

**The Role of Community Policing in Crime Prevention: The Case of Addis
Ketema Sub-City, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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The Role of Community Policing in Crime Prevention: The Case of Addis Ketema Sub-City, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Sociology in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Sociology

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, hereby would like to declare my thesis entitled as, The Role of Community Policing in Crime Prevention: The Case of Addis Ketema Sub-City, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is my own original work; and to my best knowledge and belief, this work does not comprise any published or unpublished material which is written by other authors, except in case of proper citation in giving due credit to the author/s. Additionally, I further confirm that this work of mine was not presented and submitted previously anywhere by anyone either in English or other languages.

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This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Tsegab Mathewos entitled “The Role of Community Policing in Crime Prevention: The Case of Addis Ketema Sub City, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.” Is submitted as in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Sociology complies with the regulation of the university and meets the accepted standards with respect to originality and quality.

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Abstract

This study has been conducted with the aim of examining the role of community policing in crime prevention at Addis Ketema Sub-City, Addis Ababa. The study has employed qualitative research approach. Four different instruments have been employed to carry out the study, these are: in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and documentary analysis. The data has been analyzed through thematic analysis. The study showed that community policing has reduced crime and fear of crime; and it has also improved police-community relations in the study area. Furthermore, the role of community participation is in good shape; likewise, community police officers are playing a good role in crime prevention through community policing. Ex-criminals are playing a crime prevention role. On the other hand, some factors that hinder community policing from playing its crime prevention role are identified: the presence of repeated reshuffling of community police officers; hiding criminals by some community members; the presence of large number of local liquor houses, prostitutes and street dwellers; wideness of the Ketenas which are tough to be covered by a single officer; and the problem of unemployment. The study has also portrayed some crime types that are tough to be prevented by community policing: Shiblil, Shua Shua, 23, pickpocketing and snatching. Lastly, the study showed the presence of low legal protection against community members who participate in preventing crimes through community policing; thus, the study suggests maximizing legal protection.

Key words: Community Policing, Crime Prevention, Crime, Community Members, Community Police Officers, Role.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAPC: Addis Ababa Police Commission

AKSC: Addis Ketema Sub-City

E.C: Ethiopian Calendar

ETB: Ethiopian Birr (national currency)

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

IDIs: In-depth Interviews

KIIs: Key Informant Interviews

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

OSCE: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

SARA: Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment

TV: Television

UN: United Nations

UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Community policing can be defined in various ways. However, for the purpose of this study, the definition provided by Cossyleon (2019) has been used. Here, the philosophy of community policing is framed as a set of crime prevention techniques-that promote building relationships between police officers and the communities they serve, to prevent crime. And in its broadest sense, it includes decentralization of police departments, engagement of community members by sharing information and rising partnerships, and problem solving so as to achieve crime prevention (Skogan & Roth, 2004, cited in Imbody, 2019).

On the other hand, there are scholars who argue that community policing is introduced as a crime prevention approach because of the failure of the traditional policing approach; for instance, community policing approach was created because of the failure of traditional policing in terms of preserving public order and creating a social tie between community and the police (Delice & Duman, 2012, cited in Odabaş, 2014).

Moreover, Odabaş (2014) has articulated the idea that police departments use community policing to create neighborhood awareness in preventing and fighting various crimes.

By strengthening the above assumptions, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ((UNODC), 2013) has noted that community policing is an approach that was developed to help police in urban environments to prevent crime in an alternative manner instead of simply initiating repressive reactive tactics. This type of approach considers the benefit of applying prevention to improve the connection with the public and work more closely with the community when dealing with different types of crime. It also integrates several principles associated with crime prevention, such as indigenous knowledge building and human rights protection.

As Grant (2015) has noted, internationally, it has been indicated that community policing suits best only as an all-encompassing community policing philosophy that endorses organizational strategies which helps the systematic use of partnership and problem-solving methods to proactively deal with various crimes.

Community policing does not indicate that police members are no longer in authority or that the main duty of maintaining law and order is subordinated. Nevertheless, tapping into the expertise and resources that reside in the community will relieve some burdens of the police. Local government authorities, social agencies, school centers, religious groups, business men and all those who work and dwell in the neighborhood and have a role in its development and will share responsibility for bringing practicable solutions to problems that take away the safety and security of the residents (Mwaniki, 2016).

It is believed that community policing approach needs active participation of the community members in order to prevent crimes, in strengthening this point, (Liebermann & Coulson, 2004, cited in Manaliyo, 2016) has elaborated the fact that community's participation in crime prevention activities through community policing is consistently gaining global dominance following high crime rates in many parts of the world caused by ineffectiveness of law enforcement. The participation of community members in crime prevention is highly regarded as an ideal approach in crime prevention and crime minimization. Community participation in crime prevention is based on the principle that the traditional law enforcement cannot combat crime effectively without the help of local communities who know well their precinct.

Like many other countries, Melese and Tesfaye (2019) Ethiopia officially introduced the community policing approach in order to prevent crimes in 2005 Ethiopian Calendar (E.C). Since then, Addis Ababa Police Commission is also implementing community policing in all of its sub cities.

Denney and Demelash (2013) have pointed out that in practice, in Ethiopia, community policing serves multiple purposes – from sharing the state's burden of policing with customary actors, to reducing crime, engaging community members in security provision and backing to national development. They have also argued that the philosophy of community policing has mainly three objectives: community policing as citizen participation in policing, as crime prevention, and as development. However, in this study, the researcher is only interested to explore in its one objective, that is, crime prevention.

The concept of crime has various definitions. However, for the purpose of this study, the researcher has used the definition provided by (Hiraide, 2013); crime is an illegal act that is punishable by law. Further, as scholars argue, this illegal act occurs when three components meet. Donkin (2014), for instance, has stated that according to the crime triangle assumption, crime occurs when three necessary components meet. These are: presence of suitable target (victim), absence of capable guardian (such as, police officer/s who might prevent the crime) and a motivated offender.

Even though, crime is an illegal and punishable act by law; criminals for various reasons do not stop committing crimes in society. Therefore, before affecting innocent people within the society, the criminals should be prevented from doing criminal activities. To this end, it is believed that community policing can play a profound role in preventing crimes before they occur.

Crime prevention is preventing crimes before they occur and minimizing fear of crime in the society by applying various strategies and measures along with the traditional (reactive) policing. By doing so, countries and city administrations try to prevent and reduce crime rates so that to protect the society from potential harmful effects of crime. However, as far as this researcher is concerned, practically crime prevention is not an easy task no matter whichever crime prevention strategies are formulated.

This study examines the role of community policing in crime prevention in Addis Ketema Sub-City (AKSC). From the eleven sub cities that are found in Addis Ababa, AKSC is purposively selected for this study. It is believed that if community policing plays its role effectively, it can prevent the commission of various crimes. Furthermore, this study has explored the role the community and community police officers play in preventing and controlling various types of crimes in AKSC. The study has explored the factors that hamper the community and the community police officers not to play their respective roles to prevent and control various crimes through community policing strategy in the study area.

To this end, the researcher believed that this study has explored the role of community policing in crime prevention in AKSC. Therefore, along with other crime prevention strategies, the

researcher believed that community policing would be fruitful if the community and community police officers play their respective roles to prevent and reduce various crimes that could be committed in the study area.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Crime occurs as a result of a number of social and environmental causes come together to stimulate those crimes. Criminal activities tend to be concentrated in especially high-risk areas like poorly lit streets. The aim of law enforcement then becomes to minimize the opportunities for crime to happen. Strengthening on these ideas, scholars argue that preventing crime includes safe-guarding potential victims properly, controlling spaces so as to reduce the risk of crime in those areas, and finally, finding ways to properly handle criminals to reduce the chance that they will commit other crimes (Felson & Clarke, 1998, cited in UNODC, 2011).

The problem of crime in AKSC is affecting the lives of the society. Melesse (2020) explained that crime victimization is negatively impacting the mental and economic conditions of the victims and their families.

The researcher is motivated to carry out this study because two of his close friends repeatedly became victims of crime (specifically, pickpocketing and snatching) in the study area. Therefore, it would be valid to examine the role community policing has in preventing these and other crimes in the study area.

There are some studies in Addis Ababa dealing with various issues of community policing. For example, Frehiywot (2015) has conducted a study in *Bole* Sub-City on the challenges and prospects of the implementation of community policing and found lack of awareness and lack of training on the concept of community policing, absence of incentives schemes and employees low attitude towards community policing as major challenges of community policing.

Fitsum, Kasahun and Yared (2016) have conducted a study on the implementation of community policing in slum neighborhoods of Addis Ababa and found the presence of promising implementation of community policing. Sisay (2017) has attempted to explore the attitude and perception of the community towards community policing in *Nefas Silk Lafto* area and found the community has not been grasped the appropriate purpose, mission and significance of

community policing. Anteneh (2017) has conducted a study on community policing and gender based violence in Yeka Sub-City and found that community police officers are not well versed with the theoretical and practical aspects of community policing and the basics of gender based violence and its preventing approach.

Girma (2018) has assessed the challenges of community policing practice in preserving civil rights of individuals in AKSC and found lesser priority given to human right protection in comparison to crime prevention.

Hence, the aforementioned studies did not adequately address the role of community policing in crime prevention by exploring the role each stakeholder plays in community policing to prevent crimes in the study area, the researcher is quite optimistic about the fact that the findings of this study could have a potential in filling the research gaps (on community policing's role in crime prevention) in the study area on the role of community policing in crime prevention.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to examine the role of community policing in crime prevention in AKSC. The specific objectives include:

- To examine the strategies of community policing in crime prevention in the study area;
- To investigate the role of community participation in crime prevention through community policing approach in the study area;
- To examine the role of community police officers in crime prevention through community policing approach in the study area and
- To identify the factors that hamper the community and community police officers from playing actively their respective roles in preventing crimes through community policing in the study area

1.4. Significances of the Study

To the best knowledge of the researcher, there is no research that has been specifically carried out on the role of community policing in crime prevention in AKSC. Therefore, this study will add something in filling the research gap that is left behind without examining the role of community policing in crime prevention, particularly in the study area. Moreover, the findings of

this study would be potentially significant for the community policing department of AKSC in order to get clue on how to work more on crime prevention through community policing. The study would be also significant in providing up-to-date information about community policing's role in crime prevention specifically on the study area. And also, it might serve as a bench mark for further related research works.

1.5. Delimitations of the Study

Because of various factors, such as finance and time, this study has been delimited conceptually, geographically and time. Moreover, the researcher believed that delimiting this study was very important in order to generate quality data. Therefore, conceptually, this study has focused on community policing and crime prevention. Geographically, this study was delimited to AKSC in Addis Ababa. Consequently, the researcher has addressed the community policing centers that are found only under the jurisdiction of the above-mentioned sub-city. In terms of time span, this study has been conducted with in a one-year schedule.

1.6. Limitations of the Study

The study has encountered some limitations: first, not getting some participants for the interviews on a scheduled date and time particularly due to their work nature, second, unwillingness of some participants to be recorded via sound recorder during the interview nevertheless the interviewer conducted the interview by taking notes, third, during recording some interviews were interrupted because of conflicting interview work schedules, particularly from the police side. And lastly, the police documents of the study area were not written in a well-organized manner; particularly to conduct the documentary analysis employed by the study. Nevertheless, despite encountering the above limitations, the study has fully achieved its objective.

1.7. Conceptual Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this study the following terms are defined as follows:

Crime: an act of wrong doing voluntarily and intentionally (Rezaei, 2013).

Community: is a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage (Mwaniki, 2016).

Community policing: refers to a philosophy of full service personalized policing approach, in a situation where the same community police officer controls and works in the same precinct on a regular basis, from a decentralized center, working in a proactive partnership with the community members to detect and solve problems (Trojanowicz & Bucqueroux, 1994, cited in Denney & Jenkins, 2013).

Crime Prevention: refers to efforts to prevent crime or criminal offending in the first instance – before the act has been committed (Welsh & Farrington, 2010).

Community Police Officer: a police officer who works in community policing program (Personal communication with police commander in AKSC).

Community Member: a person who is a member of a given community (Personal communication with police commander in AKSC).

Community Leader: a person who is a member of a certain community with some kind of influence and leadership role that emanates from a social position she/he holds (Personal communication with police commander in AKSC).

Community Policing Center: a mini-station that is mostly built by the community members of a particular area (*Ketena*) in order to solve the potential problems (crimes) through community policing (Personal communication with police commander in AKSC).

Community Policing Coordinator: is a middle level police officer who supervises community police officers under her/ his jurisdiction. And this is either at police station level or *Woreda* level (Personal communication with police commander in AKSC).

1.8. Organization of the Study

This study is organized in to five chapters. The first chapter is introduction and it has included: background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study (general and specific), significance of the study, delimitation of the study, limitations of the study and definitions of conceptual terms. The second chapter has incorporated review of the related literature. The third chapter has encompassed the methods of the study. This chapter comprised: description of the study area, research design, qualitative sampling design, instruments of data collection (in-depth

interviews, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and documentary analysis), and procedures of data collection, procedures of data analysis and finally ethical considerations. The fourth chapter has presented data analysis and interpretation. Lastly, based on the findings of the study, sound conclusion and recommendations are drawn in chapter five.

CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, various literatures associated with the topic under investigation are reviewed: definitions of crime, meaning and types of crime prevention, key components and principles of community policing, the role of community policing in crime prevention, the role of community participation in community policing for crime prevention, the role of community police officers in crime prevention and factors that hamper community policing from effectively playing its crime prevention role are discussed, some theories that are employed in this study are reviewed, furthermore, some empirical reviews on community policing from some parts of Ethiopia and lastly, an attempt is made to construct a conceptual framework for the study.

2.1. Crime and Crime Prevention

2.1.1. 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 extended the definition by elaborating 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. Furthermore, he gave examples of crime, such as murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunken driving, child neglect and failure to pay taxes.

2.1.2. Meaning and Types of Crime Prevention

As Welsh and Farrington (2010) have described crime prevention means many different things to many people. For instance, they have defined crime prevention as exertions to prevent crime or criminal offending in the first instance just before the crime has been committed.

On the other hand, 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, by intervening to impact their numerous causes. Therefore, 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.

2.1.3. Types of Crime Prevention

As Nevisi (2019) has stated there are sixteen different crime prevention types. These are: primary prevention, secondary prevention, tertiary prevention, short-term prevention, social prevention, developmental prevention, long term prevention, sham prevention, active prevention, non-penal prevention, penal prevention, judicial prevention, disciplinary prevention, common prevention, special prevention and finally situational prevention. 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. On the other hand, UN's (2010) crime prevention guideline provided four different approaches of crime prevention. These are: crime prevention through social development; community – or locally-based crime prevention; situational crime prevention; and crime prevention through reintegration.

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.

2.2. The Concept, Key Components and Principles of Community Policing

2.2.1. The Concept of Community Policing

After deeply reviewing the concept of community policing, the researcher understood that there is no commonly agreed single definition of community policing among the scholars who have attempted to define the concept, therefore attaining a commonly accepted definition of community policing from the existing literature remained highly elusive. For example, community policing is a concept that has gained acceptance amongst donors, governments, police departments and communities as a tool for attaining a diverse range of aims from crime

minimizing, to more accountable policing, to better state-society relations, and the likes. Perhaps due to its fungible nature, its initiatives are pervasive across the world – from western countries to Africa, Asia and Latin America. Yet it shows differently in many of these contexts, applied in some cases by governments and in others innovated by local communities (Denney & Jenkins, 2013). They have also noted that it is a vague and ambiguous term, meaning many things to many people. There is little agreement on the definitions, objectives and models of community policing; it signifies different things to different communities of practice. Therefore, the way in which community policing expresses is intimately connected to larger histories of state-society relations.

On the other hand, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) 2014 has defined the concept of 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, matters of physical safety and security, social disorder and neighborhood deterioration 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.

2.2.2. 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. As they have indicated the second key component is community partnership. Thus 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.

2.2.3. Principles of Community Policing

Community policing has its own principles which separates it from other crime prevention strategies. Ten principles of community policing: philosophy and organizational strategy; commitment to community empowerment; decentralized and personalized policing; immediate and long-term practical problem solving; ethics, legality, responsibility and trust; intensifying the police mandate; assisting those with distinctive needs; grass-roots creativity and help; internal change; and finally, building for the future (Safer World, 2006, cited in Denney & Jenkins, 2013).

Moreover, it can be argued that these principles of community policing are mostly different from other crime prevention strategies such as, reactive policing, situational crime prevention or crime prevention through reintegration.

2.3. 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 an ongoing dialogue to develop 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 by serving as a check 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 approach is the answer to many crime, 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. 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, it is important to review the role of community participation to prevent crime through community policing. For instance, Rezaei (2013) has indicated that community participation is regarded as an important tool for crime prevention. Participation of the community is useful to complement and make more efficient any program of crime prevention by police authorities or any other law enforcement body.

Furthermore, Mukherjee and Wilson, 1987, cited in Rezaei (2013) indicated that many sociologists and criminologists believe that the adequate solution for crime problems must be based on community participation and citizens' involvement with each other and with their communities.

Community participation can be a useful factor in crime prevention. Absence of community participation in the crime prevention initiatives can lead to failure in security (Miranda, 2007, cited in Rezaei, 2013). By the same token, Manaliyo (2016) has elaborated that community participation in crime prevention activities has undoubtedly potential in minimizing crime given that criminal activities are committed by community members who are sometimes known by their neighbors.

To this end, the above review briefly indicated the contribution of community participation to prevent various crimes through 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.

2.5. The Role of Community Police Officers in Crime Prevention

Unlike that of traditional (reactive) policing model, in a proactive policing model to control crime such as, community policing, police and other public security officials seek to build relations with the population in an effort to effectively transform urban space and State-society relations to control and prevent crime (UNODC, 2011). Some forces need community police officers to handle calls for police, whereas many do not. Almost all community police officers are responsible for crime prevention one way or the other. Some do foot patrolling, while 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).

Additionally, as it has been indicated in UNODC (2013) 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.

Furthermore, 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.

2.6. Factors that Hamper Community Policing from Actively Playing its Crime Prevention Role

Lawrence and McCarthy (2013) have attempted to summarize the factors that hinder the community policing approach from successfully playing its crime prevention role. They have articulated the fact that the institutionalization of community policing via organizational transformation necessitates adequate resources and sustained commitment from police department executive staff and city officials. Changing the culture of a department can be as tough, if not more tough, than altering policies, procedures, and training. Therefore, 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 from actively playing its crime prevention role, such as, infrequent consultations/meetings with community members and not transferring information to police departments, disruption caused by change of government or head of police which consequently dismantles existing promising initiatives, 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, objectives, strategic plan or only a limited number of community police officers were deployed.

Furthermore, this study tries to find out the factors that hinder community policing from actively playing its crime prevention role in the study area. And then discussion would be provided by comparing with previous challenges that were identified in other studies.

2.7. 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.

2.7.1. Normative Sponsorship Theory

This theory is among the theories that have attempted to explain the philosophical foundations of community policing. As Sulaiman, et al., (2012) have stated the basic assumption of this theory is that the majority of the people in the community have goodwill so that cooperation becomes an important factor to establish a harmonious and peaceful community.

2.7.2. Broken Windows Theory

This theory was developed by Wilson and Kelling in 1982 in order to explain the philosophy of community policing. The basic assumption of this theory is that when a single window in a certain building gets broken and remained unrepaired; all the remaining windows of the building will soon be broken. The theory tried to elucidate the fact that the sign of a single broken and unfixed window manifests a signal that no one cares therefore the other windows can also be broken and things will remain unchanged.

2.7.3. 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?

2.7.4. Social Disorganization Theory

This theory is developed by Shaw and McKay in 1942 in the famous Chicago School at the University of Chicago. 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. He has further stated that uncontrolled teenagers often turn into gang groups and display delinquent behaviors; consequently, the community's ability to supervise its teenagers is a way to stop the creation of gangs and delinquent behaviors. Furthermore, the theory also argued that criminal behaviors occur in neighborhoods with low social bonding.

After briefly reviewing the above four theories, the researcher tries to discuss the theories in the analysis section of the study by basing on the very assumptions of each theories.

2.8. 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 willingness of the community to attend meeting with management or/and community officers accounts 32% and 37% poor and very poor respectively.

On the other hand, 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. Moreover, 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.

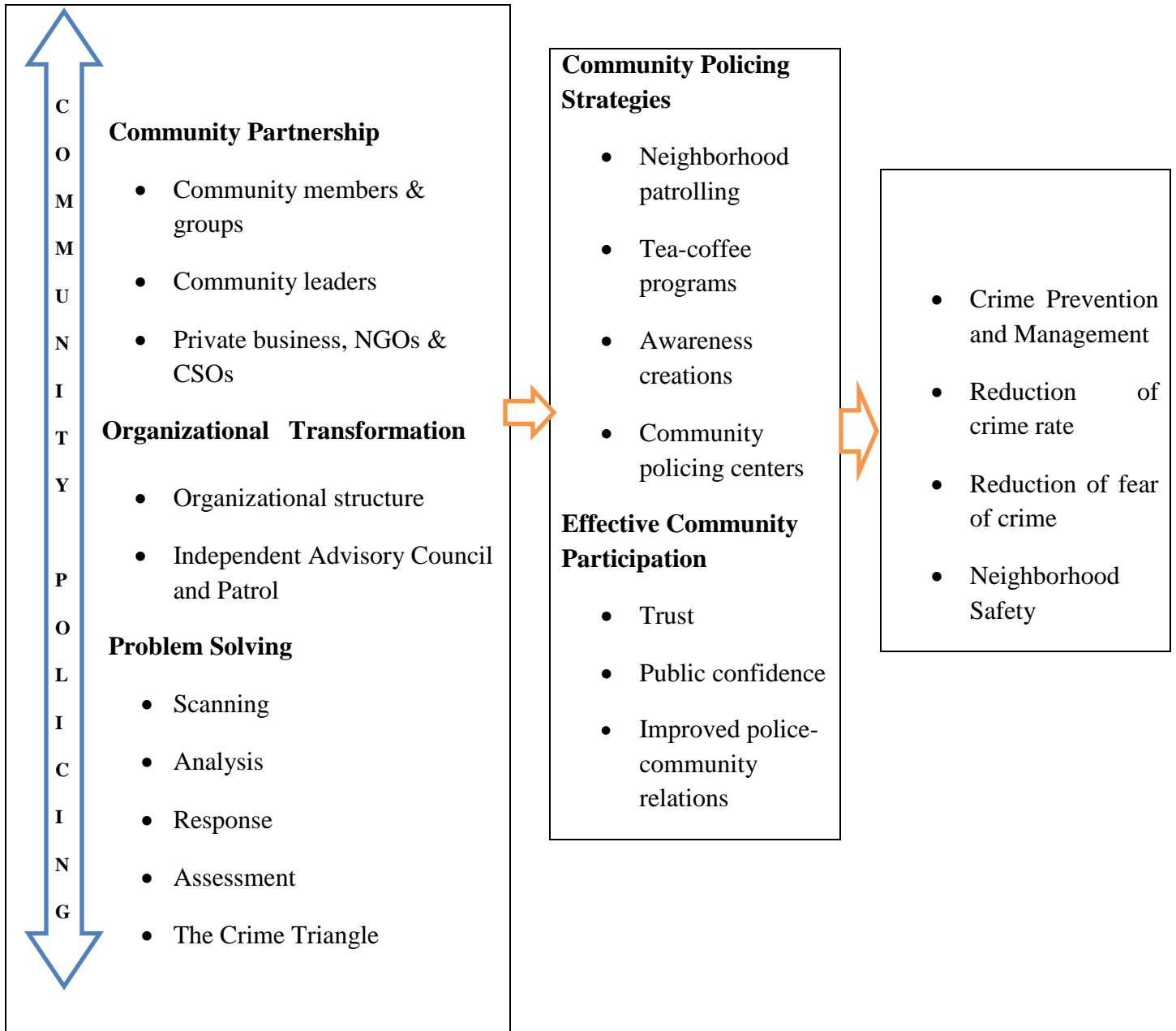
Lastly, Jackson, Shearon and Demelash (2018) have conducted a research in Dire Dawa city on community policing. They have found that the police themselves very much see community policing as a means of reducing crime. Furthermore, in their research they have revealed that the police are very keen to 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.

2.9. 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.

Figure 1: The relationship of relevant concepts to crime prevention and community policing



Adapted from John (2020); with slight modification.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODS OF THE STUDY

As explained by various scholars, a research method is the logic and theory that elaborates the research procedures, techniques and tools for investigating a specific research problem. In order to carry out this study, the researcher has employed the following procedures with the aim of achieving the objective of the study. Accordingly, some of the details of the procedures used have been elaborated in the following manner.

3.1. Philosophical Orientations of the Study

A philosophical paradigm is a general organizing framework for theory and research that comprises basic assumptions, key issues, models of quality research, and methods for seeking answers (Neuman, 2014). To this end, the philosophical stance of this study is constructivism. As Cresswell (2014) indicates in constructivism meanings are varied and multiple, leading the researcher to look for the complexity of views rather than narrowing meanings into a few categories or ideas. Based on this assumption, the intent of this study was to make sense of (or interpret) the meanings the participants have about the topic under investigation. Moreover, the researcher has allowed the participants to construct reality by themselves about the issue under study based on open-ended questions that were forwarded to them.

3.2. Description of the Study Area

In this section of the study, an attempt has been made to describe the research setting where this study was conducted – that is, the Addis Ketema sub-city.

Addis Ababa has 11 sub-cities and community policing as a crime prevention strategy is taking place in all of them. This study is conducted in Addis Ketema sub-city of the Addis Ababa city administration. AKSC is located in the business district of Addis Ababa (Shimelis, 2012, cited in Melesse, 2020) *Merkato*, which is the biggest open-air market in Addis Ababa as well as in Africa, is located in AKSC. The name *Merkato* refers to a ‘market place’ and adapted its name from the attempted occupation of the Italians.

In addition, there is a bus station (commonly known as *Atobis Tera*) which serves as a transport hub in linking the capital (Addis Ababa) to the different parts of the country, there are also train stations that are located under the geographic location of AKSC, many private and government

banks are also based in the area, and also there are other several business organizations that run the economy by providing different materials for the dwellers of the capital and beyond. The study area is known for its frequent movement of large number of people.

The researcher has attempted to include the total population of AKSC but could not get. Hence Ethiopia did not conduct its Census since 2007; it appears difficult to get the exact total population of the study area.

3.2.1. Justifications for the selection of the Study Area

The researcher has decided to focus on AKSC and the rationale behind choosing this sub city was that the researcher has a lived experience in the area, witnessed a void in the literature and also the topic is somehow a neglected one in the literature; and also the area is believed by many as one of a “crime hotspot” in Addis Ababa. For instance, as Melesse (2020) has stated there are known crime hotspot areas in AKSC such as, *Merkato*, *Mesalemiya*, *Atena Tera* and *Atobis Tera*. Therefore, the above-mentioned reasons are sufficient to conduct a study on this topic in the study area.

3.3. Research Design

As explained by Pandey and Pandey (2015), research design is simply the framework or plan for a study that is used as a guide in collecting and analyzing the data. Accordingly, research design is needed because it facilitates the smooth scaling of the various research operations, thereby making research as efficient as possible yielding maximal information with minimal expenditure of effort, time and money.

In order to attain the objectives of this study, the researcher has employed exploratory research design. This research design helps to intensively explore the data collected through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, along with documentary analysis from the study area.

The research design of this study is an exploratory-qualitative research approach. As Creswell (2014) stated qualitative research is an approach for discovering and understanding the meaning individuals or groups attribute to a social problem. The procedure of research includes emerging questions and processes, data typically gathered in the participant’s natural setting, data analysis

inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data.

In terms of time frame, the researcher has employed a cross-sectional research design. Therefore, the researcher has collected the data in a particular time.

3.3.1. Qualitative Sampling Design

As explained by Khotari (2004) sampling design is about the method of selecting items to be observed for the given study. According to Pandey and Pandey (2015) sampling means selecting a given number of subjects from a defined population as representative of that population. The sampling design of this study was non-probability sampling. The participants of this study were police and community members in AKSC who are engaged in community policing, more specifically: community members who actively participate in community policing in crime prevention activities in AKSC; Advisory Council chairperson; community leaders; community policing division head; community policing coordinators (officers) *Woreda* level; and community police officers who work the actual crime prevention task at *Ketena* level.

