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Mr. Devis Rwamuhizi & Dr. Eugenia Nkechi Irechukwu

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Police-Community Partnerships and Community Relation Promotion in Rwanda National Police (RNP): The Case of Nyaruguru District

^{*1}Mr.Devis Rwamuhizi & ²Dr. Eugenia Nkechi Irechukwu

¹Master of International Relations and Diplomacy, Mount Kenya University, Kigali, Rwanda

²Mount Kenya University, Kigali, Rwanda

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the role of Police-community partnerships in promoting community relations with a case of three sectors, which are Nyabimata, Ruheru, and Muganza that were selected from the list of 14 sectors in Nyaruguru district. The study objectives were; to determine the role of information sharing between RNP and Community in promoting community relations, to examine how the fight against gender-based violence by RNP has promoted community relations, and to explore the role of a fight against organized crimes by RNP in promoting community relations in the selected three sectors of Nyaruguru district. The study applied mixed methods, which consisted of quantitative and qualitative methods to collect and analyze data. Data was collected from a sample size of 384 community members, 6 local leaders, and 15 police officers using questionnaires and interviews respectively. For data analysis, descriptive and inferential were used that consisted of frequencies, percentages, mean, standard deviation, correlation, and regression for quantitative data, and content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data from interviews. Findings revealed that there was a negative significant correlation between police-community information sharing and community relations ($r = -0.200^{**}$ $P = 0.05$) and a positive significant correlation between Police fight against GBV and community relations ($r = 0.136^{**}$ $P = 0.05$). There was no significant correlation between Police fight against organized crimes and community relations ($r = -0.010^{**}$ $P = 0.05$). The value of adjusted R-square is 0.0336 meaning that all the independent variables included in the model explained 33.6% of the dependent variable, which is community relations indicating that the model adequately fits the data. The strength of the model is further reconfirmed by ANOVA which indicates that P-value of 0.000 at a 95% level of significance. Therefore, it is concluded that police-community partnerships significantly influence community relations in the Nyaruguru district. The study recommended based on regression findings that the police should continue engaging in various community partnerships aimed at promoting community relations.

Keywords: *Police-Community Partnerships, Community Relation Promotion, Rwanda National Police, Rwanda*

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1.1 Introduction

The 1994 genocide caused social disorder among the Rwandan citizens and there were serious broken relationships among community members and the peacekeeping forces and therefore there was a need to create a proactive force to restore broken relationships in the post genocide period which led to the creation of Rwanda National Police in 2000 that was preceded by three uncoordinated para-military defense forces which included; Gendarmerie Nationale, Communal Police and the Judicial Police Inspectors (Abagi, 2010). When RNP came into service, the first major point of action was consolidation of peace, safety and security through community partnerships which the previous forces had failed to do enforce (Murenzi, 2020). The Police partnerships with the community are evident via promotion of basic values of security and safety achieved through community policing which has enabled the Police and community members to share information necessary for good relationships (RNP, 2015). Furthermore, the police have promoted relationships between itself and community members through promotion of gender balance in RNP where women have been recruited to deal with problems related to women in communities where by the percentage of women in Police increased from 12% in 2008 to 16% in 2018 (RNP, 2015). The RNP has engaged in promoting family relationships by engaging in the fight against gender-based violence and child abuse (Mugambage, 2015).

The study conducted by Rubanzana *et al.*, (2015) indicated that RNP has faced many challenges such as rapid turnover in foreign monitors and advisers, surprising growth in organized crimes, limited resources and neglect of back support capacities in its struggle to foster community relationships (International Peace Academy, 2003). Despite this background knowledge about the RNP, knowledge about the nature/status of the relationships between RNP and community member, roles played by RNP in promoting relationships among community members and the challenges faced by RNP is limited and therefore this study sets out to examine the effectiveness of Rwanda National Police (RNP) in promoting community relations using Nyaruguru district as a case study area.

1.2 Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study was to determine role of police-community partnerships in promoting community relations, a case of Rwanda National Police (RNP) and Nyaruguru District. The specific objectives were;

- (i) To determine the role of information sharing between RNP and Community in promoting community relations in Nyaruguru District.
- (ii) To examine how the fight against gender-based violence by RNP has promoted community relations in Nyaruguru District.
- (iii) To explore the role of fight against organized crimes by on promoting community relations by RNP in Nyaruguru district.

1.4 Research Hypotheses

H₀₁: There is no statistically significant relationship between information sharing and Community relations promotion in RNP in Nyaruguru district

H₀₂: There is no statistically significant relationship between fight against gender-based violence and community relations promotion of in RNP in Nyaruguru district

H₀₃: There is no statistically significant relationship between fight against organized crimes and promotion of community relations in RNP in Nyaruguru District

2.1 Empirical Literature Review

2.1.1 Role of information sharing between Police and community members

According to Przeszlowski and Crichlow, (2018) study on the importance of police-community relations in promoting crime free environment, results from a multivariate regression revealed that majority of the police forces have been establishing contractual partnerships in communities in which they operate aimed at information sharing. These profound relationships have been found to aid and facilitate trust and honesty between community members and security organizations like Police (UNDP, 2018). The information shared as a results of partnerships with security forces maybe vital for the security of businesses personnel, community leaders, social service workers, community members and healthcare providers (Haider, 2019; Manaliyo and Muzindutsi, 2013). In ancient times, community participation in information sharing was limited but in the recent past this trend has been growing tremendously (Jannetta and Lachman, 2011). The collaborations are beneficial to both the police and the community.

