

## INNOVATIONS

### **Awareness of police and policing: an inquiry of people's awareness of crime reporting for crime control in Southern Senatorial Locale of Cross River State, Nigeria**

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#### **Abstract**

Clearly, this study was an assessment of public awareness of crime reporting to the police toward crime control. Cross-sectional survey study design, which comprised the use of qualitative and quantitative methods, was utilized. Raw data was amassed from 840 respondents from purposively chosen Local Government Area of the Southern Senatorial locale of Cross River State comprising 420 males and 420 females chosen from multistage probability and non probability sampling techniques. Questionnaire was the instrument of data collection which consisted of open along with closed-ended questions plus unstructured oral interview. Raw data were analysed by means of descriptive and inferential statistics based tool. To lead the study, a research hypothesis was worked out and tested with correlation statistics tool. The study revealed that public positive awareness of police and policing toward crime control has a significant relationship with victim crime reporting. The analysis showed the correlation coefficient of 0.845 indicating existence of strong positive relationship between police/policing work in victim's crime reporting. The test was significant at 0.01 significant level and led to the rejection of the null hypothesis. The observed multiplicity of police practices that hinder crime reporting for sustainable crime control is a challenge. Hinged on that research finding, it was recommended that the police authority should as a matter of urgency comes up with a policy to do away with these practices that could influence crime reporting and hinder effective crime control as revealed from observable evidence in the study among others.

**Keywords:** 1.Crime reporting 2.Public Awareness 3.Police and Policing 4.Crime prevention/Control and Victims crime reporting

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## Introduction

The views that citizens have about the police and policing business are important and should enhance interest in building a synergy for sustainable crime control and prevention with respect to crime reporting. These views can sway the extent and kind of synergy inhabitants have with the Police Force and the extent of help dispensed to the Police force as well (Cao and Dai, 2006). Without public backing, modern policing is bedeviled with difficulties in their modes of operation (Islam and Ali, 2008). Positive views of the police by citizens can encourage and promote a favourable interrelationship with the police, which can improve the effectiveness of the police as an agent of law and order (Brown and Benedict, 2002). Unfavourable opinions can lead to resentment, which can impede the competence of the Police to be productive conventional officers of law enforcement (Godsmith, 2005). Policing awareness are therefore, important to explore and understand (Nalla and Madan, 2011 as quoted in Khondaker *et al.*, 2013).

The inevitability for this work can be over highlighted at this point where the Nigeria Police Force is viewed as worthless, atrocious, fraudulent, and also the agitation to reform and reposition the Nigeria Police Force in addition to the increasing activities of bandits and kidnappers. It is debatable that in a democratic society; the inhabitant has a right to enlighten the police what their piece of business is and how to go about it out (Marenin, 1989). The Police have to be bothered about how they are adjudged by the subjects, because they are public official (Fleek and Newman, 1969). One can readily adduce that adverse discernment of the police contributes to a cycle of decreased police productiveness, increase crime she ought to combat and to a greater extent distrust of the Police by the public. Thus, depths of public fulfillment with the Police Force are also fundamental since discernments of Police Force affect the essentiality of resident's| collaboration (Weitzer, 1999).

The Police Force in Nigeria passed from developing into colonial policing apparatus to national safety group (Olong and Agbonika, 2013). Succeeding Nigerian constitutions ever since 1979, have granted for the subsistence of the Nigeria Police Force as the nationwide police outfit of Nigeria with special command all over the country (Oyemu in mina and Aibieyi, 2016).

The Nigeria Police Force is burdened constitutionally with the obligation of crime control as well as prevention (Section 214 of the 1999 constitution) which the Police Force

have fallen short of optimum performance. The Nigeria Police Force has in one way or the other been indicted for underperforming. This is evidenced in their inadequacy and incompetent in carrying out their assignments specifically in prevention and superintending crime. Regardless of the fundamental authority granted the Police in Nigeria to perpetuate civil order, security, public protection and the control and prevention of crimes, the degree of excellence in crime control and possible prevention is still eluding. Ajayi and Longe (2014) noted that officers are accused of inhumanity, debasement of human rights, encouraging and instigating of criminal undertaking and participating in ransom and dishonesty. Uche (2008) noted that despite the deterrence measures and programme in place, Nigeria still experience the worse alarming level of criminality in the world.

