process**

Analysis of community policing is an ongoing process that should include a reevaluation of the analysis measures themselves. With more experience in community policing, a police agency was be able to develop measures that accurately chart successes and failures and indicate where changes need to be made. Community Policing is an approach to policing that recognizes the independence and shared responsibility of the Police and the Community in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all citizens. It aims at establishing an active and equal partnership between the Police and the public through which crime, community safety issues can jointly be discussed, and solutions determined and implemented.

This creates a partnership and understanding between the police and the community about their roles in crime prevention. Supplementing police patrols through private guards and neighborhoods watch groups. This process can be achieved through education, capacity building, enhancing Shire Indaslassie town Police personnel and members of the community to enable constructive participation in addressing the problems of crime. The success of community policing can analyzed by looking at how effective and the level of its acceptance by the concerned communities. The main objectives of community policing is resolving conflict between and within community groupings in a manner, which enhances peace and stability. Community policing is collaboration between the police and the community that identifies and solves community problems. With the police no longer the sole guardians of law and order, all members of the community become active allies in the effort to enhance the safety and quality of neighborhoods. Community policing has far-reaching implications.

## 2.14. Criteria for Evaluation of the Successes of Community Policing

According to (Palmiotto, 2000), there are three important criteria for measuring or evaluating the success of community policing initiatives. These were;

- A. Effectiveness: refers quality on the delivery of police services and customer satisfaction. The measures of effectiveness include concentrating on solving community problems, working together in a partnership and the level of customer satisfaction (Oliver, 2004). With regard to effectiveness, Messe (cited in Palmiotto, 2000) suggests that it is important to measure the outcome expected from the community policing strategy. The dimensions of effectiveness include reducing nationwide crime, decreasing citizens' fear of crime and improving the quality of life of communities. The success of the strategies to solve neighborhood problems should also be assessed.
- B. Efficiency: is measured by evaluating whether the community policing strategy has obtained the best results from the available resources, and whether resources are being used to their fullest, in order to solve neighborhood and community problems. Included here is the use of technology, use of community organizations, prioritizing service calls, redefining job descriptions and co-ordination of problem-solving activities (Palmiotto, 2000). In cases of Shire Indaslassie town, efficiency can be evaluated as within material and human logistics shortage scoring the best result in crime reduction.
- C. Equity or fairness: is used to assess every community-policing programme and its results (Palmiotto, 2000). Moreover, equity involves equal access to police services, equal treatment under the constitution and equal distribution of police services and resources among communities (Ibid). The Shire Indaslassie police department can learn from the above-mentioned criteria to evaluate the success or failure of community policing implementation in the sub city.

## 2.15. Conceptualizing Crime and Crime Prevention

### 2.15.1. Crime

Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Criminal Code (2004) under Article 23 (1) defined a crime as an act that is prohibited and made punishable by law. It's an act consists of the commission of what is forbidden or the omission of what is suggested by law. On the other hand,

Sowmyya (2011) has attempted to define crime as a public wrong and an act of wrongdoing which violates the law of the state and is highly disapproved by the society.

### **2.15.2. Meaning and Types of Crime Prevention**

As Welsh and Farrington (2010) defined crime prevention as exertions to prevent crime or criminal offending in the first instance just before the crime is committed. Further, the 2010 United Nations (UN) crime prevention guideline defined crime prevention as, containing strategies and measures that need to reduce the risk of crimes happening, and their potential damaging effects on individuals and the society at large, including fear of crime. Thus, from this definition it can be learned that the issue of crime prevention has various strategies that are developed to solve the problem of crime. However, the researcher is only interested to explore the role that one of the many strategies plays, that is to say, community policing strategy, in preventing different crimes just before they take place.

### **2.15.3. Types of Crime Prevention**

As Nevisi (2019) has stated there are different types of crime prevention. Among them: primary, secondary, tertiary, short-term, social, developmental, long term, sham, active, non-penal, penal, judicial, disciplinary, common, special and situational preventions. The researcher understood that not all the above crime prevention types are suitable or applicable in line with the principles and objectives of community policing philosophy. Instead, UN's (2010) crime prevention guideline provided four different approaches of crime prevention. These are: social development, community or locally-based, situational, and reintegration crime preventions. However, despite having many approaches or classifications of crime prevention in the literature, the researcher gave particular attention to the community policing based crime prevention strategy; hence the scope of this study does not allow exploring the role the other crime prevention strategies play in preventing crimes.

### **2.15.4. Crime Prevention and Community Safety**

Community crime prevention often involves the active participation of local residents and organizations in those communities and neighborhoods (UN office on drugs and crime Vienna). The term community safety is commonly used to refer to the broader range of issues that must be tackled to promote safer cities or communities, and with outcomes that bring benefits beyond an

absence of crime (Ibid). Thus, one who study community crime prevention should aware of there are terms commonly used internationally like community safety and community security.

### **2.16. Causes of Crime**

Understanding causes of crime helps to its prevention. In light of this NCPI, 2001) point out the following three causes of crime;

1. **Criminal desire:** Criminal behavior refers to the interest or motivation on criminal. The motivation to contemplate offending arises out of the usual human desire (Smith & Cornish, 2003). According to Eck and Weisburd (1995), crime usually occurs when the offender is motivated to fulfill his or her desire.
2. **Criminal skills:** This refers to a person's own skills and use of tools that might be applied to criminal activities needed to a commit crime, like teaching each other and learning by committing criminal acts. The criminal would presumably develop unlawful ways to obtain his tools (NCPI, 2001) such as personal associations that teach criminals skills. In addition to material tools, criminal skill also includes group or individually developed strategies to perform his or her acts of crime. Criminal skills are learnable as one criminal could learn different skills from others.
3. **Criminal opportunity:** Criminal opportunity is a personal association that teaches crime skills. It is controllable to a large degree at its target end namely, within the victim's environment.

### **2.17. Basic principles underlying Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime**

The Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime also set out eight basic principles underlying the development of crime prevention strategies, as follows:

1. **Government leadership:** All levels of government should play a leadership role in developing effective and humane crime prevention strategies and in creating and maintaining institutional frameworks for their implementation and review.
2. **Socio-economic development and inclusion:** Crime prevention considerations should be integrated into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, including those addressing employment, education, health, housing and urban planning, poverty, social marginalization and exclusion.

3. Cooperation/partnerships: Cooperation/partnerships should be an integral part of effective crime prevention, given the wide-ranging nature of the causes of crime and the skills and responsibilities required to address them. This includes partnerships working across ministries and between authorities, community organizations, nongovernmental organizations, the business sector and private citizens.
4. Sustainability/accountability: Crime prevention requires adequate resources, including funding for structures and activities, in order to be sustained. There should be clear accountability for funding, implementation and evaluation and for the achievement of planned results.
5. Knowledge base; Crime prevention strategies, policies, programmes and actions should be based on a broad, multidisciplinary foundation of knowledge about crime problems, their multiple causes and promising and proven practices.
6. Human rights/rule of law/culture of lawfulness; the rule of law and those human rights, which are recognized in international instruments to which Member States are parties, must be respected in all aspects of crime prevention. A culture of lawfulness should be actively promoted in crime prevention.
7. Interdependency; National crime prevention diagnoses and strategies should, where appropriate, take account of links between local criminal problems and international organized crime prevention.
8. Differentiation: Crime prevention strategies should, when appropriate, pay due regards to the different needs of men and women and considers the special needs of vulnerable members of society (UN office on drugs and crime Vienna).