Studies by Jannetta and Lachman, (2011); Timor-leste and Bolton, (2013) about Information sharing have revealed that better police-community information sharing is important in development of trust between police and citizens in any country around the world for which without this trust, police work ends in vain. Absence of trust between police and community makes people feel unsafe even if police officers are preventing crime. The field of police-community partnerships emerged since the past two years after community policing was underscored by community supervision agencies in the United States. Reports indicates that society security position, with a focal point on construction of corporation and tempting in analytical efforts to deal with offense, communal chaos, and the terror of offense proactively, gives a strong basis for partnership amid law enforcement agencies and society people.

The challenge of community crime require too much supervision and patrol by any state police which would cost the country huge sums of money but if the police can partner with local community members supervision can be easy and cheap (Gaffigan *et al.*, 2014). Police-community associations can attain better community security outcomes in 4 different methods and these are; facilitation of supervision success, interruption of criminogenic behaviors, intercepting police officer's failure, and combating community based crimes (UNODC, 2020).

Police-community members partnership information sharing create chances for easy mobilization of funds for security since financial resources requested for collectively are frequently more winning than applications from solitary applicants (Mastrofski, 2007). Another benefit of police and community participating in information is the ability of each to improve to do their job because they can sketch on the help, data, know-how, and ready capacity from each other. Police around the world is improving its way it appears to the public through elimination of fighter approach and focusing on equality among all citizens which has promoted collaboration between itself and other community members (Gaffigan *et al.*, 2014).

According to the study conducted by Levin and Tadelis, (2015) that aimed to identify the role of Police Community information sharing a review of literature results found a variety of motives for forming partnerships among which included; effort to decrease offense and perk up superiority of existence for people of the society. Some community associations are practiced to combat home hostility and sexual abuse. Coordinated community response is one of the police-community information sharing strategies amid law enforcement agencies and

communal repair givers such as babies' homes, hospitals, and women shelters among others (UNODC, 2020). Police partners with these to decrease youngster mistreatment and desert and intimate partner violence. In England, Police has partnered with communal repair givers to enable response to child abuse and domestic violence. Other collaborations involve Police partnering with hospitals to respond to sexual abuses for example in Tanzania, partnership between Police and healthcare personnel was initiated to respond to rape victims (Asante, 2016).

Some Police-community partnerships have been formed targeting sharing information between the youth who are in adolescent stage and are liable to turn into rebel groups or able to develop anti-social behaviors (Manaliyo and Muzindutsi, 2013). Around the world many youths have rebelled against their parents and run away from homes and through community and policy information sharing; these youths have been dealt with. In this review, I have reviewed the majority of the roles of police-community information sharing but these partnerships are limited in the African continent since majority have been taking place in the USA and European union countries hence a research gap.

2.1.2 Fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promotion of community relations

Gender based violence can simply be referred to as violence that involves women and men, whereby in most cases the woman is the victim. This is usually derived from unequal power relations between the two genders. Gender based violence against women usually includes; bodily, gender, emotional. Clark and Mills, (2014) study that applied mixed methods indicated that about 35% of all women globally are experiencing at least one shape of gender-based violence. The Diverse roles and action exhibited by men and women are determined by masculinity customs within the society. The gender norms in most cases results into gender inequalities that contribute limited access to healthcare, employment opportunities, limited income, limited political participation and educational attainment. All these inequalities created gender norms have further worsened the situation resulting into gender-based violence.

Target 5.2 goals 5 that aim to attain sexual category parity and give power to all females by 2030 of the UN sustainable growth ambition identify removal of all forms of brutality alongside females in all spheres including personal and public arenas. The police have been also engaged in the fight against gender-based violence worldwide. Some countries have formed women police to deal with issues of domestic violence since it has been found out that women are usually the victims in this case. The UN women have encouraged all police stations in the world to create gender desk to deal with all issues related to gender-based violence. Also according to Crocker *et al.*, (2016) unpublished master's thesis that used questionnaires in Zambia, correlation results revealed that police gender desk was responsible effectual avoidance, examination and outstanding service relief when working with issues of gender-based violent behavior with scrupulous focus on marital possessions, wife rough treatment among others. This indicates the extent to which police has engaged in public relations through prevention and fight against domestic violence. Tiani, (2015 conducted about ending gender based violence in the Caribbean results revealed that Police have been involved negotiation and accomplishments to promote the protection and justice for gender based violence victims through advocacy, education, extension of services and legal reform. Furthermore, the police have been spearheading the change of cultural norms that further maintain GBV. The police also provide practical support such as shelter, crisis lines and counseling for violence victims and encouragement of women to report cases of GBV immediately to the nearby police station.

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Through Police activities of investigating alleged violence incidents against women, conducting investigations in a manner that preserves the rights and dignity of women, taking action to support and protect all crime victims and prevention of crime, maintaining public order and enforcing laws, the police has managed to build relationships to enable smooth outcome achievement but studies have indicated that the police has failed to fulfill its duties related to domestic violence (Haider, 2019). Police has been involved in separation of victims of domestic violence from perpetrators to ensure that the victims are out of each other's to avoid the fight from erupting again and collection of exhibits and evidences of GBV has created relationships between police and the local community (UNDP, 2018).

