



The Role of Community Policing in Crime Prevention and Public Trust in Law Enforcement

Ambreen Aslam

District & Sessions Judge Sindh High Court, Karachi, Visiting Faculty Sindh Judicial Academy, Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

ambreenaslam8@gmail.com

Muhammad Tahir

Associate Professor School of Law, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

drtahir949@gmail.com

Rubab Shaikh

Student of Law, Ziauddin University, Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

Rubabaslam298@gmail.com

Abstract

In major cities of Pakistan, the crime rate is steadily intensifying. One of the immense causes of increasing crime in major cities is a relocating movement of criminals from their native areas to metropolitan cities. These individuals momentarily or permanently reside in major urban cities and there they commit crimes ranging from street crimes like mugging, car theft, mobile phone snatching, to more serious offenses such as murder and both shortterm and long-term kidnapping and after committing offences they escape back to their hometowns. Characteristically these criminals are committing crimes in metropolitan areas like Karachi in this specific sprawling situation implementation of community policing can play a vital role in rebuilding/restoring public trust and confidence in the criminal justice system. Fostering sense of a serenity and safety, plus promoting collaboration between law enforcement agencies and communities.

Keywords: *crime rate intensifying, relocating movement, criminal justice, law enforcement, public trust, community policing.*



Introduction

Pakistan is populous multiethnic country and most of the citizens are resident of rural areas and some of them around 36% are residing in urban regions. (GOP per Capita) AS per Trading Economic Report the GDB of Pakistan in December 2023 was 1664 per capita which is very low amongst the neighboring countries and collectively in Asia. Adhering to that (crime index by country 2024 Mid-year) as per 2024 Mid-year crime index report Pakistan stands on 43.4% position and if the crime rate exclusively related to assault and armed robbery be contemplated only of metropolitan cities of Pakistan, mainly Karachi be taken as test case, then as per statistics it is 66.28 (Crime in Karachi, safety in Karachi) which is very high index. It is also a human nature to increase his living standard to provide best future to his family and to achieve that objective he tries to upsurge his means, and then he turns to big cities and it should not be doubted, that all the people who move from villages to city, have the intention of committing some crimes, or the other, actually they come to big cities to breadwinning, for their families and while saying so, it cannot be intended that the people who are residing in rural areas since their birth, cannot commit any offence /crime in major cities. Generally in Pakistan people due to their enmities goes to metropolitans and the opponents in search of them, reach to the cities, for taking revenge and, mostly after committing murder or kidnaping, they usually return back to their instinctive places. Besides this mostly people arrive to big cities like Karachi, with intention to commit crimes, and these crimes include mugging, car theft, mobile phone snatching, long and short- term kidnapping, extortion and unauthorized occupancy, fraud, cheating and many more crimes. Along aside some time they after committing road accident with trawlers, trucks and buses run away, to hide themselves in their native places. So to control those transgressions of criminal minds, it is necessary to uphold Security in Pakistan, watchful eye be kept at the door, and in this context, community policing is a great and effective option, in Crime Prevention and for restoring Public Trust in Law Enforcement and in criminal justice system.

Literature Review

Background and system of operation of community policing

Prior converging community policing the one has to comprehend the distinction between ordinary policing and community policing. Ordinary police is entrusted with many tasks by the law, some of them are being replicated as follows, to protect life and property of citizens, maintain public piece, preparing reports, prevention of crime, investigations, arrest of culprits, rapid response to calls, appearing in courts and many more.



So far notion of community policing is concerned its origin links back to the primary 19th century with (LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP) Sir Robert Peel's principles of policing in London, he accentuated the importance of police-community relations and crime prevention. Eventually community policing is an approach which emphasizes building relationships and partnerships with the community to proactively discourse the reasons of crime and community disorder and this prospective persuades on crime prevention, problems solving, and collaboration and engagement of community members with police to cater safer environment for society. The prime object of community policing is to build relationship with the community, so it can work with collaborative and interactive approach to curb the crime in vicinity. as community Police works meticulously with collaboration of community members, local organizations, and other stakeholders to establish trust to solve issue conjointly.