## **2.18. Community Policing and Crime Prevention**

Kelling and Moore (1988) identify seven major characteristics of community-oriented policing.

1. The source of authority in community-oriented policing stems from the community;
2. The primary function of community-oriented police agencies is balanced between crime control, crime prevention and problem solving;
3. The organizational design of agencies adopting community-oriented policing is decentralized, task-oriented and uses matrix structures to prevent and respond to crime problems;

4. The relationship to the external environment is consultative, where the police defend values of law and professionalism, but listen to community concerns;
5. Agencies adopting the community-oriented policing approach channel demand for police service through analysis of underlying problems rather than via emergency calls;
6. Foot patrols and problem solving predominate as the preferred tactics and technology of community-oriented police agencies;
7. Organizational performance measured by quality of life outcomes and citizen satisfaction, not by the number of arrests or other indicators of crime control.

## **2.19. Role of Community Police Patrols in Crime Prevention**

Community patrols have had the potential to increase Indigenous community safety. They have assisted in prevention of crime rates, alcohol-related harm and empowering of the local community. The most successful community patrols tend to enjoy community involvement, ownership, and strong collaboration with police and a network of community services.

Community patrols can now be found in urban and regional as well as remote areas, with funded Indigenous community patrols Australia-wide. They tend to take an anticipatory approach, aiming to increase community safety through prevention and intervention (AIC, 2004). Community patrols help members of the community who may be at risk of either causing harm or becoming a victim of harm. Beacroft et al. (2011) describe the main purpose of community patrols as primary and secondary crime prevention rather than crisis intervention or de facto policing. A number of programs and initiatives potentially contribute to improved safety in a community, and the effectiveness of community patrols needs to be considered in that context. Their specific purpose and their functions also need to be considered. Community patrols focus on increasing or maintaining security and wellbeing and ‘stopping things from occurring

### **2.19.1. Role of Vigilante in Crime Prevention**

A vigilante is a group of committed people at the micro level of the community, set up to collate information on suspected criminals in its area, for use by the police in the detection and prevention of crime. It is often made up property owners, tenants, community associations and leaders of the neighborhood, who keep watch over their area and report suspicious people to the police (Albert and Omitoogun, 1995). Vigilante groups are largely informal and composed of

volunteers and are largely funded through communal contributions. Contributions are insignificant and often irregular compared to the risks vigilante are exposed.

### 2.19.2. Community Court System and Crime Prevention

Traditionally, courts have not been concerned with neighborhood conditions or solving community problems. In a typical centralized court, low-level crimes are treated as isolated incidents rather than an ongoing quality-of-life problem. In contrast, community courts promote constructive responses to low-level crime and provide service and feedback to the community (Feinblatt et al., 1998; Sviridoff et al., 1997; Feinblatt and Berman, 1997; Kelling and Coles, 1996; Anderson, 1996; Rottman, 1996). Community courts bring both formal court processing and informal dispute resolution mechanisms into urban neighborhoods. Housing a broad array of social services on-site, they also promote voluntary service participation among defendants and community members. Community courts promote:

1. **Increase in Community Involvement:** Community courts give neighborhood members a voice in the justice system through advisory boards, which offer input into programs and identify pressing community needs, and community conditions panels, which draw together local stakeholders to develop solutions to hot spots of crime and disorder.
2. **Solving Community Problems:** Court-based mediators take advantage of the court setting to address individual and community-level disputes. By convening interested parties and facilitating discussions as an objective third party, many chronic, quality of-life and interpersonal problems in a community never reach a courtroom. In Shire Indaslassie, most communities depending on their tradition and culture, they establish village courts entrusted to the most respected elders and their findings and decisions are abiding to conflicting parties.
3. **Promoting Accountability:** Community courts use the tools of modern technology to provide urban Judges with information that would be readily accessible in a small town courthouse (e.g., whether or not a defendant completed community service or attended drug treatment).

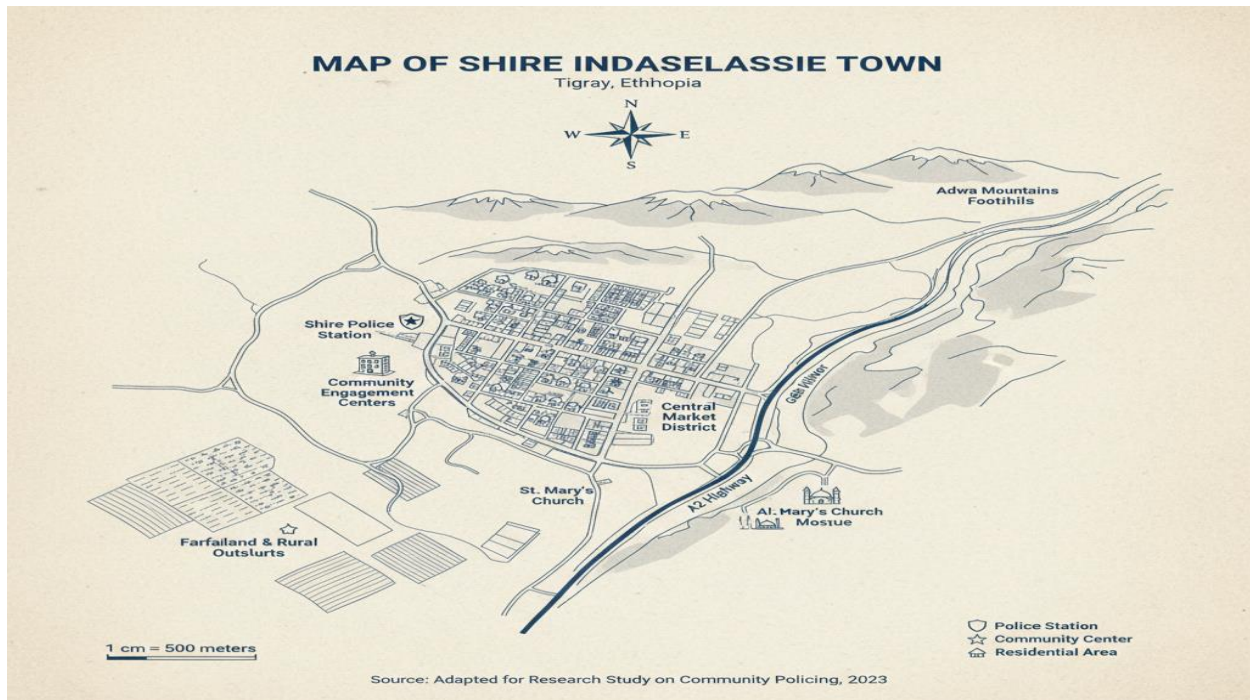
## CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

### 3.1. Introduction

This chapter presented the methods and methodologies that used to carry out this study and collect data. It shows the research design thaw was employed, the location where the study was be conducted, target population, sample and sampling techniques, data collection method, data analysis techniques and ethical issues.

### 3.2. Description of the Study Area

This study was conducted in Shire Indaslassie town which is found in the North West administrative zone, located at a distance of 304 Km from Mekelle in western direction the capital city of the Tigray region. This study conducted on the five Kebeles of Shire Indasselassie town i.e. Dedebit (01), Suhul (02) Hbret (03) Adi Kentibay (04) Yekatit (05).