According to the study Manaliyo and Muzindutsi, (2013) conducted in Kenya that used mixed methods of information compilation, regression results indicated that Police has been engaged in training and encouragement of domestic violence in help seeking behavior in case of gender based violence and engaged with society influential persons and casual associations to characteristically help survivors of aggression. The police is part of the legal system in solving cases related to GBV since they are some forms required by the judicial system in to prove the validity of the case and provides secure locations for discussing sensitive matters related to GBV(Williamson and Clark, 2020). However the struggle by police to intervene in domestic violence cases has been affected by cultural norms that consider reporting GBV cases a taboo and a private issue in the family setting in most countries worldwide (Menkhaus, 2012). The women fear reporting GBV because they fear being retaliated by perpetrators.

2.1.3 Effect of fighting against organized crimes on promotion of community relations

Organized crimes can be defined as types of transnationals, national or local groups managed and run by criminals to engage criminal activities and these organized are majorly interested in profit making however others are politically motivated such as the terrorist groups. These organized criminal groups can be also referred to as; the mafia, gang or underworld. These have been found to impact the police in keeping law and order both at national and community level. According to Wanjohi, (2016) study, it was revealed that between 5-17% of the recorded crimes occurring within the neighborhoods were attributed to organized crime.

In West Africa, organized crimes were found to infiltrate governments, business and undermine the efficiency of these systems through enabling corruption and violence (Menkhaus, 2012). Organized crimes were further found to weaken the government capacity by stealing/leeching resources that would be used to cater to the citizens who have led to declining relationship between people and the government (Crocker *et al.*, 2016). In Latin America, organized crimes have led to the loss of property since these gangs are found of stealing their neighbors belongings hence reducing community relations (Clark and Mills, 2014). Organized crimes promote human trafficking and drug abuse which break relationship between the victims and perpetrator.

The danger of organized crimes penetrates the daily life of normal person because the people involved use violence and corruption to attain inhuman goals and objectives (Crocker *et al.*, 2016). The criminals in organized crime organizations often exploit legal persons to commit their crimes. Criminals have been participating in a variety of criminal acts such as burning of building, killing people, bombings and all these activities have reduced community relations since people have been able to lose their loved ones. For years majority of researchers have been engaged in the examining the casual relationship between organized crimes and community relations and results have indicated that these crimes strengthen community

cohesions since community members always come together to fight the crime and crime perpetrators (Clark, 2012). Organized crimes are always accompanied by violence and community instabilities. There is a theorist called Walter reported that criminal activities undermined social order and cohesion in the community.

2.2 Research gap

The role of Police in enabling community relations has been analyzed and it was found out that police has managed to promote partnership in communities that has increased trust and honesty between the parties. The partnerships between Police and community members were found useful in providing useful information regarding crimes prevailing in the community. The police-community partnerships have been found to promote safety, aid and support supervision since the police is always not on ground to supervise each corner of the community and therefore these partnership helps community to supervise it's like the way police would not manage.

The police-community partnership was found to help in applying humanitarian aid as would be hard for a single organization to apply for funding. However, few studies have been done on this topic and most studies done here have taken place outside Rwanda and studies did not specifically focus on police but general security forces. Therefore, it is imperative to focus on police with specific emphasis on RNP and its role in promotion of community relations.

The fight against gender-based violence by police and promotion of community relations has been enormously explored in many contexts and countries since GBV is a worldwide problem. It has been found that the Police have participated in mediation activities between aggrieved women and men. Furthermore, Police has engaged in negotiation and accomplishments to promote the protection and justice for gender-based violence victims through advocacy, education, extension of services and legal reform. Establishment of GBV desks at police station, provision shelter and separation of GBV victims from perpetrators has been done by police around the world.

The research gap identified under this theme is that roles played by Police in fighting GBV has not study that attaches statistical evidence which my study aims to do by incorporating mixed methods research. No study has compared specifically RNP and its struggle to fight GBV. Organized crimes have been indicated to undermine government capacity to distribute resources and promote corruption among the judicial officers. However, there is not study found that related organized crimes and promotion of community relations hence a gap to be filled.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework presents the association amid self-governing and reliant and sometimes with extraneous/intervening/moderating/confounding variables amidst the two. For this study, the dependent and independent variables respectively are role RNP and community relations. However, the indentation variable has been broken down into three themes which represents the objectives of the study and these are; how RNP community partnerships have aided in promotion of relations, how the fight against gender-based violence by RNP has promoted community relations and the impact of organized crimes on promotion of community relations by RNP in Nyaruguru district as presented in Figure 1.