In terms of the distribution of informants, **sixteen (16)** participants were selected from the community (specifically, for IDIs: three (3) community members, two (2) from Advisory Council (the chairperson and the vice chairperson) and four (4) community leaders were selected; and for the FGD seven (7) community members were selected).

On the other hand, **eighteen (18)** participants from the police were selected (specifically, for IDIs, one (1) Sub-city level Community Policing Department Head and five (5) community police officers from different *Ketenas*; for KIIs, five (5) community policing coordinators (police officers) at *Woreda* level, and finally for the FGD, seven (7) community police officers who work the actual crime prevention activities at the different *Ketenas* in AKSC were selected for the study. Therefore, the total number of study participants is **thirty four (34)**.

This number was sufficient to obtain the necessary data from community members as well as from police officers who are actually involved in crime prevention. The selection was based on who can provide the best information that helps to achieve the overall objective of the study and for this experience was selected as a criterion.

3.3.2. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria for the Participants

The researcher employed an inclusion/exclusion criterion to select participants for this particular study. With the purpose of getting relevant information about the issue under investigation, the researcher decided that community members who are involved themselves in active and consistent participation of community policing to prevent criminal activities for more than one year in AKSC are suitable to attain the objective of the study. Therefore, the researcher has included them as participants of this study.

Likewise, the community police officers who are in charge of preventing various criminal activities through community policing crime prevention strategy were included as participants of this study. Generally, both categories of the participants were chosen with high belief to provide sufficient information for the study hence they are participating actively in preventing various crimes through community policing.

On the other hand, the researcher has excluded community members and police officers who started the crime prevention task in community policing after September, 2020. This is because that the researcher has believed that they cannot provide sufficient information on the objectives intended to achieve from the study area, hence they recently joined the crime prevention activities in the study area. In other words, as far this researcher is concerned; they do not have sufficient experience to elucidate the issue under investigation.

3.3.3. Instruments of Data Collection

The researcher believes that the nature of this particular study invites qualitative methods of data collection instrument or tools. Consequently, this study has employed in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, key informant interviews and documentary analysis. Moreover, the interview guide, focus group discussion and key informant interview questions were open-ended questions that are formulated with the aim of obtaining sufficient data about the role of community policing in crime prevention. To this end, the details of each instrument have been described below.

In-depth Interviews (IDIs)

IDI is a qualitative research technique which focuses on conducting thorough individual interviews with a small number of participants with the aim of exploring their perspectives on a certain program, issue or situation (Boyce & Neale, 2006). To this end, this study has employed IDIs in order to get a complete picture about the role of community policing, community participation and community police officers in crime prevention. Thus, IDIs were conducted with various participants that could provide sufficient data about the issue under investigation.

Accordingly, from the community category: the researcher has carried out two (2) IDIs with the chairperson and vice chairperson of the advisory council, four (4) IDIs community leaders who have active participation in crime prevention activities, three (3) IDIs with community members.

On the other hand, from the community police officers category: the researcher has conducted one (1) IDI with Sub-city level Community Policing Department Head Police Commander of AKSC with the aim of gaining sufficient data about the overall role of community policing in crime prevention; and the researcher has also conducted five (5) IDIs with community police officers who do the actual crime prevention activities through community policing in their respective *Ketenas*.

Furthermore, the researcher has employed follow-up questions or probes. As described by Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009) probe questions, which are typically impromptu responses to something the participant has said, ask for more details and explanation. Consequently, the researcher has used probes and follow-up questions in order to deeply explore the role of community policing in crime prevention in the study area.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

As explained by Neuman (2014) FGD is a special qualitative research technique in which people are informally interviewed in a group discussion setting. This study has employed FGDs with the aim of exploring the current role of community policing in crime prevention in AKSC. In this regard, the researcher conducted two FGDs. The first FGD was conducted with the community members who have active crime prevention participation experience through community policing in AKSC in the past few years. The homogeneity of this group was maintained based on

the active and consistent role they have in crime prevention through community policing. It took 1 hour and 48 minutes. The other FGD was conducted with community police officers who work in different community policing *Ketenas* of AKSC. Their homogeneity is maintained hence all of them were community police officers. Furthermore, this FGD was took place in a matter of 1 hour and 53 minutes. Each FGD has comprised seven (7) participants. Both FGDs were administered by a help of moderators. The moderator for the first one is a community member whereas for the second one the moderator was a community police officer. Lastly, in both FGDs the researcher tried to take short notes on the key responses of the participants and also clarified the questions when it was due.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

In this study, the researcher conducted KIIs in order to fully achieve one specific objective of the study; that is, to obtain detail information about the factors that hamper community policing in crime prevention. Thus, it is believed that these key informants are the best target to explore more about the factors that hinder community policing from actively playing its crime prevention role in the study area; hence they coordinate a good number of *Ketenas* that are found in their respective *Woredas*.

To this end, five (5) KIIs were conducted with different community policing coordinators (police officers) of *Woreda* level who are found in AKSC. The key informants have been selected based on the criteria of length of time the police officers have served in the study area; in other words, the most senior community policing coordinators (officers) of *Woreda* level who have stayed in the area were selected; the rationale behind is that the researcher has believed that hence they have relatively stayed longer than their junior community policing coordinators (officers) of other *Woreda* level, understandably they can provide more information.

3.4. Documentary Analysis

In qualitative research, researchers can use documents to collect data and to make analysis either as a complementary tool to other methods, like interviews; or in some cases even it is possible to collect data by using documents as a stand-alone method. Accordingly, the researcher has collected data through document analysis; specifically, the type of document is a written (textual) one.

This tool has been employed in order to achieve the fourth specific objective of the study. Consequently, data that are related with this specific objective of the study were collected from AKSC. Accordingly, all the relevant documents (such as daily, weekly, monthly and annual reports) were reviewed. Furthermore, the researcher has mainly intended to collect data through documentary analysis in order to support the data that has been collected by KIIs.

On the other hand, additional secondary data sources such as books, scholarly journals and research works were employed to conduct the study. These were employed in the first and second chapters of the study.

Table 1. Links between Specific Objectives and Method: The Role of Community Policing in Crime Prevention: The Case of AKSC, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Specific Objectives	Participants	Data collection tools	Data analysis method
To examine the strategies of community policing in crime prevention in the study area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Policing Department Head (Police commander) at sub city level in AKSC. 2. Community police officers 3. Chairperson and vice chairperson of Advisory Council 4. Community Leaders who participate in crime prevention activities. 5. Community members 	IDIs	Thematic Analysis
To investigate the role of community participation in crime prevention through community policing approach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community members who participate on crime prevention activities through community policing in AKSC. 2. All the above IDIs 	FGD & IDIs	Thematic Analysis
To examine the role of community police officers in crime prevention through community policing approach.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community police officers who perform the crime prevention task through community policing in AKSC. 2. All the above IDIs 	FGD & IDIs	Thematic Analysis
To identify the factors that hampers the community and community police officers from playing actively their respective role in preventing crimes by community policing.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community policing coordinators (police officers) which are found at <i>Woreda</i> level of community policing in AKSC. 2. Different documents that show reports on community policing in AKSC. 	KIIs & Document ary Analysis	Thematic Analysis

3.5. Procedures of Data Collection

In this study, the data gathering instruments were designed based on the review of related literature in order to attain the objective of the study. Based on the willingness of the interviewees, the researcher has conducted IDIs about the role of community policing in crime prevention in AKSC. Two FGDs were also carried out: one with community police officers and the other with community members. KIIs were also took place with community policing coordinators (police officers) at *Woreda* level. All interviews were conducted by the researcher himself.

Moreover, to fully grasp all information provided by the participants, the researcher has used audiotape recording based on permissions given by the participants. Then the researcher has carefully transcribed the recorded data. Along with recording the data provided by the participants, the researcher has also took a short note on key responses of the participants. The researcher has carried out the IDIs, FGDs and KIIs sessions in Amharic language with the sole intention of effective communication with all participants. Consequently, the data collected in Amharic language were translated in to English language. Besides, in order to make sure the accuracy of the data translation from Amharic to English, the researcher has translated it twice.

To this end, all in-depth interviews took place at various *Ketena* community policing centers, but one took place at AKSC community policing department. The first FGD (that is with community members) took place at *Ketena* community policing center; whilst the second FGD which has been carried out with community police officers took place at *Woreda* community policing coordination office. All key informant interviews have been conducted at *Woreda* level community policing bureaus coherent to where the key informant interviewees work.

3.6. Data Analysis

The researcher has collected qualitative data by using open-ended questions. Then the data analysis has taken place in the form of thematic analysis, particularly by identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns (themes) within the data. Thematic analysis is a technique for analyzing qualitative data that requires searching across a data set to identify, analyze, and report recurrent patterns (Braun & Clarke, 2006, cited in Kiger & Varpio, 2020).

The rationale behind employing this technique on this study is to deeply understand the meaning of the data; Braun & Clarke, 2012, cited in Kiger & Varpio, 2020 have argued that thematic analysis is a suitable and powerful technique to employ when seeking to understand a set of experiences and thoughts across a data set. Mostly sentence based coding was employed to generate themes. To this end, on this study, both inductive and deductive approaches were employed in theme identification. Besides, the data analysis was arranged based on the research questions. Accordingly, the quotes provided by the participants were highly utilized in the study. Moreover, the researcher has deeply pointed out ideas related to each research objective of the study.

3.7. Ethical Considerations

As it has been discussed by Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009) research ethics deals with how researchers treat those who participate in their studies and how they handle the data after collecting them. Based on this assumption, the researcher has respected all ethical issues that are expected from a certain researcher.

Ahead of conducting the fieldwork, the researcher obtained letter from the Department of Sociology in Addis Ababa University. And this letter kindly requests Addis Ababa Police Commission's Community Policing Directorate to allow the researcher to conduct a study in AKSC. To this end, the researcher obtained letter from Addis Ababa Police Commission's Community Policing Directorate by notifying the topic of this particular study so that to get their support in order to conduct the field work at the study site, that is to say, AKSC.

In addition, during the fieldwork, the researcher has openly discussed with AKSC community policing department from which the in-depth interviewees, FGD participants and key informant interviewees are selected. Thus, the researcher has assumed that such process can make the fieldwork smooth hence everything was approached directly based on the common agreements, full consent and knowledge of the said police organization and the informants that work under its jurisdiction. Moreover, personal identity of the participants was kept secret. Additionally, the findings of this study were not given to any third party; the objective of the study was explained to each participant of the study, the participants were requested to participate only on voluntary basis and were informed by the researcher that they should feel free not to answer any question

that they were not comfortable with or interested in. Nevertheless, the researcher has tried to emphasize the importance of answering all the questions.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

This chapter deals with the analysis of the findings obtained from the study; and a discussion has been given at the end of each sub-theme. The presentation is based on the four specific objectives of the study by forming four major overarching themes that are related with the specific objectives and the data collected from the field. The first theme deals with issues related to the role of community policing in crime prevention, the second theme attempts to put findings related to the role of community participation in crime prevention through community policing, in the third theme, points related to the role of community police officers in crime prevention through community policing are addressed, and lastly factors that hinder community policing from actively playing its crime prevention role are included. However, all the above issues are followed by the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants and the general structure of community policing in the study area.

4.1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the study participants

This section presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the participants who took part in this study. Accordingly, age, sex, experience in crime prevention through community policing, educational status and police rank are included. However, while taking the experience (in year) of the police participants who have served the police department starting from pre-community policing era the researcher deliberately reduced it to the maximum of 9 years.

As shown in the Annex-2, 11 (32.34%) of the participants are women while the remaining 23 (67.62%) are men. Generally, in Ethiopia, specifically in Addis Ketema sub-city (which needs another study), the profession of policing is highly dominated by men; though, this study has tried to have a balanced sex distribution of the study participants. Therefore, in IDIs and FGDs 11 women took part whereas, all the KII participants were men and this shows that the area lacks women community policing coordinators at *Woreda* level.

The age of participants' was between 19 and 65. Their educational level is between Grade 8 and Bachelor's Degree. Police ranks of the participants ranges from Assistant Sergeant to Commander.

4.2. Strategies of Community Policing in Crime Prevention in AKSC

This section attempted to present the findings that are related to the strategies of community policing in crime prevention in AKSC; however, ahead of this, the researcher preferred to put the overall structure of community policing in the study area in the following manner.

4.2.1. Structure of Community Policing in AKSC

An attempt was made to gather primary information about the structure of community policing in the study area by focusing on the issue of by whom the community policing takes place specifically in preventing crimes in the study area including identification of the chain of command of community policing, level of involvement of community policing officers, community policing coordinators (officers) at *Woreda* level, and the various segments of the community who participate in crime prevention through community policing.

To get answer to the above points the researcher interviewed the police commander who runs community policing in AKSC. Additionally, the researcher obtained the following information from the human resource personnel of community policing department of AKSC. The information obtained from the above two informants is summarized below.

AKSC police department consists of four (4) police stations and ten (10) *Woredas*. Besides, they are structured as: *Atobis Tera* police station (includes *Woreda* 5, 6, 7 and 9 of AKSC). Then *Merkato Area* police station (includes *Woreda* 1 and 2). Whereas *Mesalemiya Area* police station (includes *Woreda* 3 and 8). And lastly *Efoyta* police station (it includes *Woreda* 4 and 10). Under each *Woreda* there are 5 to 10 *Ketenas* (*Ketena* is Amharic term which is given to refer a specific geographic area that is intended to demarcate one community policing precinct from the other).

Overall, in AKSC there are 83 community policing centers that give community policing service and for the purpose of smooth supervision they are organized under four different police stations, namely: *Efoyta*, *Atobis Tera*, *Mesalemiya Area* and *Merkato Area*. Based on this structure, each police station's coordinator oversees the *Woreda* level community policing coordinators that reside in her/his jurisdiction. And *Woreda* level coordinators coordinate community policing centers that are found at *Ketena* level. Therefore, with regard to chain of command, community police officers are supervised by *Woreda* coordinators.

To this end, all 83 community policing centers have at least one community police officer. They are police members who obtained some form of practical experience about policing ahead of joining the community policing department. They have one of the following four police rank: Assistant Sergeant, Deputy Sergeant, Sergeant, or Chief Sergeant. Each community police officer is responsible for controlling her/his own *Ketena*. More specifically, these *Ketenas* are divided in to various small blocks. Here, the community policing officers take care of their respective areas by addressing the various segments of the community in order to exchange information about crime and antisocial behaviors.

All community police officers are under the supervision of their respective community policing coordinators which are based in the abovementioned police station areas. The police rank of these coordinators is one of these: Chief Sergeant, Assistant Inspector, Deputy Inspector, or Inspector. Therefore, in AKSC there are four community policing coordinators that supervise community police officers of various *Ketenas*. On the other hand, these four community policing coordinators (officers) are supervised by police commander of AKSC on community policing. Therefore, she/he is the last important high level officer when it comes to community policing at Sub-City level.

From the community perspective, various segments of community participate in community policing approach in AKSC. Youth, women, informers, volunteers, religious leaders, students, *Tera Askebariwoch* (people who control or enforce the taxi transport service like by making the taxi waiting line smooth) business men, local government employees, NGO's. Therefore, it can be said that the general community is part and parcel of community policing in some form of contribution to prevent crimes.

Most importantly, from the community side there is a group called as Advisory Council; this is a group of few people who are elected by the community to work with the community policing officers. This Advisory Council holds regular meetings which range from week to month depending on the situation. The aim is to discuss about the overall issues of the neighborhood with particular focus in conflict and crime in the community. They have also a mandate to develop a plan about crime prevention and raising fund from the community for the purpose of community policing.

4.2.2. The Type of Community Policing in Crime Prevention

As it has been discussed under chapter two, the type (ways of implementation) of community policing differs from place to place; therefore, attempt was made to address they type/form in which community policing takes place. Like many other parts of the world, to prevent crimes in AKSC the community and the police are working in partnership. And the following senior in-depth interviewee who has been taking part in community policing since community policing's Pilot Project (back in 2004 E.C) in the study area has elaborated his idea in the following way:

“The type or model of community policing under implementation at AKSC is proactive crime prevention based on the police-community partnership. It focuses on the causes of crime so that to prevent various crimes before they occur. It is not just only about crime prevention, it also includes creating a disciplined generation thereby to build citizens who own good behavior. Public trust building is the other key strategy; because, in the absence of public trust the crime prevention issue could not be achieved therefore we are working to put trust between the community and the police. To do this, we use the feedback of all stakeholders of community policing to prevent crime.” (Sub-city level community policing department head, Male, 57 years-old, Commander, 9 years-experience in community policing).

To sum up, from the above perspective, the community policing approach that is taking place in the study area is compatible to many of perspectives provided by different scholars and organizations that were discussed in the second chapter of this study; for instance, (UNODC, 2011) argues community-oriented policing offers a related approach to helping police discussion with crime in urban settings. It is proactive in that it prioritizes crime prevention in consultation with the population. It focuses on building relations with the population and thus producing a new form of order based on close relations between the police and the community, which solves problems through active discussion between police officers and the community members.

Thus, even though, community-oriented policing takes different forms, it is usually based on the creation of formal mechanisms like councils and specially trained units that assist the police interact with the community in order to determine effective strategies, based on local knowledge, to prevent crime.

4.2.3. The Role of Stakeholders in Community Policing and Crime Prevention

As the information obtained from the in-depth interviewees has shown, various segments of the society participate in crime prevention through community policing. To prevent crime through community policing, all segments of the community are included as stakeholders to take part in crime prevention activities.

For instance, civic associations (media personalities, lawyers, *Idir* associations, religious institutions and religious fathers), youth and women's associations, different 'organizations' (people who manage the taxi lines, people who work at parking, shoe shine boys, schools, market institutions, coordinators and members of the independent advisory council and community patrol) and generally the work encompasses all members of the community.

As one in-depth interviewee has explained, to prevent crimes through community policing nobody is excluded; surprisingly, even some 'marginalized groups' such as ex-criminals, street children and prostitutes which are neglected from the larger society do also take part in crime prevention through community policing; this IDI participant's statements have been written below:

"It is all inclusive; we incorporate all members of the community irrespective of their socio-economic status. We include even past criminals to the crime prevention task. Ex-criminals show their regrets and they apologize the community for what they did in the past and they teach the community and potential offenders about the harshness of crime. They also admit the fact that they had harmed the community by the crime they had committed by sharing their crime experience and this is playing a great role to crime prevention through community policing; we are using them highly in community policing meetings. Thus, in community policing nobody is left out and there is no discrimination, be it literate or illiterate." (Sub-city level community policing department head, Male, 57 years-old, Commander, 9 years-experience in community policing).

Some of the major stakeholders who take part in crime prevention through community policing approach in AKSC are summarized below based on the information mostly obtained from the above-mentioned in-depth interviewee.

Civic associations: they play their role in crime prevention in various forms. For instance, media people such as, journalists on FM Radio stations and Television (TV) stations by teaching their audiences and viewers about crime prevention in a form of drama by transmitting useful

messages about crime prevention. Furthermore, they take part in delivering messages that shape the behavior of the youth via their platforms. Police programs on TVs are also playing their role. On the other hand, lawyers play a role by providing professional support such as by consulting the community members who participate on crime prevention activities and the community police officers.

Idir institutions: they play their role by teaching their members not to commit crimes, by giving advice for *Idir* members who have a family member linked to criminal activities so that to abstain from his/her criminal behavior, whenever they get prior information about the commission of crime they report and inform to the police and they also provide financial and logistic support for community policing including building a community policing center.

Religious institutions: they also play their role by creating awareness to their followers about the harshness of crime in line with their religious preaches. Religious leaders/fathers create awareness about the impact of illegal drugs. During community policing board meetings they speak about good behavior, tolerance and unity of people.

Youth and women's associations: they play a remarkable role to crime prevention through community policing. For example, during different outdoor religious and cultural festivals they keep the peace of the community and they play massive role in crime prevention. *Meskel*, *Irrecha* and *Timket* are among the festivals where the youth and women's association role in crime prevention becomes vital. On such outdoor gatherings the youth and women's associations participate widely in crime prevention activities by taking the initiative; literally they engage in crime prevention with high commitment by replacing the police. They aware the gatherers and also they apprehend the suspects. Furthermore, they also take part in crime prevention activities during different public and government gatherings, such as sport festivals (the Great Ethiopian Run) and when the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Cup rotates to generate fund in the community. Therefore, the role they play is not replaceable by money. As a result, they minimized the burden of the police.

They also engage in managing and controlling the traffic on roads just like a traffic police officer, beautifying and cleaning roads, helping the elderly and children to cross the roads, feeding people in need. In short, they widely participate in voluntary activities.

In addition to doing their own job, people who work in controlling the taxi lines (*ye taxi tera askebariwoch*) play their role in many forms, for instance: they prevent theft, snatching, pickpocketing, different crimes of deception, car spare part theft, apprehending suspects red handedly, informing to the police to apprehend suspects, testifying as a witness in courts, reporting to the police drivers who participate in illegal activities, they also provide massive support to traffic police, giving direction for people who do not know the area and apparently giving orientation to them to protect themselves from offences. Moreover, whenever they are at work in their work areas, we do not deploy police members for crime prevention rather they work the crime prevention work by themselves in their neighborhood just by replacing the police job. People who work in parking slots also do the exact job of the line workers.

Shoe shine boys: they play their role by providing different important information in advance to the police so that to prevent crimes before they occur. The abovementioned in-depth interviewee has provided the following statements with regard to this group of the society:

“They are our ‘advertisements’, because they display a motto at their back on a shining vest which is written in bold, ‘let’s prevent crime together’. They also display the phone numbers of the police station and the community policing center which they reside.”

Students: on the other hand, play their role via security board on keeping the teaching learning process smooth and peaceful. There is a security board in each school. Students give information secretly to the police about hooligans and people who take illegal drugs. Whenever there is someone who is offensive among themselves they give a piece of advice for that student. And also through their school mini-medias they provide the chance for community police officers to deliver orientation or awareness creation about crime and the harshness of illegal drugs.

Market centers: play a role by supporting financially and logistically the crime prevention program of community policing. For instance: buying chairs, tables, mobile phones, mobile cards, providing electricity for the poorly lit areas of their neighborhood so that to minimize the possibility of crimes that might occur during night shift in dark and based on their willingness and agreement they contribute money (starting from 30ETB/Ethiopian Birr) per month which directly goes to the neighborhood watch guards as a monthly salary. The money they contribute always audited by the board.

Furthermore, there is a new stakeholder which is formulated recently by the Ministry of Peace; it is called as, Independent Advisory Council and Community Patrol. This body is free from any political party and it is organized with the aim of consulting community policing's crime prevention programs and issues regarding the peace and security of the society. It consists people of different professions, to mention some: lawyers, teachers, journalists, religious leaders, artists, *Idir* association leaders, people with physical disabilities, youth and women's associations, and popular and influential individuals who can make impact on crime prevention because of the status they have in the community. Their role is consulting the police on issues of security.

They are organized at *Ketena*, *Woreda* and sub-city level. There are 613 members of this council in 81 *Ketenas* (even though there are 83 *Ketenas* at AKSC, currently two of them are not implementing community policing due to the absence of dwellers in the area; they are dislocated for 'development' reasons), 175 members at *Woreda* level and 28 members at sub-city level. They hold a meeting in every 15 minutes at *Ketena* level; whereas, at *Woreda* and sub-city level they meet once. Nonetheless, in this study, given their time of participation (which is very recent) in crime prevention it is difficult to explore the role they play. Nevertheless, this body is not similar with the other Advisory Council that has been repeatedly mentioned in this study. Rather, the role of the Advisory Council is presented below.

Advisory Council: each *Ketena* has its own advisory board in community policing. And in this study, attempt has been made to identify the role this board plays in preventing crimes through community policing. As it has been expressed by one in-depth interviewee, the Advisory Council plays its role in crime prevention in the following way:

“The role the advisory council plays to prevent crimes through community policing could be taken as the back bone of crime prevention; because, this council is organized of different bodies, therefore the way it provides solutions (consulting, recommending or suggesting possible alternatives) to the police to crime prevention also differs. The council is organized at Sub-city, Woreda and Ketena level. For instance, the sub-city advisory council consists: sub-city administration chief executive official, police chief, crime and traffic accident investigation chief, law and security department head, youth's association leader, women's association leader, representative of the trade community, community representative, religious leader's representative, micro and small enterprise

official, health and education bureau officials.” (Advisory Council Vice Chairperson, Female, 41 years-old, 5 years-experience in community policing).

According to him, this council plays its role by identifying the issues that harm the community (in this case the residents of the sub-city) and then it provides recommendations and solutions that can possibly solve the identified problem. To this end, along with other stakeholders it consults the police organization about crime prevention through community policing. When it is due, the council holds a meeting with community members about the peace and security of the area. Additionally, it also plays the coordination role by taking the initiative to mobilize government and NGO bodies to take part in various crime prevention tasks.

Another in-depth interviewee expressed the role of the council and his views are quoted in the following manner:

“For instance, we see some issues in advance in the neighborhood that the police may not be able to see; as a result, it has high importance. When the advisory council gets information in advance before the police is able to get, then we consult the police with possible recommendations thus it has massive importance to prevent crimes. Therefore, the advisory council lays foundation to prevent crimes through community policing. It plays huge role for pre-crime prevention activities; for instance, consulting the police in advance by saying in the near future this and that problem may occur thus it is better to do this and that so as to prevent probable damage.” (Advisory Council Chairperson, Male, 43 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

According to him, hence it is formed from the community, the advisory council is playing a crime prevention role by having discussions closely with the community and consulting the community to prevent itself from different crimes in partnership with the police through community policing; as he said it also played a role just like by being a bridge with regard to closing the gap between the police and the community so that to prevent crimes in collaboration.

Moreover, he made a comparison between the past and the present time by saying for instance, in the past times, the police were considered as human rights violators, nevertheless, him and other advisory council members have changed that perception in the community; therefore, as he has

said, currently both parts are working together to prevent crimes and the council played a role on this. As a result, the council particularly has massive role to make the community more close to the police.

In strengthening his point, this participant has also depicted the current situation of his own neighborhood, for instance, previously, in this neighborhood, the police and the community do not meet; the community (particularly young people) used to run away when they notice the police in the surrounding and nowadays this has improved massively. This has happened because various discussions were held with the young people and they are allowed to take part in different crime prevention activities by forming them at different committees through community policing, therefore, now it is them who are preventing crimes in partnership with the police.

Therefore, according to him, the council has easily connected the community with the police. As a result, the council is contributing a massive role with regard to preventing crimes and reducing crime rate through community policing. For instance, it prevented consumption of illegal drugs at one place in mass, the experience of purchasing stolen property has deteriorated and also it minimized problems that potentially lead to crime.

On the other hand, one in-depth interviewee has provided issues related to volunteers who take part in crime prevention through community policing:

“Volunteers come to us by themselves in an organized manner by a written application that shows their interest to take part in crime prevention activities through community policing. Most of them are young people; they safeguard and protect their neighborhood from potential criminal activities at night shift. We give them guidance on how to patrol their area and then they do accordingly; sometimes, alone by themselves, and sometimes in collaboration with other security personnel. Some of them are employed, whereas, others are not.” (Community Police Officer, Male, 27 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 5 years-experience in community policing).

Neighborhood Watch guards: one of the visible fruit of community policing in crime prevention is the introduction of neighborhood watch guards in AKSC. As the findings of this study shown, they are employed by the community itself. Through community policing, they combat crimes in partnership with community police officers and the community at large. It is evident that the police cannot be omnipresent in all neighborhoods to control crimes and criminals at the exact same time. Therefore, in addition to other stakeholders who take part in crime prevention through community policing, they need someone who collaborates with them by wearing uniforms in community policing.