Khondakaret *al.* (2013) observed that college students have quite low degree of assurance in Police Force and unfavourable evaluation of various police performance areas, including civility and fairness, working ethnic, effectiveness, and efforts in seeking community input. Additionally, Ayodele and Aderinto (2004) reported that a preponderance of male person and female person interviewees had naycredence in the Police Force throughout Lagos neighborhoods. This may not be unconnected with police practices.

The discussion of crime reporting to the police for crime control cannot be considered separately to the general views of police/policing. This implies that there is a convergence between crime reporting and the general views of police/policing by the masses. This informed the conception, adoption and discussion of the research. If people believe that the police respect them, take their cases extremely serious and can solve crime they will trust the police and will also be more likely to report crime. This can lead to increase in the level of recorded crimes for more proactive as well as reactive response for sustainable crime control.

The main tasks of the police are to uncover committed crime and to prevent future crime. To succeed in this, the cooperation of both general public as well as victims are not negotiable. The police wish citizens to report crime because it is necessary in order to maintain up-to-date police statistics for sustainable crime control and management. But the general public as well as the victims seldom report occurrence of crime to the police.

In Nigeria, approximately 15% of victims refrain from reporting occurrence of crime. Reporting rates for violent and property offences stood at 15% and 53% correspondingly. The

preparedness to report is expressly low for sexual assault as 7% and high for Burglary offence at 87% (CBS, 2010).

Globally, the reporting rate for property crimes range between 38% (Portugal) as well as 65% (Denmark), averaged 56%. The rate of reporting for violent offences vary from 25% (Switzerland) to 43% in Australia, averaged 39% (Goudianet *al*, 2004). When the aforementioned figures are equated with Nigeria, she holds a very little percentage.

On the other hand, because of lack of trust and negative perception of the police force, the general public as well as the victims can be scared they won't be believed and even taken more seriously by the police force when a crime is reported. In many cases the general public and indeed the victim are subjected to unnecessary cross-examination and mistreatment when an attempt is made to report crime

Even though, thereis in a existence abundance of informationon the people' sawarenessoflaw enforcement and police business on variables such as courteousness, faith, assurance, and dishonesty in Nigeria as a whole and Cross River State to be précised, but little or nothing has been done to get the peoples view of reporting crime to the police. It is on the basis of these shortcoming's that the paper is set to examine the awareness of Police/policing with specific enquiry of people's awareness of crime reporting to the police for crime control. This is the knowledge gap this work set out to fill.

### **Research Question**

Based on the objective of this study, the following research question were raised;

1. Does police practices influence crime reporting?

### **Research Hypothesis**

In line with the objective of the study, the following hypothesis were generated and tested for the purpose of the study.

- i. **H<sub>0</sub>**: Pubic negative views of policing and Police work has no significant relationship with victims crime reporting.  
**H<sub>1</sub>**: Public positive views of policing and Police work has a significantly relationship with victims crime reporting.

## **Review of Related Literature**

### **Trans National Awareness of Police Research and Police Work**

There exist arrays of published researches based on the global assessments study to look at the assurance in Police Force (using a single item) in various countries. United States examinees by and large had higher self-belief in the Police Force when juxtaposed with their Japanese colleagues (Cao and Stack, 2005; Cao *et al.* 1998). German examinees exhibit fewer convictions in the Police Force when compared with other examinees from the United States. (Cao and Hou, 2001). Chinese examinees in general exhibit lesser degree of self-assurance in the Police Force when compared with examinees from the U.S. (Cao and Hou, 2001). Similarly, Chinese examinees showed higher self-belief in the Police Force when juxtaposed with their Taiwanese examinees; were age, educational attainment, as well as sexual category was taken into consideration (Lai and Zhaw, 2010). U.S citizens were confident in the police/policing work than citizens of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela (Cao and Zhao, 2005). Cao and Burton (2006) further noted that Turkish respondents' self-assurance in Police Force and policing work was as greater in each other European Union countries.