Independent variables

Police community policing

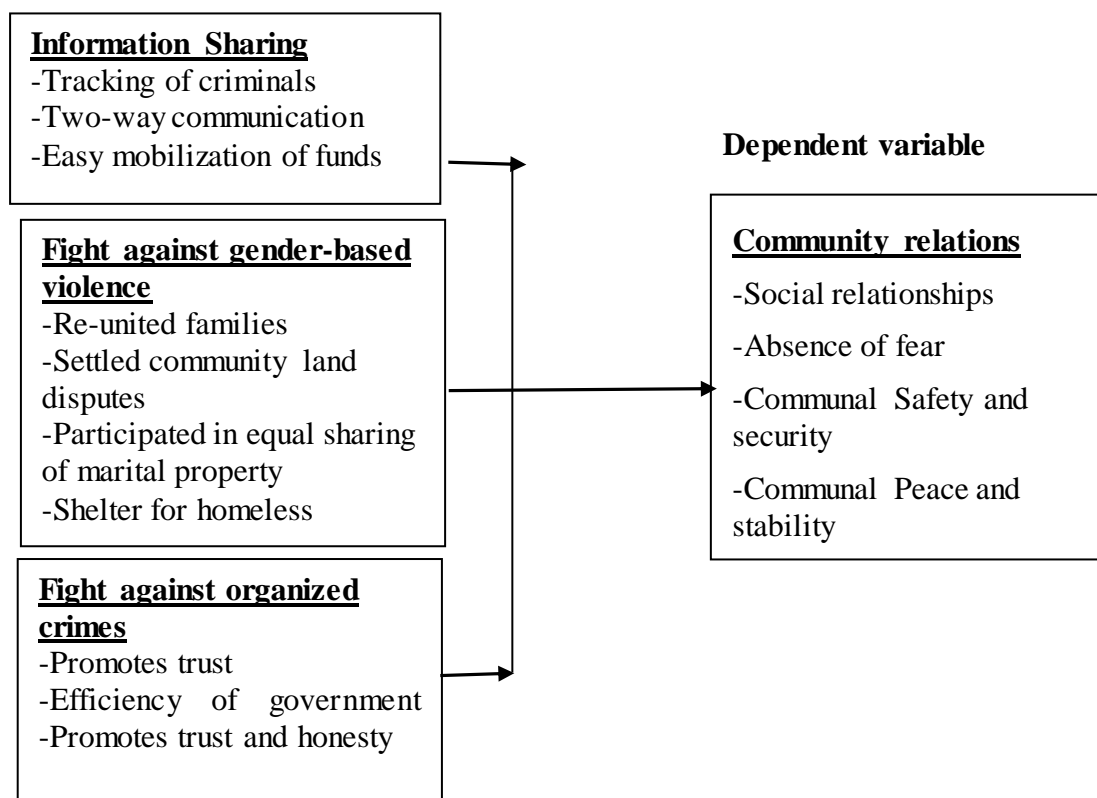


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

Adopted with modification from (Crocker, *et al.*, 2016; Hollywood & Winkelman, 2015; Manaliyo & Muzindutsi, 2013).

As indicated in figure 2.1 the independent variables include; Role of RNP-community partnerships (Tracking of criminals, sharing information, two-way communication, and Easy mobilization of funds, Promotes trust and honesty). The constructs under information sharing have also been repeated by prior study for example indicated that information sharing has expanded too much among the law enforcement agencies including police where it has been indicated that the sharing of information has greatly helped in detection and prevention of acts of terrorism (Sander, 2010). It has further been revealed that information sharing enables law enforcement agencies in constructing long lasting relations aimed at bringing peace and security (Manaliyo & Muzindutsi, 2013). Police-community partnerships were found to influence community relations in that sharing information involves interaction and willingness to work together (UNDP, 2018). Despite the role of information sharing in promoting community relations, the information sharing architecture has been reported to be missing in most developing countries including Rwanda (Hollywood & Winkelman, 2015). Countries lack ICTs, internet connection and transport systems requiring for transferring information from the source to recipients (Hollywood & Winkelman, 2015)

Furthermore, Jannetta and Lachman, (2011) revealed that Police-community partnerships are important in fighting against gender based violence crimes in communities. The introduction of gender based violence desk in police has helped in solving issues related to family

wrangles and this has too much trust in police among community members hence community relations for example a study conducted in Nigeria Police has been found to significantly engage in fight against gender based violence through re-united families, settled community land disputes, participated in equal sharing of marital property and provided shelter for homeless (NPF, 2010) which has improved the relationship between police and communities.

Furthermore in Uganda, findings of the study conducted by Kabonesa and Kindi, (2020) revealed that the police has settled family disputes regarding GBV and sharing of marital property and impact of organized crimes on police. Gender based violence has been reported to account for 90% of all the community relations destabilizer in the developing countries (Williamson & Clark, 2020). The involvement of police in other family conflicts such as land wrangles, family property inheritance issues among others has helped the community to live in peace and share resources which has further promoted relations (Clark and Mills, 2014). Organized crimes have for a long time been reported as the major causes of community insecurity where people fear each other thinking that everyone is a terrorist. Harmony and tranquility is always lacking in crime affected communities but the work of police in fighting these crimes has been reported to increase security and improve social relations in community as people feel together and can easily socialize without thinking of being insecure. The dependent variable is the community relations (CR) which can be measured in terms of Social relationships, Community participation, Safety and security and Peace and stability. The independent and dependent variable can sometimes be intermediated by police policy and community members' attitudes towards community relations. In order to have flourishing community relations, information sharing, fight against based violence and fight against organized crimes among policy departments must come into play (Crocker *et al.*, 2016; Hollywood and Winkelman, 2015; Manaliyo & Muzindutsi, 2013). Community relations heavily depend on these works that are normally carried out by police in many countries around the world.

3. Materials and Methods

In Researcher deployed a mixed methods design. It was undertaken using a survey questionnaires and interviews. Therefore, both numerical and thematic data was got. Mixed research method is an evolving method of research that uses methodical mixing of measurable and thematic information inside one scientific research (Wisdom and Creswell, 2013) and these methods aid triangulation of results that helps in strengthening research findings (Almalki, 2016). The study targeted community from three selected sectors of Nyabimata, Ruheru, Muganza in Nyaruguru district and applied the Fischer's formula to determine the appropriate sample size since the population size of the district as of 2021 is not known. The Fischer's formula puts in consideration of the standard error of 5%, the study also targeted 15 police officers choosing five from the nearby police station in each sector and 6 local leaders choosing two from each of the three sectors. All these are stakeholders that are believed to have sufficient knowledge relating police- community relations hence important for the study. Therefore, the study selected 384 community members distributed equally into three sectors meaning that each sector 128 respondent were selected.