Moreover, the following interviewee's explanation has highly shown their role; and it is quoted below in his own words:

“Hence the number of the police is limited, through community policing approach neighborhood watch guards properly perform the crime prevention tasks by covering the areas which cannot be addressed by the police. However, when we deploy them we do not allow them to cover areas which are highly difficult and tricky to prevent crimes. In these areas we deploy police members though the rest less dangerous areas will be covered by neighborhood watch guards. During holidays they work in partnership with the police members. All in all, they are employed by the community and they get their monthly salary from the contributions of the community members. They work the crime prevention task by a stick.” (Sub-city level community policing department head, Male, 57 years-old, Commander, 9 years-experience in community policing).

According to him, the uniform they wear differs from *Woreda* to *Woreda*. They are recruited from the community based on some criteria in collaboration between community police officers and security board. After being recruited by the police they will receive training and orientation about crime prevention and then they get deployed to work in different blocks. They engage in all crime prevention activities that are similar with the ones practiced by the police. Hence the community hired them by itself; there is a sense of ownership and likes to support them.

Lastly, attempt was made to identify government organizations and NGOs that play a role in crime prevention through community policing in the study area and the participants have forwarded the following answers.

One in-depth interviewee noted the following statements:

“There are some government organizations that play a role by supporting crime prevention activities through community policing. For instance, micro and small enterprise, this office in partnership to community policing creates job opportunities by organizing unemployed young generation of the community and then in line to working their own job these youth people engage in to crime prevention activities at an identified crime spots of the Ketena. The other government organization is house construction bureau; it plays a crime prevention role by demolishing illegal buildings and houses, and preventing the construction of houses that engage in illegal activities. On the other hand, in my opinion, peace and security bureau is not playing sufficient role, with regard to providing training, awareness, supervision and giving different support there is limitation.” (Advisory Chairperson, Male, 43 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

He also added the following points:

“In order to strengthen community policing ‘NGOs’ play their role by supporting through money, resource and materials; particularly, the community, wealthy individuals, and most importantly the commercial community. For instance, they help us by providing bread, water and the likes during the tea-coffee discussions. Nevertheless, there is no notable local or international NGO that plays a role to support crime prevention community policing.”

Moreover, throughout this study, the role of one government office has been repeatedly mentioned by most participants, that is, small and micro enterprise agency of the study area; as it has been widely informed by the participants, this office mostly plays a role in crime prevention through community policing by creating job opportunities thereby to minimize criminal activities that might be committed by the unemployed people; furthermore, according to the participants, this office highly works in partnership with community policing.

Most of the jobs are related to urban informal sectors such as making a living by lifting up and down properties, shoe-shining and parking controlling. Last of all, as it has been indicated by the participants most of the beneficiaries of these opportunities are ex-criminals (with the intention

of preventing recidivism) and potential offenders. And the information provided in this paragraph is available here and there in a scattered way throughout this study.

In conclusion, the data have suggested that nobody is left out from crime prevention in community policing. In order to prevent crimes in the study area, people take part either individually or in organized way by forming groups. And the police have highly welcomed the participation of the above-mentioned stakeholders of community policing. The community's partnership extends from patrolling the neighborhood in-person to paying monthly salary of the neighborhood watch guards.

A study conducted in Mekelle by Gosa & Angesom (2017) has contradicted the findings of the present study; because, these researchers have claimed that there was weak participation of the business community in the study area, whilst the current study has found the reverse, in other words, the business community's level of participation on community policing is high. This is confirmed by the results of the study, such as both in kind and in cash contributions of the business community of the study area.

Moreover, the above results have confirmed the three key components of community policing (organizational transformation, community partnership and problem solving) which were stated by Lawrence & McCarthy (2013). They have further argued that crime prevention is not something left solely for the police particularly in community policing by mentioning stakeholders such as, neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, business groups, schools and local government offices. The results of this study have also affirmed their argument.

Lastly, the above results of the study on the role of stakeholders to prevent crime through community policing became compatible to the arguments of Lawrence & McCarthy (2013) in which they have widely pinpointed the fact that the stakeholders who are at the helm of crime prevention, additionally, individual residents, the term community partners encompasses a range of groups like neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations, business groups, tenant councils, local government offices, social service providers, schools such as elementary and

secondary schools, community colleges, vocational schools and universities and small local businesses.

Therefore, this study highly confirms the crime prevention role of stakeholders/partners to community policing in the study area. Hence the task of crime prevention is not only something left solely for the police, particularly in community policing crime prevention strategy, exploiting their role to the maximum is highly vital.

4.2.4. Community Policing's Role in Creating Awareness to the Community Members in Order to Prevent Themselves from Various Crimes

Hence the police (along with other major stakeholders) in community policing easily reach community members of their respective precinct, they have the chance of creating awareness about crime and how it should be prevented. Furthermore, hence it is unlikely to do well in the execution of community policing without enough awareness in the public, repeatedly creating awareness to the community is highly believed as vital thereby to prevent and reduce neighborhood disputes and crimes.

One in-depth interviewee reflected her own opinion on how she empowers community members to take part in crime prevention activities through community policing and her verbatim is presented below:

“We create awareness by making deep discussions with the community on crime related issues, by informing them about new issues that are taking place in the surrounding and by maximizing their awareness on crime; for instance, in the pre-corona time, we create awareness for about a hundred community members at one time.” (Community police officer, Female, 26 years-old, Deputy Sergeant, 4 years-experience in community policing).

The other in-depth interview participant also explained the role of creating awareness in community policing to prevent crimes and her views are quoted below:

“We create awareness through community policing discussions by sharing the advice of the elders and other influential community members. Both old and young people discuss

together about criminal issues thereby exchange of information takes place. Above all, they testify against the suspect in order to make the suspect punishable by the law; as a result, other potential criminals would get possible deterrence not to engage in criminal activities, therefore, others will fear victimizing. By assuming, 'If she/he gets punished, I would probably too.' Generally, through regular and tea-coffee meetings of community policing, we provide awareness creation arenas to various stakeholders (such as community organizations and committees) of community policing on *modus operandi* and this helps them to maximize their crime prevention efforts.” (Community police officer, Female, 25 years-old, Sergeant, and 4 years-experience in community policing).

The above two quotes imply the fact that community police officers and other influential community members seek to maximize the larger community awareness with regard to crime prevention. And this affirms the idea argued by Uchida et al. 2013, cited in Grant, 2015 in which they claimed the large majority of crime control actually results from the day to day activities of community members. An effective crime control mechanism is one that not only recognizes and embraces the benefit of residents in preventing criminal activities but seeks to increase their ability to do so.

Another in-depth interviewee noted the role of community policing in providing awareness, in his own words:

“Teaching the community about the details of crime prevention; regularly giving awareness about the modus operandi used by the criminals to commit crime. Because, the modus operandi of crimes employed by criminals varies from time to time and it is getting sophisticated from time to time. As a result, a modus operandi that we taught once might not work for other time; for instance, there are offenders who commit criminal activities by wearing different police uniforms (as a deception technique). They go to somebody’s house and they falsely say that they came from certain nearby police organization and then they commit crimes. Therefore, in this case, we alert the community not to be deceived by such offenders; rather, we inform and remind them to be continuously cautious and careful not to be victimized. And this helps the community not to be deceived/ victimized by fake police members, wrongly perceiving them as real

ones.” (Sub-city level community policing department head, Male, 57 years-old, Commander, 9 years-experience in community policing).

Thus the above quote indicates the fact that providing awareness to the community is not a one-time issue hence the techniques employed by the perpetrators vary from time to time.

The other point that he added was that the situation in which during night shifts, when vehicle drivers who do not have plate numbers or have broken plate numbers drive by having large amount of people by showing a tendency of engaging in to criminal activities; therefore, based on the awareness they have got from community policing, the community members report such incidents. Additionally, through community policing, *Ketena* community police officers try to motivate other security bodies (particularly people who safeguard finance institutions like banks) at night shift not to sleep. Moreover, according to him, through community policing approach the sub-city’s community policing department also provides research based training about crime prevention for the above security bodies.

One in-depth interviewee also noted the following points with regard to creating awareness through community policing thereby to prevent crimes; and it is quoted below:

“By allowing them to take part in different crime prevention trainings and awareness creation meetings, permitting them to take part in crime prevention activities in an organized way and by providing support on issues they need to be supported while preventing crimes through community policing.” (Community police officer, Female, 22 years-old, Assistant Sergeant, and 2 years-experience in community policing).

The above quote implies the fact that community members have the chance of interaction with each other and getting familiar. And this can be related to the argument raised by Mukherjee and Wilson, 1987, cited in Rezaei (2013) in which they argued the most vital element of community crime-prevention appears to be bringing about social interaction, whereby dwellers of the community preserve a degree of familiarity with each other. Such interaction and familiarity should at least, make it possible to identify strangers in the community.

One in-depth interviewee (Youth leader) also expressed his opinion on how awareness creation (particularly, from the young people's perspective) plays a role in crime prevention through community policing and it is quoted in the following way:

“Creating awareness to the public particularly for the youth generation on the attitude of hating crime; thus, it plays massive role by advising the youth to be productive citizens; and by creating awareness to the community on crime prevention activities thereby how to prevent criminal activities in the neighborhood and where to go when crime occurs. Currently, the community has got awareness about the process of filing charges on the suspects after the commission of crime.” (Youth Association Chairperson, Male, 29 years-old and 8 years of experience in community policing).

He further explained the role community policing plays in crime prevention by creating awareness and his verbatim is presented below:

“By making the youth to lead their life by being free from criminal activities; advising the youth to take part in community development issues through community policing so that to prevent crime. By solving the problems that exist at youth association, striving to create citizens who are important to the country, creating awareness about traffic safety, creating awareness about ways of crime commission and on how to prevent them through Idir. By giving awareness to community members about the issue of crime at different community development; because, community members could only take part in development activities in the presence of peace and security.”

In the above quote the participant attempted to show the role of community policing in creating awareness to the community to prevent crime thereby to secure development. And this can be supported by the arguments raised by Aref & Ma'rof 2009, cited in Rezaei, 2013, in which they argued in the absence of community participation, there are obviously no developments, no security and no program.

Another in-depth interviewee also articulated the role of community policing in providing the chance to create awareness on crime prevention; and the following excerpt was taken from his verbatim:

“Awareness creation takes place either door to door or by gathering the neighborhood members and then the community comes to consensus on the issue of crime prevention through community policing. The community meets community police officers through different means of community policing such as, through different community organizations and, tea and coffee programs. Generally, in order to create awareness to the community on crime and crime prevention, the community police officer goes wherever community members practice their own programs such as, sanitation programs, Idir meetings and religious programs; thus, the officer uses the good opportunity to create awareness about crime prevention through community policing. These helped the community police officers to improve crime prevention related awareness level of the community members in the Ketena.” (Community Police Officer, Male, 27 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 5 years-experience in community policing).

The above participant indicated the different formal and informal strategies that he uses in order to create awareness to the community members to prevent themselves from various criminal incidents. Similarly, UNODC (2011) indicates that there are a variety of strategies that exist under the general community-oriented approach, including setting up formal local forums to help police engage in conversations with local dwellers about crime problems and come up with solutions to local problems; organizing a neighborhood watch organization related with police; or arranging proximity or sector policing, wherein police are placed on the ground in particular areas to develop relations with the area and the local population.

The above same participant further noted that community policing plays a role to create a community who hates crime, it paves the way for the community to safeguard its own neighborhood in collaboration with the police, it has a role to eradicate the ‘accountable and accounted’ (the community itself is accountable and also accounted through community policing; an ongoing notion which is taking place due to the improved awareness), it gives the chance to the community in order to advise the wrong doers to abstain from their wrong doings so as to shape their behavior; hence they reside in the community. And, as far as he is concerned, when the youth reject this opportunity, they will be held accountable by the law and the police enforce that with due process of law.

He also added the following points:

“There are various level bedroom services in this Ketena, illegal and legal or organized and non-organized; we give awareness on crime prevention for all people who are engaged in providing bedroom services so as to provide information about their ‘strange customers’ to the police. Therefore, in this Ketena most bed-room service providers are the backbones for our crime prevention task through community policing. They control various crimes and they inform various criminal activities to the police, even though still many crimes go unnoticed. Nevertheless, the non-organized and illegal ones are source of criminal activities. They are known for causing problems and committing crimes. There are also service providers who create criminal partnership with prostitutes. A case in point: Kesha Betereba: this is a kind of bed-room that gives service to lower class people (clients who could not afford other bed-room services) in a form of putting mattresses and some low quality sponges just for small amount of fee such as 20 to 30 ETB per night.”

Thus, according to him, most of the bed-room service providers are good when it comes to providing crime related information to him through community policing initiatives. And for this, the relation he has built with this group of community is vital to crime prevention. By the same token, UNODC (2011) argues that community policing is a strategy that focuses on developing ties between police and citizens in particular areas to gather intelligence and develop collaborative strategies to address local crime concerns. However, the illegal bed-room service providers are hampering the crime prevention efforts by serving as sources of crime.

Asked on how he fully empowers community members to take part in crime prevention activities through community policing, the above same in-depth interview participant enunciated the following statements:

“There is no special way, it is just creating awareness through regular discussions (with community organizations, youth associations and volunteers) and also with tea-coffee meetings. And also showing them a sense of partnership in providing solutions (along

with our partners) to their concerns; as a result community members feel a sense of belongingness to community policing activities; thus, we always work in partnership.”

The above quote implies the vitality of partnership in crime prevention through community policing. Furthermore, Lloyd & Foster, 2009, cited in Karn (2013) central to the delivery of community policing is effective community engagement. By working together in collaboration with local residents, the community police officer can raise their sense of security, their resilience to criminal activities and their confidence.

Lastly, he provided the following statements:

“Elders who participate in advising and reconciling are those people who are free from criminal cases and their role is settling down disputes that arise between husband and wife, and also between neighbors of the neighborhood and any disagreements that occur in the neighborhood. During such situation the officer remains as an observer, therefore they do the conciliation task by themselves as per their religion, culture and the secret they are told by the disputants. These are people who have some sort of influence in the neighborhood and they are people like, ‘oh if she/he says I have to accept the conciliation’ due to the influence they have as a result of the status they hold. The conciliation takes place at community policing centers. Most of these people are women in my Ketena, even though there are few men.”

In short, the above community police officer tried to indicate how he exploits different local influential members of the community in order to settle different disputes that potentially escalate to crime. However, it needs further study why most of these people are women.

Another in-depth interviewee shared his experience of creating awareness through community policing to prevent crimes and his words are written in the following paragraph:

“I am a chairperson of Idir, through community policing in our Idir we teach about the harshness of crime. We give awareness to our members thereby to advice their children not to participate in criminal activities. And also along with the police we alert them to prevent criminal activities that might occur at night by electrifying their surroundings. In this area, prostitutes live, the youth comes by chewing khat, consuming alcohol and other

illegal drugs to meet them; after that, they even do not recognize and identify the type of crime they commit. The other issue is that some people illegally provide bedrooms for cheap rents by targeting the passengers around the bus station. And they do this with criminal intent; for example, at the middle of the night, they steal the properties of the passengers. In other cases, there are snatchers and offenders who break houses and rob properties. Therefore, we say that the concerned body should help the police by giving due attention in preventing the abovementioned issues.” (Security board member and Idir Chairperson, Male, 65 years-old, 1 year-experience in community policing).

The above same in-depth interviewee also noted the following points with regard to creating awareness through community policing to prevent crimes:

“Maintaining the peace and security of such a densely populated area is a great deal. Through the discussions that take place, we raise issues that need to be improved in our respective blocks. We also provide awareness to all members of the Idir about crime. We meet weekly. We work this without any salary. We also recommend prostitutes to wear properly in line with our culture. There are some youth who commit crimes (theft). We teach them via our Idir to abstain from wrong deeds, we advise the offenders to refrain. Overall, we aware the general public about crime prevention; the ones who reject to participate shall be taken to community policing center.”

By and large, the above participant in the preceding two quotes tried to indicate how he creates awareness through community policing in order to prevent various anti-social problems and crimes. And impliedly, he is well aware of the role of creating awareness to bring active community participation thereby to prevent crimes through community policing. Likewise Myhill, 2006, cited in Karn (2013) also articulated the role of active community participation to prevent crime and other antisocial behaviors as effective community engagement ensures that the police respond to community problems and are held to account for the actions they have implemented.

One in-depth interviewee also made the following points with regard to awareness:

“We (religious fathers), just like we preach about our religion, throughout all the chances that we get we tell our followers about the causes of criminal activities, the ways to prevent criminal activities and the harshness of crime so that to alert and take care of our community. Additionally, we also create awareness to the believers to discuss about crimes at family level and also we remind them to cooperate with the community police officers.” (Religious Father, Male, 53 years-old, 4 years-experience in community policing).

One in-depth interview participant explained issues related to the role of awareness:

“Based on the awareness provided by community police officers, all residents of each block strive to play its part to prevent crime through community policing. Through community policing, youths take part in securing their respective neighborhood at night shifts along with neighborhood watch guards and other security bodies. Additionally, popular and influential individuals try to play their role by creating awareness about crime whenever they get the opportunity to encounter the society. Other members of the community also participate in crime prevention through community policing like by delivering their knowledge and finance.” (Idir Leader, 47 years-old, Male, 6 years-experience in community policing).

To sum up, the above results have indicated that community policing has paved the way to create awareness to the community members about crime prevention related issues. And many stakeholders play this role including elders, religious fathers, community police officers, and well-known, influential and popular people of the study area. As it can be understood from the quotes of the participants, all partners of community policing are striving to prevent crimes before they occur by focusing on the causes that might lead to criminal activities.

Quite understandably, it is almost impossible to provide awareness for the general public at one specific place and time on how to prevent criminal activities and other social problems that occur in the neighborhood; therefore, approaching the general community via multiple small community organizations such as, *Idir*, religious institutions and youth associations plays an

important role in preventing crimes through community policing. Because, more or less, the people who are members of such institutions have high possibility of interacting with other members of the community and this gives them the chance to share with others what they have learned about crime prevention.

Therefore, the researcher highly claims that community policing approach is by far the best one in comparison to other crime prevention strategies when it comes to creating awareness for the general public on how to prevent different potential crimes and other social problems. Above all, it is the responsibility of *Ketena* community police officers and their key partners with regard to hunting small community organizations thereby to repeatedly create awareness for community members while they are practicing their own social, cultural, political, religious and other forms of gatherings. Thus, on such occasions, information flows to the community from community police officers and vice versa. Moreover, it is believed that community members would like to cooperate in preventing crimes through community policing. To this end, the above results have become compatible with two of the theories employed by this study (Broken Window and Social Disorganization Theory).

On the other hand, on top of the above results and discussions, Melese and Tesfaye (2019) have found that 27.1% of their respondents believed that community policing creates awareness to the public on areas of crime prevention. Even though, the current study conquers their finding; it differs on the number presented by the researchers above hence all participants of the current study confirmed the role of community policing in creating awareness to the community on crime prevention. Therefore, based on the findings, the current study highly claims the role of community policing in creating awareness to the community to prevent themselves from numerous criminal activities.

4.2.5. The Role of SARA Model in Community Policing to Prevent Problems that Possibly Develop in to Criminal Activities

It is believed that in some cases, small problems that happen in the neighborhood could develop to petty offences and felonies; in order to avoid this from happening, city police administration (or in this case sub-cities) employ different problem solving approaches particularly when they implement community policing to prevent crimes.

As the data obtained from in-depth interviews shows, SARA Model problem solving approach is the one at implementation. It is a four step problem solving way which includes scanning, analysis, response, and assessment.

Most of the in-depth interviewees in one or another way have explained this fact; one in-depth interview participant has provided the following issues:

“Obviously, we (police officers) mainly apply the principles of community policing in order to boost the potential of the community members to prevent them from crime. For instance, by applying SARA model in order to solve neighborhood problems, by reaching the community and by showing good approach to be reached by them. In this area, most of the community’s work is associated with trade therefore we routinely discuss with them by creating awareness particularly on how they can protect and prevent themselves and their property from potentials criminals, like by informing them about new modus operandi of crime thereby to avoid victimization.” (Community police officer, Female, Sergeant, 29 years-old, 6 years-experience in community policing).

Lawrence and McCarthy (2013) enunciated police departments that are based on a community policing approach train and assign officers to duties that are focused on creative and active problem solving and prevention, instead of simply reacting to criminal activities and disorders. Similarly, based on the above quote and other consecutive quotes below, AKSC community police department is also implementing SARA model problem solving approach.

The following excerpt is also taken from one in-depth interviewee:

“For problem solving, we specially use the SARA model. While utilizing this model, we focus on area/neighborhood based problem solving technique. Because, the problem of one neighborhood has a chance of being different from the other one; therefore, the same problem solving technique cannot solve the problem of two different neighborhoods. As a result, the solution for the problems depends on the practical situation of each neighborhood; therefore, we provide area specific solutions. Additionally, when there is best experience in one block, we share this to the rest blocks.” (Sub-city level community policing department head, Male, 57 years-old, Commander, 9 years-experience in community policing).

He also added that they are effectively implementing the SARA model through community policing. According to him, first, they identify the problems, then they prioritize the problems, and the planning stage follows to solve the prioritized problems, lastly the implementation stage takes place based on short, medium and long term scenarios. He pointed out one example:

“For instance, as a short term solution, we immediately respond by electrifying the poorly lit areas in the neighborhood in order to prevent possible criminal activities that take place in dark during the night shift. We give special attention and protection to places which are in favor of offenders whereas very dangerous to residents. Therefore, it is impossible to solve all problems once at the same time.”

Furthermore, he also elaborated on how community policing plays a role to prevent crimes just by giving due attention to the causes and sources of crime. Taking measures against them, such as when it is due by automatically shutting down houses that serve as a place to consume illegal drugs, gambling places, khat chewing places, video centers, and in some cases forcing small houses that sell local/cultural drinks (*Tej, Tela* and *Areke*) to stop the business as early as possible (like before it darks).

There are also some areas which have small plastic houses (areas for hooligans and criminals to hide themselves from the police) such as “American *Gibi*”. Bridges, train station crossing areas, night clubs and dance houses in naked way such as that is found in front of “Amanuel Hospital” in AKSC. According to him, these are among the areas that are known for fear of crime. Therefore, in these areas they are implementing the pre-crime prevention measures through community policing by employing the SARA Model.

Another in-depth interview participant also explained her view on the role of community policing in solving problems that possibly develop in to criminal activities:

“First of all, community policing serves as a bridge in connecting the public with the government. Then, it has a role in solving problems and disputes that arise on between individuals during their daily societal interactions. Moreover, it has a tremendous role in preventing crimes that possibly occur. For instance, by informing people in advance to avoid using places that are dangerous (robbery and bodily injury) particularly during night time. The sub-city is home for two bus-stations and as a result there is large congestion. Robbery takes place by targeting passengers. Therefore, in order to prevent

these, community policing plays a role by encountering various young people of the area with the intention of working with them to prevent crimes. Approaching them is significant, because they participate in informing crimes that take place. As a result, crimes that might occur can be prevented. Therefore, our work is prevention based.” (Community police officer, Female, 25 years-old, Sergeant, and 4 years-experience in community policing).

She also added the following points:

“Community policing has a very high role in crime prevention and it has a contribution in securing the peace of the society and to lead life without any threat. It also paves the way to help the poorer of the poor particularly during holiday times. The police feed this group of society and when people notice such initiatives of the police, other community members (particularly young people) would be encouraged and motivated to help. The latent aim of doing that is just to maximize the police-community relations thereby to exploit the crime prevention activities of the community through community policing. In such cases, particularly, the youth show high interest to work with the police, they literally show positive attitude of working in partnership with the police by saying: “when the police do such work to my own community, why would not I take part in crime prevention activities by collaborating with the police through community policing?””

Additionally, perspectives obtained from another participant of the study has also shown the role of problem solving approach in community policing thereby to solve problems as early as possible before developing in to criminal activities. Therefore, in the following points, in one or another way it sounds valid to put his ideas under this sub-topic.

“The presence of community policing centers which are built to implement community policing at the neighborhoods are providing massive service to the dwellers, therefore it is playing a remarkable role. It has great role to crime prevention; for instance, the community easily gets justice through community policing (when it is possible to solve at community policing center we solve it here, if not we send the case to police station). It paved the way to the community to easily get access to police service at its own neighborhood; like, safeguarding the neighborhood at night in group. It made the

community members to hold discussion so as to identify the neighborhood problems and to get sufficient awareness about crime at tea-coffee meetings; for example, on those discussions people try to identify whose child is causing a problem.” (Advisory Council Chairperson, Male, 43 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

According to him, before the introduction of community policing in this area felonious issue have occurred particularly those related with consuming illegal drugs; mostly by the young generation which took place in group. Nevertheless, currently such places are well-known due to community policing. As a result, immediate action takes place in order to prevent them from wrong doings. Previously, the community rarely reports criminal incidents to the police due to various reasons; one reason is not having a police station in the nearby neighborhood, now the situation has improved therefore, people inform such incidents at community policing centers.

Another in-depth interviewee explained the role of community policing in solving problems that arise in the neighborhood and her opinions are quoted below:

“For instance, one complaint comes to community policing center in order to inform/report a problem that she/he faces like a dispute between couples or neighbors and then a community police officer brings solution through community policing. Additionally, community policing provides a chance for community members to discuss with each other about their problems thereby to look for solutions as well. If it is possible by the capacity of the officer, the problem will be solved, if not, it will be transferred to the concerned body. Generally, through community policing, issues that might develop in to various criminal activities will get solution thereby to prevent crimes in advance before they occur.” (Community police officer, Female, 22 years-old, Assistant Sergeant, and 2 years-experience in community policing).

In conclusion, the results of this study became compatible to the existing assumption which claims the SARA Model is a key problem solving tool to community policing based crime prevention strategy and it was briefly discussed in the second chapter of this study based on the insights of (Lawrence & McCarthy, 2013). Furthermore, here too, the basic assumptions of the Broken Windows theory became compatible to the above findings of the study. Hence the

problem solving takes place to show potential offenders that the neighborhood is not left uncontrolled.

On the other hand, based on the above quotes, with regard to the role of community policing in solving different small neighborhood disagreements, disputes, conflicts and problems that potentially develop to many serious crimes, the findings of the present study is well-matched with the study conducted in Harar by Melese & Tesfaye (2019) in which they have found that through community policing the nearby communities are resolving trivial conflicts such as insulting one another before the issue turns to severe crime. Whilst, in their study, the researchers did not indicate which problem solving approach was employed by the community members and community police officers.

To this end, the present study contradicted the findings obtained by Anteneh (2017) from Yeka Sub-City in which he claimed the community police officers at *Ketena* level did not receive any specific problem solving technique that improves their problem solving capacity thereby to prevent possible criminal activities. On the other hand, in the current study, the participants have indicated that they are well equipped with the SARA model problem solving approach which enables them to solve problems before they escalate to criminal activities.

4.2.6. The Role of Community Policing in Improving Police-Community Relations thereby to Prevent Crimes

It is believed that when there is better police-community relations in the neighborhood, crimes could be prevented before they occur. Arguably, community policing approach has a significant role in improving the police-community relations.

One in-depth interviewee described the role of community-police relationship and partnership in crime prevention; and in her own words:

“Previously, people afraid the police and that include me. However, now, I do not afraid them; thus, now the situation has changed. As a result, we are working together by collaborating with the police thereby to prevent crimes. Now, we consider community policing center as our home, it is our home. Therefore, we discuss whatever we want as we wish and then proceed to bring solution. The public and the police are working together with high agreement. For instance, when a problem occurs, as a committee

member, I have a right to know everything just like the community police officers. And then I inform the details of the problem for them either in-person or via phone. At the end, we provide solution together. Therefore, we are so close to the police.” (Community member, secretary of security committee, Female, 43 years-old and 8 years-experience in community policing).

In the above quote, the participant has indicated that she and other members of her neighborhood used to be afraid of the police. Similarly, Jackson, Shearon & Demelash (2018) in Dire Dawa have also found that during the pre-community policing era, people were afraid of the police by perceiving them as attackers. Surprisingly, as indicated by the above participant due to the implementation of community policing, people who used to be afraid of the police are now working along with the police as key partners in crime prevention through community policing. Thus, community policing is playing a key role in improving the previous antagonistic relation between the police and the community.