The Nigeria Police Force suffers more deficits of community legitimating, interaction along with help. The citizen by no means belief as well as assists the Police Force for the reason that their level of productivity is pitiable. Additionally, the general community looks upon the personality as well as extent of answerability of the Police Force as abhorrently not good enough. In the nation, the Police Force are by and large dreaded but by no means esteemed, furthermore, they are troubled and detested by the Nigeria community (Ibidapo-Obe, 2003). Additionally, Olong and Agbonika (2013) observed that one miserable characteristic of the Nigeria Police Force in the current administration is that the Police have turn out to be a willing instrument designed for the carrying out of electoral misconduct in addition to been an apparatus within the ambit of the ruling government to discourage democratic process. In the negative, the Police Force is notorious for the abuse of fundamental human rights, dishonesty and incompetence. The Police Officer's in Nigeria are abysmally remunerated, they do not acquire suitable education as at when due, and most

importantly, the politicians treat them like private (that can be hired and fired-emphasis added) (Lukeman, 2014).

### **Public Awareness of Crime Reporting to the Police**

Law enforcement more or less depends on mutual collaboration among the masses as well as the Police Force. One way in which this cooperation is supposed to be evidenced is in the area of crime reporting. However, this collaboration is bedeviled with a lot of issues and challenges. Sequel to that, Yishua (2005) observed that ineffectual and inefficient criminal justice system work against this collaboration. Furthermore, Olonisakin (2008) observed that dishonest societal as well as economic and political establishments as a factor. Additionally, Ologun (2010) also reported that some policemen were working with criminals.

The British crime survey (1992) as reported by Skogan (1992) documented that there is the frequent dissatisfaction of crime victims and those contacting the police to report a crime. About a third of those who had got in touch with the police in relation to a crime believed that the Police Force had not demonstrated sufficient concern in their plight or given the case adequate consideration and barely a handful believed they had been given sufficient information. People who had reported suspicious circumstances, disturbance ringing alarms and nuisance were often dissatisfied with how their complaint had been handled. Like past studies, 1992 BCS also documented high level of dissatisfaction among racial minorities and younger people, both on how they had been treated when stopped by the Police and when they had asked the Police for information, advice or help.

Research advocates that sufferers of crime have lesser assurance in the Police Force than non-sufferers (Cao *et al.*, 1996; Maxson *et al.*, 2003). The general attitude of the Police to the populace might as well constitute a factor. Many enquiries have revealed that the populace are most probable to declare assurance on the condition that, for the duration of particular contact, the police were generally supposed to have performed reasonably in addition to been impartial (Maxson *et al.*, 2003; Skogan, 2005; Skogan, 2006). This may give details that, notwithstanding the unconventional means of managing alleged criminals, it has been claimed that the populace preferred OPC to the Nigerian Police Force mostly in the South Western Region of the country (Oyeduntan, 2003).

Past research also suggests that a host of factors ranging from victims blaming themselves to the quality of police service they expected to receive also affect the likelihood that crimes will be reported to the police (Mayhew *et al.*, 1993; Skogan, 1992). The above deepening gap does not elucidate the sway of masses assurance on the Police Force with regard to crime reporting.

### **Research Methodology**

This research work put to use the survey research design. This survey expressly put to use cross-sectional survey research design.