The researcher selected Shire Indaslassie Town due to the following reasons. First, the choice of the location of the study is influenced by the fact that it was within a close proximity to the residence of the researcher. Second, according to police office report in Shire Indaslassie town,

the town is facing different criminal acts and it is increasing from time to time. Therefore, Security from disorder, crime and violence is fundamental for reducing poverty and achieving socio- economic and political developments. Even though police are the main providers of security, they cannot succeed in solving and preventing crime without the assistance of community. Third, the researcher is interested to study the topic and still other researcher does not study it.

### **3.3. Research Approach**

In order to collect the relevant and appropriate data, the researcher used qualitative research approach. The reason behind selecting qualitative research approach is that because it deals with the examination of attitudes, views and experiences of participants related to their roles in struggling crime (Kothari, 2004). Similarly, this research intends to explore the experiences of the community about effective systems of prevention of crime and the views of other research participants about the issue under investigation.

In qualitative research, the researcher's insight plays a central role in collecting, analyzing and interpreting data (Kothari, 2004). In other words, qualitative researchers intend to explore the meanings people constructed and deals with how people understand their community and the experiences they possess in fighting crimes (Holiday, 2007) Furthermore, qualitative research is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behavior (Kathari, 2004).

In addition, Creswell (2002) argues that qualitative research is more appropriate if the researcher is interested in researching problems and developing a comprehensive understanding of the main concept, idea, or processes of recent a phenomenon. Thus, the researcher employed this research approach to explore the role of community in the prevention of crime in Shire Indaslassie town.

### **3.4. Research Design**

According to Kothari (2004), the research problems formulated in clear-cut terms and state the conceptual structure within which research would conduct by the researcher. The preparation of such a design facilitates research to be as efficient as possible yielding maximal information. In other words, the function of research design is to provide for the collection of relevant evidence

with minimal expenditure of effort, time and money. Further, according to Robson, (1993), a research design enabled the researcher to find out the answer to the inquiry through numerical evidence while qualitative research design enabled the researcher to provide a complete and detailed description of the research topic.

The purpose of this study was to assess the practice and challenges of Community policing in preventing crime in Shire Indaslassie town. Thus, the researcher used descriptive survey design in conducting the study. Descriptive survey was applied because it helps researcher to make well productions and drawing conclusions based on the information that the researcher gathered from the representative samples of the target population. The survey is an important tool to gather evidences relating to certain social problems. The term social survey indicated the study of social phenomena through a survey of a small sampled population and to broad segments of population. It is concerned with the present and attempts to determine the status of the phenomenon under investigation i.e. struggling crime.

### **3.5. Sampling Techniques**

To conduct this study, the researcher employed both probability and non-probability sampling techniques. Thus, purposive and simple random sampling techniques employed in the study. Purposive sampling technique used to select the research participants because this type of sampling technique helps to select research participants deliberately by the researcher from governmental and non-governmental organizations in Shire Indaslassie town in order to get reliable data. Purposive sampling technique was well suited for qualitative descriptive research that intends to generate new idea and experiences from the research participants (Alvi, 2016). Moreover, this sampling technique is one of the most common sampling strategies to select participants who could give relevant information to a particular research question and objectives stated before (Ibid).

In other words, under this sampling technique the researcher purposefully selected the particular units of the research participants on the basis that the small mass that they selected out of a total target population which could be give appropriate information about the role of community policing in ensuring peace and security (Ibid).

In addition to the purposive sampling technique, simple random sampling technique was employed a researcher to identify research participants. The researcher used random sampling

because the population of interest is homogeneous. Further, this sampling technique ensures the possibility of each subject, object or respondent has equal chances of representation (Mugenda, 2003). Accordingly, the researcher would randomly select research participants from each station of the town. Therefore, to conduct the study the researcher used purposive and simple random sampling techniques to gather important information and data from key informants and communities.

### **3.6. Target Population of the Study Area and Sample Size**

Population is the entire group of people to which a researcher intends the results of a study to apply (Aron and Coups, 2008). Research questions designed to address issues of great relevance to groups of individuals known as a target population. In general, a target population is a well-defined group of individuals or objects seen to have similar behavioral characteristics (Mugenda, 2004). Thus, the target populations of the study were the permanent residents of Shire Indaslassie town only.

In conducting this study, participants used as a sample from elders, religious/cultural leaders, local politicians, security officers, women group representatives, teachers and provincial administrators. The reason for the employment of data collection from the above participants or target populations was to collect a comprehensive, reliable and detailed data for the study. Thus, it helped the researcher to come up with relevant findings through various participants from different perspectives.

A sample is a portion of an entire population selected for observation (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2004). Qualitative researchers do not normally know the number of people in the research beforehand; the sample may change in size and type during research conduct. Therefore, for collecting all the necessary information that is vivid, valid, and accurate, the researcher did not previously determine the sample sizes. Therefore, until the gathered data from research participants was saturated, the researcher continued to collect the information from different sources regarding to the role of community in crime prevention in the study area.

### **3.7. Source and Methods of Data Collection**

The data for this study gathered from both primary and secondary data to address the over-all objectives of the study and the research questions. As to primary sources, information was collected using interview, personal observation, and questioners.

#### **3.7.1. In-depth Interviews**

The core reason behind selecting this tool allows a wider channel of communication between the research participants and the researcher. Furthermore, this technique offered the opportunity to ask follow-up questions based on participants' responses to previous questions. This allowed deeper exploration of the community practice in crime prevention in the study area (Vanderstoep & Johnston, 2009).

In-depth interview was employed with 27 individuals from resident communities, police and police commissioners to explore how the households participate in community policing to prevent crime and to identify major challenges in the implementation of community policing and to get a detail insight on the situation criminal offence. It also enabled the researcher to get as much information as possible from the informants' experiences. It holds by using in-depth interview to generate the data needed for this study. The researcher was use in-depth interview because it helps the researcher to get more detailed and appropriate information from the selected research participants.

The interview guides prepared by considering the stated specific research questions and specific and general objectives of the study. The interview guide for the research participants start by asking detail and specific questions about the overall status of experience.

#### **3.7.2. Key Informants interviews**

According to Kothari (2004), gaining adequate qualitative data requires that research participants pre-selected, based on their level of knowledge and experience. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with key informants to gather data about institutional policies, program implementation, and systemic challenges.

Interviews were conducted with seventeen (17) key informants from the respective sampled stations with the highest crime rates. The officer commanding police division from Dedebit (01),

Suhul (02) Hbret (03) Adi Kentibay (04) Yekatit (05) kebele police stations, the officer-commanding police station and other stakeholders for crime prevention was participate as a the Key informants to this study.

### **3.4.3. Focused Group Discussion**

Focused group discussion data collection tool was employed as a second tool pertaining to the research question, which deals with the practice and role of community policing to crosscheck the data gathered from responses of interviewee. This data collection tool helped the researcher to triangulate data collected via in-depth interviews. It is more effective for gating information about the variety of views (Kothari, 2004). Supplementary, it helped the researcher to triangulate data that collected via an in-depth interview. Thus, it brought together different discussants who do participate in the community policing practice of their kebele. Moreover, it also allowed group interaction in which participants are able to discuss each other's ideas that provide better insight to the issue under investigation that is not easily attainable through individual interview. This method which offered the researcher the opportunity to study the ways in which individuals collectively make sense of a phenomenon and construct meanings on the practice of community on crime preventions (Bryman, 2012).