In the community policing, police personal would be selected /appointed by the government from the vicinity therefore he being the inhabitant of same place would maintain his integrity and reputation and would be more accountable then the ordinary police man because, the ordinary police has their own system and mechanism for accountability and for their culpability the feedback of public often do not required and considered by their official hierarchy.

Basically duty of ordinary police is to focus its all exert efforts on enforcement of law being authoritative figure whereas community policing focusing on building relationship with the community to build trust and resolve issues underscoring empathetically and addressing fundamental causes of crime.

System of Operation

The fundamental concept of community policing is the notion that the community police should proactive with the community, rather than just perceptive to crimes, police should engage with the community in order to prevent them. Typically, the Operating System of community policing structured around three primary components.

Community Partnership

This includes encouraging strong relationships between the community and the police. In order to comprehend the issues affecting the area, officers engage extensively with neighbors, businesses, schools, citizens including vicinity, By convening regular meetings, conducting events for the community, and collaborating collectively to resolve problems, police may



develop a support system that enhances their capacity and capability to preserve public safety and trust.

Organizational Transformation

To make community policing effective, it's essential to establish community organizations under the control of provincial government. For successful organizational transformation, the government should extemporize and distribute areas and designate local territories considering density of population per square mile of population and take initiatives by organizing frequent training sessions, workshops, and symposiums to trained the community police officers and the public in that modules the duties of community policing and liabilities of the public should be enlighten, These measures will help community police officers to develop proficiency in community engagement and problem-solving techniques.

Additionally, creating specialized units can help community policing achieve substantial objectives, aligning with its primary aim, making the police force more responsive and accountable to the communities they serve. Community police officers can contribute through ground patrolling, monitoring, surveillance, and active observation. Initiatives to encourage cooperation and collaboration between community members and the police, such as neighborhood watch programs and youth involvement activities, could be transformative. Setting up community policing offices within neighborhoods is one practical example of how this approach can be implemented. The goal is to foster a shared sense of accountability for public safety, where both the community and police contribute to upholding law and order and improving the overall quality of life.

Problem-Solving

The problem-solving abilities approach termed the SARA model (Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment) is the foundation of community policing. in this module the officers would endure trainings to categorize and analyze the root causes of persistent problems with pandemonium and unlawful disorders. Consequently focusing on merely addressing the signs and symptoms, community police can address the root causes of these challenges by cooperating with the community to develop individualized options for resolution of crimes.

Significance and objective of the study

The aim of this study is to emphasize the establishment of community policing in Karachi, the largest metropolitan city in Pakistan, where crime rates are steadily rising, and the



ordinary police force, limited in number, struggles to cope with the growing crisis. Globally, community policing is considered an essential strategy for present and future policing efforts. This article examines the similarities and differences in the implementation of community policing across various countries and policing systems. A key focus is to encourage community policing to become more effective and integrated within society to meet the needs of the community. The article also outlines the factors that influence efforts to implement community policing. This will enable stakeholders to comprehend the situation and identify potential solutions.

Research Methodology

This research espouses a quantitative and qualitative research design, to evaluate and assess the effect of usage of community policing technique to curb the crime and decrease the crime rate in whole Pakistan, specifically in metropolitan cities of Pakistan. A data was gathered specifically, keeping in view the total area, population ratio and deployed police to overcome the crime rate in the largest metropolitan city of Pakistan. The comparison is also drawn with the main cities of developed countries those who are succeeding in control of crime by using same methods and technique.

Discussion and Analysis

Before deep downing in the discussion on the subject, it is essential to analyze precise circumstance of Pakistan and expressly in particular crime factors in Karachi, firstly one could have to perceive total area, population, administrative division and deployed police in Karachi. as per (macrotrends) total population of metropolitan city Karachi is 17, 649, 000, and it increases day by day. So far area of (ENCYCLOPEDIA) Karachi is concerned it consist of 3,780 km^2 and population in Karachi is 20.3 million approximately dense of 5800 people per square mile whereas police engaged in Karachi city is in total number 26,647 and amongst them only 14,433 are arrayed for maintaining law and order, Since in Karachi as per mentioned number of police officials it is easy to grasp that in a biggest metropolitan city as per data mentioned supra only 14,433 holding up law and order on the population of 20.3 million people can it be feasible and practicable, so in this explicit scenario the community policing is dire need of the day. so far placement of police to curb crime in Karachi is concerned, as per reported by (DAWN E PAPER) about 26,647 policemen are deployed in Karachi amongst them only 14,433 policemen are positioned to maintain law and order and guard the lives and properties of population of more than 18 million people of Karachi, which