Aldridge and Levine (2001) noted that this survey research design is appropriate for a study of this type because of its potentials in covering a comprehensive area of examination using a chosen representative from a fragment of a populace at a given point in time. Also, May (2001) maintained that the implementation of a cross-sectional research survey is apt in securing the behavioural pattern of a given dwellers on the basis of their understanding, point of view, perspective and judgments in regard to a given social occurrence. Thus, this survey research design was suitable in this study of people's awareness of the Police and crime reporting as a method of Police/policing business.

This study was conducted in Cross River State of Nigeria. Cross River State is among the nation state that makes up the South-South geo-political zone of the country. Specifically this survey is conducted in Southern Senatorial Province of the State. It consisted of six Local Government Areas namely; Biase, Akamkpa, Odukpani, Calabar City Council, Calabar South and Akpabuyo Municipal Council Areas. Three of the six local government areas in the Southern Senatorial Province were chosen purposively for the research study. They are Akamkpa, Calabar South and Calabar City Council Areas. The rationale for this is that there is a presence of Institutions of higher learning, Government ministries and agencies in the three local governments areas selected. The populations of this research consist of persons from 18 years and over dwelling in Cross River South Senatorial Province. The research centered on comprehensible men and women, the married, unmarried, widow and widower. This category of the respondents included the knowledgeable and the working class.

The study applied multi-stage probability and non-probability sampling techniques. The purposive sampling technique were put to use to choose Local Government locales, and

tertiary institutions, random sampling technique were employed to select the faculties and departments studied, and accidental/convenience sampling technique were used pickout the individual respondents.

The study involved the use of questionnaire and unstructured oral interview which embraces 840 respondents 420 men and 420 women adduced from section of lettered Nigerians dwelling in the three (3) purposively chosen Municipal Council Areas in Southern Senatorial Province of Cross River State. The underlying principle for using this picked out Nigerians hinged on the conjecture that the predominance of the popular belief heads and viewpoint molders fall into the rank of the well-read public and private workers while the perspectives of the common people is not jettisoned. It is thought that it is the perspective of the handpicked grouping that lend a hand to inform and advice the traditional oriented populace and the lower class about the business of the police and crime reporting. Thus the “public” encompassed of students, the teaching and non-teaching staff from four (4) purposively chosen institution of higher Education which included; University of Calabar, Cross River State University of Technology, Colledge of Education Akamkpa, and School of Health Technology Calabar and middle class workers in both public and private organizations, ministries and agencies such as: the State and Federal ministries and banks. The canvasser adopted the hat and draw method of random sampling technique. The names of the faculties in each of the four purposively chosen institutions scribbled on separate sheet of paper and creased; the creased paper sheets were meticulously mixed in a bottle some creased papers were moved out with no substitute. In both the University of Calabar and Cross River State University of Technology, four faculties were chosen. The same hat and draw *modus operandi* was also adopted to choose one department apiece in the four randomly selected faculties. In addition, the same hat and draw method was also used to select four departments each from College of Education Akamkpa in addition to School of Health Technology Calabar

The first step towards ensuring proper representation from the student, the teaching and the non teaching staff and working class population involved the random selecting from the list of students, teaching and the non teaching staff in the four purposively chosen tertiary institutions. A total of two hundred (200) subjects (respondents) were selected in each of the tertiary institutions. Also, a total of fourty subjects (respondents) were selected from middle

class employees in both public and private institutions. Thus: bringing the total number of examinees to 840. The second stage involves the use of convenient sample to select the individual respondents. The students were specifically targeted at convenience *via*: lecture rooms, offices, recreational parks among others. While the teaching and non teaching staffs were targeted at convenience *via*: offices and lecture rooms among others. In all one hundred oral interview schedules were conducted.