She also added the following statements:

“We discuss and solve together on problems which possibly could end up in criminal activities. We meet weekly; as a result, when the police get information ahead of us, they share that with us. And also we give them information which is hidden from them. For instance, we let them know by saying on this day, at this place, this problem has occurred and we solved it in this way. Because they have to know like us; so, there is nothing that we hide on this job. The bond between us is very strong. Furthermore, when there is a three month or a six month report at Idir institutions, they give the first chance for the community police officer in order to aware the members openly about crime. Generally, when we get any crime related information we inform that to the police.”

In the preceding quote, the participant tried to indicate the role of community policing in improving the police-community relations which is key to prevent crimes in partnership. And this perspective can be related with the one explained by Lawrence & McCarthy (2013) in which they have articulated that in order for community partnerships to be effective, some degree of trust and mutual respect between the police and the community is necessary.

One in-depth interviewee also expressed her view in the following way:

“Previously, the relation between the two (the police and the community) was antagonistic. Yet community policing has helped a lot in bringing good understanding between the community and the police. As a result, the community’s perception towards the police has now changed.” (Community member, Female, 32 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

Community policing brings together the community members and the police to prevent crime and solve the problems that are in the neighborhood (Dominique, et al, 2007, cited in Gosa & Angesom, 2017). It can be said that the foregoing quote well-matched to the claim indicated by the above-mentioned author.

Furthermore, as stated by the following in-depth interviewee, the situation in the study area is getting better and better. In his own words:

“This approach is playing a remarkable role in interrelating the police and the community. Due to this, the partnership of the community with the police has improved like never before. For instance, the community’s culture/experience of reporting crime related information to the police has improved, the experience of exchanging information has increased, the process of apprehending flagrant offenders has improved, the community’s experience of supporting the community policing approach through finance, resource and knowledge has increased which includes building community centers, painting regularly and renewing them.” (Sub-city level community policing department head, Male, 57 years-old, Commander, 9 years-experience in community policing).

Furthermore, as far as the above participant is concerned, the experience of the community on holding discussion with the police on various issues has improved, providing and giving feedback and inputs by taking part in the planning stage of crime prevention through community policing became practical.

He also added the following statements:

“Community policing has contributed a lot to crime prevention. This approach practically has brought a massive role in interrelating the community and the police. Because, the community’s information giving experience has increased, the experience of

apprehending red handed offences to the police increased, it improved the police-community partnership. Moreover, previously, people fear to stand as a witness in court against the suspect. Nevertheless, nowadays, because of community policing people are testifying their words.”

According to him, due to the dramatic improvement of the police-community relations, currently, the community members are participating in securing their neighborhood to prevent from different crimes and it is in-person form along with other security bodies. This takes place turn by turn for some hours (mostly from 2:00 hours to 3:00 hours) during night shifts. They also give support to community security patrol programs. And also there is improvement on the experience of testifying in court as a witness after crime takes place. Paying salary for neighborhood watch guards, building centers for community policing, supporting by necessary materials, providing feedback on the work of community policing, providing CCTV, most importantly, community policing has changed the then ‘rat and mouse’ community-police relations in to hand in hand bilateral relations.

Because of this, as far as he is concerned, currently, there is no grievance between the police and the community; our approach is not arrest based approach, rather it is prevention based. In other words, community policing changed the previous reactive situation of the police in to the proactive one. Therefore, both sides are working in partnership for a common goal, that is to say, crime prevention. When there is a community police officer who violates human rights and when grievance comes from the community he/she will be punished. After the reform, human rights protection has highly improved and this is proved by institutions who work on human rights protection (the verdict which they gave after paying visit in the sub city). For instance, the suspects and criminals have the right to watch TVs, which previously they are deprived of it.

Another in-depth interviewee also revealed how community policing has strengthened community police relations with regard to crime prevention; here is his opinion:

“As per to my observation, since the introduction of community policing, the police and the community are working together like one unit. Generally, be it the youth or the elderly, they play massive role by helping the police in providing information in advance when problems occur and before crimes are committed. For instance, earlier, during the

war between the federal government and the Tigray regional state, the community has worked in keeping the peace and security of the neighborhood for 24 hours turn by turn. They deserve acknowledgement from the government. Moreover, there is no grievance between the community and the police.” (Community member, security board member and *Idir* chairperson, Male, 65 years-old, and 1 year-experience in community policing).

One in-depth interviewee elucidated the role of community policing in improving the police-community relations and it is quoted from her own words in the following way:

“Community policing has helped us to do the crime prevention task in partnership with the community. It has brought the chance to work on crime prevention task with the community without any precondition.” (Community police officer, Female, 26 years-old, Deputy Sergeant, 4 years-experience in community policing).

Additionally, this same in-depth interviewee explained her general view on community policing by saying that she is very happy with community policing, because, after the introduction of community policing, the community is preventing crime with community police officers based on its own willingness and whenever they face any type of problem, they would prefer to contact community police officers over local authorities. To this end, she also underscored community policing should be highly strengthened so as to prevent crime.

Furthermore, she depicted one point which has not been raised by any participant of this study; and her own words are written in the following way:

“There is one argument among some community police officers; they perceive that community policing has taken away the ‘responsibility’ of the police and it opened door to some community members to disrespect the police which resulted due to the emerged extreme bond between the police and the community through community policing. Community police officers who raise such point try to justify the argument by comparing the previous police-community relations; which was mostly based on fear. However, I do not agree with their point.”

Moreover, the quotes below indicate the fact that community policing’s emphasis is on preventing crime before it occurs, not responding to calls for service once the crime happens. To

this end, they tried to indicate the fact that they are enjoying community policing's fruits in which it allowed the community members additional control over the quality of life in the neighborhood. Similarly, it also enabled the police to become part of the locality which assists them to get a better sense of inhabitants' desires. Therefore, community policing is vitally assisting in improving the residents trust and confidence in the police. What is discussed in this paragraph can be grasped from the series of quotes below.

One community member (in-depth interviewee) expressed his opinion on the issue in the following way:

"We meet with the officers at tea and coffee programs to discuss about our neighborhood, because of this crime have reduced. Community policing has made the community and the police to commence discussions openly on the problems of the Ketena. There is no fear, so, the crime prevention activities are taking place based on smooth relations and cooperation. There is good understanding between us." (Community member, Male, 50 years-old, 4 years-experience in community policing).

Another in-depth interviewee provided the following statements:

"I am a chairperson of Idir, due to the nature of my work, I encounter a number of people who are members of the Idir (both in group and separately). This gives me a chance to discuss about various issues of our neighborhood. As I observed from these discussions, this crime prevention approach (community policing) has a great role. Moreover, it made the partnership of the community and the police smooth. Because of this, community policing helped both (the community and the police) to prevent crimes together." (Idir Leader, 47 years-old, Male, 6 years-experience in community policing).

One in-depth interview participant also delivered the following information:

"The tendency of working collaboratively with community police officers by most community members is encouraging in our neighborhood and its surroundings. Therefore, through community policing, the community and the police are working together day and night in order to prevent crime." (Religious Father, Male, 53 years-old, 4 years-experience in community policing).

One more in-depth interviewee gave the following opinion:

“With regard to cooperation the public is good. There is great change. The relation with the police is also very close; for instance, with regard to providing information.”

(Community member, Female, 32 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

In conclusion, some of the facts that are raised by the in-depth interviewees may seem reactive policing approach which has less to do with community policing strategy; however, arguably they have a role in preventing potential criminal activities. For instance, when a community member testifies in court against the suspect, potential offenders are likely to abstain from committing crimes. Therefore, this and such issues have roles in crime prevention through community policing.

Furthermore, it is believed that in Ethiopia for a long time the police-community relations were not as smooth as it has to be; rather the kind of relation was mostly based on suspicions and mistrusts. And the study area was not also an exception with this regard. However, currently, as the above results have indicated, there is a highly improved police-community relation which is manifested by community engagement (voluntarily) in crime prevention activities through community policing.

Moreover, unlike the previous time, the police have also welcomed the community's participation in a positive manner. Surprisingly, the other manifestations to the improved police-community relations are the fact that the community members prefer to contact community police officers even for non-law enforcement calls and apparently the police respond to these calls as well and this potentially helps the partnership between the police and the community in crime prevention activities through community policing. In fact, improving the police-community relations is one of the objectives of community policing and in this regard, the results of the study widely showcased a success story.

Muluken (2019) has revealed the existence of better partnership and alliance between police officers and the local community with regard to activities of crime prevention through community policing in North Shewa Zone. Thus, the study at hand also affirmed this finding.

As it has been indicated in the literature part, community policing plays a key role in changing the relations between the police and the community (UNODC, 2011); also Lawrence and McCarthy (2013) have explained the police-community collaborations in community policing to crime prevention and disorder in society is absolutely critical for community policing efforts to be effective; and coherent to these and other claims stated in chapter two, the results of this study has also confirmed that fact.

Besides, the results of this section became coherent with social resource theory which is employed by this study. As it has been stated in the second chapter of this study, the theory tried to ask three radically unique questions; however, two of its questions (what is the relationship of the police with the people? and why do people call the police?) became highly compatible to the findings of this particular section of the study.

4.2.7. The Role of Community Policing in Reducing Crime Rates and Fear of Crime

It is believed that in addition to preventing crimes, community policing has a role in reducing the number of crimes and fear of crime of the citizens. Moreover, Manaliyo (2016) indicated that community participation in crime prevention through community policing has been encompassed by anti-crime organizations as a panacea for crime and various problems. To this end, the in-depth interviewees also repeatedly confirmed this assumption.

One in-depth interviewee did put her opinion on the issue in the following way:

“Community policing is very good in minimizing crime rates and fear of crime. Words cannot describe its role. We work a community mobilization job in the neighborhoods to create awareness about the harshness of crime. When the community observes ‘strangers and strange movements’ in its neighborhood it follows up the situation by giving special attention. We also create awareness to the community not to trust their customers/clients, rather we tell them to suspect. Previously, the community used to be a victim of various deceptions due to naïve-ness (failure to suspect). To minimize community’s fear of crime, the police and the community are working in partnership through community policing. Generally, we are doing the job of drying the source of crime; even though, the source of crime only dries when the human creature disappears from the world.” (Community

member, secretary of security committee, Female, 43 years-old and 8 years-experience in community policing).

She also provided the following statements:

“The community policing should be supported by the city administration in various ways like by providing the necessary materials or in other things. Furthermore, identifying the issues that hinder the center from properly functioning and also providing things that are necessary for them (community police officers) is vital. Moreover, usually people who work their job must be thanked and acknowledged; this should be a habit.”

One community police officer (in-depth interviewee) also explained her opinion in the following way:

“We make discussions with the community through community policing and this has played a role in reducing crime rate and fear of crime. Therefore, we work in partnership with the public; for instance, we give awareness about crime for people who are customers of Kesha Betereba. When the community feels suspicious about issues that take place in the neighborhood they will inform us immediately. And in some cases, they bring the suspect by themselves to community policing center. The community also informs people who commit crimes by wearing police uniforms.” (Female, 26 years-old, Deputy Sergeant, 4 years-experience in community policing).

Based on what has been provided by the preceding in-depth interviewees, it can be argued that community policing has a role in reducing crime rate and fear of crime in the community. Furthermore, the results became compatible with Myhill, 2006, cited in Karn (2013) in which he indicated systematic reviews have revealed strong evidence that community engagement minimizes calls about disorder and antisocial behavior and increases people’s sense of safety.

Furthermore, another in-depth interviewee has elucidated:

“It reduces fear of crime in the community, it increases quality of life for the residents, it makes people to get to each other so that to discuss about their neighborhood crime prevention issue and also seeking solutions to it. It also creates venue/arena to discuss about social problems and concerns of the community such as, inflation, electricity

problems, road problems, water problems and sanitation problems. Community police officers do not stop the community members when they begin discussing about such issues on meetings. Because, in one or another way, these issues are associated with crime prevention; for instance, the on and off situation of electricity intensifies crime. Therefore, in addition to crime prevention, community policing has started solving the problems of the community.” (Sub-city level community policing department head, Male, 57 years-old, Commander, 9 years-experience in community policing).

Thus, from the above quote, one can understand that community policing’s scope is beyond crime prevention hence it addresses non-criminal cases. However, it should be noted that community policing responds for non-law enforcement cases mainly for the sake of crime prevention.

He also supplemented the following points:

“Given the positive results achieved by community policing, still there are things left to be improved. Thus, community policing should be supported by the government financially, training and logistics; because, we do not have to work always by begging. Given the results it has brought, a training center which is fully devoted to community policing should be organized at sub-city level. If this achieved, we could easily transfer the concept of community policing to our community police officers and the general public. As of now, we do not have an institution that gives community policing training even at Police Commission level. It should be just like other cities, for example, London, San Francisco and cities of Germany. We do not even have a pick up (vehicle) to mobilize the community widely in the sub-city, particularly to give awareness about various modus operandi of crime and how to prevent them. When we need to do this, we borrow from the operation department. You may beg once or twice, but you do not always live by begging. Stationery equipment is also a problem.”

According to him, in the sub-city, there are places which are taken by the government to investment and development issues and the problem with them is that immediate work do not take place for the intended purpose, and due to this, these areas became hideouts for criminals thereby making the crime prevention job difficult. Therefore, the concerned body should take measures to improve the situation. Furthermore, buildings that are constructed in the sub-city did

not consider the crime prevention task and also they are not based on the master plan of the city. And lastly, the concerned bodies should work by giving serious attention and immediate response on social issues those angers and worries the community, because they are obstacles to crime prevention through community policing.

Furthermore, one community member (in-depth interviewee) expressed his view on issues raised about the role of community policing in reducing crime rates and fear of crime:

“The community is free from fear of crime after the introduction of community policing, though the number of community police officers have reduced (previously there were three in this neighborhood). Therefore, when he leaves his post for various reasons, there is no one who replaces him. In the past time, in this neighborhood, there was many hang relatively now it is reduced; however, sometimes still it happens. The number of criminals has also declined in comparison to the past times.” (Community member, Male, 50 years-old, 4 years-experience in community policing).

Another in-depth interviewee did put her opinion in the following way:

“In comparison to the previous time, crime has declined widely; even though, some crimes still exist. Currently, there is nobody who says fear of crime exists in this neighborhood. Crime rates have declined. Moreover, for the serious and less serious problems there is a solution by community policing.” (Community member, Female, 32 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

She further added:

“Community policing should not be suspended; because, previously this neighborhood is a crime area. However, currently, there is massive improvement. Previously, women cannot safely cross over in this area. Community policing has brought a considerable change. Therefore, it should continue in a strengthened manner hence it has a great role on all issues.”

Based on the foregoing quotes, community policing’s role in reducing crime rates and fear of crime is highly vital. And in assuring this fact the participants even came up with the idea of further strengthening the implementation of community policing in the study area. Nevertheless,

they did not insist to hide the fact that some crimes are still occurring in their neighborhood. Quite understandably, that is why they are wishing more better implementation of community policing hence they are already enjoying its fruit when it comes to crime reduction and fear of crime in their respective neighborhood.

In addition, one in-depth interviewee also expressed his opinion on the role of community policing in preventing crimes that occur in his neighborhood:

“Community policing plays massive role in our neighborhood by preventing community’s problems and criminal activities that could happen. It is by this approach that we are achieving better result when it comes to crime prevention. As a result, in addition to preaching religious teachings, we create awareness about crime to our community so that to alert them to prevent crimes through community policing. Due to this, community policing has helped the community in identifying the causes of crime and showed the way on how to prevent crime before it occurs.” (Religious Father, Male, 53 years-old, 4 years-experience in community policing).

Additionally, he further expounded his opinion:

“As a religious father, I describe the role community policing played (and is playing) in a highly positive manner. For instance, crimes that were taking place in our neighborhood before the introduction of community policing are now highly reduced. And the reason for this is that remarkable work had been done by community policing.”

The above two quotes reflected the perspective of a religious father on community policing’s role in reducing criminal activities in his neighborhood. And he indicated the fact that he appreciates the role of community policing on crime reduction. Thus, it can be said that his ideas are well-matched with what Lawrence & McCarthy (2013) argue by saying the mantra of community engagement permeates almost every aspect of the community-policing department.

To this end, he also said that hence community policing has high role in crime prevention, it is better to strengthen it more than its current status; the government also should have to give better attention and support to community policing.

In addition, a quote taken from one in-depth interviewee also shows the role of community policing in crime prevention and it is stated below in his own neighborhood:

“Community policing has a very good role in crime prevention. Crimes take place on the community by offenders who are found in the community. Therefore, when the community collaborates with the police through community policing, the possibility of detecting and identifying the sources and causes of crime is high. When this happens, the crime prevention task relatively comes easy. Community policing in our neighborhood is playing a good role when it comes to crime prevention.” (Idir Leader, 47 years-old, Male, 6 years-experience in community policing).

On top of acknowledging community policing’s role in reducing crime rates and fear of crime, the above participant credited the fact of collaboration between the police and the community for a common goal, that is to say, crime prevention.

The above same in-depth interviewee also gave the general opinion he has on community policing:

“It is better to strengthen community policing further than where it is now just by giving more attention. We (the Idir Leaders), in addition to working for the goals of Idir, through community policing, we try to play our crime prevention role by creating awareness to the Idir members and residents to be free from fear of crime, to prevent and protect their lives and wealth from potential criminals while they are alive. We also discuss about peace and security with our members through community policing. Moreover, we also convince the community to condemn the activities that can be the causes of criminal activities.”

One in-depth interviewee gave her opinion in the following way:

“I, as a community police officer, evaluate the role community policing plays in crime prevention in a very positive manner. Because, crime takes place by criminals who reside in the community and apparently it takes place on the community itself. Evidently, the concept of community policing puts the community police officer and the community members to work together so that to prevent crime. Thus the police do not fight alone

against criminals like the past time, now the situation is changed dramatically. Therefore, currently through community policing, the community is informing by its own willingness the crime areas and potential offenders who might commit various crimes. This has high role for us, because, the crime prevention job cannot be done without information. Crime prevention is absolutely difficult without the partnership and collaboration of the community. However, currently, thanks to community policing, the community and the police are interrelated. Therefore, in my evaluation, community policing is properly playing its crime prevention role.” (Community police officer, Female, Sergeant, 29 years-old, 6 years-experience in community policing).

From the above quote one can understand the role of community policing in reducing crime rates and fear of crime in the community. Because, the above-mentioned community police officer mentioned the fact that crime cannot be prevented without the cooperation of the community members and for this to occur, community policing is the best strategy in comparison to other crime prevention strategies.

She further explained:

“Community policing has a good contribution when it comes to reducing the number of crimes and fear of crime. For instance, I, in my Ketena, I create awareness to the residents of the community in community policing meetings about crime development analysis, crime types and their behavior, and issues that might cause (lead to) crime. As a result, the community members practice what have been told and given by community police officer in their daily life thereby to prevent themselves from potential crimes and fear of crime. On the other hand, through community policing, the community members themselves provide or give different information such as the modus operandi of criminal activities by criminals, causes of crime and the key concerns or problems of their respective neighborhood. Then we try to find out a common solution or response on these and other related issues, therefore, this leads the community to the tendency of no or less fear of crime.”

The other in-depth interview participant also provided the following statements:

“Previously, for both civil and criminal cases, we used to go to the court. However, currently we solve the problems here at the center by advising the disputants. If the case is less serious, we reconcile the two parties. But, in my opinion, I believe that there is a gap on the law, because, after getting apprehended suspects get released by the court after sometime. Therefore, the government must give due attention to this issue. For instance, in our neighborhood, when we apprehend someone while stealing and we send this person to police station; however, after certain time, again you can see this same person committing criminal activities. Thus, such scenarios are available. Even though, there are good things there are also gaps.” (Security board member and Idir Chairperson, Male, 65 years-old, 1 year experience in community policing).

He also added the following statements:

“For example, we engaged to community policing by being chosen by the community. And this is because we have the acceptance of the community. We honestly work in partnership with the police to prevent crimes. Previously, in our neighborhood people fight by sharp materials at daylight; sometimes, it also exists nowadays. It is known still the youth are committing crime. However, overall, our neighborhood can be said as good.”

The above participant, on the two foregoing quotes indicated that establishment of community policing center has brought many benefits which were not available during the traditional policing era. To this end, he indicated that community policing is playing a good role in preventing crimes.

Furthermore, one in-depth interviewee revealed how community policing plays a role in reducing crime rates and fear of crime in her own precinct and it is quoted below:

“By conducting research through community policing in order to identify places that have crime risk thereby to minimize crime rate and fear of crime in the neighborhood. Additionally, in collaboration with civil intelligence workers, the crime prevention efforts take place. And the larger community also informs to the police, areas that have crime

risks and this also plays a role in minimizing crime rates and fear of crime. As a result, the police and the community work in partnership to control crimes; for instance, they provide information to the police by saying in such places such kinds of crimes are taking place. After having this information, community police officers proceed to prevent these crimes in the said places.” (Community police officer, Female, 22 years-old, Assistant Sergeant, and 2 years-experience in community policing).

Another in-depth interviewee (Community police officer, Male, 27 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 5 years-experience in community policing) has explained his opinion on the role of community policing in reducing crime rates and fear of crime among members in the neighborhood. This participant has noted that crime numbers and fear of crime in the community have highly reduced; for instance, patrolling the neighborhood by holding a stick by itself impacts potential criminals not to engage in to different criminal activities. Therefore, it can be said that community policing has reduced it; and moreover, the data on crime report also shows this fact and in comparison to the past, there is a certain limited improvement with regard to reducing crime rates. Understandably, it is not possible to get rid-off crime at 100 percent level, nevertheless reducing the rate of crime is possible and therefore he believes that they are working in this way. He has also added the following points:

“However, due to the presence of the bus station, there is a congested situation and this gives the opportunity to the criminals to commit crimes by moving around along with the people, particularly, at night shift and this creates fear of crime. Due to the high congestion, it is difficult to identify the criminals from the innocent population. For instance, in some Ketenas there are only dwellers, where as in ours that is not case. Additionally, sometimes, there is awareness gap about the area, particularly on those who come from the countryside to use the bus station.”

Another in-depth interviewee explained her opinion on community policing’s role in reducing crime rates and fear of crime; and it has been quoted below in the following paragraph:

“It has a good role, even though it cannot be said it fully prevents. Given the fact that it is a place where bus stations are found, many crimes used to take place. However,

currently those numbers declined. Today is better than yesterday; for instance, crime rates have declined massively in comparison to last year. Nevertheless, this achievement is not a credit given only for community police officers, rather all those stakeholders who take part in community policing equally deserve the credit hence the achievement is a sum game of all. These stakeholders do more than what the police do with regard to crime prevention in community policing. Therefore, they play terrific role.” (Community police officer, Female, 25 years-old, Sergeant, and 4 years-experience in community policing).

Moreover, according to her, most of the time, in order to minimize fear of crime, the work of identifying crime risk areas takes place through community policing meetings and in collaboration with crime prevention police members thereby to patrol the areas in order to minimize fear of crime. As a result, currently, according to her, it can be said that there is no fear of crime, and all the feedbacks and in-puts that are gained from various community policing meetings such as tea-coffee meetings have confirmed it. The community speaks, and then community police officers control their precinct hence they are familiar with it.

The statements provided by one in-depth interview participant is quoted in the following way:

“Hence the sub-city is found where Merkato resides, the role community policing is playing can be taken as an effective one. Even though, many crimes take place, on the other hand, many crimes have been prevented before they occur. As a result, crimes have been minimized. Additionally, some ‘community organizations’, such as, shoe shine boys and parking workers play remarkable role to crime prevention through community policing.” (Youth Chairperson, Male, 29 years-old and 8 years of experience in community policing).

Another in-depth interviewee delivered the following statements:

“First, community policing helps to serve justice in the nearby neighborhood at community policing center. It also reduces the hassle which results due to going far in order to report an incident and then to get justice. Therefore, it saves time which previously used to take a long time to go to police stations. Second, it strengthens

relationship among community members. Third, it highly helps to prevent crime and to solve problems by collaborating at neighborhoods and Ketenas. Thus, it helps to prevent crimes that might occur in the surrounding.” (Advisory Chairperson, Male, 43 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

And according to him, community policing has made massive positive impact to the community members to take part in crime prevention activities; therefore, it has to be expanded, it has to be a highly expanded one, it should have not been implemented only with one or two community police officers; in order to do the job more intensively at nearby neighborhoods and he further indicated the following points:

“I even think crime investigation should have to begin here at community policing centers. Here, people are getting verdict, for instance, during the occurrence of various disputes or violence and people who claim as victims of theft. During this situation, we immediately deploy individuals who solve the case by apprehending the offender before he/she leaves the area. Additionally, there are other incidents, like disagreements that happen due to various issues such as, fence demarcation, violence between husband and wife. Hence it is a commercial area there are also disagreements on trading spots and complaints come to here to get solution; in such situations, here, we give solutions for their problems with in a matter of hours instead of taking two or three days.”

To sum up, even though, the participants have indicated that crime rate and fear of crime have declined because of the role played by community policing, this study cannot confirm the fact that community policing has solely played its role. Furthermore, particularly, the justification used by the community police officers was based on reported statistics and quite understandably, official reports on crime are victims of dark figure of crime (a crime which has actually committed but not either reported to or recorded by the police).

However, the participants have indicated that many crimes have been prevented from taking place due to community policing; however, this study cannot confirm how much role community policing has played in preventing those crimes and also whether it has prevented alone or helped by other crime prevention strategies utilized in the study area. Moreover, the above results of the

study became compatible to the findings of Mwaniki (2016) in which he has claimed that community policing minimizes criminal activities and disorders by carefully examining the behavior of problems in neighborhoods and then applying proper problem-solving solutions. Again the study became coherent with the findings of Mesay (2014) hence most of the participants of that study have acknowledged that community policing has reduced the crime rates.

Similarly, the findings of the current study support the findings obtained by Mulugeta & Mekuriaw (2017) in East Gojjam Zone in which they indicated 87.3% of their respondents believed that community policing has positive role for crime prevention. However, these same researchers have indicated that 51.7% respondents agreed on community policing's positive role in reducing crime, whilst, the remaining, 48.3% indicated that it did not reduce crime. Here, as it has been indicated above by some in-depth interviewees (in the current study) community policing cannot fully reduce crime rates, even though, its role in reducing crimes has been highly pronounced.

On the other hand, the present study highly contradicts one study which is conducted in Harar by Melese & Tesfaye (2019) in which 40% of their respondents informed them that the role of community policing in crime prevention has not been noticeable. Hence the current study did not find any result that tells the non-noticeable side of community policing in crime prevention. To this end, the study at hand has again contradicted to a study conducted in Nigeria by Audu (2016) in which he has found that after a decade of its implementation community policing did not yield the desired outcome.

4.2.8. The Role of Community Policing in Preventing Crime of High Spot

Areas

As it has been attempted to describe in the second chapter of this study, there are various types of crime prevention approaches and some crime prevention approaches work well in preventing specific crime types and fail to prevent other crime types. This study has attempted to identify the crime types that are prevented due to the role played by community policing.

Accordingly, most of the crimes that have been prevented through community policing are crimes that might have occurred due to intense disputes and disagreements. Almost, all in-depth

interview participants have noted that whenever minor disagreements occur in the community during day to day societal interactions (such as between sellers and buyers, between merchants or either between neighbors or husband-wife). The disputants would like to go to the nearby community policing center in order to get solutions against the issues that led them to confrontations. Therefore, understandably community policing is playing a role in preventing crime against the person. Moreover, the following quote taken from an in-depth interviewee shown this argument more vividly:

“The establishment of community policing in nearby neighborhoods has huge importance for peace and security. For instance, when people clash against each other, reconciliation and verdict takes place here in the community policing center. Previously, that is not the case, because, in the past, we used to go to the police stations and courts for the small and the big crime related cases that we encounter in our daily life. However, now that has changed. It is also accessible to crime prevention. During the past times, whenever someone steals, we used to take the suspect to the ‘main police station’, now this takes place here at community policing center. Thus, it has brought a huge importance. At this time, during night, there is nobody who commits larceny by breaking the doors. Thus, the neighborhood is peaceful.” (Community member and secretary of security committee, Female, 43 years-old and 8 years-experience in community policing).