The researcher will use Fisher formula to determine sample size where the study shall select 384 community members from three sectors meaning that in each sector 128 respondent shall be selected, 6 local leaders and 15 police officers will be also selected. In selecting the sample size of the study, respondents were selected using simple random sampling to constitute the sample size and this allowed the selection of a respondent by chance and helps to eliminate bias. This section presents the information compilation methods that will be deployed by the study and these included questionnaire survey and interview methods as

explained succeeding subsections. Since the study has both quantitative and qualitative data, two methods of analysis were used. For the case of quantitative data analysis, the data was analysed at three levels. Univariate analysis level, at this level, the Presentation of frequency distributions of selected individual characteristics of respondents under study was generated. Mean and standard deviation were used to further analyse the data at a five point Likert scale. Furthermore, linear regression model was fitted to the overall role of Police in building community relations. SPSS version 27 was used as a tool for data analysis.

The regression model took the form of $\hat{Y} = \beta_0 + \beta_1X_1+ \beta_2X_2+ \beta_3X_3 + \dots \dots \dots b_nX_n+ \epsilon \dots \dots \dots$ (3)

Where \hat{Y} dependent variable (community relations).

β_0 is the constant associated with independent variables.

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \dots, \beta_n$ are the coefficients associated with the independent variables.

$X_1, X_2, X_3, \dots, X_n$ are the independent variables (information sharing, gender-based violence and organised crimes).

For the case of qualitative data, this was done using Nvivo 12.0 software. Afterwards, I deployed the narrative technique to analyze qualitative data from interviews. Narrative analysis refers to a process whereby a researcher analyses the stories people create, engaging in an inquiry of asking a given question of the narrative 'texts' for a given purpose (Akinsanya & Bach, 2014).

4. Research Findings and discussion

4.1 Role of information sharing between RNP and Community in promoting community relations in Nyaruguru District

As revealed in Table 1, the highest mean number of respondents 3.49 agreed that information sharing between police and community has led each party to do well its jobs due to combination of talents, then also a great mean number 3.41 agreed that information sharing has helped in addressing crime in Nyabimata sector followed by those who agreed that Police-community information sharing has aided information exchange mean 3.3516. Then a mean of 3.22 agreed that police-community information sharing has saved RNP from high costs of community supervision followed by a mean of 3.16 which agreed that there is proper information sharing between the police and community in Nyaruguru District. Furthermore, a significant mean of 3.03 agreed that information sharing influences political stability, policy formulation and politics of the project environment at Nyaruguru district followed by those who agreed that information sharing has helped in addressing crime in Nyabimata sector mean 2.99, then those who agreed that information sharing has helped in intercepting Police officer's failure mean 2.98. Finally, respondents disagreed on two statements relating to police community relationship whereby respondents disagreed that Police-community information sharing has created chances for easy mobilization of funds for security mean 2.47 and finally a mean of 2.22 disagreed that there is proper information sharing between the police and community in Nyaruguru District.

Table 1: Descriptive statistics on role of information sharing between RNP and Community in promoting community relations in Nyaruguru District

Information sharing	SA%(N)	A%(N)	N %(N)	D%(N)	SD %(N)	Mean	Std Dev
Proper information sharing between the police and community	21.5 (73)	47.1(160)	14.7(50)	12. (43)	4.1(14)	3.16	1.13
Information sharing has facilitated trust and honesty	34.4(117)	30.3(103)	18.5(63)	13.2(45)	3.5(12)	2.22	1.53
Police-community information sharing has aided information exchange	13.2(45)	21.8(74)	7.9(27)	31.8(108)	25.3(86)	3.35	1.10
Information sharing influences political stability, policy formulation and politics	9.7(33)	22.9(78)	37.9(129)	20.6(70)	8.8(30)	3.03	1.02
Information sharing has helped in addressing crime	21.2(72)	46.2(157)	17.1(58)	10.9(37)	4.7(16)	2.99	1.19
Police-community information sharing has improved public safety	39.1(133)	27.4(93)	16.5(56)	12.9(44)	4.1(14)	3.41	1.14
information sharing has saved RNP from high costs of community supervision	22.6 (77)	28.2(96)	22.1(75)	24.7(84)	2.4(8)	3.22	1.04
Information sharing has helped in intercepting Police officer's failure	10.0 (34)	17.4(59)	24.7(84)	40.0(136)	7.9(27)	2.98	1.28
Police-community information sharing has created chances for easy mobilization of funds for security	4.7(16)	17.9(1)	25.9(88)	30.6(104)	20.1(11)	2.47	1.19
Information sharing between police and community has led each party to do well its jobs due to combination of talents	25(85)	50.3(171)	15.6(53)	6.5(22)	2.6(9)	3.49	1.17

Information sharing has facilitated trust and honesty between community members and RNP

Source: Field data 2021

As revealed in Table 2, the highest mean number of respondents 3.41 agreed that there are social relationships between police and community, and then also a great mean number 3.22 agreed that there is absence of fear followed by those who agreed that there is communal safety and security mean 2.98. Then a mean of 3.22 agreed that there is communal peace and stability in Nyaruguru District.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics on evaluation of community relations as dependent variable

Measures of community relations	SA%(N)	A%(N)	N %(N)	D%(N)	SD %(N)	Mean	Std Dev
Social relationships	39.1(133)	27.4(93)	16.5(56)	12.9(44)	4.1(14)	3.41	1.14
Absence of fear	22.6 (77)	28.2(96)	22.1(75)	24.7(84)	2.4(8)	3.22	1.04
Communal safety and security	10.0 (34)	17.4(59)	24.7(84)	40.0(136)	7.9(27)	2.98	1.28
Communal peace and stability	4.7(16)	17.9(1)	25.9(88)	30.6(104)	20.1(11)	2.47	1.19

Source: Field data, 2022

Correlation analysis in Table 3, indicates that there is a negative significant relationship between Police-community information sharing and community relations ($r = -.200^{**}$ $P=0.05$).