Three separate FGDs were conducted with a total of 18 participants who had not taken part in the in-depth interviews. Each group consisted of six members and was organized by gender (one all-male, one all-female, and one mixed-gender group) to facilitate open discussion from those who have direct participation in community policing when members of these groups have their own meetings. The reason for restraining the members of the discussants in to six was to make the discussion hot and actively involved to get reliable data or information. It also allows group interaction in which participants are able to discuss each other's ideas that provide better insight to the issue under investigation that is not easily attainable through individual interview. The members of the group were selected from each kebelles' residents purposively considering with their participation in community policing. After getting the lists of the chairpersons of each Kebele police community, the researcher was selected 18 members groups and established when members of these groups have their own respective meetings.

#### **3.7.4. Participatory Personal Observation**

Participatory personal data collection instrument was employed pertaining to the research to examine the role, strengths and limitations of community policing in preventing crime in the study area. Moreover, a deep observation was carried on the way to examine the opportunities and challenges of community policing in preventing crime. Therefore, the researcher used participatory observation because it has the following merits (Kothari, 2004): The main advantage of this method is that subjective bias is eliminated, if observation is done accurately (Ibid). Secondly, the information obtained under this method relates to what is currently happening; it is not complicated by either the past behavior or future intentions or attitudes (Ibid). Thirdly, this method is independent of respondent's willingness to respond and as such is relatively less demanding of active cooperation on the part of respondents as happens to be the case in the interview or the questionnaire method (Ibid).

#### **3.7.5. Document Analysis**

A document analysis instrument was also used as a data collection tool to achieve the purpose of the study. In addition to, the primary data that was collected using above methods of data collection; secondary sources of information the materials that was used including both published and unpublished reports from police commission, police community offices and non-government organizations in relation role of community in preventing crime in the study area.

### **3.8. Data Analysis Procedure**

By taking into account the nature of research approach and methods, the researcher was used qualitative ways of analyzing data. Qualitative methods of analysis data focused on ideas and experiences shared during the interview and works out their structures and their pattern of happenings of crime offence in Shire Indaslassie town. To do that, the researcher was used thematic analysis as a means to gain insight and knowledge from data gathered. The purpose of thematic analysis is to identify patterns or themes evident in several cases. This way of analysis of data was used to present experiences, perceptions and feelings of communities in preventing crime in their local area. It also allowed the researcher to explore the role of community in struggling crime in Shire Indaslassie town based on the research questions and objectives of the study (Woods, 2006).

Thematic analysis is also useful in analyzing data and narrations of research participants. So, the qualitative data gathered from various sources using in-depth interview, document analysis, non-participatory personal observation and questionnaires were analyzed through thematic analysis method (Kreuger and Neuman, 2006).

The data analysis for qualitative research incorporates prepare data for analysis; reading through all the data; organizing related segments of data into categories; generate a description of the context; identify key themes; create connection between different themes; and interpret the larger meaning of the data (Creswell, 2009).

In an effort to analyze the data that gathered through in-depth interviews, first, the researcher has done a careful transcription of the recorded interviews. According to Bryman (2012), transcribing recorded data by the researcher is important because it brings the researcher closer to objective data through identifying the key ideas, as well as the differences and similarities in explain and expressing their experience. Second, after transcription of all the interviews, the researcher had repeatedly read the transcripts without taking any notes and considering interpretations and analysis of the data in a thematic way. Third, after repeatedly reading and understand the transcribed data, the researcher was started preparing general notes that found very appropriate and helpful to specifically address the research questions of this study. Fourth, the researcher was translated the data into English from the Amharic language, and putted under each research question.

Then, the researcher started to write the most relevant transcribed data to separate papers. After having the most relevant data, which collected from the sample of research participants, it would provide, analyze and interoperate through statements and explanation thematically. After description, the researcher focuses on key themes to understand the complexity of the case. The next step is searching for common themes and interpretation the meaning of information (Yin, 2003).

Moreover, documents related to policies and strategies analyzed and examined by the researcher to give meaning about the issue under investigation. In doing so, the researcher repeatedly read the content of the document to get the most relevant issues, in a similar manner with the way that was analyzing the interview transcripts. Non-participatory observation also analyzed after

continuously recording a sufficient data through describing what is happening in the preventions of crime in Shire Indaslassie town.

### **3.9. Ethical consideration**

Respecting the ethical issues are the cornerstones in conducting any type of research. So, in this study the needs, interests, values of the respondents and the community in general was protected at all levels of the research process. According to Ruane (2005), any research activity that harms or creates irrational risks to subjects is incompatible with fundamental ethical duty to safeguard the physical, psychological and emotional well-being of participants. Thus, the researcher has respected and considered the participants' ideas and morality and considered and kept the participants' rights and security. In addition, the researcher has also informed them about the rights they have and awarded to forward their information freely or to refuse it. Anyways, the researcher guarantees their consent and right to privacy. In addition to According to Crosswell (2009) ethical issues in research refer to those rules, guidelines and regulations that observed by an investigator to help reconcile conflicts when undertaking a study. The researcher obtained permission from the relevant authorities to carry out this study. Information collected from respondents kept with a lot of confidentiality. All information taken from different materials were cited in the research work acknowledged through referencing.

The researcher was respect professional integrity through exclusively including study participants views and experience as they express in the interviews. Factual accuracy was ensued by avoiding suppression or misinterpretation of data. The interpretation of the data was making carefully to respect the validity of the findings. The data collections were carry out strictly being in line with research ethical principles that included the following:

- ✓ Adequate information and explanation was given to all participants about the whole purpose and intent of the study, actual and potential benefit of the research;
- ✓ The informed consent of each of the participants was secure prior to engaging the participants in the research;
- ✓ All participants were informing that they have the right not to take part or withdraw from the research at any stage without any implied deprivation or penalty for their withdrawal action.

- ✓ All participants was duly informed on their right to anonymity and confidentiality of the personal information they give during the interview and the fact that the information they give shall be recorded by sound recorder and pseudonyms would be used to refer to the data of specific participants, and not actual names;
- ✓ The potential participants was duly informed about the utmost care to be taken in keeping the recorded and written information;
- ✓ Participants were informing that they have the right to be notifying of the ultimate research findings.

## CHAPTER-FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND DISCUSSION

### Introduction

This chapter presents the core empirical findings of the study, offering a detailed analysis of the data collected to address the research objectives concerning the practices and challenges of community policing in Shire Indaslassie Town. The analysis is grounded in the perspectives and experiences of 62 participants from five selected Kebeles: Dedebeit (01), Suhul (02), Hbret (03), Adi Kentibay (04), and Yekatit (05). A qualitative multi-method approach was employed to gather rich and diverse data, utilizing in-depth interviews with 27 participants and focus group discussions with 18 participants. To ensure the credibility and robustness of the findings, the data was triangulated through key informant interviews with an additional 17 participants. The subsequent sections are structured thematically, with each theme directly corresponding to the research questions outlined in the introductory chapter. This organization facilitates a systematic and coherent presentation of the analytical insights derived from the fieldwork.

#### 4.1. Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Research Participants

This section details the demographic and social profile of the 62 individuals who participated in this study. Understanding the characteristics of the participants is fundamental to contextualizing the research findings on the practices and challenges of community policing in Shire Indaslassie Town. The diverse roles, gender balance, age distribution, educational attainment, and geographical representation of the participants collectively contribute to the richness and validity of the data. The socio-demographic characteristics of the research participants are summarized in Table 4.1 below.