She further explained, the fact that the nature of her neighborhood by itself is prone to crime, there are unemployed youth; therefore, when there is a vacuum for vacancy they (officers) try to create job opportunity through community policing, be it for one or two individuals so that to avoid the youth’s possibility of engaging in criminal activities. This usually takes place in collaboration with the sub-city’s micro and small enterprise bureau. Moreover, she (along with her community policing colleagues) tries to solve problems at community policing centers except it is beyond their capacity.

According to her, they take precautionary measures to prevent crimes that could happen in line with the current issues of the country; and also creating awareness in advance for the people ahead of theft rather than crying after the crime takes place; shoe shine boys and individuals who make a living by lifting up and down the goods participate in preventing the community from

crime (therefore, they do not let the criminals to steal); they precisely give solutions to the problems. After the introduction of community policing, the neighborhood became peaceful. She and her colleagues also participate by informing to the police in advance about theft based on intelligence. Generally, they focus on prevention; and therefore community policing plays a role to prevent crimes in advance before they occur based on the above ways.

Another in-depth interviewee has explained the role of community policing in crime prevention by recalling the situation of pre-community era; in his own words:

“The main issue is that during the pre-community policing era, in this neighborhood, citizens were victims of robbery; there was no such freedom like the one that exists currently. However, after the establishment of community policing, the community informs in advance to community police officers about problems they face and the potential criminal activities. The one who introduced community policing should be thanked. Hence a bus station resides in our neighborhood; many passengers come to our area from the entire country. As a result, it is difficult to identify the innocent from the offenders. We are not just supporters of the police; rather we work the police job along with them. We do this together with the public both at our neighborhood and in the Idir. In my opinion, I believe that community policing has highly minimized the number of thieves and other criminals. Because, in our neighborhood we are preventing and controlling potential offenders before they commit crime. The community (from shoe shine boy to the merchant) is working with the police; we gave them yellow vests and we supervise them as well. They know everybody in the neighborhood, so they know who commits crime; they report to us in the absence of community police officers. Then we go up to the informed place in order to take the suspect to justice.” (Security board member and Idir chairperson, Male, 65 years-old, and 1 year experience).

On the other hand, as elucidated by the in-depth interviewees, through community policing approach particularly, during the tea-coffee meetings, awareness creation takes place to prevent the community members from crime victimization. Therefore, at least community policing plays a role in preventing victimization of those who take part in the meetings and others who have significant relations with them.

One in-depth interviewee explained it in the following way:

“For instance, by identifying where, how and by whom snatching widely takes place, we create awareness by mobilizing the community in different forms such as, in market centers. Then after getting the necessary awareness, the community prevents snatching. Stakeholders also deliver awareness on how the community prevents itself from pickpocketing. We provide training for manual workers/daily laborers or people who lift up and down goods on how they prevent criminal activities in the areas they work along with working their own job.” (Sub-city level community policing department head, Male, 57 years-old, Commander, 9 years-experience in community policing).

He further extended his view on how community policing is playing a role in preventing relatively two new crime types that take place in AKSC. It is worth mentioning that there are two new crime types in and around Merkato; they are called as ‘*Gichew*’ and ‘*Shiblil*’.

Gichew (ግጭ) takes in three forms; the first form takes place against bystanders. First, by identifying a person who owns money in his/her pocket and other valuable goods such as gold on the neck, mobile phones and laptops in the community and then pushing the targeted person by group and intentionally colliding against the person then spitting peanut liquid from their mouth on the person, then by asking apology as if they did that accidentally, lastly they will take what they needed to take. So, it is a kind of robbery; whilst, the other two forms take place on vehicles. When the road becomes crowded by vehicles, the offenders (in group) try to rob goods from the vehicle by breaking the window or knocking at the left and right side windows in order to intimidate and distort the attention of the driver thereby to rob whatever they need. Again on vehicles they falsely claim the targeted driver that he/she has made an accident somewhere on someone and now escaping from that incident, then when the driver tries to respond them, suddenly they victimize him/her. The other crime type is called as *Shiblil*.

Shiblil (ሻብሊል) takes place when residents purchase goods from *Merkato* and then need someone to take the goods they purchased either to where they have parked their own vehicle or to places where they could find taxis so that to go to their destination. Unfortunately, the owners give their property for someone who has a prior intent of crime; the owner negotiates with the person about the price for the good that he carries until the destination the owner wants to go. In most cases they agree for cheap fee, because their primary aim is not making a living by

receiving the money for what they have worked, rather to entirely steal that property. After carrying the property, by carefully noticing the owner's attention and caution, all of a sudden by using the advantage of the area (which is usually crowded) they either will hide themselves somewhere or try to run away from the owner.

As in-depth interviewees revealed, to prevent the above crime types and related ones that take place in the sub-city, community policing is trying to play its role by giving awareness to the society via amplifiers by community police officers and other crime prevention stakeholders. Due to this, the numbers of such crimes have shown the tendency of declining.

However, the above mentioned crimes are very difficult to prevent in the study area, because most buyers are not aware of the modus operandi hence they do not know more about it. Understandably, many people come to *Merkato* from other parts of Addis and almost from all corners of Ethiopia.

4.3. The Role of Community Participation in Crime Prevention through Community Policing in AKSC

This section focused on exploring the role of community participation in crime prevention through community policing. Moreover, this section attempted to present the findings obtained from FGD participants (community members) and it is supplemented by the findings obtained from the participants of the in-depth interviews.

4.3.1. Ways of Community Participation in Crime Prevention through Community Policing

As it has been obtained from the participants of this study, for the community members all the ways are open to take part in crime prevention through community policing. However, some of the mechanisms that are repeatedly pronounced by the participants are presented in the following paragraphs.

The FGD participants indicated the fact that community policing has a very good role with regard to crime prevention and as they have explained they are working in partnership with community police officers in various ways through community policing such as reporting to the police about different problems either on community policing meetings or in other ways, the

community participates by informing to the police in advance by saying there is such kind of problem in this and that area, safeguarding the neighborhood in-person at night shifts in partnership with other stakeholders of crime prevention; moreover, as they have labeled community policing paved the way to cooperate with stakeholders in order to prevent crimes that occur at night, they participate in preventing their respective neighborhoods from various criminals in an organized way through community policing and stakeholders openly control crimes and criminals and then inform to community police officers.

The FGD participants also elucidated their participation in informing issues that might cause serious crimes (for instance, consuming illegal drugs), providing information when the police needs them to tell the whereabouts of some 'highly wanted' individuals of the community. According to them, even though, currently there is no serious crime in their respective neighborhoods, they have confirmed that they do not abstain from providing information when they have information about any type of crime; they will immediately inform that to the police.

They have been asked that in preventing which crime types they can play their role effectively and they have answered that mostly there is no such thing, it is just taking part in preventing all crimes; nevertheless mostly on robbery, snatching and pickpocketing. They have also explained that the participation that they make in crime prevention activities through community policing can be said very high.

Group discussants have also indicated that they participate in different discussions about crime prevention and on those discussions they raise all the problems that exist in their respective *Ketena* and then they provide solutions in partnership with the police. According to the discussants, the neighborhood youth participates attentively in those discussions to prevent crime. As far as the FGD participants are concerned, there is no tendency of hiding crime related information from the police and to this end they provide whatever information the community police officers demand them to provide.

The discussants have also indicated that the youth who were known in the community by their anti-social behavior have now abstained from that because of the advice repeatedly given by

community members and parents through community policing. They have said that when youngsters misbehave in the neighborhood they inform to their parents.

As the information obtained from the discussants has indicated, community members work the crime prevention task in collaboration with all stakeholders through community policing. For instance, community members immediately receive information (such as related to problems and strange issues that are unique in the neighborhood) from security leaders, members and community policing officers. On the other hand, community members also inform immediately to community police officers after a crime takes place, such as theft. Moreover, as they have indicated, the community and the police work the crime prevention task in collaboration through community policing; as a result their neighborhood is peaceful.

The FGD participants have also revealed that community policing has brought many positive issues with regard to crime prevention in their respective neighborhood; for instance, as they have indicated, previously they used to go to police stations for the minor and big problems; however, now because of community policing when problem occurs they go to the community policing center such as when disagreement and conflict occurs between two individuals or parties due to minor causes, solution comes at community policing center in collaboration of the security board members and community police officers. It has also brought change in settling disagreement by bringing reconciliation to people who engage to violence due to different reasons. To this end, as the FGD participants have indicated, they participate in the above issues.

On the other hand, some of the in-depth interviewees have pointed out the following opinions in how the community members participate in crime prevention through community policing; for instance, one in-depth interviewee provided the following information:

“Based on my assessment, in comparison to the pre-community policing era, the participation of the community in crime prevention is better by far. Nowadays, community policing has created a good arena for the community to collaborate with the police thereby to prevent crime through community policing. In addition, the community has learned and got awareness about the fact that crime prevention through this approach is for its own importance. Due to this, the community provides crime related

information to community police officers and also learned the consequences of hiding criminals.” (Advisory Council Vice Chairperson, Female, 41 years-old, 5 years-experience in community policing).

The following in-depth interviewee also delivered the next statements:

“The youth safeguard their neighborhood by moving around in group in an organized way to prevent criminal activities through community policing at the evening from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm local time; usually this takes place in order to fill the vacuum that happens when the community police officers leave their precinct to home. In addition, electrifying the dark areas during night shift so as to avoid crimes that occur due to the dark, keeping the peace of the surrounding and working in partnership with the security committees and advisory councils like by solving problems such as reconciling people who engage in to different disputes and also mobilizing the community in resources, knowledge and materials that are used to prevent crimes by using popular and influential individuals of the community such as religious fathers.” (Youth association chairperson, Male, 29 years-old and 8-years-experience in community policing).

The above-mentioned participant has also informed that in order to prevent itself from criminal activities, the community utilize the information and messages given by either community police officers or any other security bodies. Furthermore, when the community is informed by the police about situations or causes that destabilize the peace of the neighborhood, information sharing takes place with in community members via the different organizations which have connection to community policing so that all members will be able to acquire the information.

Another in-depth interview participant also expressed her views on the role of community participation in crime prevention with specific reference to her neighborhood and it is reported below in her own words:

“The experience of the neighborhood residents in providing information to the police about crimes that might occur is very high. For instance, about the recent war in Tigray, the people were giving information to the police when they suspect someone who is linked with that case. As a result, the police have found different illegal weapons by searching

the house of the suspected individuals. They also inform the police by saying that they are not feeling secured by the signs they are observing in someone. Therefore, they suggest the police to conduct the searching. Whether there is something illegal or not, the search will take place, because information is neither appreciable nor under-estimable. Therefore, the public is very intimate to the police. Generally, the community gives crime related information to the police.” (Committee secretary, Female, 43 years-old and 8 years-experience in community policing).

In the foregoing quote the role of community participation in crime prevention through community policing is vividly described. Furthermore, Sulaiman, et al., (2012) have stated that police officers cannot attain some positive transformation in the absence of visible support from the community. Therefore, the present study also argues the role of visible support from the community is vital to actively prevent crime through community policing.

One more in-depth interviewee provided the following statements on how the community engages in crime prevention activities through community policing:

“It is worth mentioning to show the improvements that community policing has brought in the way the community supports the police organization through resources; due to this, the community is covering the government expenditures, for instance, building community policing centers by spending millions of ETB with the aim of decentralizing the police organization to the community level as per the principles of community policing. Building the centers by community’s own money has led to the community to get the police services in the nearest possible area. In addition to building the centers, the community also equips the center with some basic materials and supplies such as water, electricity, telephone and maintenance including painting the center when it fades up. Therefore, after building the centers they did not left around rather they renew it and continue supporting the police organization. They also participate in consulting the community policing department, for instance, by providing feedback on the crime prevention planning stage, they support the police and traffic police works, in general, they provide consultation and inputs regarding issues that are associated with causes of

crime.” (Sub-city level community policing department head, Male, 57 years-old, Commander, 9 years-experience in community policing).

The above participant has indicated the fact that nearby community members engage in building community police centers in AKSC. Similarly, the study conducted in Dire Dawa by Jackson, Shearon & Demelash (2018) have indicated that the community is responsible for funding the building of the community police stations in their instant area.

The other way that helps the community members to take part widely in crime prevention through community policing is the tea-coffee programs. Almost all participants of this study have touched the role tea-coffee meetings play in identifying neighborhood problems and in preventing crimes through community policing. Moreover, in one or another way, this issue has been already addressed in other parts of the study; however, the following section has shown it more plainly.

The discussants have also elaborated how they participate in crime prevention through community policing by attending tea-coffee programs. And according to them, they meet in every 15 days to discuss all issues of their neighborhood with community police officers. They share experience with each other about crime prevention. It brought positive relationship between the police and the community; due to this, residents at the *Ketena* developed the attitude of crime prevention by taking it as their own mandate to prevent crimes by providing information to the community police officers and they do not abstain from informing whenever they observe problems and criminal activities in their neighborhoods. To this end, they feel encouraged when suspects that they have informed get punished by the law; because as they described by this they realize that they are making impact in crime prevention through community policing.

As they have expressed, it paves the way to the community members to express the feelings to the police, it helped them to easily report crime related information to the community police officers who are not far from the neighborhood, the establishment of community policing centers at the neighborhood helped the community members to get the police service which is a massive change, it minimized the distance between the police and the community in terms of

communication, they have also said that community police officers have shown/proved to them the existence of justice; as a result it has brought high benefit to the community members (for instance, they have raised the situation in which they easily electrify (putting light-bulb on) the dark areas at night through community policing (by raising the issue on tea-coffee programs) so that to prevent crimes that could occur in the dark.

One in-depth interviewee also noted the following points:

“We meet in every 15 days at the tea and coffee program. Additionally, we exchange information at morning and evening at a daily basis; whenever some kind of problem happens the community goes to community police center in order to inform.”

(Community member, Female, 32 years-old, 8 years-experience community policing).

To sum up, the community participates in crime prevention through community policing by providing information to the police, by safeguarding in-person during night, by building community policing centers, reporting to the police about crime related issues, by putting light on at the poorly lit areas, by discussing about their neighborhood problems and also by doing other things that were presented above. Furthermore, the results of the study became coherent to the findings Manaliyo (2016) in which for instance he has revealed community members patrol streets during the night and also reporting the commission of crimes to the police or providing police with information on potential criminal activities.

Moreover, the results have confirmed the arguments of Lawrence & McCarthy (2013), in which they have claimed the police departments that have established a strong promise to the approach of community policing, community police officers and community partners together prioritize and tackle community safety issues that are utmost useful to the community. Thus, successful partnerships are more than just frequent contact or simply sharing information about the precinct.

4.3.2. The Community’s Commitment to Advance Community Policing

The discussants have pointed out that some police members who are outside the community policing program are careless; they lack caution which policing requires. For instance, when the community members inform them about crime they even do not collaborate to take the suspect to the police station particularly those who are deployed at the different train stations which are

found in the study area. As they have said, some of them seem they work only for their salary and they (the police members) literally say to informers: “it does not concern me” when the community members give them crime related information.

Here, the problem indicated above by the discussants clearly violates the principles of community policing. For example, OSCE (2014) identified key principles of community policing, including, the police should be visible and accessible to the public; listen to communities’ matters; and also, respond to communities’ desires.

Moreover, according to them, some crime prevention police members do not have the awareness about community policing; for example, when they are supposed to take /send a suspect of a minor problem or petty offence to community policing center they send to police station. The discussants have unanimously raised one issue and that is when they provide information to the police members who they encounter in the streets about the occurrence of a crime there is a condition by which some police members fail to respond by informing that specific area do not belongs to their jurisdiction; like saying ‘it does not concern us’. The discussants believed that hence it is crime prevention; the police should work in collaboration.

In addition, when the discussants observe such activities they need to inform it to their leaders; however, they (police members) do not wear badges that show their name/identity.

They have also strengthened the fact that police should have to only give legal responses for the problems based on what the law orders them to practice; nothing less nothing more. They have pointed out this after observing the mal-practice of some police members who work at crime prevention department such as, sometimes violating the human rights of the suspects outside of the legal principles; for instance, locking and arresting the suspect at a container rather than doing this at police station. Additionally, they have suggested that the police commission should have to deploy new police officers with the experienced ones. Moreover, the FGD participants have also gave their grievance on the neighborhood watch guards and ‘law enforcers’ (who are hired by the city administration) by indicating the experience of violating human rights and other improper conducts even at the streets such as using non proportional force and not giving proper response when the community needs help rather they prefer to terrify the dwellers.

Furthermore, the FGD participants have repeatedly pointed out the issue of legal protection. According to them, when the community informs and apprehends the suspects to the community police officers in some cases the court releases them; as a result, in other occasions the community refrains from providing crime related information to the police. When the suspects who are informed by the community members get released by the court without proper punishment which is equivalent with the damage they have caused on the victims, the community goes to the perception of 'it is none of my business'. During this situation those suspects tease the informers and in some cases they also cause problems against the informers; therefore, informers fear for their life. Nonetheless, still the community 'apprehends' thieves including capturing the picture of suspects via smart phones.

According to them, it is possible to inform many issues to community police officers; however, as long as the suspects remain unpunished by the law; tomorrow's consequence is facing intimidation and other harms by the suspects. They have said that the government must have to improve this situation. The discussants have frequently raised the issue of legal protection by linking it to the threats they face when the suspect knows the fact that who gave this information to the police, he/she may take revenge against informers in the absence of sufficient legal protection; and as far as they are concerned, practically there is low legal protection. The area is dominated by merchants, therefore when they inform crime related information to the police they need legal protection.

Despite being discouraged by the above factors, the discussants confirmed that community's role in crime prevention through community policing is massive. Moreover, the discussants have provided their appreciation they have to community police officers by using the following words: community police officers who work at community policing have a sense of serving the community, doing their job by giving due to attention and they serve the community wholeheartedly; therefore, they should be encouraged. According to the discussants, they are actively taking part in crime prevention activities mostly because of the approach shown by their respective community police officers.

On the other hand, data generated from in-depth interview participants has been analyzed below; accordingly, one in-depth interviewee has noted the following points:

“Community policing helps the community to keep the peace and security of its neighborhood without considering the police presence. Community members take part in all crime prevention activities those were initially performed by the police except use of force and other things that are authorized only for the police. For instance, they take part in keeping properly their neighborhood security by holding a stick particularly during the night shift. Ordering and reminding the community members to put on light at the dark areas of the neighborhood so as to prevent potential criminal activities that take place due to the darkness of the precinct. After doing such things they go to sleep. On the other hand, when they face things that are difficult to control, they report to pre-crime prevention police members who patrol the nearby streets. As a result, the community has a significant role in crime prevention.” (Community Police Officer, Male, 27 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 5 years-experience in community policing).

Thus, in the above quote, the participant indicated the extent to which the community goes when it comes to preserving the peace and security of its own neighborhood. Moreover, this recognition has come from a community police officer. In the same vein, Lawrence & McCarthy (2013) have explained the police-community collaborations in community policing to crime prevention and disorder in society is absolutely critical for community policing efforts to be effective.

Furthermore, one in-depth interview participant provided the following information:

“The community informs properly. When a crime is about to occur at someone’s house they inform the situation to the police in confidence. And also they inform when they observe crimes that take place by spiting peanut oil at victims. The community’s involvement reaches to the extent of testifying as a witness against the suspect at court after the crime takes place. To this end, there are known individuals who have abstained from getting involved in criminal activities just after receiving advice through community policing. Currently, they are working under small and micro enterprise in which a job

opportunity has been provided for them by cooperation with community policing and the local administration. (Community member, Female, 32 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

Another in-depth interviewee reflected the following ideas:

“In the past times, the community does not collaborate with the police due to lack of sufficient awareness. Nevertheless, nowadays, because of the introduction of community policing the community collaborates with the police for its own sake which extends up to replacing the police role with regard to crime prevention. Community policing has created citizens who dare to ask ‘why’ about various issues that take place in their neighborhood.” (Youth association chairperson, Male, 29 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

The above two quotes have indicated that various role of community members with regard to crime prevention through community policing. Furthermore, Rezaei (2013) argued that local communities must include places to stimulate community participation. As participation among residents increase, the residents become active defenders of the place against potential crime.

In addition, another in-depth interviewee also noted the following points:

“The community is committed and ready. For instance, all the Idir members have our phone numbers thereby to report via phones about crime related information. Additionally, the area is dominated by slum areas and when fire breaks out they report to the police. At the same time, they also have phone numbers of community police officers. They also inform in-person. Therefore, the experience of giving information is in good shape.” (Security board member and Idir Chairperson, Male, 65 years-old, 1 year experience in community policing).

One more in-depth interview participant forwarded the following statements:

“The community’s experience on crime prevention is good. Through community policing, people who try to engage in crime are advised to abstain from criminal activities. Furthermore, reconciling people who disagree in the block is also takes place thereby to

prevent further conflicts that potentially develop in to criminal activities.” (Community member, Male, 50 years-old, 4 years-experience in community policing).

In conclusion, as the results have shown, the role of community participation through community policing is in good shape despite experiencing the unfavorable conditions that are presented above. Their commitment and readiness in preventing crimes through community policing approach can be said remarkable. The community’s experience on providing information to the police on issues related with neighborhood problems and crime takes place in-person and via phones. And the results have confirmed the assumption of the normative sponsorship theory (majority of the community members have willingness to prevent crime and anti-social behavior).

4.3.3. The Community’s Role in Crime Prevention

The FGD participants have been asked about the community members’ commitment to play a role in preventing crimes before they occur by participating in community policing.

The discussants affirmed that the community does not have problem with regard to crime prevention. According to them, community members have high participation to crime prevention which includes reporting and informing information about crimes and neighborhood problems. As the discussants have explained, it is the fruit of community policing; community police officers have repeatedly gave them awareness on how to participate in crime prevention activities in their respective neighborhoods; so the community is alert.

As explained by the FGD participants, the dwellers do whatever they are told to do by community police officers through community policing including contributing money and resource, despite the *Ketenas* are very wide to be covered by a single community police officer; the community still plays a role by participating in collaboration with community police officers by attending community policing meetings and the community members participate when they are ordered to do this and that.

One in-depth interviewee did put her observation with regard to the commitment and readiness of the community members in crime prevention through community policing:

“The public is highly ready. For example, when electricity turns off particularly the ones that gives light to the major roads, coincidentally as we speak that is the case; during this time, the public shows its concern to solve the problem by indicating the probability of criminal activities that might occur due to the darkness of the area at night shift. Furthermore, the public safeguards its neighborhood in-person along with the police, informs areas that are known for crime such as, ‘hang’ so that to take pre-prevention measures in order to avoid victimization. Thus, the participation and willingness of the community members to crime prevention can be taken as good. Literally, everybody is ready to apprehend and bring the offenders to the community police centers. When they suspect a certain situation that has possible link to criminal activity they bring the case to the center and then possible ‘investigation’ takes place. Therefore, we work everything with the police in such way.” (Security Committee Secretary, Female, 43 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

Another in-depth interviewee also provided the following information:

“There is good readiness, including giving a call to community police officers in the middle of the night just to report about possible criminal activities. Both women and men participate in giving information to the police.” (Community member, Female, 32 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

One in-depth interview participant gave his opinion in the following way:

“For instance, when we take the participation of the members of our Idir, their commitment, motivation and participation on crime prevention through community policing is highly an encouraging one. The community is contributing attentively its part in preventing criminal activities in its own neighborhood for its own benefit.” (Idir leader, 47 years-old, Male, 6 years-experience in community policing).

The other in-depth interview participant also provided the following issues:

“...The community informs to the Ketena community police officers whenever it gets information about crime and other problems of the community. And this takes place either in-person or phone. Also, apprehending and informing to the community police officer and to the committees when ‘stranger’ moves around in the community. When

there are suspicions and fear about the occurrence of crime the community gives information to the police. Overall, when the community police officer is active on crime prevention so do the community members.” (Youth association chairperson, Male, 29 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

However contrary to the above findings, two in-depth interviewees have revealed the following issue with regard to community’s experience in taking part to prevent crimes by providing information to the police. The first participant said the following:

“There are community members who inform and who do not inform crime related information to the police. It can be said fifty-fifty.” (Community member, Male, 50 years-old, 4 years-experience in community policing).

The other participant provided the following statements:

“Honestly speaking, the experience of the community is very low in regard to implementing what is repeatedly forwarded by the police. Because, sometimes you see when the community practices what has been told by the police not to practice; even in a situation where sufficient awareness is constantly given, still the community is yet to conform. For instance, recently, the community has been told to put on face masks for its own health, however, refused to do so and then begun wearing face masks when the police start to control. It emanates from carelessness and there is also a perception of why would I practice as long as it does not affect me. And also there are some community members who enjoy some kind of benefit from crime therefore they refuse to practice what is told by the police.” (Advisory Council Chairperson, Male, 43 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

To sum up, despite the fact a couple of participants have provided two different results, the larger community’s willingness to take part in community policing thereby to prevent crime is highly positive. As it has been confirmed by a good number of this particular study, the larger public has goodwill to participate in crime prevention through community policing; therefore, this study went compatible to the basic assumptions of the Normative Sponsorship theory which was employed by this study. As it has been reviewed in the second chapter of this particular study,

the theory's basic assumption is that majority of the people in the community have goodwill so that cooperation becomes an important factor to establish a harmonious and peaceful community.

On the other hand, some of the findings of this study have contradicted to the study conducted by Frehiywot (2015) in Bole Sub-City in Addis Ababa in which she has found that the willingness of the community to attend meeting with management or/and community officers accounts 32% and 37%, poor and very poor respectively.

Again, conversely, Muluken (2019) on his study in North Shewa Zone has indicated that the community is responsible to report crimes or disputes through bureaucratic orders (Conflict Resolving Committee to the Advisory Council to the Community Police Officer to the Police Station or to the concerned elders); whilst, the findings of the research at hand, did not indicate such strict crime reporting procedure (either in practice or in principle). Rather, in the study area, informers are encouraged to report criminal activities to whom they would prefer and trust irrespective of any procedural orders; moreover, as it has been indicated throughout the study, community members are allowed to report various issues to all decision makers who are partners of community policing at their respective jurisdictions. Above all, the current researcher strongly rejects the above particular finding because some community members would prefer to report crime, dispute or any other social disorder to someone whom they trust the most. Thus, while implementing community policing to prevent crimes, putting procedural/bureaucratic orders would not be fruitful.

4.3.4. The Role of 'Informers' in Crime Prevention through Community Policing

The term 'informer' is widely used in community policing by community police officers to denote community members who repeatedly play active role by informing relevant information about criminals and crimes. This study has attempted to explore their role in crime prevention through community policing and the following paragraphs have attempted to show that.

One in-depth interview participant explained the role of informers in the following way:

“The police are not angels, so they do not know crimes which take place in the entire Ketena. Therefore, we prevent crimes based on the information that comes from the informers in the community and when the community suspects some strange issues in their surroundings either they come here in-person or via phone to inform us to detect the issue. Mostly, the elderly (particularly women) are known to this role in my Ketena, though the youth have also a role.” (Community police officer, Female, 26 years-old, Deputy Sergeant, 4 years-experience in community policing).

She also added that with regard to preventing the possible criminal activities informers have played massive role in her precinct.

Another in-depth interviewee also did put her opinion about the role of informers in the following way:

“The role of informers on our crime prevention job through community policing is massive. Whenever they (the informers) give us any information about the commission (either it is taking place or about to take) of any illegal activity, just after receiving the information by reviewing/assessing it; then we will immediately respond by taking legal measures. Therefore, the role all the informers play who reside in their respective block by reporting information about crime to the community police officer to prevent crime through community policing can be said very good.” (Community police officer, Female, Sergeant, 29 years-old, 6 years-experience in community policing).

The following paragraph also reflects the idea taken from the above-mentioned in-depth interviewee:

“They (the informers) give us information in advance. Then we (community police officers) along with other stakeholders will stop the crime not to take place and also will apprehend the suspect to law. Therefore, the role informers play in crime prevention is up to stopping multi-faceted negative impacts that may result due to the crime (had it been committed) on the people and the government.”