The tool for the gathering of data for this inquiry is primarily structured and unstructured questionnaire and unstructured oral interview guide. The rationale for this is that the research made use of mixed method, that is, the investigator Incorporated components of qualitative and quantitative perspective for the purpose of comprehensive discernment and authentication of the variables understudy. To supplement the primary sources of data, the researcher made use of secondary sources. Two sets of questions were used in the questionnaire. The first were questions on the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents, the second were questions that touched on the research objective. The instrument for data collection was pretested on randomly selected population outside the sample population in order to ensure clarity of contents and to ensure that respondents, research assistants and the researcher had the same understanding of the issue understudy. The questionnaire guide wasself administered. The researcher himself moderated the interview guide, while one of the research assistants took notes. Thereafter, the notes were categorized into themes. The conduct of the interview and the distribution and collection of the questionnaire were carried out on week days and it lasted for a period of five (5) weeks.

The data from the unstructured oral interview was arranged into topics in order to make meaning from the interview accomplished. In sum, the thematic method was used in analyzing the data gathered from the unstructured interview. In view of this, each of the themes was discussed and illustrative quote identified and pulled out to support and make clear the qualitative data. Data from the closed ended questions from the questionnaire were tabulated which gave the bases for the testing of the hypothesis set. Thus, both qualitative and quantitative analyses made use of, enhanced one another.

## Findings

### Presentation and Analysis of the Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

**Table.1:Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents**

Variables	Male (n=420)	%	Female (n=420)	%	Total (n=840)	%
<b>Age</b>						
18-27	181	43.1	193	46.0	374	44.5
28-37	142	33.8	140	33.3	282	33.6
38-47	70	16.7	60	14.3	130	15.5
48-57	18	4.3	13	3.1	31	3.7
58-above	9	2.1	14	3.3	23	2.7
<b>Education Level</b>						
No formal education						
Primary	23	5.5	57	13.6	80	9.5
Secondary	107	25.5	88	21.0	195	23.2
Tertiary	290	69.0	275	65.4	565	67.3
<b>Marital Status</b>						
Married	126	30	220	52.4	346	41.2
Single	289	68.8	191	45.5	480	57.1
Separated/ divorced /Widowed	5	1.2	9	2.1	14	1.7
<b>Occupation</b>						
Student	230	54.8	274	65.2	504	60
Civil servant	172	41.0	138	32.9	310	36.9
Farming	-					
Business	18	4.3	8	19	26	3.1
Others	-					
<b>Place of Residence</b>						
Urban	222	52.9	234	55.7	456	54.3
Rural	17	4.0	23	5.5	40	4.8
Semi-urban	181	43.1	163	38.8	344	41.0
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>						
Christianity	370	88.0	384	91.4	754	89.8
Islam	44	10.5	36	8.6	80	9.5
Traditional	4	1.0	-		4	0.5
Others	2	0.5	-		2	0.2
<b>Ethnic Affiliation</b>						
Ibo	110	26.2	100	23.8	210	25
Yoruba	49	11.7	46	11.0	95	11.3
Hausa	48	11.4	37	8.8	85	10.1
Efik/Efuk/Quo/Ibibio/Anang/Oron/Ejagham	195	46.4	230	54.8	425	50.6
Others	18	4.3	7	1.7	25	3.0

Source: Field data (2018).

Table 1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents as regards to age, educational attainment, marital status, occupational status, place of residence, religious and ethnic affiliations.

With respect to age, the respondents have an average of age of 168years. The modal age category for both male and female is 18-27years. This is followed by 28-37. The median age category for both male and female is 38-47 with a total number of 130 representing 15.5% of the population. Most of the men were within the age groups of 18 to 27 (181), 28-37 (142), 38-47 (70), 48-57 (18) and 58 and above (9). The average age of the female respondents is 84 years from the available data. The respondents were old enough to furnish information on the subjects of interests.

The educational profile of the respondents shows that all of the respondents had formal education. Respondents with primary, secondary and tertiary education formed the entire respondents with 100% of the respondents with primary education (9.5%), secondary education (23.2%) and tertiary education (67.3%).

Information on matrimonial state of the answerers show that single persons constituted the single largest group of respondents. Most of the study participants were currently single (57.1%). The married constituted the second largest group of respondents (41.2%). Separated/divorced/widowed formed (1.7%) of the respondents.

