

**Community policing and crime prevention in Uganda:  
A case of greater Kampala metropolitan area (2012-  
2019)**

by

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**keywords:** *community policing, crime prevention*

**Introduction**

The study was about community policing and crime prevention in Uganda focusing on Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (2012-2019). Undertaking the study on community policing and crime prevention is important for understanding how the community and police work in tandem to prevent and detect crime.

**Study objectives**

1. To examine the factors accounting for criminality in Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area,
2. to assess the effectiveness of community policing in preventing crime in Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area,
3. to analyze the existing strategies for enhancing community policing as a crime prevention measure in Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

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## **Methodology**

The study used a case study design and obtained data from 77 respondents through interviews and questionnaires. The respondents were selected using simple random and purposive sampling techniques.


## **Key findings**

The study found that criminality in Kampala Metropolitan Area was caused by myriad factors namely: poor family background which has caused behavioural problems among who have grown outside of familiar boundaries; erosion of the social moral fabric which has encouraged permissiveness; the frequent occurrence of criminal behaviour in certain places which motivates criminality; societal tolerance of anti-social behaviour; as well as lapses in the enforcement of the law.

However, the study also found that police undertook community liaison by identifying and talking to youths and the community leaders. The police used surveillance CCTV cameras which have helped them to follow-up and arrest criminals.

## **Key recommendations**

The study recommended that there should be an improvement in the mobilization of communities to be prepared and equipped to act as first responders to security emergencies before the police intervene. In that effort, the



practice of “drum beating” (the traditional alarm bell) should be invigorated in crime-infested communities to alert members of communities of a criminal disturbance. The police should also sensitize communities about law and crime to reduce the unintentional commission of criminal acts. Last but not least, the police should strengthen their partnership with the community in fighting crime since community policing is essentially about a partnership between the police and the citizens in ensuring that crime is alleviated in the community.

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