Another in-depth interviewee also noted the following experience in her own *Ketena*:

“Informers play their crime prevention role by informing either to the community police officers or for the different committees that are organized in community policing. They inform highly in an organized way; for instance, they provide information about theft and bodily injury. All partners of the police through community policing engage in informing such as Tera Askebaris.” (Community police officer, Female, 22 years-old, Assistant Sergeant, 2 years-experience in community policing).

The other in-depth interviewee (Community police officer, Male, 27 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 5 years-experience in community policing) has also explained the role of informers in crime prevention. According to him informers have a role to prevent crimes; for instance, by informing to the police about a certain criminal activity they help the police to arrest that criminal and this plays a role to prevent that same criminal’s criminal activities that might be committed in the next day or anytime in the future. And when informers face a flagrant offence, they inform that to the police and they testify as a witness against the suspect in the court. Therefore, in such cases hence everything is gained to arrest the offender and the possibility of preventing this criminal from re-victimization becomes a reality and it is due to the role played by the informers; thus it is serving as a crime prevention mechanism.

According to this in-depth interviewee, most of such people who play the role of informing are ex-offenders. These are people who used to commit various crimes and now turned in to laborers as a result of the job opportunity created by the partnership of the administration and community policing. Moreover, these ex-criminals say that they are done with crime due to the job opportunities they gained (mostly they are organized in lifting up and down goods/properties), others are engaged in controlling the disciplinary issues of the bus station, some others work in controlling taxis lines and the rest work as shoe shine boys in the neighborhood. He has literally said that they include them wherever there is a vacuum.

As he has said, they try to include them in the informal-economic activities in collaboration with specially micro and small enterprise agency. And in some cases, they also try to find out job opportunities by connecting them with some wealthy individuals of the *Ketena* thereby to work

as a security guard for a salary. Therefore, community police officers serve as a bridge by connecting them with the job opportunities out there and then the ex-criminals help the police in crime prevention activities; rather than committing crimes. Moreover, this takes place by de-socializing them from crime by creating a link to job opportunities in explaining the actual situation to the job providers.

However, as he has underscored, they do not link them with job opportunities just for withdrawing them from criminal activities as a ransom; rather this happens after arresting them for some illegal activities and then they hold a discussion with them to advise them to abstain from criminal activities and also when officers ask why they had engaged in criminal activities they excuse unemployment as a justification, by saying things like, “how could we live without committing crimes hence we do not have jobs?” “Tell us the solution?” As a result, through community policing, community police officers decide to bring solutions that are related to job opportunities just by working in collaboration with the local administration in explaining the actual situation of those unemployed youth; those who abide by the law and willing to work the created job will continue accordingly and those who do not want will be punished by the law as long as they refused to abstain from offending.

According to him, this has properly brought an impact to prevent crimes through community policing. Additionally, when officers receive information on the fact that they re-engaged in criminal activities, they immediately take legal action. To this end, now these ex-criminals are playing a role in crime prevention through community policing; they know the offenders and they are providing information. Therefore, as he said, through community policing officers do not only hunt the criminals, but also they include them in crime prevention by taking some corrective measures that help to shape the behavior of the ex-criminals.

As he explained, currently, the situation with these people has changed: they are leading properly their life; some of them are got married; for instance, in his *Ketena* there are such people who were used to sleep at the streets by engaging in different criminal activities.

However, there were some challenges such as re-engaging in illegal activities like stealing properties (as they used to be) during in the first six months or so. Currently, that is tackled; they

have totally abstained from such unlawful activities, rather they are playing a role in crime prevention side to side earning a living by the job they have got through community policing programs.

The following quote from the above same participant has further strengthened his points:

“Now, hundred percent they are changed (they have a mentality of making a living through lawful activities, instead of through committing various crimes). For instance, recently they have found a quintal of teff somewhere and they brought that to the police station as an exhibit. Then the owner was identified by the police and thanked them and gave them money to motivate them to do more such kind of jobs in the future. Thus, in community policing, we do not only hunt offenders, we also strive to change their attitude on crime by creating job opportunities and also by guiding/advising them. Security committee, advisory council, elders who are known for advising and reconciling, and also the general public have a role in informing issues related to crime. Therefore, the awareness about informing is scaling up.”

As it has been explained by this same in-depth interviewee, in addition to doing their own job, informers participate (usually in group forms) in crime prevention activities by providing information about crime from crime hotspot areas and as a result, these areas became clear, there is no crime ‘feeling’ and crime has stopped there. According to him, the manifestation of this is that they bring flagrant exhibits to the police when crime takes place; if they need, they could have sold those stolen properties.

As he articulated, here two advantages can be seen, one is they abstained from committing crimes and the other is that they are preventing crimes by informing (a habit which they started due to the role and responsibility they are given by the police to inform the criminal activities of the neighborhood). As a result, by bringing such kind of attitude on their mind, officers are making them ‘full human beings.’ The larger community also informs crime related information to the police. They also provide information on ex-criminals when they notice unlawful activities. To this end, he added the following points:

“In such cases, for instance, when we initially have organized 30 informers (ex-criminals), if twenty of them remain innocent that is enough for us. And we continue the crime prevention with them. We tell them to improve from the bad behavior that they are manifesting, so, we do not beg the rest 10 for the sake of crime prevention while they are misbehaving by ignoring our advice; rather, we take them to justice. For example, when they try to receive more than they deserve (by demanding excessive fee) while lifting up and down the properties of the dwellers.”

According to him, in his *Ketena*, the larger community also provides information about crime prevention through community policing in numerous ways: there is no light in this area; so it is dark, the number of street children is increasing, those people who work in lifting up and down goods are demanding high price, crime is taking place during night at this and that area and raising issues that need at most attention in their neighborhood (it mostly takes during community policing meetings); and moreover, the information they provide varies from neighborhood to neighborhood. Lastly, he affirmed that he has the experience of giving them appropriate response (in partnership with stakeholders) for their concerns.

Another in-depth interviewee also explained the role of informers in crime prevention through community policing in her *Ketena* and it is quoted below:

“It is very high. When there is a threat that impacts their life, there are people who secretly inform in a written manner just without revealing their names/identity (these are specifically mostly old-aged people/senior citizens). Whilst, most of the time, young people come in-person to community policing centers in order to provide information publicly about crime like by notifying in these areas these things are taking place by such people. For instance, they inform specific areas that experience house break-ins (burglaries) and also they provide information when they notice ex-criminals (those who are released from prisons) take part in recidivism. In AKSC, specifically, in Atobis Tera, in collaboration with the local administration there is a habit of creating jobs widely in informal sectors (such as by forming a group of youth who make a living via lifting goods up and down, shoe shining and parking keepers). This is mainly with the intention of crime prevention through community policing; and practically, these young people take

part in crime prevention activities.” (Community police officer, Female, 25 years-old, Sergeant, 4 years-experience in community policing).

She also added the following points with regard to points related to the role of informers in crime prevention: first of all, it is for the peace of the society because in the absence of peace there is no eagerness to live and to this end, all community members have an obligation of safeguarding their respective neighborhoods; it is evident that by working alone, the police cannot bring any tangible change therefore it needs support and that is why all stakeholders of community policing are taking part in playing roles of informing about criminal activities and other problems that are harmful to the society; additionally, when they inform they would be encouraged (stimulated) and on top of that they feel happy for leading their life peacefully.

For the follow up question (in what ways do you often encourage informers?) forwarded by the interviewer, the above-mentioned in-depth interviewee responded in the following way:

“For instance, the stimulation can be by discussing with the local administration, promoting informers who have contributed a better role in crime prevention to the next job opportunity (like from shoe-shining to other better informal sectors). Evidently, hence something better is given to them than previously, their motivation in informing would increase. When there is police get together ceremonies, some informers who played a significant role in crime prevention would be invited formally to attend the ceremonies and also to be acknowledged for what they have contributed in preventing criminal activities in their neighborhood through community policing. Therefore, hence they are working in partnership with us, they should be permitted to enjoy and share our happiness too.”

One in-depth interviewee also made the following points with regard to the role of informers in community policing to prevent crimes.

“The reporting experience can be said as good. The community informs us to prevent anybody from committing crimes around this neighborhood. The informers play massive role to crime prevention as a result crime reduces. The community understands the effectiveness of community policing. Therefore, whenever they get the information about

potential crime they inform us either on phone or in-person at any time. Moreover, they do this for their own security and safety. In this area, both innocents and criminals reside. To this end, the area is known for its crime hot spot-ness even by the government level as well.” (Security board member and *Idir* Chairperson, Male, 65 years-old, 1 year experience in community policing).

Conversely, one in-depth interviewee provided different opinion with regard to community members’ experience in informing crime related information to the police and the following short quote was his verbatim:

“It is fifty-fifty. Some are ready, some are not. And in some cases there are people who say it is none of my business.” (Community member, Male, 50 years-old, 4 years-experience in community policing).

In sum, the above results have suggested that informers are playing a remarkable role in crime prevention through community policing particularly by providing crime related information to the police. Besides, most of the informers are ex-criminals in the study area. And they were given a job opportunity in the informal sector to make a living and side to side to prevent crimes by being de-socialized from their previous criminal behavior. By the people who are implementing community policing to prevent crime there is a belief in which ex-criminals can provide valuable information about crime and criminals hence they were used to commit crimes in the study area. Moreover, according to the findings of the study, this belief is working in preventing crimes through community policing by using ex-criminals (commonly called as informers); however, not all informers are ex-criminals. In nearly similar fashion, in the same study area, Fitsum, Kasahun & Yared (2016) have found that ‘informers’ (individuals who are recruited by the police for attaining crime related information) play a role in crime prevention.

4.4. The Role of Community Police Officers in Crime Prevention through Community Policing in AKSC

This section attempted to present the findings on the role of community police officers in crime prevention through community policing which is obtained from FGD participants (community police officers) and in-depth interviews participants. Community policing takes place between

the partnership of the community members and community police officers; therefore, exploring the role the later plays is also as equally important as exploring the former.

As it has been frequently pinpointed out by the participants of this study, community police officers have some key roles in crime prevention which includes: creating awareness to the community on crime prevention, receiving and giving information from/to the community on crime and other issues, working in partnership with other stakeholders of community policing such as the Advisory Council, Security Committee and small and micro enterprise agency, building relations with community members, having tea-coffee programs, making regular meetings with small community organizations that are found mainly in informal urban economy sector such as parking controllers and shoe shine boys maintaining the overall peace and security of their respective *Ketenas*. Literally, as it has been indicated by one community police officer, there is no place in which a community police officer fails to reach. As a result, creating sub-themes in this section became impossible.

Moreover, unlike the rest three specific objectives of the study, it became somehow difficult to provide large sub-themes for this particular specific objective that could possibly best express the crime prevention role played by community police officers through community policing. Therefore, it became preferable to present the role community police officers play in crime prevention through community policing in the following manner based on the data obtained from FGD participants (community police officers) and in-depth interviews participants.

As the FGD participants have elucidated their role in crime prevention through community policing are: creating awareness to the community to have community members who have crime hating perception; working in collaboration with the community members and sector offices in order to prevent crimes by minimizing or avoiding problems and issues that could be sources of crime with in the community; working in partnership with various committees that are found in community policing; if possible preventing crimes in advance before they occur if not controlling the crimes while they are taking place just by apprehending the offenders; and also apprehending the criminals from where they are just after they committed the crime; maximizing the awareness of the community members about crime prevention and having information about crimes that repeatedly take place in the *Ketena* based on research.

Furthermore, they have also explained their role: creating citizens who hate crime by holding discussion with the community members through community policing; allowing the community to prevent crimes by being the owner of its own security, by teaching the community on how they can prevent crime in partnership with the police; hence crime is not good, maximizing the crime prevention capacity and participation of the community and different security committees; holding discussions with the youth 5 to 50 system; providing chance to the independent advisory council and community security patrol thereby to create awareness to the community about crime.

The discussants have also explained the role they play in electrifying areas which are dark at night (in order to avoid potential criminal activities that might take place during night because of the dark) with partnership of other stakeholders such as electric cooperation and community members, dealing with the community members at their respective blocks, encouraging the dwellers to safeguard their neighborhood, working hand in hand with the community; therefore, due to this, the community is the police with regard to maintaining and keeping the peace of the neighborhood, encouraging them to safeguard their blocks turn by turn based on their own schedule (they have badges, sticks and shining vests which separates them others).

The FGD participants have further explained their role by raising the fact that community police officers of each *Ketena* play a role by sharing their crime prevention experience to security committees such as, 5 to 50 and independent advisory council and community patrol; encouraging all stakeholders to provide information about the overall neighborhood problems either in person or via phone; doing the overall crime prevention task in partnership with all stakeholders; and deploying intelligence personnel so that to get information secretly. They have also said that no crime goes hidden after being committed, receiving information about crime that might occur, encouraging the dwellers to provide information about the suspect. For example, as it stands, each *Ketena* community police officer encounters about 500 people in a daily basis thereby to create awareness about crime and to exchange information.

The other issues pinpointed by the discussants were: providing tea-coffee programs thereby to hold discussion; and during this meeting community police officers give awareness to the community members on how they can provide information as a result they openly provide

information even just on that same meeting, in-person, phone and also in a written form; the information they provide includes the crime that took place and also about the one yet to occur. Furthermore, they also receive information about the different natural and man-made accidents. Community police officers do also create awareness to the community considering possible gap in awareness about crime and also they receive and collect information from different community members about the *Ketena* and allowing them to control issues that exist in their neighborhood.

Exchanging different information at tea and coffee program including holding discussion with the community members about the issue of inflation hence it could be a cause of crime and responding properly to the information given by the community. The task of crime prevention achieves its goal based on information therefore they work based on it by responding to what they have received from the community. The community members tell to the officers about the different issues of the neighborhood thus they work with the public in a daily basis as a result they understand the community's need by that. For instance, they have raised the issue of sanitation, when there is sanitation problems in the *Ketena*, the community let us know. In such situations the officers look for solutions along with community members through community policing. When water pumps cut-off they inform us. Then community police officers create a common arena with different influential individuals such as religious leaders and popular individuals of the neighborhood thereby to mobilize the community to solve problems and they also work with media personalities. Overall, as the discussants revealed to solve neighborhood problems everyone participates by what they have; be it money, knowledge or resource like providing sanitizer.

As the discussants have indicated their discussion role with the community is not just only limited on crime rather it goes beyond. For instance, they discuss about water pump when it cuts off hence it disrupts the health situation of the community members. Therefore, when their health disrupts it would be impossible to discuss about the issue of crime, as a result they need to solve first the health issue in partnership to the public. And they turn to giving awareness and mobilizing the community about the harshness of crime, they also hold discussion with the community members about the national issues, they also make discussions about peace and

issues that disrupt the peace thereby to take action and seek solution, they create partnership with different public servants.

While trying to explain their role in crime prevention, the discussants have said that other stakeholders who work on crime even receive information from community police officers. Because, in order to prevent crime through community policing approach the community police officer knows each and every member of the community; full information about the entire *Ketena* is available including crime area, the time it occurs and season which is identified based on research. They have also added the fact that most community members prefer to contact them for every problem that occurs in the neighborhood instead of contacting local authorities; whether the issue concerns community police officers or not. And as the discussants explained, they will look for solutions when the community informs them after observing strangers in the neighborhood.

The FGD participants have also explained that through community policing they create opportunity to the different professionals who are organized under the independent advisory council and community security patrol in order to help community policing works. For instance, medical doctors help them with respect to health issues, lawyers such as judges by consultation on legal matters. Therefore, according to them, generally, the awareness creation takes place from different dimensions.

As the discussants have informed to prevent crime, they strive to make all segment of the society as crime haters; all community organizations have the chance to participate. Moreover, the community by itself is the police and they help the community police officers by providing crime related information to the police in their respective *Ketenas*; everyone informs the police about crime and criminals. They also participate in securing their neighborhood by safeguarding in-person (from 1:00pm to 3:00pm local time) along with other security stakeholders, such as neighborhood watch guards and during this situation community police officers contribute by consulting the community members on crime related issues.

Lastly, the discussants have further elaborated their role in crime prevention: they work jointly with small and micro enterprise institution in order to create job opportunities to the unemployed

youth thereby to prevent them from engaging in to potential criminal activities due to lack of job opportunities and they have indicated that they have brought improvement by this way; there are known individuals who used to engage in criminal activities but now abstained from that because of the job opportunity that they have got; for instance, those who are making a living by controlling the parking areas.

Providing opportunity to influential people of the neighborhood in order to advise potential offenders to abstain, conducting research to identify recidivists, arranging witnesses when there is a complaint, providing 'petition' for the community members against someone who disturbs the peace of the neighborhood, allowing the community to participate on crime issues are the roles they play in community policing. In addition to crime prevention, the community participates in other issues like helping the needy through community policing therefore at this time community police officers play their role in safeguarding the peace of the neighborhood, they also teach street children about the harshness of crime and the role of seeking solution to different diseases that exist in the neighborhood with the partnership of the wealthy people in the neighborhood by mobilizing via media.

On the other hand, one in-depth interviewee articulated the following points with regard to issues related to the role of community police officers in crime prevention through community policing:

"I believe that they (community police officers) strive to their best level in order to prevent crime; because, the work (crime prevention) cannot be effective without them."
(Religious Father, Male, 53 years-old, 4 years-experience in community policing).

The other in-depth interviewee provided the following information:

"Community policing's philosophy by itself is 'removing' the police (this in a sense, allowing the community to keep and protect its neighborhood; thus, that is its end goal and we are trying to achieve that); permitting the community to safeguard the peace and security of its own neighborhood. Nevertheless, we are yet to reach there, as a result we are pushing the community to realize that. However, our country's current unemployment problem is hindering us as an obstacle; for instance there are some assumptions by the offenders: they say, 'where should I go?' 'What would I do?' But the police could not

respond such issues. Still, we are advising them not to think in that way. There is no place that community policing fails to reach; we go even to justice institutions to fix some issues.” (Community Police Officer, Male, 27 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 5 years-experience in community policing).

Furthermore, he indicated that the role of community police officers is multi-dimensional. And according to him, for instance, they work in cooperation with religious institutions and leaders in order to gather information. In short, according to him, they work until the entire community perceives itself as a police. He argued that other police members mostly patrol the streets and the neighborhood when there is a problem, whereas, community police officers work on receiving and providing information regardless of the absence or presence of problem. To this end, community police officers search the entire neighborhood to prevent crime and other anti-social problems.

The other in-depth interview participant delivered the following statements:

“By using their policing knowledge, community police officers keep the peace and security of the neighborhood in collaboration with other stakeholders of crime prevention who are found in the community. They exchange information with the community. They are doing a fantastic job, they do not say that they are tired, busy or things like these. They are always seen there while striving to solve the problems of the community.” (Idir Leader, 47 years-old, Male, 6 years-experience in community policing).

Compatible to the perspective of the above-mentioned participant, UNODC (2011) also argues that community police officers should effectively enforce the law and lend their expertise in the area of crime prevention to city officials and groups working to make urban areas safer, developing special expertise in community relations to help these efforts as they work to participate in the discussions at the local level by working with local officials on such issues as preventing public nuisances and enforcing by-laws or ordinances in the community.

Furthermore, one in-depth interview participant also provided his opinion (somehow related with the above participant) on issues related to the role of community police officers in crime prevention:

“The effort of community police officers to prevent crime in partnership with other stakeholders of community policing can be taken as good. They give professional analysis to the community on crime related issues. For instance, due to this, the community members have gained awareness in identifying issues that get solution through reconciliation and legally. Community police officers also hold meetings with other stakeholders about the actual situation of their precinct. Community police officers, security committees and advisory council members take part in community development activities through community policing so that to strengthen the police-community relations which has potential benefit to crime prevention. Influential individuals also take part during reconciliation and community development activities which is one way of using their influence to mobilize the community members to engage in to crime prevention activities through community policing.” (Youth association chairperson, Male, 29 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

Overall, the role of community police officers to control, prevent and minimize crimes and also to solve problems through community policing can be summarized as: an expert, facilitator, organizer, a catalyst to solve problems, as an agent and educator. In one or another way, these six key roles of community police officers were vastly manifested through this study. To be more clear, for instance, as an educator (they educate the community members about the modus operandi or techniques used by criminals to commit crimes), as an expert (they apply their policing knowledge on how to prevent crimes), as an organizer (they organize and mobilize different community groups such as shoeshine boys, taxi line and parking controllers, laborers who lift up and down goods, merchants and others to take part in community policing to prevent crimes), as a facilitator (they facilitate different meetings of community policing that are intended to discuss about the entire situation of their respective *Ketenas*, as an agent (by working with local authorities they connect the unemployed youth with small and micro enterprise office thereby to find job opportunities in informal urban economic sector; and then the beneficiaries of these opportunities will later work with the police in community policing as informers to prevent crimes).

To sum up, as it has been indicated above, community police officers have multifaceted role (such as providing information to the community, receiving information from the community

and providing awareness to the community) in crime prevention through community policing. As indicated by the participants of this study, community police officers are playing active role in the study area and this finding became coherent with the one conducted in Dire Dawa by Jackson, Shearon & Demelash (2018) in which they have claimed the police are very keen to present community policing as effective in giving the general public responsibility to tackle crime and support the police. On the other hand, the findings of this particular study have contradicted to the study conducted in Hawassa by Mesay (2014) in which he has claimed the presence of passive participation by most police members; which is not the case in AKSC.

4.5. Factors that Hinder Community Policing from Actively Playing its Crime Prevention Role in AKSC

This section attempted to present findings on the above mentioned specific objective based on data obtained through key informant interviews and documentary analysis.

4.5.1. General Factors that Hinder Community Policing from Actively Playing its Crime Prevention Role

KII participants have been asked to share their opinion about the general factors that hinder community policing from actively playing its crime prevention role in the study area and they have responded in the following ways:

One key informant shared his opinion in the following way:

“This precinct is very difficult; for instance, there are many ‘strangers’ in our surroundings. And by consuming illegal drugs they start gambling and when they fail to win the gambling they sometimes engage in group fighting which includes using sharp materials to victimize each other. Furthermore, the arrival of large number of people from various parts of the country in the area to use the bus station, the existence of many bedrooms, the existence of large amount of prostitutes which creates ‘good opportunity’ to various criminal activities.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 30 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 8 years-experience in community policing).

Another key informant interviewee reflected his view in the following manner:

“When the pilot project was launched there was very good acceptance of community policing by the public. However, in recent time, the community sometimes gives cover for crime, not giving due attention to crime prevention, not giving information to the community police officer and hiding criminals. On the other hand, the actual situation of some Ketenas in the sub city makes the crime prevention task tough; which are very wide to supervise and control by a single community police officer. Therefore, the geographical area does not fit with a single community police officer.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 25 years-old, Sergeant, 6 years-experience in community policing).

One KII participant also shared his opinion on the issue and it is quoted below:

“Failure to solve crime sources that are found in the community, existence of gap in awareness among the community with regard to crime related issues; because, crime occurs against the community by offenders who are found in the community itself. The other factor is murmuring or unhappiness of the community during the apprehension of suspects and also unfamiliarity to the surrounding by passengers who come from countryside as a result they become victims; because most passengers arrive lately to the bus station. Non-favorability of the area is also another factor and lastly the existence of illegal drug consumers widely.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Assistant Inspector, Male, 35 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

The following opinion has been reflected by one highly experienced senior police officer key informant interviewee (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 55 year-old, Inspector, 9 years-experience in community policing) who has worked since the pilot project of community policing as a leader of community policing in seven of the ten Woredas of AKSC and he has provided the following information:

According to him, there is unwillingness to cooperate by some community members on community policing to prevent crimes due to lack of sufficient awareness; the tendency of perceiving community policing approach similar with the previous old traditional policing

approach like solving all problems by detention; failure to create sufficient awareness for the community about the problem solving nature of community policing; the fact in which it (community policing) was not worked (with regard to promotion) widely.

Moreover, the above same participant added the following points:

“Hence community policing is not practiced widely and also we are ‘beginners’, there is gap among community members in identifying community policing officers from other police members such as those who work in crime prevention and investigation departments; noting the fact that their uniforms do not have some sign which separates them from others; therefore, some people consider community police officers like other police members. Failure to understand the objectives of community policing is also a huge factor that hinders the role of community policing in crime prevention; and additionally the presence of on-off nature of safeguarding the security of the neighborhood through community policing at tea-coffee meetings and other regular community-police communication mechanisms.”

Based on the above quote, the findings of the current study supports the findings revealed by Anteneh (2017) at Yeka Sub-City in which he found out that community members haven’t seen any difference between regular the police unit and community police officers hence the color of their uniforms are similar. Here, the researcher argues that separating the color of the uniform would be significant to prevent crimes hence community members highly prefer community police officers over other police members due to the good approach of the former.

He further explained the fact that during the first years of community policing there was a better implementation; nevertheless, currently, instead of implementing its exact principles, the police institution is showing a tendency of returning back to the usual or regular policing approach (or traditional policing, a term which is referred by some scholars). Rather than focusing on problem oriented approach just being busy with some ‘current situations’ or issues in temporarily shutting down community policing centers which is a big factor in hindering community policing not to play its crime prevention role.

He concluded his opinion by sharing what he has actually observed and it is quoted below:

“Implementing seriously when something happens and implementing recklessly when that something returns to normal; forcing community police officers to shut down the center so that to give them other non-community policing tasks; hence they do not spend their time at community policing and the implementation is lacking consistency, it is returning back to the previous policing approach. Not giving focus to crime prevention; when they need, they passionately implement and when they do not, they just cool it down. Therefore, it is on the verge of returning to the previous condition. Previously, everything was about community policing and now that is not the case, currently there is no such thing; due to this condition (the more it lacks the attention it deserves, the more the factors that hinders it are increasing). Consequently, we are witnessing the situation by which the factors that hinder the roles of crime prevention through community policing are worsening.”

Another KII participant has shared his opinion in the following way:

“The presence of large amount of street dwellers who consume illegal drugs; they live at the streets and they participate in criminal activities at hundred percent level; the presence of street vending, the presence of local drinking houses (Areke and Tej); the presence of prostitutes (their clients commit crimes, and when there are prostitutes, there is crime). When there is alcohol consumption (particularly, Areke houses), there is crime. Thus, in the presence of all these factors, preventing crimes is impossible; they are obstacles of crime prevention.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda, Male, 28 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 9 years-experience in community policing).

Well-matched to the above key informant interviewees’ responses, data generated from different police documents has shown that consumption of illegal drugs, the existence of large number of prostitutes, the presence of street dwellers, the arrival of several new people (who do not have sufficient awareness about the study area) from various parts of Ethiopia to the bus station, imbalance between the geographic area (which is very wide) covered by a single community police officer and the presence of several local liquor houses were among repeatedly mentioned

factors in hindering community policing from effectively playing its crime prevention role in the study area.

In sum, data generated from key informant interviews and documents became compatible in the above way for good number of factors that hinder community policing from playing its crime prevention role. On the other hand, as it has been deeply indicated by one informant (above) community policing is returning to reactive policing; hence it violates the very foundation of community policing, the researcher argues that it has to be stopped. A couple of informants have also pointed out the presence of unwillingness to cooperate by some community members thus further work needs to be done to improve the two issues.

Additionally, some of these findings became coherent with the findings of some studies conducted by Mesay (2014) in Hawassa in which he has found drug consumption houses, the presence of some community members who hide criminals and local liquor houses as some of the factors that hinder community policing in crime prevention. Similarly, in the same study area, Fitsum, Kasahun and Yared (2016) indicated that commercial sex work, khat and shisha houses, video houses, and drinking houses which sell home-brewed alcoholic drinks such as *Tella*, *Tej*, and *Areke* were among the factors that contributed to the high occurrence of crime and delinquency. To this end, the findings of the present study have also supported their claim.

Whereas, this study has contradicted the findings he has brought (passive participation by police members); hence, nowhere the current study could found passive participation of community police officers. Similarly, the current study has contradicted to the findings of one study that has been conducted in Assosa by Wondem & Muhammed (2016) in which they have claimed the presence of low commitment of officers'; yet, the current study became coherent to one particular finding in which they have revealed the presence of task confusion.