is substantially inadequate, in (TRIBUNE.PK.KARACHI) it is reported that as per survey conducted by OICCI'S 2024 street crime rate in Karachi increased from 69% to 80%.

So in specific scenario community policing is one of the best solutions to control or restrict the crime in Karachi. Commonly Japan is known, for its community policing system, as it is an excellent model, as world witnessing through the years that the Japan well recognized safest and low crime rate country. So if the same system of community policing be adopted in Pakistan, some development can be made to lessen the crime rate. Community police system operates such a way that the officer he being resident of the same vicinity assign task to monitor security in the vicinity and such undertaking in Karachi is possible when the government outline and prescribe territorial sub divisions in districts, as in metropolitan cities like (DAWN E PAPER) Karachi, the existing division split up, in seven district municipal corporations which are further alienated into 26 towns and the towns additionally split off in 233 union committees which is very less.

As Pakistan is facing socioeconomic issues along with terrorism extremism chaos parallel to that collectively in major cities of Pakistan the crime rate is increasing and one of the major factor in escalating of crime is that the people of country travels from their native places to major cities and do make dwelling there for short or long periods, in any vicinity and mostly after committing of crime they usually flee away to their native place. The criminals mostly are involved in street crimes such as mugging, car snatching, mobile phone snatching, motorcycle theft and snatching including heinous crimes such as murder, short term kidnapping, long term kidnapping, Karachi police (Bertus, n.d.) released the data of street crimes for the year 2023 according to which 90,000 incidents were re-counted in the city. As per the reports, more than 90,000 occurrences ensued in Karachi and amongst those crimes 134 people were brutally murdered and hundreds wounded over resisting robberies, while 411 people were killed in various incidents. Additionally, more than 59,305 motorbikes and 2,336 cars were lifted and snatched, whereas, 28,000 people deprived of cell phones. This report unveiled that in 2023, two banks were robbed, in the meantime, kidnapping and extortion increased preceding year with 17 incidents of kidnapping for ransom, along with 50 cases of extortion reported last year in Karachi. It is pertinent to mention here that the street crime publicized by police shows the worsened state of law and order in Karachi with over 81,000 occurrences in 2022. The street crime record of Karachi reveals that more than 81 incidents were recounted, this year. 52,000 motorbikes were pilfered and snatched, while,



26,400 citizens were rundown of cell phones. Moreover 2,000 vehicles were lifted and snatched.

SO keeping these variables in consideration one can comprehend through the example of another city which is (WIKIPEDIA) London, the total area of London is 607 square mile or 1572 square kilometer and population of London is 8,866,180 and the (THE WIKIPEDIA THE FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA) administrative division of London city consist of 32 borough councils and (STATISTA) and total 34,889 police officers have been engaged in London for the year 2023. Accordingly to comprehend the methods, approaches and techniques adopted by the countries having community policing to reduce the crime rate they, are as follows as per chronological order.

Australia

In Australia, community policing has been recognized as unyielding strategy in crime reduction. In Australia, Community Police (Office of Justice Programs) works meticulously with native societies, to monitor their needs and problems, community police uses collaboration approaches to shows their concern in addressing those problems and issues, to prevent crime, (numbeo) reports the crime rate in mid-year 2024 in Australia was 47.2% ,undeniably it ensued by application of community policing approach and adoption of safety measures with cooperation of communities, which is making in noticeable reduction in crime rates in several regions of Australia and named it low crime rate country.

Canada

Canadian metropolises like Toronto and Vancouver are effectively engaged in community policing. (Keeping Canada Safe) Their methodology emphasizes on collaboration, with native communities. As per (NEMBO) record the crime rate in Canada, up till mid-year 2024 was 45.46%.eventually which ensued by adopting such approaches and methods, specifically with cooperation of community in crime prevention, Canadian government continues successions in building trust, effectively resulting in a safer environment.