**Table 4.1: Socio-Demographic Profile of Research Participants (N=62)**

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Role in Community</b>	Police Officer	8	12.9%
	Community Leader/Elder	15	24.2%
	Kebele Administration	5	8.1%
	Youth Representative	7	11.3%
	General Community Member	27	43.5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	35	56.5%
	Female	27	43.5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Age Group</b>	18-30	10	16.1%
	31-45	18	29.0%
	46-60	26	41.9%
	Above 60	8	12.9%
<b>Total</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Educational Level</b>	No Formal Education	6	9.7%
	Primary (1-8)	29	46.8%
	Secondary (9-12)	22	35.5%
	TVET/Diploma	2	3.2%
	University Degree & Above	3	4.8%
<b>Total</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Kebele of Residence</b>	Kebele 01 (Dedebit)	12	19.4%
	Kebele 02 (Suhul)	12	19.4%
	Kebele 03 (Hbret)	13	21.0%
	Kebele 04 (Adi Kentibay)	15	24.2%
	Kebele 05 (Yekatit)	10	16.1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source: Fieldwork Data, 2025*

The demographic data presented in Table 4.1 reveals a diverse and representative sample, which was crucial for obtaining a holistic understanding of community policing in Shire Indaslassie Town. The study successfully incorporated a wide spectrum of community stakeholders. The largest group of participants consisted of General Community Members (43.5%), ensuring that the perspectives of ordinary citizens, who are the primary beneficiaries of community policing, were central to the findings. The inclusion of Community Leaders/Elders (24.2%) was vital for capturing the traditional and authoritative viewpoints on local security matters. Furthermore, insights were gathered from key institutional actors, including Police Officers (12.9%), Kebele Administration officials (8.1%), and Youth Representatives (11.3%). This purposive selection of varied roles allows for a comprehensive analysis by triangulating perspectives from law enforcement, local governance, community leadership, and the public.

The gender composition of the participants was relatively balanced, with 56.5% male and 43.5% female participants. This near-parity is significant as it ensures that the research captures the potentially differing experiences, security concerns, and levels of engagement in community policing between men and women. The substantial representation of female voices is particularly important for a nuanced understanding of safety and police-community relations. The participants were distributed across a broad range of age groups, with the largest cohort being those in the 46-60 age bracket (41.9%), followed by the 31-45 group (29.0%). This indicates that

the study captured the views of mature and established community members who likely have long-term experience with the local security landscape. The inclusion of younger adults (18-30 years, 16.1%) and seniors (Above 60 years, 12.9%) ensures that the perspectives of the youth and the wisdom of the elderly were also integrated into the analysis, providing a multi-generational viewpoint.

**Educational Level:** The educational background of the participants reflects a cross-section of the community. The majority of participants had completed Primary (46.8%) or Secondary (35.5%) education. A smaller proportion had No Formal Education (9.7%), while a combined 8.0% had pursued TVET/Diploma or University Degrees. This distribution is representative of a typical urban community in the region and suggests that the data collected is grounded in the lived realities of the general populace rather than being skewed towards highly educated elite. It reflects a wide range of literacy and formal knowledge levels, enriching the diversity of opinions.

The study ensured a balanced geographical spread, with participants drawn from all five selected Kebeles. Kebele 03 (Hbret) and Kebele 04 (Adi Kentibay) had slightly higher representation (21.0% and 24.2% respectively), but the distribution across all areas was equitable. This geographic diversity is essential for ensuring that the findings are not limited to a single neighborhood's experience and can be considered representative of the broader challenges and practices of community policing across Shire Indaslassie Town

## **4.2. The Practice and Strategies of Community Policing in Shire Indaslassie**

The study found that community policing in Shire Indaslassie is implemented through several key strategies. These include the establishment of formal structures, neighborhood patrols, and information-sharing mechanisms.

A primary strategy identified by participants was the creation of community policing advisory councils at the Kebele level. These councils composed of police officers, elders, youth representatives, and other community members, hold regular meetings to discuss security issues. A key informant from the police described their function:

*"We have a weekly meeting with the council members from each block. In these meetings, we review incidents from the past week, identify crime hotspots, and plan our next steps. This is the main way we try to coordinate."*

However, community members in an FGD noted that the effectiveness of these meetings varies.

*"Sometimes the meetings are very productive. But other times, the same issues are discussed over and over again with no action. It depends on the commitment of the police coordinator assigned to us."*

Another widely practiced strategy is the use of neighborhood patrols, often led by youth. These patrols are a direct form of community involvement in crime prevention. A youth representative explained:

*"We organize ourselves in groups of 10 to patrol our area at night, especially on weekends. We don't have weapons, just flashlights and our phones. If we see anything suspicious, we call the community police officer immediately."*

To understand the foundational context, the research first explored why community policing is considered necessary in Shire Indaslassie. For the purpose of this study, community policing (CP) is consistently defined as a collaborative process between the police and community residents aimed at identifying, preventing, and solving local problems efficiently. This aligns with established definitions, such as that from the US Department of Justice (1994), which describes it as a partnership to identify and solve community problems. This foundational agreement suggests that the core philosophy of CP is understood by key stakeholders in the town.

Key informants and FGD participants elaborated that:

*"The function of community policing is to create a secure environment by institutionalizing the cooperation between the public and law enforcement."*

A significant advantage of the decentralization of policing services, allowing residents to access support within their immediate kebele rather than traveling to a central headquarters. According to interviewees, *"CP is entrusted with a wide variety of tasks to achieve its overarching objective of promoting peace and security"*. The cornerstone of community policing the flow of information from the community to the police was frequently mentioned. Participants reported that this is often done informally.

*"People are afraid to be seen as informants. So, most of the time, we just call the officer on his personal phone. We don't go to the station. This way, the criminals don't know who reported them."*

### **4.3. The Role of Government and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

Research participants (FGDs and interviewed) commonly identified:

*"the government administration as a central pillar in the implementation of CP in Shire Indaslassie. The government's contribution was described as significant, encompassing funding for operations, human resource deployment (hiring police officers), and providing physical infrastructure such as office buildings".*

The government has also made efforts to supply supportive militia members in each Ketena (local division) and provide essential logistics and materials. However, a critical challenge emerged regarding the adequacy of these resources. Key informant interviewees and FGDs clearly elucidated as follows:

*"While basic materials are provided, informants unanimously pointed to a severe lack of essential logistics, most notably vehicles, which hampers rapid response and patrol capabilities". For instance, in Kebele 01 (dedebit) of the town the administration was allocated a budget of 560,000ETB amount to CP last year, which was insufficient for salaries and basic supplies. This is totally impossible to think about capital budget for vehicles and other logistics".*

Furthermore, while the government has provided professional and technical training for CP officers in the past, respondents noted a *"recent decline in these programs"*. This was attributed to a shift in focus *"due to wider regional insecurity issues in Tigray"* (key informant), which has negatively impacted the continuous professional development of officers in Shire Indaslassie.

A significant finding was *"the absence of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) involvement in community policing initiatives within the studied kebeles"* interviewees (In-depth and key informant). This was a critical missed opportunity, attributing the lack of engagement to weaknesses in the CP structure to proactively form such partnerships.