4.5.2. Factors that Hinder Community Members from Playing their Crime Prevention Role in Community Policing

The key informants have been asked about the factors that hinder community members from playing their crime prevention role in the study area; they have responded in the following ways.

Information shared by one key informant interviewee is presented below:

“Instead of allowing all community members to participate in community policing to prevent crimes, practically the actual task is taking place by limited members of the community; for instance, people who are known for coordinating at their block and Ketena. They even do not want other community members to take part in community policing thereby to prevent crimes; among these people there are individuals who do not want to see the youth and the general public to engage in to the job. These people who have some kind of relation with the police and the authorities at different administration levels are not willing to see others to participate in community policing. Exact same people keep the neighborhood on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday....so there are people who need to make it a ‘party issue’ as a result the larger community is detached from it. Therefore, it can be said that the objectives of community policing are not going in a compatible way with the community members.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 55 years-old, Inspector, 9 years-experience in community policing).

The above same key informant also added that his job for several years is leading community policing and its objective is preventing crime by allowing the community to participate; nevertheless, based on his evaluation, practically just all tasks (to mention some: the process of judging, safeguarding and keeping the peace and security of the neighborhood, reconciling and giving advice) are taking place by limited same people. Thus, these people (those who are at different committee of community policing) do not want to give away or to share the decision making and responsibility sharing to/with others; they do everything by themselves. He literally said the following:

“Therefore, I believe this condition hinders the community members from effectively playing their crime prevention role through community policing. Generally, even though, it is known that to prevent crime through community policing all members of the community should take part, what is on the actual ground is not compatible to the mentioned principle. Therefore, in practice, its participatory nature is only limited to few people of the community.”

Another KII participant shared the following experience:

“Lack of sufficient awareness by some community members such as having the attitude of ‘the police come against me, instead of comes to me’. Additionally, forgetting the fact that community policing is crime prevention and the belief of parents that their child is not an offender; not giving information and support to the police.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Assistant Inspector, Male, 35 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

One key informant provided his view on the issue accordingly:

“The fact that some community members have linkage to causes of crime; for example, providing houses and places to sell illegal drugs and hiding suspects from the police. On the other hand, when they re-see the suspect they have provided information moving in the neighborhood; they get disappointed and by being discouraged they will not provide information to the police hence they once witnessed the suspect in the surrounding without receiving proper legal punishment. They say why would I inform? Hence the court is releasing the suspects on bail. To this end, the suspects and the criminals intimidate the informers after getting released; due to this, informers abstain themselves from crime prevention activities for the sake of their own safety.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 25 years-old, Sergeant, 6 years-experience in community policing).

Another KII participant explained the issue in somehow similar to the abovementioned participant’s view and it is presented in the following way:

“There is limitation on the legal protection (criminals who get arrested by the police or any other security organs do not get punished properly). They get released by bail or any other mechanism and they rejoin the community and then they cause problems again; therefore, the community fears to prevent the same crime at other times. Criminals get released for small amount of money such as 500 or 1000 ETB and this does not deter the criminals thus they keep re-victimization. Releasing criminals in such way causes problems and discourages the general public particularly informers from taking part in

crime prevention activities. Moreover, after getting released, these criminals intimidate the community by using words.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda, Male, 28 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 9 years-experience in community policing).

According to the above key informant, with regard to legal protection proper measure should be taken, this is to say, as long as criminals are proven guilty by the law, their bail rights should not have to be granted. Hence they are criminals and this is proven by evidence, no kind of bail can deter them; rather legal punishment deters them. Consequently, that amount of money should not be appropriate to deter them, because they would easily make that money after getting released, as a result, granting a bail for criminals should not be assumed as their right.

He has also expressed some additional points in the following way:

“The other factor is related with inflation and unemployment. For instance, some youth are unemployed and their parents do not prevent these people from taking part in criminal activities. Therefore, they decide to share the benefit of those crimes and also they do not expose their children who committed crime to the police rather they hide those criminals to sleep at home. For instance, providing shelter for those who commit various thefts such as electronic materials (TVs., laptops, and many mobile phones). And also they cooperate in selling these stolen properties.”

On the other hand, compatible to some of the above key informant interviewees’ opinions, the documentary analysis has also showed the presence of fear by community members particularly after re-witnessing the suspects in the community without getting proper legal punishments by the law even in the presence of sufficient legal evidence. As it has been obtained from police documents, this is a situation by which community members face intimidation and bullying from suspects and criminals for providing information about crime to the police. Apparently, community members are abstaining from crime prevention through community policing fearing for their life due to low legal protection.

Furthermore, as it has been widely indicated in police documents (tea-coffee program minutes) community members feel discouraged whenever they see the suspects get released by the court either on bail or for free, even during the presence of sufficient legal evidence (including

witnesses) about the crime they have committed. The other point obtained from documents was lack of willingness by security forces that are found out of community policing in receiving crime related information from the community members just by claiming the area in which the crime has took place do not concern them; quite understandably, by this time community members remain dissatisfied and withdrew from preventing crimes.

In conclusion, one key informant (above) has argued that the people who are in charge of implementing community policing do not want to allow the larger community members to take part in crime prevention through community policing. The point elucidated by him highly contradicts the results obtained from the KII and FGD participants of this same study. Hence none of those participants have revealed that community policing is largely taking place by a limited number of community members. Nonetheless, the principle of community policing suggests to prevent crimes it is better to make all inclusive.

4.5.3. Factors that Hinder Community Police Officers from Playing their Crime Prevention Role in Community Policing

The KII participants have been asked about the factors that hinder community police officers from playing their crime prevention role through community policing and they have provided their opinions below.

One key informant provided the following points:

“The difficulty of the area to crime prevention, with regard to crime prevention there are various problems. For example, the community provides rent houses widely for prostitutes and then their clients come to these houses to encounter them and they commit crimes. And sometimes, the situation goes out of control, the availability of street children, the existence of cheap bedrooms (commonly called as ‘Kesha Betereba’ in Amharic) which mainly aimed to provide rental service for night for people/passengers who have arrived to the bus station lately from different parts of the country. And here, the problem is the passengers who use these bedrooms are highly prone to victimization because of the insecurity of the service. Hence they are new to the city and the area, they only consider the inexpensiveness of the price due to ignorance about potential

victimization.” (Community policing coordinator at *Woreda* level, Male, 30 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 8 years-experience in community policing).

He also added the following points:

“With regard to crime prevention there is not that much problem. However, certain stakeholders show unwillingness to support and cooperate; for instance, not properly playing their role. This is mostly by local authorities, when we inform them to lock some houses that engage in illegal activities, they refuse to do so.”

Another KII participant also reflected his opinion:

“Failure to eradicate or reduce the causes of crime; for instance, illegal drug consumption places and gambling places have burden on crime prevention tasks. They engage in to criminal activities after spending in those places; therefore, not creating awareness to the community through tea-coffee program. In this case, the community members do not even bring information about the new openings of illegal drug consumption houses as a result the crimes occur by that level. And also shortage of human resource; we give training for the community police officers. However, in few cases, some police members engage to community policing without training which hinders the crime prevention.” (Community policing coordinator at *Woreda* level, Male, 25 years-old, Sergeant, 6 years-experience in community policing).

He also pointed out the situation by which the suspected person escapes legal punishment after getting arrested is making the crime prevention task tough. As he said, when a criminal escapes from the police by committing crime, instead of cooperating with the police, some community members pave the way to the criminal to escape and then the police alone follows the criminal. And in some areas that are crime hot spots, the police are becoming victims; for instance, there are areas by which police members do not return safely when they go to apprehend suspects (32 *Kebele*, *Kereyu*, 05 *Kebele* and *Chid tera*) are known for this. In these areas the community hides the thieves and also they share the property that illegally taken away from the victims.

The following ideas were also raised by one key informant:

“Residence problem; the actual residence of the community police officers is in the outskirts of the city; which is too far from their Ketena and as a result community police officers do not reside together with community members of their Ketena for 24/7. Nonetheless, to build strong bond between the community and the community police officer it is better if the community police officer is the resident of that particular precinct. Additionally, not giving due attention from stakeholders to community policing, sense of boredom which results due to the overwhelming-ness of crime prevention, not giving due attention to convert to practice the research findings that address the issue of crime are the factors that hinder crime prevention efforts.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Assistant Inspector, Male, 35 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

Another key informant (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 55 years-old, Inspector, 9 years-experience in community policing) provided the following statements:

“Repeatedly reshuffling Ketena community police officers who stayed for good number of years by becoming highly familiar to their precinct and considered as members and family of the neighborhood; moreover, the reshuffling happens in a situation where they just begun impacting positively the crime prevention task. This takes place without sufficient reason. For instance, if they have caused problems, it is better to give a piece of advice and to take possible measures against them based on the law by identifying their wrong doing, instead of switching them to new precincts. In other words, keeping them in a precinct and community where they are already highly acquainted is more advantageous. For instance, in the precinct where they have encountered many community members through community policing, they have already identified people who engage in anti-social behavior. As a result, this is a time by which they better play their crime prevention role. Therefore, this condition gives them a good opportunity to prevent crimes effectively; unfortunately, the higher officials remove these community police officers to other Ketenas without considering this advantage.”

Furthermore, as he explained, when this situation takes place the time by which they need to get acquainted at their new *Ketena* is too long and that is very tough. To this end, starting the job at their new *Ketena* is a challenging one, because they have to organize committees who will work in partnership with them and to do other things that makes them able to do their task; therefore, in order to protect the job from getting damaged it is better to wisely decide while thinking of reshuffling. For instance, many community police officers are facing a problem due to a reshuffling that took place at our sub-city a couple of years ago, because at their new *Ketenas* they are not doing their role properly until now. Therefore, it is better to allow them to work at precincts where they have made effort by working tirelessly for years.

After four years the ‘good’ community police officer has left the *Ketena*, community members still remember nostalgically by recalling the effectiveness of crime prevention during those years by that particular community police officer. Additionally, they considered the previous community police officer as a family member, hence he has stayed at their community for years by implementing community policing; whereas they struggle to acquaint with the new one.

According to him, basically, the actual implementation of community policing lacks compatibility to its theory. The police leaders who are at top in implementing community policing have a limited awareness on the concept of community policing. Those who lead the organization do not know the concept of community policing. In a condition where they do not know it, they hold the leadership role and then they order community police officers for what they are not supposed to do and for issues that do not concern them; by saying the community police officers, ‘then why are you here if you do not do this and that?’ Nothing is known about why they reshuffle the community police officers from *Ketena* to *Ketena*. They have their own perspective, they do this just simply by their own perspective when they remember by saying let us reshuffle; there is no such thing that is assumed to benefit the job or to improve the job by believing it is not taking place rightly.

For instance, community police officers who have solved many problems of their *Ketena* such as fixing cobblestone and asphalt roads and also creating job opportunity such as by opening shower rooms which gives service for dwellers in small fee; consequently, the reshuffling that happened on these community police officers was not because they have caused problems as a

result the dwellers are still speaking loudly by appealing to the higher authorities by saying what did they wrong?, Why have you removed this and that community police officer from our *Ketena*? They even demand the higher officials to give houses and increase the salary of the community police officers.

While trying to explain how serious the issue in the sub-city, the above same key informant added the following points:

*“For instance, the person who has made the last reshuffling in our sub-city is recently got arrested for a crime (issues related with illegal weapon) which he has committed; thus, he is serving imprisonment. He did the reshuffling immediately at his arrival from other sub city with barely knowing the performance of the community police officers. It is thereafter, the job gets messed up. Moreover, they do the reshuffling when they think to benefit someone from somewhere, when they want to feel comfortable by assigning a certain community police officer at a *Ketena* they want. And in some cases when they assume that it (the reshuffling) benefits the community policing officers.”*

Besides, he also admitted that there is lack of capacity on some community policing coordinators at *Woreda* and police station level. Except the police rank they hold, they seem outsmarted by the community police officers who do the actual work at *Ketena* level. Because, the community police officers gained better awareness since the recruitment (for community policing) period, on the other hand the ones at *Woreda* and police station level are promoted and entitled to the leadership to coordinate the job just because of their seniority. This habit even harms people who work devotedly.

Another point that he provided was the fact that not being available in an improved situation by those who are at high position in comparison to their *Ketena* counterparts, knowledge gap and the tendency of returning back to the traditional policing approach, not giving due support to community police officers and low level of supervision and control. When the coordinator is not way better than the community police officers, the later becomes hopeless. Instead of coordinating the two sides as a bridge, they transfer the order that they have received from their superiors as it is.

Finally, according to him there is failure to capitalize the missions of community policing due to limited capacity, preferring the narrow passage (reactive policing) which is trying to take action after the crime already occurred, not giving due attention to prevention, inclining to current situations such as, saying today the road has been closed and then sending/deploying community police officers to the streets with a police stick, not reminding the community police officers to do their crime prevention job through community policing approach just by being available at community policing centers and also not encouraging and motivating them, implementing what they are told to implement by their superiors, like when they are told to deploy and or not to deploy community police officers at the streets; here, the case in point is not considering the actual situation.

Another KII participant reflected his opinion in the following way:

“The problem of youth unemployment, street dwellers and prostitutes are factors considered as causes of crime including many Areke houses and Tej houses which are the hideouts for criminals. Hence these places are affordable for limited amount of money; they serve beyond drinking such as a shelter for criminals. Therefore, these are massive problems for us to prevent crime, because they drink and sleep there, and drinking Areke gives dare to commit crime (people who drink Areke do not afraid of committing crimes). Moreover, they commit crimes by waiting the time the police leaves the neighborhood, and these places are favorable for them and in the absence of Areke houses there is no favorable condition to commit crimes.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda, Male, 28 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 9 years-experience in community policing).

According to him, they offend the community easily and also in some cases they victimize the police as well. Hence it is a serious problem; measures should be done by the administration, such as creating opportunities to shift *Areke* sellers to other sectors like eateries, shops, bed-room service, renting the house for other purposes or something like these. Controlling crime is impossible without stopping *Areke* houses. The other factor that hampers crime prevention is a situation in which victims lack confidence (just for not getting appropriate legal response after reporting victimization) on the police due to lack of evidence about the occurrence of crime. For instance, some criminals commit crimes without leaving any evidence that serves as a witness

against them; therefore, there must be a victim protection law for the victims. For example, if a victim comes in an injured situation which resulted of victimization, justice should be served by simply identifying her/his bodily injury with naked eyes.

He also added that the presence of only one community police officer per *Ketena* as a constraint hence the area is very wide. Due to large number of population per *Ketena*, it is difficult to make guilty of irresponsibility, that is to say, not preventing crimes before they occur. According to this key informant, practically, it would be illogical to expect one community police officer to keep the security of such a wide precinct all alone by her/himself. And she/he may even lack the capacity; because, sometimes our own capacity to do things varies considerably; therefore, there is disproportion between the size of the *Ketena* and the community police officer (in other words, the area is wider to be covered by a single community police officer).

Similarly, data generated from documents have also showed the factors that hinder community police officers from effectively playing their crime prevention role through community policing; accordingly, the presence of congestion which makes identifying criminals from innocents very tough, the presence of numerous modern and local (*Areke, Tej and Tela*) liquor houses, the existence of large number of prostitutes and street dwellers who take part in criminal activities either directly or indirectly, the presence of several time-worn and demolished houses and places which are provided for investments yet the investment did not begin rather serving for criminals to hide themselves, the presence of two bus stations in which thousands of passengers use (here the case in point is these passengers come from various parts of Ethiopia and some of them become victims of various deceptions for not knowing well the nature of the area or lack of awareness), the wideness of the area given to a single community police officers and lastly presence of houses that serve for illegal drug consumptions such as cocaine, shisha and hashish.

Additionally, data obtained from documents have shown that due to lack of motorcycles community police officers failed to play their leadership role by supervising daily their blocks that are found in their respective *Ketenas*, and also lack of kind of budget/finance to mobilize the community to take part in community policing is also another factor that has been widely mentioned in the documents and furthermore, the afar distance in residence-office; which

prevents community police officers to arrive on time to their office and also which makes them to return back home lately.

In sum, in addition to the results obtained from documents in the above two paragraphs, some of the factors that were forwarded by KII participants above in hindering community police officers from playing effectively their crime prevention role in the study area can be summarized: the difficulty of the area, the presence of prostitutes and street dwellers, unwillingness to support and cooperate with community police officers by some local authorities, failure to eradicate or minimize sources of crime such as illegal drug consumption houses, lack of cooperation from some community members while attempting to apprehend a criminal or suspect (which reaches up to hiding criminals and sharing fruits of crime), residence problems, sense of boredom which results due to the overwhelming nature of the job, repeatedly reshuffling community police officers, presence of limited awareness by people who implement community policing from the top, the problem of youth unemployment, and the presence of numerous local liquor houses. Overall, most of the findings of this section of the study became compatible to the findings of other studies that have been discussed in the second chapter.

For instance, one finding of this study (repeatedly reshuffling community police officers) became coherent to the study conducted in Mekelle by Gosa & Angesom (2017) in which they have claimed the presence of what they have called repeated staff rotation as a factor that hinders crime prevention through community policing. Moreover, as it has been seriously indicated by the informant, the reshuffling takes place in the study area unnecessarily without any tangible justification. In community policing, community police officer should have to stay in a certain precinct for a good number of years; however, this is not the case in the study area.

4.5.4. Challenges that Community Police Officers Face While Trying to Recruit Volunteers who Take Part in Crime Prevention through Community Policing

KII participants have forwarded some obstacles that they have faced while attempting to recruit volunteers who take part in crime prevention activities through community policing; and it has been presented below.

One informant shared his experience on the issue and it is quoted in the following paragraph:

“Most of our volunteers who help us in crime prevention activities are shoeshine boys, people who work on lifting up and down goods, parking slot workers and university students when they come back for a break. However, the problem with the later ones is that they need money and other benefits from the police organization for engaging in voluntary activities; they show also recklessness on the job. There is lack of awareness about volunteerism. On the other hand, majority of the neighborhood youth collaborates with the police to prevent crimes; there are improvements from the past times, even though, sometimes there is lack of awareness and failing to understand the issue of crime prevention.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 30 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 8 years-experience in community policing).

Another key informant interviewee indicated the following issues:

“After joining the crime prevention tasks through community policing some volunteers fail to go according to the police orders; for example, not coming to community policing meetings and not giving information to the police. Even though there are many volunteers who are organized by small and micro enterprise bureau; it is not still sufficient.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 25 years-old, Sergeant, 6 years-experience in community policing).

One key informant also provided the following information:

“Volunteers who we recruit safeguard the area for free. However, they face and observe some form of intimidation by some who have interest to commit crimes; for instance, when they inform the police about potential criminal activities they are being considered as the right hand of the police. Because of this, the commitment of some volunteers deteriorates. Additionally, new volunteers prefer not to take part in crime prevention activities after hearing such things. Due to their work nature, some volunteers do not get enough time to take part in volunteering; for instance, most volunteers who are house wives become busy with domestic work.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda

level, Assistant Inspector, Male, 35 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

Another key informant reflected his opinion in the following way:

“Not having enough background information about the people who participate as volunteers in crime prevention activities through community policing. Because, some volunteers transfer information to criminals after getting orientation on crime prevention which is provided by community police officers and security committees so as to share some kind of experience to the volunteers. Therefore, deploying volunteers to crime prevention needs caution. Nevertheless, sometimes, there is a situation by which registering all individuals who are willing to take part voluntarily in crime prevention activities without identifying the real ones from the bad ones just for the sake of reporting. In other words, allowing someone to be a volunteer just because she/he needed to be so is not correct. For instance, there are people who engage to crime prevention activities as a volunteer for the sake of making money secretly like by reconciling (settling) a dispute that occurred between two parties; and also, to spy the officer by being familiar by using the advantage of the work.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 55 years-old, Inspector, 9 years-experience in community policing).

And one more KII participant revealed the following opinion:

“Sense of boredom hence they work voluntarily without receiving a coin. For instance, when we need them for a meeting thereby to provide repeated awareness on crime prevention, they say: ‘is there a coin?’ The continuous nature of the work (it is not something like we work today and stop tomorrow; it needs consistency and this creates a sense of boredom on them. Therefore, in order to motivate them, there should be a certain amount of finance; due to its absence, it is difficult to motivate them. Why would I tire without getting back something from it? Hence everything is linked with benefit; it is difficult to work with them.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda, Male, 28 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 9 years-experience in community policing).

Overall, it can be concluded that most of the unemployed people join community policing to prevent crime just by having job opportunities in their mind. Moreover, as it has been found by this study, there is an existing habit of creating job opportunities for those who need to join crime prevention in community policing. And this takes place between the partnership of local administration and community policing. Then those job opportunities are mostly in the urban informal sector and it is non-taxable. On the other hand, as it has been indicated by the above KII participants, other community groups are also playing a volunteering role in crime prevention despite facing some challenges such as intimidation by suspects and criminals.

4.5.5. Some Crime Types that are Difficult to Prevent through Community Policing Approach

Key informant interviewees have been asked about the crime types that are difficult to be prevented by community policing. And in the following paragraphs, the information they have provided has been presented.

One key informant interviewee (Community policing coordinator at *Woreda* level, Male, 55 years-old, Inspector, 9 years-experience in community policing) delivered the following information:

According to this informant, even though, many heinous crimes disappeared since 2005 E.C due to the introduction of community policing. Nevertheless, still there are some crimes which are somehow tough to be prevented such as, pickpocketing, *shiblil*, 23, *shua shua* and snatching at different taxi stops.

Shiblil is a type of crime that occurs by offenders who rob the property of purchasers particularly at *Merkato* area. These offenders first deal with the owners of the property/goods to carry it with a negotiable price like for 30/40 ETB (a fee which they demand to get paid for the service they provide by carrying the property so as to take it to the place where the owner needs to go like to taxi stoppages or to the owner's vehicle). Nonetheless, their primary intent is not to make a living by carrying those goods; rather it is committing crimes by taking away the entire property by distorting the attention of the owner at those highly congested areas of *Merkato*. For instance,

while walking by carrying the goods, all of a sudden they sit on the property and then they disappear from the owner then collaborating with their co-offenders.

23: on the other hand, 23 is a type of crime that takes place through various forms of deception techniques. First the offender changes its real identity in order to use that for deceiving people thereby to commit crime; for instance, by resembling religious leaders (by dressing and by acting like them) or by dressing good suits with a cravat. Then after getting the belief from the victims the offender proceeds to talk about issues that have not happened like, the road that leads to this and that area has been blocked so do not go there, mostly these type of offenders are elder people due to this they do not struggle that much to deceive; hence they use that age as an advantage in addition to well dressing by resembling non-offenders. They usually take away phones, laptops, money, gold and other materials that they found from the victims by distorting their attention. Understandably, in our society there is a common assumption about well-dressed people do not mostly engage in to criminal activities.

However, recently, with regard to the current situation of the country, there are crimes which are taking place with support of guns, hang and *Shua-shua* (mostly this type of crime takes place at night on ‘mini-bus taxis’, the driver and his allies falsely claim that they are giving transport services just like any other transport providers and then they pick up limited number of ‘suitable’ passengers they need and they drive the vehicle at high speed towards the direction they want to go. Finally, when they reach to their ‘favorable’ destination they rob all properties from the passengers.

Another KII participant provided the following information:

“Given Addis Ketema’s congestion particularly Merkato area, it may not be taken as very serious. However, preventing pickpocketing is somehow difficult. The other form of crime is deception. And also there is a crime type called as Shiblil (taking away the property of purchasers after agreeing to carry it for certain amount of money with prior intent of crime). There is sometimes snatching at the area called as Shera Tera.”
(Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Assistant Inspector, Male, 35 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

One key informant also shared his opinion in the following manner:

“Failure to avoid sources of crime particularly resulted due to inability to control places of illegal drug consumption. As a result, theft, snatching and hang are somehow difficult to prevent. And the modus operandi of the abovementioned crimes is also tough to prevent through community policing in the area.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 25 years-old, Sergeant, 6 years-experience in community policing).

Statements provided by another key informant are quoted below:

“There is no such tough thing; however, sometimes, in our neighborhood pickpocketing, snatching and larceny/robbery by breaking doors of the house. We apprehend them daily and they get arrested and then they get released; during this time they engage in re-victimization. Most of the victims are strangers who came from different parts of the country and do not know the area. After committing the crime, community police officers apprehend the suspects and they send them to the police station thereby to be punished by the court. However, in some cases the court releases them. And this motivates new offenders to engage in criminal activities. Even the ones got released re-engage in criminal activities.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 30 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 8 years-experience in community policing).

Another KII participant provided the following opinion:

“Pickpocketing, property theft (popularly known as Shiblil) and snatching are common. This is mainly due to massive congestion, presence of the bus stations and traffic jams (in other words, these are favorable conditions for the criminals and unfavorable for the potential victims to defend themselves and also for the police to prevent crimes before they occur).” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 28 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 9 years-experience in community policing).

Generally, based on the above results of the study, pickpocketing, *Shiblil*, 23, *Shua shua* and snatching are the most difficult crime types to prevent through community policing; moreover, Melesse (2020) in the same study area has found three of those crime types (except 23). And that difficulty is mostly because of the sophistication of the modus operandi employed by the

criminals while committing the above mentioned crime types and lack of awareness from the victims' side about the techniques used by the criminals. Hence, mostly those crimes occur against people who come outside the study area, it is difficult to create awareness to potential victims about those crimes and criminals in advance through community policing.

Furthermore, theft, larceny/robbery (house break-ins) and hang are also mentioned by some of the informants and also they are also highly reported to the police by the victims (data in which the researcher has generated while assessing the factors that hinder community policing from effectively playing its crime prevention role).

Understandably, based on the above results, congestion which resulted from the vibrant business district of *Merkato* and the existence of bus stations is serving as a breeding ground for criminals to commit various property crimes. Unfortunately, community policing is somehow struggling specifically in these areas in comparison to other precincts of AKSC which are far from the bus station and *Merkato* district. Nearly, similar finding was found in Harar by Melese & Tesfaye (2019) in which they have revealed due to large number of individuals who circulate in the business district of the study area, there is high rate of property crime even though its rate is declining after the introduction of community policing.

Therefore, it can be concluded that the type of crime which is difficult to prevent through community policing in the study area is highly dominated by crime against property. In other words, community policing's role in preventing property crimes at the abovementioned parts of the study area is not that much remarkable, at least comparatively speaking to the other parts of the study area.

4.5.6. Issues Suggested by the Participants to Tackle or to Minimize the

Factors that Hinder Community Policing from Actively Playing its Crime Prevention Role

The KII participants have provided their opinion that they have believed in helping community policing to actively play its crime prevention role in the study area. And it has been presented in the following manner.

One key informant reflected the following opinion:

“Administrative response is necessary such as creating job opportunities for street dwellers, prostitutes and other unemployed young people; and also, switching sectors on those places who we consider as causes of crime. If this happens, police would properly enforce security issues. Additionally, providing training and then supporting them through supervision, creating job opportunities hence most of those young volunteers are unemployed and they join the volunteerism with the hope of getting jobs through community policing.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda, Male, 28 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 9 years-experience in community policing).

He also made the following statements:

“There are numerous time-worn government buildings and houses which have significant impact in hampering the work of crime prevention through community policing; because, criminals go there to hide themselves. They also try to rebuild a certain kind of illegal houses to practice criminal activities on places demolished by the government for development or investment related issues. The other thing is that legal house owners provide rent for illegal individuals and this makes crime prevention so difficult. Lastly, shortage of transport services (both cross-country and taxi) particularly during holiday seasons and when students travel to/from universities through Addis Ababa via using the bus stations. This is a favorable condition for the criminals to commit crimes particularly those are related to various deceptions; thus, considering these two occasions, the ministry of transport should have to deploy enough transport providers in the area.”

Another key informant also provided the following information:

“Whenever community members observe problems in the neighborhood, they should have to inform to the superior organs (such as, administration organs, law and justice bureau, at Woreda and Sub-city level) by all opportunities at which they encounter people who work at this offices and also for high ranked police officers. Whereas, community police officers must serve the community with serious discipline. Abstaining themselves from taking part in different illegal activities; because, if they take part in such activities, the

community police officers fail to minimize crimes that occur in the community and they do not get information from the community thus they struggle to prevent crimes; and also, their confidence level declines.” (Community policing coordinator at *Woreda* level, Male, 55 years-old, Inspector, 9 years-experience in community policing).