Table 3: Correlation between Police-community information sharing and community relations

Correlations		Community relations	Police-community information sharing
community relations	Pearson Correlation	1	-.200
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	384	384
Police-community information sharing	Pearson Correlation	-.200	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	384	384

***. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

Source: Field data 2021

During the interviews with some of the local leaders, the following themes emerged out of the many:

“People in this community chose us because they see us able to share only vital information about them, the community members do not entirely share information with police officers because they know that incase of bad incidence in the locality police specifically comes for them and they get arrested and therefore we can conclude that police community information sharing is not up to the required standards due to fear if individual victimization”

Furthermore, the study also involved police officers in interviews regarding information sharing and one of the police officers narrated as follows:

“Me as a police officer am responsible for sharing information relating to public safety between me, other police officers. Information sharing is very vital in community policing as it helps in efficient delivery of services to areas where it is needed because information regarding security gap is always available provided by the community members, furthermore as police we also provide community members with information regarding where they can access help in times of community emergency”

4.2 Fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promotion of community relations

The most important and significant role played by police in community relations is the police involvement in Counseling of GBV victims mean 3.80 followed by maintaining public order and enforcing laws mean 3.49, then promotion of access to justice for battered spouse 3.48, establishment of Police GBV desk and mediation of reconciliation between married couples 3.35, offering of Practical support to GBV victims among others whose mean value is 2.5 and above as indicated in Table T. The roles the police have under played included; Police involvement in separation of victims of domestic violence from perpetrators mean 2.16 and encouragement of women to report cases of GBV immediately to the nearby Police station mean.

Table 4: Fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promotion of community relations in Nyaruguru District

Statement	SA%(N)	A%(N)	N%(N)	D%(N)	SD%(N)	Mean	Std. Dev
The police and community partners to fight against gender-based violence	37(10)	80(24)	68(20)	94(28)	61(18)	3.14	1.08
Counseling of GBV victims has improved community relations	35(10)	65(19)	60(18)	100(29)	80(24)	3.80	1.29
The establishment of Police GBV desk has built community relations in Nyabimata sector	73(22)	82(24)	57(17)	77(23)	51(15)	3.35	1.01
Establishment of Women Police has improved community relations	40(12)	60(18)	52(15)	112(33)	76(22)	3.05	1.04
Mediation of reconciliation between married couples has promoted community relations	121(36)	63(19)	73(22)	57(17)	26(8)	3.35	1.12
Police promotion of access to justice for battered spouse has led to growth of community relations	44(13)	63(19)	84(25)	123(36)	26(8)	3.48	1.14
Police spearheading of preventions of cultural norms such female genital mutilation has created community relation	74(22)	115(34)	60(18)	63(19)	18(9)	3.30	1.16
Practical support offered by Police to GBV victims has promoted community relations	39(12)	148(44)	47(14)	56(17)	50(15)	3.32	.93
Police encouragement of women to report cases of GBV immediately to the nearby Police station has promoted community relations	123(36)	73(22)	49(14)	70(21)	25(7)	2.28	1.04
Investigating alleged violence incidents against women in a human rights approach has created community relations	37(10)	80(24)	68(20)	94(28)	61(18)	3.0911	.94470
Maintaining public order and enforcing laws has promoted community relations	35(10)	65(19)	60(18)	100(29)	80(24)	3.4922	1.16965
Police involvement in separation of victims of domestic violence from perpetrators has further created community relations	73(22)	82(24)	57(17)	77(23)	51(15)	2.1672	1.04247

Source: Field data 2022

Scale if the mean < 2.5 we conclude disagree and if its 2.5 and above we conclude agree.

Correlation analysis in Table 5, indicates that there is a positive significant relationship between Police fight against GBV and community relations ($r= 0.136^{**}P=0.05$) at 10%. This implies that the police have help to solve GBV in families.

Table 5 Correlation between police fight against gender-based violence and community relations

Matrix		Police fight against gender-based violence	community relations
Police fight against gender-based violence	Pearson Correlation	1	.136
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.008
	N	384	384
Community relations	Pearson Correlation	.136	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.008	
	N	384	384

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: field data 2022

Interviews were further conducted to understand how the local leaders perceive the role of police in solving GBV in homes and the following themes were put forward.

“We as police we respond quickly to any reported case of GBV because we have come to notice that GBV can lead to death of permanent physical disability to the battered since last year that is march during COVID-19 lock down there were about 50 fatal case GBV reported and confirmed by police and therefore we do not hold any GBV perpetrator with a soft hand” head of Rwanda Bureau of Investigation (RIB) department at one of police stations reported.