### 4.3.1. Main Actors of Community Policing

#### A. Police

As the state-sanctioned authority, police officers are the primary actors responsible for leading and managing CP practices. However, in-depth interview participants stressed that:

*“Police efforts alone are insufficient. And also their role lacks consistent commitment in our kebele (01 and 03). Thus, for CP to be effective, officers must transition from a traditional law enforcement role to one that includes community organizing and training”.*

This requires officers to be equipped with a broader skillset to educate and collaborate with the community effectively.

#### B. Youth

Youth participation was identified as a crucial and increasingly positive element. Respondents in the FGDs and interviews noted that *“the youth in Shire Indaslassie are progressively more committed to participating in peace and security initiatives”*, partly motivated by a desire to safeguard their community from broader instabilities.

#### C. Elders and Religious Leaders

These figures are highly respected and influential actors. They play a significant role in conflict resolution and crime prevention, often mediating disputes before they escalate to require police intervention. *“Their moral authority makes them effective partners in the CP framework”* (FGDs). Other actors mentioned included development teams and utility technicians, who can play a role in identifying and reporting issues.

Generally, while a diverse set of actors is theoretically involved, the study found that the effectiveness of this multi-stakeholder model is hampered by a lack of consistent commitment, particularly from the police leadership in Kebele 01 and Kebele 03. This inconsistency has a demoralizing effect on other community actors, leading to diminished overall engagement.

#### 4.4. Community Involvement in Community Policing and crime prevention

The findings reveal a multifaceted but inconsistent level of community participation for the crime prevention practice in Shire Indaslassie. Key informant interviews, from almost all Kebeles, mentioned the roles the community plays as follows:

1. **Partnership and Information Sharing:** The community's primary role is to form a partnership with the police, acting as *“their eyes and ears to ensure a smooth flow of information”*.
2. **Proactive Problem Prevention:** Residents engage in awareness campaigns to *“educate their neighbors on crime prevention measures”*.
3. **Exposing Criminals:** Community members *“report criminal activities and suspects to the authorities,”* often using informal channels like phone calls for safety. This is usually done after attempts at *“mediation by elders has failed”*.
4. **Neighborhood Watch:** Residents organize themselves into patrols to monitor their surroundings, a role in which the youth are particularly active.
5. **Accountability and Evaluation:** The community plays a role in evaluating the performance of the CP program and holding both police and civilian participants accountable for misconduct.

The FGDs confirmed that *“while there are weaknesses, the community's contribution is indispensable. However, a frequent problem was the lack of continuity in this participation”*, often attributed to the frequent and unseasonal rotation of police coordinators, which breaks down established trust and relationships.

#### 4.5. The Effectiveness of Community Policing in Crime Reduction

The evaluation of the effectiveness of community policing yielded mixed results. While participants perceived some positive outcomes, particularly in fostering social cohesion, the impact on overall crime reduction was seen as limited.

Many respondents felt that community policing had improved the relationship between residents and built a sense of collective responsibility.

*"Before this program, I didn't even know my neighbors. Now, we have a common goal to keep our area safe. We look out for each other. This is the biggest success."*

Another perceived achievement was a reduction in petty crimes in specific areas with active patrols. A police officer noted:

*"In the blocks where the youth patrols are very active, we have seen a definite drop in things like street theft and vandalism. The criminals know they are being watched."*

A central finding of this study shows the community had positive perceptions of CP, but their practical commitment to it is inconsistent. Most respondents indicated that the community in Shire Indaslassie generally has a mature understanding of the importance of CP. However, this awareness does not always translate into action. The primary reasons cited for this gap were:

- Prioritizing personal interests over collective security efforts.
- Fear of revenge from criminals if they are exposed.
- A weak justice system that fails to effectively prosecute and punish offenders, leading to cynicism.
- The unmanageable character of a transient house-renting population, which makes building a cohesive community difficult.

Despite these challenges, there are clear manifestations of positive community understanding and engagement:

- **Wasing Attendance at Meetings:** A majority of residents wasingly participate in CP meetings.
- **Voluntary Patrols:** Youth and other residents regularly serve as watchmen.
- **Financial Contributions:** Most homeowners and renters contribute monthly fees (e.g., 60 and 20 ETB, respectively) to hire permanent local guards for their *ketena*, demonstrating a tangible investment in security.

This implies that while the community is wasing to support CP, its full potential is undermined by systemic challenges and a lack of consistent follow-through from the authorities.

#### 4.6. Perceived Achievements of Community Policing

Despite numerous challenges, respondents identified several key achievements of the CP program in Shire Indaslassie. Basically:

- **Improved Social Cohesion:** CP has served as a platform for residents to know each other, fostering communication and a collective sense of security.
- **Increased Community Trust:** The program has, to some extent, created a more crime-condemned society and built community trust in the potential of collaborative security.
- **Enhanced Service Delivery:** The presence of local CP offices provides residents with more immediate access to police services.
- **Youth Engagement:** The program has been successful in organizing and engaging youth, providing them with a constructive role in the community and helping to prevent them from falling into criminal activities.
- **Crime Reduction in Specific Areas:** In kebeles with strong CP implementation like **Kebele 02**, there was a perception that crime reduction has been more effective due to better community-police collaboration in exposing and arresting offenders.

However, these achievements are tempered by the reality that overall crime rates in the town have not seen a consistent decline.

#### 4.7. Analysis of Crime Trends in Shire Indaslassie Town

To objectively evaluate the effectiveness of CP in reducing crime, crime statistics were obtained from the police offices of all the five Kebeles for the study period in Shire Indaslasie.

**Table 4.6.1: Comparison of Reported Crimes and Arrests in Selected Kebeles (2023-2024)**

Kebele Name	Year	Total Reported Crimes	Total Suspects Identified	Suspects Arrested	Suspects Not Arrested	Arrest Rate
Kebele 01	2023	65	65	20 (25%)	45 (75%)	25%
	2024	95	90	25 (27.7%)	65 (72.2%)	27.7%

Kebele 02	2023	95	100	30 (30%)	70 (70%)	30%
	2024	128	120	53 (44.1%)	67 (55.9%)	44.1%
Kebele 03	2023	90	88	26 (29.5%)	62 (70.5%)	29.5%
	2024	110	100	35 (35%)	65 (65%)	35%
Kebele 04	2023	85	83	21(25.3%)	62(74.7%)	25.3%
	2024	90	80	35(43.8%)	45 (56.2%)	43.8%
Kebele 05	2023	61	53	18(33.9%)	35 (66.1%)	33.9%
	2024	77	70	3(4.3%)	67(95.7%)	4.3%
TOTAL	2023	396	389	115 (29.6%)	274 (70.4%)	29.4%
TOTAL	2024	500	460	151 (32.8%)	309 (67.2%)	32.8%

The data indicates that the total number of reported crimes in the selected kebeles of Shire Indaslassie increased from 396 in 2023 to 500 in 2024. This trend challenges the notion that the current CP practices are broadly effective in preventing crime.

Crucially, the percentage of identified suspects who were not arrested remains alarmingly high (over 67%) in both years. This low arrest rate confirms the community's perception of a weak justice system and validates their fear of reprisal, as many known perpetrators remain at large. The data suggests that while the community may be reporting crimes, the police and justice system are struggling to follow through with effective enforcement. Therefore, the conclusion drawn from this data is that the practice of community policing in Shire Indaslassie is currently more focused on reporting than effective prevention or resolution, indicating a significant weakness in its implementation.