Japan

(Repository of the Acadmy's Library) Japan's Koban system, which includes small neighborhood police stations, community policing approach has been highly effective in japan, as the world knows, the crime rate in japan is very less, and due to Koban system it is consider the safest country in the world, in japan the working approach is analogous like



applied by the other developed countries. In Japan the modus operandi of community policing is that the community police Officers, builds strong interactions with community members, which helps to prevent of crime and resolution of issues quickly, and in the result of that cooperation and coordination Japan succeeded to reduce its crime rate (NUMBEO) up to midyear 2024 as less as of 22.66%. So considering the crime rate at this percent definitely the Japan has taken some apparent changes to reduce the crime rate. In the world we learn something from someone so why not Japan's Koban system be applied to make the world better place to live.

United Kingdom

In United Kingdom (GOV.UK) community policing is known as "Neighborhood Policing," the community policing model in the UK, reinforces collaborations, recognition, and commitment with communities. This approach significantly reduces crime (NUMBEO) up to 47.76% and in consequence, the government succeeded to reap public's confidence in (Rutledge) the community policing system, which has significantly decreased as a result of this strategy.

United States of America

The community policing in the USA aimed to reconstruct trust and cooperation among the police and the public, by accentuating the role of the police as members of the community, who work together with citizens to solve problems. A majority of U.S. cities, such as Chicago and New York, have endorsed community policing approaches. (Office of the Justice Programs) In several areas, (NUMBEO) crime rates have significantly reduced as a result of measures taken by (ResearchGate) the U.S government, to promote community policing with collaborative cooperation partnerships with the community and succeeded to reduce crime rate 49.21% (ASSOCIATION), community policing in the U.S, during 1980s and 1990s started to progress with central point on crime prevention, problem-solving, and partnership-building with community members.

Conclusion and recommendations

Since in Pakistan common policing is indefatigably operative and as per their accessible set up, they are trying to deliver, and as per their maximum potential are making efforts to chase the criminals and to curb the crime, but due to various factors including crime surge, specifically due to lack of resources and shortage of workforce, they are unable to meet with the expectations of public therefore the best solution which is prevalent in the developed



world, is a community policing system, community policing embraces significant potential to discourse the exceptional challenges encountered by law enforcement in Pakistan. As it is important that the community police workers shall be selected amongst the neighborhood, as he/she being resident of same locality would have sufficient knowledge, about the vicinity geographical locations and about the residents so also he being the resident of same vicinity would be able to find out the purpose of arrival of any visitor to metropolitan cities or shifting of that person with or without his family along with the time span of his/her stay either permanently or temporarily, As until and unless in prevailing circumstances where there is always threat of terror or other crimes, the atmosphere there always shadows of fear are signaling, the collection and maintenance of data of citizens who are residing in Karachi permanently or temporarily and the visitors/citizens who arrive and depart could easily support the police to curb crime specifically with coordination and cooperate of public. The community policing serves potential purposes and is suited to Pakistan's circumstances specifically the authorities should consider the number of population per square mile particularly in Karachi which is 5800 people per square mile and only 14,433 police force is available for entire Karachi which consists of total area 3,780 km² so for maintaining piece and serenity in the minds of public and in environment, the planning of deployment of community police is Ineluctable and If the government finds it is not possible in larger scale then initially the government could create some specific areas and may start the community policing system in small scales and if get desired results, may apply in metropolitans and after success in rural areas can spread in entire Pakistan. The one of the best advantage of community policing is that the supreme condition of worker should be his association and domicile, with the specific vicinity and without implementation of this condition change is not possible, along with that definitely employment opportunities will increase and the people will get the job which will eliminate the poverty and also make it easier to control crime. Since the common policing is effective for instantaneous law enforcement and crime response, whereas the community policing would keep focus on long-term solutions, to gain public trust, with partnership-building to create safer environment for communities. As it is a balanced approach that incorporates effective strategies to address crime and maintain public safety.



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