Furthermore, one of the local leaders in one of the sectors reported as follows

“As leaders of people in this sector, we have the mandate to handle any case of GBV and we have indeed handled a variety which have yielded success but in case the GBV case is beyond us we involve police that processes the case and the perpetrator is taken to court for justice”

In summary different data collected indicate a significant contribution of police in solving GBV and this implies that through this effort, the police in Nyabimata sector have been able to build community relations

4.3 Effect of fighting against organized crimes on promotion of community relations

The last and third objective of the study was about identifying the effect of fighting against organized crime on promotion of community relations and both qualitative and quantitative data was collected as indicated in succeeding sections. As indicated in Table 6 police it is evident that police have participated in conducting community crime preventing operations 3.58 followed by Police fighting criminals who steal government resources mean 3.58, then Police has been working with communities to fight organized crimes mean 3.52. Furthermore, Police has protected peoples’ property from being stolen by criminals mean 3.16 and police has partnered with legal personnel’s to prosecute organized crime suspects 2.57. However, the capacity of police to trace and prosecute organized criminals in government has been reported to be insignificant in promoting community relations due to

lower mean of 2.28 and fighting human trafficking practiced by organized criminals has also been reported insignificant in promoting community relations mean 2.41.

Table 6: Effect of fighting against organized crimes on promotion of community relations

Statements	SA%(N)	A%(N)	N %(N)	D%(N)	SD %(N)	Mean	Std. Deviation
Police has been working with communities to fight organized crimes	35 (10)	65(19)	60(18)	100(29)	80(24)	3.52	1.23032
Police has traced and prosecuted organized criminals in government	73(22)	82(24)	57(17)	77(23)	51(15)	2.2849	1.12051
Police has fought criminals who steal government resources and this has promoted community relations	40(12)	60(18)	52(15)	112(33)	76(22)	3.5807	1.08334
Human trafficking practiced by organized criminals has been fought by RNP which has promoted community relations	121(36)	63(19)	73 (22)	57(17)	26(8)	2.4172	1.22072
Police has protected peoples' property from being stolen by criminals	34.4(117)	30.3(103)	18.5(63)	13.2(45)	3.5(12)	3.1615	1.12877
Police has partnered with legal personels to prosecute organized crime suspects	13.2(45)	21.8(74)	7.9(27)	31.8(108)	25.3(86)	2.5703	1.14725
Police has participated in conducting community crime preventing operations	9.7(33)	22.9(78)	37.9(129)	20.6(70)	8.8(30)	3.5833	1.14182

Source: Field data 2022

Correlation analysis in Table 7, indicates that there is no significant relationship between Police fight against organized crimes and community relations ($r = -.010^{**} P = .848$) at 1%. This implies that the police have not created community relations through fighting against organized crimes.

Table 7: Correlation of fighting against organized crimes on promotion of community relations

Matrix		community relations	fight against organized crimes
Community relations	Pearson Correlation	1	-.010
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.848
	N	384	384
fight against organized crimes	Pearson Correlation	-.010	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.848	
	N	384	384

Source: field data 2022

One key informant reported that,

“The police are very seriously when it comes to fighting organized crimes and to further clarify that fighting organized crimes is one of the major core roles of the police in this community, it is sometimes overvalued by the army in case the crime gangs are detected to be armed”

Another key informant reported that,

“Fighting organized crimes is always not the major role of police but for the army however in some instances police responds to just immediate and unexpected crime invent but if the crime is of high caliber, the army is always involved”

Table 8: Overall correlation analysis

Correlation matrix		Communi-ty relations	Informatio-n sharing	fight against gender-based violence	fight against organized crimes
community relations	Pearson Correlation	1	-.200**	.136**	-.010
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.008	.848
	N	384	384	384	384
Information sharing	Pearson Correlation	-.200**	1	.051	.026
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.319	.607
	N	384	384	384	384
fight against gender based violence	Pearson Correlation	.136**	.051	1	.270**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.008	.319		.000
	N	384	384	384	384
fight against organized crimes	Pearson Correlation	-.010	.026	.270**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.848	.607	.000	
	N	384	384	384	384

**Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

As earlier revealed, there is a negative significant relationship between community relations and information sharing ($r = -.200^{**}$ $P=0.05$). There is a positive significant correlation between community relations and fight against gender-based violence ($r = 0.136^{**}$ $P=0.05$).

Finally, there was no significant correlation between community relations and the fight against organized (r= -.010 P=.0.05). The details are indicated in Table 8.

4.4 Regression analysis

Results in Table 9 indicate that the value of adjusted R-square is 0.0336 meaning that all the independent variables included in the model explains 33.6% of the dependent variable which is community relations indicating that the model adequately fits the data.

Table 9: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.630 ^a	.397	.336	.74010

Source: Field data 2022

The strength of the model is further reconfirmed by ANOVA which indicates that P-value of 0.000 at 95% level of significance

Table 10: ANOVA

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	125.320	35	3.581	6.537	.000 ^b
Residual	190.615	348	.548		
Total	315.935	383			

Source: Field data 2022

As indicated in Table 11, fighting against gender-based violence (P=0.00) and information sharing continued to significantly impact community relations and fight against organized crimes continued to be insignificant (P=0.360)

Table 11: Regression coefficients of the independent variable constructs

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	2.659	.202		13.172	.000
	fight against organized crimes	-.037	.040	-.047	-.917	.360
	Information sharing	-.149	.036	-.207	-4.160	.000
	fight against gender-based violence	.133	.043	.159	3.083	.002

Source: field data 2022

4.2 Discussion of findings

Findings indicated that information sharing has helped in promoting community relations mainly by helping police and community do well their jobs due to combination of talents, helping in addressing crime, aiding information exchange, saving RNP from high costs of community supervision. Furthermore, it was also revealed that police and community information sharing influences political stability, policy formulation and politics and information sharing was found to help in intercepting Police officer's failure. The finding that information sharing help police and community do well their jobs due to combination of talents is in agreement with the study conducted by (Abrahamson and Goodman-delahunty, 2014) who revealed that information sharing improves the efficiency of police and community members in security matters. Information sharing's was found to be important in addressing crime in communities and this finding agrees with Annette and Lachman, (2011) who revealed that information sharing between communities and security forces helps to prevent crime, furthermore, findings revealed that information sharing aids information exchange which agrees with (Kabonesa and Kindi, 2020) study that revealed that majority of the security forces are learning and finding community members very resourceful tools as far as information exchange is concerned.