## 4.8. Challenges Hindering the Implementation of Community Policing

Based on data from all sources, the following critical challenges were identified that hinder the effective implementation of CP in Shire Indaslassie Town.

**4.8.1. Inadequate Police Personnel:** There is a severe shortage of police officers assigned to CP duties. Often, a single officer is responsible for managing multiple complex departments within a kebele, an impossible task that severely limits the program's reach and effectiveness. A kebele administrator key informant elucidated the challenges for the implementation of community policing as follows:

*"We have one officer for thousands of people, and he has no car. If a crime happens on the other side of the Kebele, how can he respond in time? He has to walk or find a bajaj. The government must provide vehicles."*

**4.8.2. Insufficient Logistics and Resources:** As mentioned previously, the lack of essential equipment, particularly vehicles for mobility and modern communication tools, cripples the ability of the police to respond to incidents promptly.

**4.8.3. Lack of Permanent Offices and Frequent Police Rotation:** in all kebeles of Shire indaslasie town, the CP unit operates from a rented office, creating instability (Key informants). More damaging is the frequent and unseasonal rotation of police officers, which disrupts the development of long-term, trust-based relationships with the community the very foundation of CP. In a FGD the following idea raised by discussants shown the core challenge of community policing and crime prevention:

*"We build trust with one officer, we work well with him, and then suddenly he is transferred. The new one comes, and we have to start from zero. This policy of constant rotation is destroying the program."*

**4.8.4. Absence of Streetlights:** All respondents identified dark streets as a major facilitator of crime, providing cover for criminals and making patrols dangerous and ineffective.

**4.8.5. Community Fear of Revenge:** The fear of retaliation from criminals, coupled with a perceived weak justice system that fails to keep them incarcerated, makes many community members hesitant to act as informants.

**4.8.6. Corruption and Lack of Accountability:** While many officers are disciplined, respondents reported instances of corruption where police collaborate with criminals. This, along with a justice system that is perceived as lenient, erodes public trust and discourages community cooperation. An in-depth interviewee from community members explained this problem that:

*"I saw my neighbor's house being robbed. I know who did it. But they are dangerous people. If I go to the police, their gang will come for my family. The justice system is weak; they will be out of jail in a month. It is better to stay silent and safe."*

**4.8.7. High Youth Unemployment:** A significant population of unemployed youth, particularly in Kebele 01 and Kebele 03, was cited as a major challenge. Economic desperation can drive youth towards crime and create a sense of pessimism that undermines their willingness to participate constructively in CP.

#### **4.9. Observed Countermeasures and Solutions**

In response to these challenges, the research identified several grassroots solutions and countermeasures being implemented within the community policing framework in Shire Indaslassie:

**Community-Funded Security:** To counter the lack of official manpower, communities have taken the initiative to pay monthly fees to hire their own salaried local guards (militia).

**Promoting Accountability:** The community and conscientious police officers have worked together to expose corrupt officials, leading to some disciplinary actions, including removal from posts. This demonstrates an effort to strengthen the integrity of the system from within.

**Strengthening Awareness:** Community police leaders were working to intensify awareness campaigns and encourage stakeholders to maintain their commitment for the prevention of crime in their localities

**Creating Job Opportunities:** In an attempt to address unemployment, some CP units have tried to build relationships with small and micro-enterprises (SMEs) to create job opportunities for at-risk youth

**Motivation and Recognition:** CP leaders use community meetings to publicly recognize and thank individuals who have made significant contributions, while also denouncing those who are uncooperative, using social pressure as a tool for enforcement.

#### 4.10. Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study both support and expand upon existing literature on community policing in Ethiopia. The identified challenges, such as a lack of resources and passive community involvement due to fear, echo the conclusions of Mesay (2014) in Hawassa and Daniel (2012) in Addis Ababa. This suggests that these are systemic issues affecting the implementation of community policing across the country, not just in Shire Indaslassie.

The study's finding on the damaging effect of frequent police officer rotation provides a specific, practical insight that is less emphasized in previous literature. While scholars like Trojanowicz and Bucqueroux (1990) stress the need for officers to be assigned to a fixed area for a long period to build relationships, this study demonstrates how the failure to adhere to this principle directly undermines community policing efforts on the ground.

Furthermore, the data aligns with Social Disorganization Theory, which posits that crime is more likely in neighborhoods with low social bonding and a lack of collective efficacy. The fear of revenge and mistrust in the justice system, as revealed by participants, prevents the community from acting collectively, thereby creating an environment where crime can flourish despite the existence of a community policing framework. The program's partial success in building social cohesion is a step towards combating this, but it is insufficient without a corresponding strengthening of the formal justice system.

## CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1. Conclusion

This study investigated the practices and challenges of community policing in crime prevention in Shire Indaslassie Town. The research concludes that while community policing exists as a well-understood concept with established structures, its practical implementation is weak and its effectiveness in reducing overall crime rates is limited.

The primary strategies in use are Kebele-level meetings, youth-led patrols, and informal information sharing. While these practices have succeeded in improving social cohesion and fostering a sense of shared responsibility, they are insufficient to counter the rising crime trend.

The implementation is severely hindered by a combination of factors. The most critical challenges are a chronic lack of police personnel and logistics (especially vehicles); widespread community fear of criminal reprisal, which is exacerbated by a perceived weak justice system; and the disruptive official policy of frequently rotating police coordinators, which erodes trust and continuity. Consequently, community involvement remains inconsistent. While residents show a willingness to participate in meetings and contribute financially, their engagement in proactive crime reporting is low.

In summary, community policing in Shire Indaslassie has built a foundation of awareness but has failed to transition into an effective, proactive crime prevention mechanism. The gap between the program's philosophy and its on-the-ground reality remains wide.

### 5.2. Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed:

#### 1. **For the Shire Indaslassie Town Administration and Police Commission:**

**Address the Critical Resource Deficit:** Immediately develop a plan to increase the number of community police officers assigned to each Kebele. Furthermore, a specific budget must be allocated for the procurement of essential logistics, with at least one motorcycle or vehicle per Kebele station being the priority.

**Improve Street Lighting:** Collaborate with the local electricity provider to install streetlights in areas identified as crime hotspots. The absence of light was universally cited as a facilitator of crime.

## **2. For the Regional Police Commission:**

**Revise the Officer Rotation Policy:** Implement a minimum three-year posting duration for community policing coordinators in a single Kebele. This is essential for building the stable, trust-based relationships that are the foundation of community policing.

## **3. For the Community Policing Units and the Justice Department:**

**Enhance Accountability and Build Trust:** Establish a formal, confidential complaint mechanism for citizens to report police misconduct or inaction. Additionally, the justice department should work with the police to publicize the outcomes of criminal cases to demonstrate that offenders are being successfully prosecuted, thereby reducing community fear.

## **4. For Community Leaders and Police Officers:**

**Strengthen Partnerships with Local Institutions:** Proactively engage with local NGOs, religious institutions, and businesses to mobilize additional resources and support for youth engagement programs, which can help address the root causes of crime, such as unemployment.