With respect to occupational level most of the respondents are students (60%). The (36.9%) were civil servants, and business persons constituted (3.1%) of the respondents.

The religious profile of the respondents shows that Christians were in majority comprising males (88.0%), females (91.4%). That is, they formed (89.8%) of the sample population. The Islam, traditional and others formed (10.2%) of the respondents, that is, Islam (9.5%), traditional (0.5%) and others (0.2%). There is an average of (188.5) for Christian and (3.4) for others.

Data on the respondent's place of residence showed that urban dwellers constituted the single largest group of respondents. Most of the study participants were urban dwellers (54.3%), semi-urban dwellers constituted the second largest group of respondents (41.0%). Rural dwellers formed (4.8%) of the respondents.

The ethnic affiliation of the respondents showed that the majority of the respondents were Efik/Efut qua/Ibibio and constituted (50.6%) of the sample population. The Ibos constituted the second largest group of respondents (25%). The Yoruba, Hausa and others formed (24.4%) of the sample population of the respondents: Yoruba (11.3%), Hausa (10.1%) and others (3.0%) respectively.

**Testing of hypothesis and analysis of findings**

**Hypothesis 1**

H<sub>0</sub>: Public negative views of police and policing work have no significant relationship with victims crime reporting.

H<sub>1</sub>: Public positive views of police and policing work have a significant relationship with victims crime reporting.

**Table 2(a): Respondents views on police and policing business and victim’s crime reporting**

<b>Perceptions</b>	<b>Male (n=420)</b>	<b>Female (n=420)</b>	<b>Total (n=840)</b>
Positive	95 <sup>(A)</sup>	60 <sup>(B)</sup>	155
Negative	315 <sup>(C)</sup>	344 <sup>(D)</sup>	659
Don’t know	10 <sup>(E)</sup>	16 <sup>(F)</sup>	26
	420	420	840

Source: Field data (2018).

**Table 2(b): Correlation result of relationship between public negative views of police and policing work with victim’s crime reporting.**

		<b>Police/ policing work</b>	<b>Victims crime reporting</b>
Police/policing work	Pearson correlation	1	.845**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	Sum of squares and cross-products	301.74	116.94
	Covariance	.421	.305
	N	840	840
Victims crime reporting	Pearson correlation	.845**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	Sum of squares and cross-products	176.94	159.32
	Covariance	.305	.201
	N	840	840

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

Source: SPSS analysis.

The analysis showed a correlation coefficient of 0.845 indicating the existence of strong positive relationship between police/policing with victim’s crime reporting. The test was significant at 0.01 significant level and led to the rejection of the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant relationship between police/policing with victim’s crime reporting.

The study reveals that victim’s crime reporting among single respondents and indeed the total respondents was very low and this may not be unconnected to police practices that influence crime reporting. One male single female respondent who has been a victim of crime put it this way:the police will always ask you to come and report a crime, and when

you do they find it difficult to respond, in fact reporting rather than response to the crime is what they do” (female interview respondent).

The study also found that respondents (victims) with formal police contact (i.e. public initiated and police initiated contact) had more negative perception of the police than respondents without formal police contact.

### Analysis of the research questions

**Table 3: Respondents views on the factors/police practices that influence crime reporting**

Factors	Male (n=420)	%	Female n=420	%	Total (n=840)	%
Mutual mistrust between the police and the public.	50	11.9	55	13.1	105	12.5
Police abuse of discretionary powers.	54	12.9	50	11.9	104	12.4
Police ineffectiveness	53	12.6	56	13.3	109	13.0
Police lack of integrity	52	12.4	48	11.4	100	11.9
Police corruption	56	13.3	54	12.9	110	13.1
Bribery cum extortion	66	15.7	69	16.4	135	16.1
Police complicity in crime	47	11.2	52	12.4	99	11.8
Police indifference attitude	42	10	36	8.6	78	9.3

Source: Field data (2018).