Community members can provide police departments with information about specific security issues prevailing within their immediate communities and also help police officers in carrying out investigations. Information sharing was also found to save RNP from high costs of community supervision but this is contradiction with a study conducted in USA by (Gaffigan *et al.*, 2014) who revealed that community-police information sharing was underscored by security agencies as it required huge amounts of money for maintaining this relationship. Information sharing was found to influence political stability, policy formulation and politics but this contradicts with (Clark & Mills, 2014) who indicated that information sharing leads to political instabilities as government hunts down these intending politicians when it accesses information. Finally the finding that information sharing helping in intercepting Police officer's failure which agrees with (UNODC, 2020) study that indicated that police-community associations can help attain better community security outcomes in four different methods and these are; facilitation of supervision success, interruption of criminogenic behavior, intercepting police officer's failure, and combating community based crimes.

The most important and significant roles played by police in community relations is the police involvement in Counseling of GBV victims, maintaining public order and enforcing laws, then promotion of access to justice for battered spouse, establishment of Police GBV desk and mediation of reconciliation between married couples, offering of Practical support to GBV victims among others. The finding that RNP has been involved in Counseling of GBV victims is in agreement with a study by Tiani, (2015) conducted about ending gender based violence in the Caribbean that revealed that the police provide practical support such as shelter, crisis lines and counseling for violence victims and encouragement of women to report cases of GBV immediately to the nearby police station. Haider, (2019) further in agreement with the study findings revealed that the police take action to support and protect all crime victims and prevention of crime, maintaining public order and enforcing laws, the police has managed to build relationships to enable smooth outcome achievement but studies have indicated that the police has failed to fulfill its duties related to domestic violence. The study findings are still in agreement with previous scholars such as Crocker *et al.*, (2016)

who revealed that Establishment of GBV desks at police station, provision shelter and separation of GBV victims from perpetrators has been done by police around the world. The research gap identified under this theme is that roles played by Police in fighting GBV has not study that attaches statistical evidence which my study did by incorporating mixed methods research. The police was also found to offer practical support such as shelter, crisis lines for violence victims that agrees with the study findings (Crocker *et al.*, 2016; Hollywood and Winkelman, 2015; Manaliyo and Muzindutsi, 2013).

From the findings, it was evident that police have participated in conducting community crime preventing operations followed by Police fighting criminals who steal government resources, and then Police has been working with communities to fight organized crimes. Furthermore, Police has protected peoples' property from being stolen by criminals mean and police has partnered with legal personnel's to prosecute organized crime suspects. The study findings are in contradiction with (Clark and Mills, 2014) in Latin America who revealed that organized crimes have led to loss of property since these gangs are found of stealing their neighbors' belongings hence reduced community relations. Organized crimes were found to promote human trafficking and drug abuse which break relationship between the victims and perpetrator. In agreement with the study findings, fighting of the organized crimes was found to build trust between police and community members hence promoting community relations (Jannetta & Lachman, 2011).

5.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, the first objective of the study sought to Role of information sharing between RNP and Community in promoting community relations in Nyaruguru District and results of correlation analysis revealed a significant statistical relationship between police-community information sharing and promotion of community relations. The second objective sought to examine the effect of fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promotion of community relations and correlation results indicated a statistically significant relationship between the fight against GBV and promotion of community relations. Finally, the last objective identified the relationship between fight against organized crimes and promotion of community relations, however there was an insignificant relationship between fight against organized crimes and promotion of community relations in Nyaruguru district.

5.2 Recommendations

Since the results indicated a negative significant relationship with promotion of community relations, the police and community should devise mechanisms to regulate how information sharing should be practiced to cause a positive significant relationship between the two variables. Thus, in order to reach this, the community and police should build strong relationships which are based on sharing information and making the people participate in ensuring security and safety for themselves through community policing.

The RNP should intensity the approaches used in the fight against gender based violence as the mechanisms considered in this study to fight GBV were found to have a positive significant relationship between the two variables. Thus, this approach use to fight GBV should also be used to areas that it could be applicable and affordable to ensure that the community and their properties are safe from any harm. Though, this is the responsibility of police but the community should also have a hand in this in order to enhance sustainable peace and security for all.

The fight against organized crimes tactics used by RNP are still lacking as this is evidenced by a low correlation coefficient and therefore it is recommended that the RNP should revise the methods used in fighting organized crimes. Thus, based on this, police should also increase the level of intelligence in order to halt the organized crimes because the intelligence can bring the information about the organized crimes before they happen and hinder them.

Based on regression findings it can be recommended that the police should continue engaging in various community partnerships aimed at promoting community relations. This should be done by sensitizing the youth that they should participate in offering the security and peace in the community by themselves because youth are strong to have time to engage in partnerships meant for peace, the elder and older people should not remain behind because they have a lot of ideas they can give so that the community can be safe and secured.

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