The above same key informant added the following points:

“Arranging opportunities in a coordinated way to the community activities through tea-coffee meetings so as to take part in crime prevention, attempting to solve poverty problems, for instance, in the community there are individuals who have money, but they do not have time. Therefore, it is possible to mobilize such individuals to help the poor. Previously, there is experience of this, which includes supporting university students of the neighborhood who do not have supporters to continue their education. If not, talking about crime prevention for community members who are found under absolute poverty is useless. It is impossible to think about crime prevention with empty-stomach people. As a result, it is imperative to mobilize the community members to gather resources thereby to buy exercise books and other materials for students who are in dire situations due to lack of support. Doing such meaningful activities helps to bring community members who take part in crime prevention through community policing. Consequently, solving community’s problem paves the way to easily get the cooperation of the larger society in crime prevention.”

He also suggested that promoting the coordinators to the *Woreda* level coordination position without any kind of community policing knowledge just only because they are seniors and have better certificates; however, it is better to promote community police officers from *Ketena* level to *Woreda* and police station level hence they have better experience and knowledge of crime prevention through community policing; for instance, community police officers who have worked for 5, 6 or 7 years at *Ketena* level are capable of coordinating the community policing job at *Woreda* and police station level because they know the job including where gap exists. He believes that doing in this way would bring better achievements.

He also provided the following information:

“From all precincts of AKSC, Merkato has a better experience in crime prevention, because if someone ignores or does not observe the occurrence of crime, others notice and respond to stop the crime before it occurs. Because, here the community organizations such as shoeshine boys, lifters, parking workers, taxi line workers and the likes safeguard the neighborhood by working side to side their own job. As a result, criminals understand the fact that they are under the radar of the Merkato community; yet, in other precincts, there is no such thing. It would be effective if other precincts also decide to use these segments of the community in order to control crimes; deploying them by giving missions to prevent crimes is good. It is not the police that made Merkato peaceful at day and night shifts and even it can be said that the police do not know it. They leave the training academy now and they get deployed today and then these police members who come after graduation might need 10 years to understand the problems of Merkato.”

In strengthening the points he made in the above paragraph, he provided the following opinion:

“Therefore, it is a thorn for a thorn (these are some people who were used to engage in criminal activities. Then we organized and deployed them as lifters so as to make a living from it. And now they turned from ex-criminals to crime preventers; thus, they know everything about crime hence they used to be criminals in the area). Such people, who are found in this group only need to be thanked, recognized and acknowledged while doing the crime prevention activities including informing; just exchanging greetings and formally acknowledging the role they have played is what they need. People move around by carrying 100,000 ETB cash at Merkato without fear. As long as it is operated in participating the public and the community organizations, every work becomes simple; consequently, it is good to properly raise everything from the grass root.”

According to him, community policing has brought positive change, therefore it should be further strengthened and it is necessary to leave the job to the community police officers;

however, community policing does not have budget or finance from the government. Even stationery materials (such as pens and papers) are also a problem. He made the following points:

“We get them through begging. Additionally, it is better to provide a computer which helps to register all data about the Ketena in a digitalized manner, TVs for community police officers at community policing centers, badges and shining jackets that help the dwellers to easily identify community police officers from other regular police members; for instance, when local authorities such as at wereda needs different statistics/data about the community, they come to community policing centers in order to get the total population of the precinct, personal background of each and every community member, family members, sex composition, level of education, and even about the overall geographical feature of the ketene such as, the number of public squares, churches, mosques, electric transformers, telecom facilities and the likes. Generally, community police officers register everything manually.”

The issue of lack of budget/finance to implement community policing that is raised by the above participant became consistent almost with all the findings of the studies that were carried out on community policing in different parts of Ethiopia; for instance, the presence of financial factors (such as lack of incentives and shortage of stationeries) that affect the operational practices of community policing in crime prevention were revealed by Melese & Tesfaye (2019) in Harar.

He has concluded his ideas by noting that many developed nations have benefited from community policing and in our country too, regional states have brought positive impact at their rural areas, for instance, *Amhara, Tigray, Oromia* and South Nations Nationalities and People. As he has said, overall, with regard to the community, there are good things on crime prevention; nevertheless, sometimes, there are few people who need to enjoy fruits of crime such as, either by sharing or purchasing stolen materials. It would be preferable not to do so; because, this is not good, therefore, parents should have to advice their children. Furthermore, for instance, in the sub city, the number of people who try to hide criminal activities from the police and straightforward denial at day light after hiding the crime starting from the people who provide bedroom rents commonly called as *Kesha Betereba*; the number of such individuals in the community cannot be considered as non-significant.

Another KII participant provided the following opinion:

“When community police officers leave their working area for their home, especially when it darks the Ketena remains without them and this makes the task of crime prevention challenging. Lack of motor cycle to control the Ketena, lack of budget for phone services; even for crime prevention purpose community police officers dial by their own money, shortage of community police officers, this is the case when one community police officer leaves his/her Ketena for a meeting at Woreda level or for some other reasons (no replacement until he/she returns to the community policing center), lack of budget for transportation (taxi) to the officer, sense of boredom which results due to working form more than 8 hours per day; for instance, community police officers do not go home without finishing and solving the problem they have already started and this is impossible even when it darks. Then this impacts the effectiveness of the next day’s work by creating fatigue.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Assistant Inspector, Male, 35 years-old, 8 years-experience in community policing).

The above participant also made the following points:

“Suggesting the parents to raise their small children properly and by reminding them to advise their children to hate crime; and also, to stop their grown children not to participate in criminal activities, preventing them not to spend their time at useless places. In addition, drying and minimizing sources of crime, encouraging the youth generation to participate in community policing, advising and mobilizing the youth, using religious youth who have good behavior to share their experience for others, showing direction to the youth on how to live better life, using popular individuals of the neighborhood to advise the wrong doers who reside in the area, asking the city administration and dwellers of the community when need is due; for instance, the support of the community has reached to the extent of building a community policing center.”

He also said that hence community policing focuses on solving problems he repeatedly gives awareness to the community by telling them the fact that safeguarding their neighborhood is for their own safety and accordingly they inform him when they observe a ‘stranger’ which is

different from them in the neighborhood. As he said, he advises the youth who come to consume illegal drugs at their respective block, *Ketena* and *Woreda*; not to consume those drugs.

One KII participant also gave his opinion in the following way:

“Capacity gap that leads to failure to identify problems that lead to crime in the neighborhood, language and communication problems while interacting with the residents, failure to properly understand the actual situation of the area and the community they serve, fatigue and boredom which resulted due to the sophisticated nature of crime prevention are factors that hinder the community police officers. On the other hand, we provide awareness creation opportunities to minimize the factors that hinder the community members from taking part in crime prevention activities by informing to the police the causes of crime. By increasing the number of ‘community organizations’ (information givers), by identifying places that are known for crime, their modus operandi and the time they commit crimes. Training neighborhood watch guards properly about crime prevention, conducting a ‘research’ on crime prevention, identifying known/recognized recidivists thereby to arrest them in order to properly punish them by the law and lastly identifying crimes that occur repeatedly.” (Community policing coordinator at *Woreda* level, Male, 25 years-old, Sergeant, 6 years-experience in community policing).

The above same KII participant also added the following points:

“The work should be based on community participation; because, it cannot be effective without their participation. Giving awareness repeatedly, taking immediate action on causes of crime thereby to prevent, increasing the number of ‘community organizations’ that provide information to the community police officer, giving training for volunteers, approaching the neighborhood youth (they daily safeguard their block in-person turn by turn at the evening from 12:00pm to 3:00pm local time) and this is mostly the time where people who leave their work places for their residence. Moreover, based on their own regulation, if someone refuses to guard as per the schedule that person will be punished; consequently, if the youth guards their own neighborhood, crime will not occur.”

One more key informant reflected the following issues:

“The concept by itself is about preventing crimes. And also when the crime takes place, apprehending the suspect so that to send him/her to justice. Additionally, we prepare a tea-coffee programs regularly to the community thereby to create awareness, to teach about issues related with crime prevention and to make discussions on various issues with Idir members and leaders, different ‘organizations’ (women, youth, local authorities); we mainly use social arenas, such as Idir to discuss about crimes. Supplying electric light for the poorly lit areas/blocks by identifying crime hot spot areas (by spending the evening and night there with the community) that are preferred by the offenders to use the advantage of the dark; therefore, due to such actions and measures, the public participates in crime prevention activities by our side.” (Community policing coordinator at Woreda level, Male, 30 years-old, Chief Sergeant, 8 years-experience in community policing).

He (the above-mentioned participant) also added the following points:

“Along with the local administration members, we try to find job for the unemployed youth in collaboration with the sub-city’s micro and small enterprise bureau. They also help us in crime prevention activities. For instance, at night time they safeguard their neighborhood in pair turn by turn from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm local time. This is the time by which people move from/to the sub-city with large number that is why it is preferred. Moreover, they inform to the police the presence of ‘strangers’ in their block and also recommend the community members to electrify the dark areas at night.”

To sum up, the above KII participants have suggested the following issues as a solution to tackle or to minimize the factors that hinder community policing from actively playing its crime prevention role in the study area: administrative responses such as creating more job opportunities for the unemployed ones, switching sectors (such as from *Areke* selling to food selling; hence the former is serving as a source of crime), shortage of transport services should have to be solved particularly during night, holiday seasons and by the time at which university students travel to/from different universities via bus stations, attempting to solve poverty related

problems, promoting experienced community police officers to *Woreda* level instead of bringing other police members who do not have sufficient community policing knowledge, the other point is thanking, recognizing and acknowledging all people who play a role in crime prevention through community policing, launching computerized data registration system at *Ketena* level, providing sufficient stationery equipment, lack of budget to community policing activities, supplying motorcycles to patrol the area, socializing children properly which includes advising them to hate crimes, increasing the number of small community organizations and associations that take part in community policing in providing crime related information to the police and lastly, maximizing community participation.

Quite understandably, if most of the above-mentioned factors can be solved, community policing's role in crime prevention in AKSC would be better than its current status. Because, both the community members and community police officers can work actively in partnership to prevent crimes and other anti-social behaviors through community policing

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter deals with conclusion and recommendations of the study. First, this chapter attempts to provide some concluding remarks to the study based on the findings. Then it is followed by some possible recommendations which are suggested in line to the findings of the study.

5.1. Conclusions

This study has been carried out to explore the role of community policing in crime prevention in AKSC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The researcher was mainly interested to explore the role community policing plays in crime prevention, the role community participation plays to prevent crimes through community policing, the role community police officers plays in preventing crimes through community policing and also the factors that hinder community policing from effectively playing its crime prevention role through community policing in the study area. To this end, based on the findings revealed by the study, the following conclusions are drawn.

The study has shown stakeholders who take part in crime prevention through community policing and some of them are: *Idir* institutions, religious institutions, students, shoe-shine boys, ex-criminals, parking and taxi-line controllers, advisory board, security committee, and neighborhood watch guards, influential and popular individuals, youth and women's associations, market centers and other civic organizations. Moreover, it can be said that nobody is left out from crime prevention activities in community policing.

The study has shown that community policing has reduced crime rate and fear of crime in the study area. Furthermore, the results have indicated that community policing has improved the police-community relations which is one of the key issue to community policing in crime prevention. As a result, according to the findings of the study, the community's partnership level with the police has improved in many issues such as, the trust level between the police and the community has improved, testifying as a witness against suspects in courts, providing crime related information to the police and safeguarding the neighborhood in-person at night shift. To this end, community policing has changed the previous antagonistic police-community relations. Overall, therefore, it can be said that the community are working hand-in-glove with the police.

With regard to the role of community participation in crime prevention through community policing there are many points such as building community policing centers (all alone by community's contribution), making discussions at tea-coffee meetings about the overall neighborhood problems and crime related issues, informing crime related information to the police taking part in different community policing committees that are formulated to prevent crimes and patrolling the area during different socio-cultural gatherings to prevent the gatherers from potential criminals literally by substituting the police role. Generally, the study has shown that the role of community participation in crime prevention through community policing is in good shape and this is taking place consistently even during the presence of some unfavorable conditions (such as low legal protection) that discourages community members from playing the crime prevention role.

On the other hand, the results of the study have indicated that community police officers are also playing a huge role in crime prevention through community policing by receiving crime related information from the community, providing information to the community about crimes, by using their policing knowledge maximizing the awareness level of the community and also responding to non-law enforcement calls in order to further improve police-community relations thereby to potentially prevent crimes in partnership. To this end, community policing has paved a way to the police organization to create awareness to the community members about crime prevention issues.

The findings of this study have confirmed the assumptions of all the existing theories (broken window theory, social resource theory, normative sponsorship theory and social disorganization theory) which have been employed by this study. Furthermore, data generated through documentary analysis became compatible to data obtained through other instrument of the study. On the other hand, most of the findings of this study became compatible to the studies conducted in Ethiopia and elsewhere in Africa that were discussed in chapter two; whilst, some findings of the present study has contradicted the findings of prior studies.

Interestingly, in this same study, there were findings that contradict to each other; for instance, most participants have indicated that community policing is taking place in an all-inclusive way without excluding any segments of the society nevertheless one participant has indicated that

crime prevention through community policing is taking place only by a limited group of people (mainly community police officers, advisory councils, security committees, neighborhood watch guards, informers, and other small community organizations).

Moreover, even though, community policing is playing a remarkable role in crime prevention there are some factors which are hindering it from playing better than its current status; the results have widely indicated the factors that are hindering community policing from effectively playing its crime prevention role and that includes: Congestion of the people in the area, giving cover for criminals and hiding criminals by some community members, existence of lack of awareness by some community members about crime related issues, a tendency of returning back to traditional policing approach, lack of consistency on the implementation of community policing, the presence of large amount of street dwellers and prostitutes, illegal drug consumption, unnecessary reshuffling of community police officers, the geographic wideness of the *Ketenas* which is tough to be supervised and controlled by a single community police officer, the presence of low legal protection for community members who take part in crime prevention through community policing, releasing criminals without making due legal punishment even during in the presence of sufficient legal evidence including witnesses, the problem of unemployment, failure to eradicate or minimize sources of crime, the presence of large amount of local liquor houses, temporarily shutting down community policing centers and ordering community police officers to take part in other reactive policing tasks.

Besides, because of the above hindering factors there are some crime types which are very tough to be prevented by community policing and these are: *Shiblil*, *Shua shua*, 23, pickpocketing and snatching.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following points are forwarded as recommendations to the study area (AKSC).

- The study has found the presence of low legal protection to community members and informers who take part in crime prevention activities. Therefore, along with other criminal justice system partners, the community policing department of AKSC should

have to in maximizing the legal protection of people who engage in crime prevention activities through community policing.

- As it is shown in the findings, there is no training center in an organized way at Addis Ababa Police Commission (AAPC) that is devoted to create awareness to community policing officers and other people who take part in crime prevention activities. To this end, the issue of lack of awareness has been mentioned by a good number of participants of this study; even though some participants have suggested establishing community policing center at sub-city level, given the country's level of economy, the researcher prefers to recommend establishing a community policing center at AAPC level.
- The issue of not getting acknowledgement, recognition and thank for the crime prevention role they are playing have been repeatedly pronounced by the participants of the study; here did not raised the issue of money rather formal verbal acknowledgement should have to be a habit. As long as it motivates and encourages those who are involved in crime prevention activities through community policing, the researcher recommends providing a recognition arena either at *Woreda* or sub city level.
- Reshuffling is identified as a factor that hinders community policing officers' crime prevention roles; then, it is better not to reshuffle unnecessarily the community police officers without sufficient reasons. Therefore, the community policing department of AKSC should have to be careful of this particular problem.
- The presence of some community members who hide criminals and also share fruits of crime have been confirmed by the study; this factor highly impacts the role of community policing in crime prevention thus the community policing department of AKSC should work on creating awareness on crime prevention thereby to stop those community members from cooperating with criminals for whatever reason/s. After providing sufficient awareness, if they do not abstain from their wrong doings, it is better to make them accountable by the law.
- The tendency of returning back to reactive policing has been also identified by the study as a factor that hinders community policing from effectively playing its crime

prevention role; thus the researcher recommends AKSC's community policing departments to consistently stick to the principles of community policing.

- Even though, it has been mostly indicated that all groups of community are taking part in crime prevention through community policing; the researcher recommends the community policing directorate of AKSC to include local liquor house owners/sellers, street dwellers and prostitutes in crime prevention activities through community policing; and this is because, the abovementioned segments of the community have been repeatedly mentioned as causes of crime (factors that hinder community policing's crime prevention role). For instance, there is a good habit of making regular discussions with bedroom renters about crime prevention through community policing; thus including those three community groups would potentially bring good fruits to crime prevention.
- The study has also indicated the presence of on-off situations while preventing crimes through community policing. In order to prevent crimes effectively it is preferable to implement community policing consistently regardless of any precondition.
- It is also better to supply shining vests and jackets that separate community police officers from other police members.
- Lack of small amount of budget/finance to community policing, lack of motorcycles and computers to register data digitally were provided by the participants as a constraint. Therefore, it is better to consider these issues.
- The other factor that has been widely pronounced by the participants in hindering community police officers from playing their crime prevention role is the wideness of the precincts (*Ketenas*). There researcher recommends AKSC community policing department to revise the geographic scope of some *Ketenas* that are particularly found around *Merkato* and *Atobis Tera*. For instance, making other *Ketenas* wide which are known for low crime rates and narrowing the geographic scope of other *Ketenas* know for high crime rates (particularly those related with the above two areas of the sub-city).
- The study has indicated that there is a culture of bringing senior police officers who do not have community policing experience which helps them to lead the implementation of

community policing; mostly from other non-community policing departments. Therefore, it is better to promote experienced community police officers who have worked for more than five years at *Ketena* as *Woreda* level community policing coordinators hence they know better than others about the entire situation of community policing in the study area.

- Further research is needed to explore the grievances and dissatisfactions that were displayed by the participants of this study with regard to not gaining appropriate response from the non-community policing police members and other security forces. Furthermore, the participants of the study have informed that there are cases in which suspects get released by the court without getting proper legal punishment even in the presence of sufficient evidence and witness; therefore, to better understand this issue, the researcher recommends a study.

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Annex 1: Research Instruments

Introduction:

Dear participant/s, first of all, thank you for your cooperation in this research. My name is Tsegab Mathewos. I am MA student in Sociology department at Addis Ababa University. I am here to ask you some questions for my study that aims to examine the role of community policing in crime prevention in Addis Ketema Sub-City, Addis Ababa.

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 to respond. The study will be conducted for academic purpose and any personal information you share with the researcher will be kept confidential. The importance of the information that you give towards the achievement of the research objective is highly vital. Therefore, you are required to give genuine and honest information. Thank you in advance!

Date of interview: _____

Place of interview: _____

Sex: _____

Age: _____

Occupation: _____

Educational status: _____

Police Rank: _____

Year of experience in community policing: _____

Section 1: Interview Guide for In-depth Interviews

This section intends to address the first, second and third specific objectives of the study. It consists five separate sub-sections.

Sub-Section-1: In-depth interview with community policing department head (police commander) at sub city level in AKSC.

1. Which form of community policing are you implementing to prevent crimes in your jurisdiction?
2. Who are the stakeholders that play various roles to crime prevention through community policing?
3. How do you describe the role of all stakeholders who involve in crime prevention through community policing? Please describe your response separately for each stakeholder.
4. How do you describe the role of community policing in crime prevention?
5. How do you view the role of community policing in crime prevention with reference to specific crime types?
6. How do you assess the role of community policing in reducing crime rates and fear of crime?
7. To fulfill the goal of crime prevention, community policing uses three basic mechanisms (problem solving, community engagement and community partnership). How do you describe the role these three basic mechanisms play for the community police officers to prevent crimes through community policing?
8. How do you describe the role neighborhood watch guards play for the community police officers in crime prevention through community policing in your jurisdiction?

9. How do you view the role community policing plays in preventing problems and violence that potentially develops in to criminal activity?
10. How do you examine the coordination between the community and the police (joint community-police relations or partnership) in crime prevention through community policing?
11. What is your opinion on the role of community policing in improving police-community relations so that to prevent various crimes?
12. What would you like to add something that is not included in the above questions about the role of community policing in crime prevention?

Sub-Section-2: In-depth interview with community police officers

1. As a community police officer, how do you describe the role of community policing in crime prevention?
2. How do you evaluate the role community policing plays in minimizing crime rate and fear of crime in your jurisdiction?
3. What are the roles of ‘informers’ in crime prevention through community policing?
4. How do you assess the role played by informers in preventing crimes that might occur in the neighborhood?
5. How do you fully empower the community members with relevant skills that would enable them to play their role effectively to participate in crime prevention activities through community policing?
6. What would you like to add about the role of community policing in crime prevention?

Sub-Section-3: In-depth interview with chairperson and vice chairperson of the Advisory Council

1. How do you describe the role of the advisory council to crime prevention through community policing?
2. As an advisory council vice/chairperson, how do you describe the role of community policing in crime prevention?
3. How do you describe your practical experience/observation on the community’s involvement and participation in crime prevention through community policing?

4. How do you evaluate the community's familiarity with common trends of crime acts based on frequent notices from the police?
5. What are the roles of governmental and non-governmental organizations for crime prevention through community policing?
6. Who are the other stakeholders (in addition to government institutions and community members) that financially support the crime prevention program through community policing?
7. What would you like to add about the role of community policing in crime prevention?

Sub-Section-4: In-depth interview with community leaders who participate in crime prevention activities.

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 will 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-5: In-depth interview with community members

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?

Section 2: FGD Checklist

This section intends to address the second and third specific objectives respectively. It has two separate sub-sections (I and II).

I. FGD questions on the role of community participation in crime prevention through community policing: With Community Members

1. Generally, how do you describe the role of community participation in crime prevention through community policing in your respective neighborhood?
2. In what way/s do you participate/involve/engage in crime prevention activities through community policing?
3. What is your role in preventing various crimes through community policing in your neighborhood?
4. In which crime types do you effectively play your role of crime prevention through community policing?
5. How do you evaluate the general public's commitment to participate in community policing to prevent crimes before they occur?
6. How do you describe your participation in crime prevention through community policing?
7. How do you collaborate with community police officers to prevent crimes in your block?
8. What is your general view about crime prevention since the introduction of community policing or since your involvement in community policing initiatives?
9. In your opinion, based on practical experience, how do you examine the impacts of community participation in crime prevention in your block?
10. As a community member who participates in crime prevention through community policing, how do you describe your experience on the responsibility of providing crime related information to the police?

11. What would you like to add that is not included in the above questions regarding the participation of the community in crime prevention through community policing?

II. FGD questions on the role of community police officers in crime prevention through community policing: With Community Police Officers

1. As a community police officer, what is your role for crime prevention through community policing in your own jurisdiction?
2. As a community police officer, how do you evaluate your role in crime prevention through community policing in your respective block?
3. As a community police officer, how do you describe your work relation with the community towards a common interest, such as crime prevention and maintaining peace and tranquility?
4. In what mechanisms do you familiarize the community members to play their role of crime prevention through community policing model?
5. As a community police officer who works on crime prevention through community policing, how do you describe your experience on the responsibility of receiving crime related information from the community and also creating awareness for the community about crime?
6. As a community police officer, how do you describe your experience of identifying neighborhood problems and needs?
7. How do you involve the community in identifying problems and concerns of the neighborhood so that to prevent various crimes through community policing?
8. How do you assess your practical experience about making police service easily accessible for the community in your respective blocks and mini-stations?
9. What mechanisms do you employ to make neighborhoods unfavorable to potential offenders?
10. How do you build different types of partnerships (such as, building contacts with the community through non-enforcement activities) through various avenues and enhance cooperation with existing partners to prevent criminal activities through community policing?
11. How do you describe your experience of recruiting community members from all sectors of the community to participate in crime prevention programs through community policing?

12. Would you like to address something that has not been touched by the above questions regarding the role of community police officers to crime prevention through community policing?

Section 3: Interview Guide for Key Informant Interview

This section intends to achieve the fourth specific objective.

Key Informant Interviews with Community Policing Coordinators at Woreda and Police Station Level

1. Generally, what are the factors that hinder community policing from effectively playing its crime prevention role in your jurisdiction?
2. What are the factors that hamper the community members from playing their role in preventing crimes through community policing?
3. What are the factors that hamper the community policing officers from playing their role in preventing crimes through community policing?
4. How do you tackle all the possible obstacles and problems that hinder the community members and community policing officers from participating in crime prevention activities through community policing?
5. As a Woreda/ Police Station level community policing coordinator who supervises the work of community police officers, what are the factors that hinder you from playing your crime prevention role?
6. In your opinion, which crime types are more difficult to prevent through community policing in your jurisdiction?
7. What are the challenges that you face while attempting to recruit volunteers into crime prevention activities through community policing?
8. In your opinion, what should be done to tackle, if not, to minimize the constraints you have just mentioned?
9. What would you like to add about the factors that hinder community policing from playing its crime prevention role effectively in your jurisdiction?

Section 4: Documentary Analysis Check List

This section entirely focuses on factors that hamper community policing from playing its crime prevention role effectively. Therefore, it intends to generate data to achieve the fourth specific objective of the study. The following points will be reviewed from the different police documents that recorded issues related with the abovementioned specific objective.

1. Factors that hindered community members from preventing crime through community policing.
2. Factors that hindered community police officers from preventing crime through community policing.
3. Factors that hindered community police officers from playing their leadership role.

Annex-2: Participants' Socio-demographic Profile

Table 2: Socio-demographic Profile of in-depth Interviews' Participants

No.	Sex	Age	Educational Status	Experience of Participation on Community Policing in year	Rank
1.	Male	57	First Degree	9	Commander
2	Female	43	Grade 12	8	House wife
3	Male	65	Grade 8	1	Idir Chairperson
4	Female	26	Grade 12	4	Deputy Sergeant
5	Male	50	Grade 10	8	Mr.
6	Female	32	Grade 10	8	House Wife
7	Male	29	Grade 12	8	Youth Leader
8	Male	43	Certificate	8	Advisory Council Chairperson
9	Male	53	Certificate	3	Religious Leader
10	Male	47	Diploma	6	Idir Leader
11	Female	29	Grade 10	6	Sergeant
12	Female	41	First Degree	5	Vice chairperson of the advisory council
13	Female	22	10+1	2	Community Police Officer
14	Female	25	10	4	Community Police Officer
15	Male	28	10+3	5	Community Police Officer

Source: Own Data Collection, 2021

Table 3: Socio-demographic Profile of the First FGD Participants (Community Members)

No.	Sex	Age	Educational Status	Experience of Participation on Community Policing in year
1.	F	38	Grade 7	3
2.	M	37	First Degree	2
3.	M	31	Grade 8	2
4.	F	31	Grade 11	2
5.	M	19	Grade 10	2
6.	F	43	Grade 6	7
7.	M	54	Diploma	8

Source: Own Data Collection, 2021

Table 4: Socio-demographic Profile of the Second FGD Participants (Community Police Officers)

No.	Sex	Age	Police Rank	Educational Status	Experience of Participation on Community Policing in year
1.	M	28	Deputy Sergeant	Grade 10	4
2.	F	28	Sergeant	Grade 10	4
3.	M	30	Chief Sergeant	Diploma	8
4.	M	29	Chief Sergeant	Diploma	8
5.	M	29	Sergeant	10+1	4
6.	M	35	Assistant Inspector	10+2	8
7.	M	36	Chief Sergeant	Grade 10	8

Source: Own Data Collection, 2021

Table 5: Socio-demographic Profile of Key Informant Interviewees (Community Policing Coordinators at *Woreda* level)

No.	Sex	Age	Educational Status	Experience of Participation on Community Policing in year	Rank
1.	Male	30	Diploma	8	Chief Sergeant
2.	Male	25	First Degree	6	Sergeant
3.	Male	35	10 ⁺²	8	Assistant Inspector
4.	Male	55	Grade 12	9	Inspector
5.	Male	28	First Degree	9	Chief Sergeant

Source: Own Data Collection, 2021