Field data from Table 3 in respect of respondents’ view on factors/police practices that influence crime reporting were computed using unstructured oral interview guide and questionnaire item was administered to 840 respondents, 420 males and 420 females. The respondents reported a long list of factors. Among the factors reported are mutual mistrust between the police and the public (12.5%), Police abuse of discretionary powers, (12.4%) and Police ineffectiveness (13.0%). Other factors/practices include Police lack of integrity (11.9%), Police corruption (13.1%), bribery and extortion (16.1%), Police complicity in crime (11.8%), and (9.3%) of the total population pointed to Police indifference attitude.

The emerging implication of these findings is that these factors/police practices have caused apathy to citizens to form a formidable force with the police to tackle crimes and other anti-social behavior by making local intelligence available in a way of crime reporting for sustainable crime control and management. The policy implication is that police hierarchies should design policies and programmes to change the image of the Nigeria Police Force that will be geared in the direction of provision of satisfactory care and due consideration for self-respect, worth and mass-essential human freedom and liberties. By so doing the people of the Nigeria society will connect with the Police Force to make certain that crimes and antisocial behavior are reduced through crime reporting for effective and efficient crime management.

### **Discussion of Findings**

There exist lofty community awareness in the level of policing and police work as evidenced in the data collected. This may not be unconnected to the police as an agency that is duty bound to control, uncovering and preclusion of crimes, the enforcement of laws and command, the safety of life and belongings and range of crime act and rules with which they superintend. Another imperative from the study is that public positive perception of policing/police work provide the synergy for information sharing and good friendly association among the police force and the community for a wide reaching reform.

Injured party contentment with the Police Force is an essential determinant of police efficiency and achievement. The level of public perception of police work and crime reporting has become apparent enough to the degree that it could encourage or discourage infraction of the law coverage among the study population. In such a case, when the community has a positive perception of reporting crime to police, they will not hesitate to report, but if the public has negative perception of reporting crime to the police, crime reporting will be a nightmare. Thus, these invariably hinder sustainable crime control and management. Worried by the multiplicity of the factors/police practices that hinder crime reporting as was revealed by the study in Table 3, police authority should as a matter of urgent concern come up with a policy to do away with those factors/police practices that influence crime reporting for sustainable crime control and management.

## Summary/Conclusion

The enquiry was organized to examine the people's awareness of the police and crime reporting in Southern Senatorial Division of Cross River State as well as to test if there was a significant relationship in the hypothesis set. The manner in which the communities are away of the Police Force is extremely vital. Positive perception of policing and Police Officer's business is essential for effective as well as efficient police public relation *vis-à-vis* crime reporting for sustainable crime control and management.

Additionally, from the findings of the study it could be concluded that the level of public awareness of police business and crime reporting was found compelling enough to the extent that it could encourage or discourage crime reporting among the study population. This study also concluded that the respondents had a positive awareness of crime reporting to the police but are weary of the police practices/factors that impede their efforts as evidenced in the research work.

## Recommendations

Based on the discoveries of the enquiry, the following suggestions are proffered:

- a. The observed multiplicity of police practices that hinder crime reporting is a challenge. Based on that, the police authority should as a matter of urgency come up with a policy to do away with these police practices that could influence crime reporting and hinder sustainable crime control and management, as revealed from observable evidence in the study.
- b. The Police Service Commission should review the police code of ethics and enforce same to increase police effectiveness and efficiency as a formal agent of law and order. Through this effort, the police will earn the confidence of the public which will encourage crime reporting. This is because; crime reporting is not conceivable without effective police public relations.
- c. There is urgent need for the Police Service Commission to adopt policies and programmes that could assist to reform and reposition the image of the Nigeria Police, to encourage the populace to have confidence and trust in the police to ensure the protection of lives and property plus crime reporting for effective crime management.

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