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## **Appendixes**

### **MEKELLE UNIVERSITY**

#### **COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE**

##### **DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES: MA PROGRAM**

### **Appendix 1: In-depth Interview Guides**

#### **General Introduction:**

Dear participant, first of all, thank you for your involvement in this research. My name is Guesh Tadesse. I am an MA student in the Civics and Ethical Studies department at Mekelle University. I am here to ask you some questions for my study that aims to examine the practice and challenges of community policing in crime prevention in Shire Indaslassie town, Tigray. Your participation in this study shall be based completely on your willingness. Additionally, you are guaranteed to withdraw from the interview at any time or refuse to answer any question(s) that might make you uncomfortable. The study will be conducted for academic purposes, and any information you share with the researcher will be kept confidential. The information you give is vital to the achievement of the research objective. Therefore, you are kindly requested to give genuine and honest information.

Thank you in advance!

## Section 1: Interview Guide for Community Policing Department Head

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in CP: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which form of community policing are you implementing to prevent crimes in your jurisdiction?
2. Who are the key stakeholders in crime prevention through community policing?
3. How would you describe the role of each of these stakeholders?
4. How do you describe the overall role of community policing in crime prevention?
5. How effective is CP in preventing specific types of crimes?
6. How do you assess the role of CP in reducing crime rates and the public's fear of crime?
7. How are the core mechanisms of CP (problem-solving, community engagement, partnership) being used by officers to prevent crime?
8. What is the role of neighborhood watch guards in supporting community policing?
9. How does community policing help in preventing conflicts before they escalate into criminal activity?
10. Can you describe the level of coordination and partnership between the community and the police?
11. In your opinion, has community policing improved the relationship between the public and the police?
12. Is there anything else you would like to add regarding the role of community policing in crime prevention?

## Section 2: Interview Guide for Police Officers

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What does community policing mean to you, and how is it applied in Shire Indaslassie?
2. Can you describe the day-to-day practices of community policing in this town?
3. What specific strategies are being used?
4. How do community members participate in these strategies?
5. Have you observed any changes in crime rates since the implementation of CP?
6. How do you evaluate the role CP plays in minimizing crime and fear of crime?
7. How would you describe the current relationship between the police and the local community?
8. What are the major successes or achievements of community policing here?
9. What are the main challenges you face in implementing community policing?
10. Do you believe CP has helped build trust between the police and the public? Please explain.
11. What recommendations do you have to improve the effectiveness of community policing?

**Sub-Section-3: In-depth interview with community leaders who participate in crime prevention activities.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the roles of community policing in preventing crimes that occur in your neighborhood?
2. As a community leader, how do you evaluate the role of community policing in crime prevention?
3. How do you describe the involvement of community in community policing as a means of crime prevention?
4. How was community participants be reached and engaged in crime prevention program through community policing?
5. How do you evaluate the work of the community policing officers in local crime prevention partnerships in their respective jurisdictions?
6. What would you like to add about the role of community policing in crime prevention?

#### **Sub-Section-4: In-depth interview with community members**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in CP: \_\_\_\_\_

1. As a community member, how do you evaluate the role of community policing in crime prevention?
2. How do you describe the role of community policing in reducing crime and fear of crime in your block?
3. How do you describe the role of community- police relationship and partnership in crime prevention through community policing?
4. How do you evaluate residents' role in providing information about criminal activities taking place in their areas to the police through the community policing approach?
5. How do you assess the willingness and readiness of the community members (representatives) in terms of informing potential crime targets to community police officers?
6. What would you like to add about the role of community policing in crime prevention?

## Appendix 2: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide for Community Members

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Years in CP: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Generally, how do you describe the role of community participation in crime prevention in your neighborhood?
2. In what specific ways do you or your neighbors get involved in community policing activities?
3. What do you see as your role in preventing crime through community policing?
4. For which types of crime do you think community involvement is most effective?
5. How would you evaluate the commitment of the general public to participate in community policing?
6. How do you collaborate with community police officers to prevent crime in your area?
7. What is your general view about crime levels since the introduction of community policing?
8. In your opinion, what are the biggest impacts (positive or negative) of community participation in crime prevention?
9. How comfortable are you and your neighbors with providing crime-related information to the police? What makes it easy or difficult?
10. What would you like to add that we haven't discussed?

### **Appendix 3: Interview Guide for Key Informants (Community Leaders, Elders, Kebele Admins)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are the major factors that hinder community policing from effectively preventing crime in your jurisdiction?
2. What specific challenges prevent community members from fully participating?
3. What challenges do the police officers themselves face in doing their job?
4. How do you try to overcome these obstacles?
5. In your opinion, which types of crime are most difficult to prevent through community policing and why?
6. What challenges do you face when trying to recruit volunteers for crime prevention activities?
7. In your opinion, what is the single most important thing that should be done to make community policing more effective here?
8. Is there anything else you would like to add about the challenges facing community policing?

## **Appendix 4: Document Analysis Checklist**

### **1. Review of Official CP Strategy Documents:**

- Stated goals and objectives.
- Defined roles for police and community.
- Budget and resource allocation plans.

### **2. Analysis of Crime Statistics Records (Annual Reports):**

- Trends in reported crimes and CP implementation.
- Data on arrest rates vs. reported crimes.
- Identification of crime hotspots.

### **3. Review of Meeting Minutes from Community Policing Councils:**

- Frequency and attendance of meetings.
- Common issues and problems raised by the community.
- Decisions made and actions taken.
- Evidence of follow-up on community concerns.

### **4. Analysis of Police Personnel Records**

- Number of officers assigned to CP roles.
- Frequency of officer transfers/rotations in CP positions.
- Records of CP-specific training provided to officers.

## Appendix 4: Participatory Personal Observation Checklist

The Practice and Challenges of Community Policing in Crime Prevention in Shire Indaselassie Town

Part A: Observation of Community Policing Practices

(Focus on visible signs of police-community collaboration and proactive prevention)

Specific Notes/Examples:-----  
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A1. Police-Community Interaction:

- ✓ Police officers engaged in non-enforcement interactions with citizens (e.g., talking, greeting, advising).
- ✓ Police officers present at community gatherings or public events.

A2. Community Participation in Safety:

- ✓ Visible community watch groups or local safety patrols.
- ✓ Citizens proactively approaching police to share information or concerns.

A3. Visible Crime Prevention Initiatives:

- ✓ Public awareness materials (posters, signs) promoting safety or reporting crime.
- ✓ Police and/or community efforts to improve public space safety (e.g., cleaning, minor repairs, improving lighting).

Part B: Observation of Challenges to Community Policing (Focus on visible barriers or difficulties in effective community policing)

Specific Notes/Examples :-----  
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B1. Low Trust / Limited Cooperation:

- ✓ Citizens visibly avoiding or showing hesitation towards police officers.
- ✓ Signs of apathy or disinterest from the community regarding safety initiatives.

B2. Resource & Capacity Gaps:

- ✓ Police presence appearing inadequate for the size/needs of the area.
- ✓ Lack of visible infrastructure or tools for community engagement (e.g., dedicated community meeting points, clear reporting mechanisms).

B3. Visible Crime / Disorder:

- ✓ Obvious signs of petty crime, public disorder, or vandalism in public spaces.
- ✓ Areas appearing neglected, poorly maintained, and potentially conducive to crime.

Part C: Overall Impressions

- ✓ General Feeling/Atmosphere related to Safety & Policing:\_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Most Prominent Practice Observed:\_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Most Significant Challenge Observed: Any Surprising Observations:\_\_\_\_\_