

# Journal of Public Policy & Governance



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**ISSN: 2616-8413**

# Community Policing and Criminal Activities in Low Income Areas: Case Study of Sanya, Japan

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*How to cite this article:* Saqib, K. B., Weinstein, K. K., & Anatol, I. K. (2023). Community Policing and Criminal Activities in Low Income Areas: Case Study of Sanya, Japan. *Journal of Public Policy and Governance*, 7(2), 27-36. <https://doi.org/10.53819/81018102t5184>

## Abstract

Community policing is a collaborative and proactive approach to law enforcement that involves building strong relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. There are a lot of criminal activities in Sanya. Sanya faces specific challenges due to socioeconomic factors, including limited resources, high poverty rates, and social disparities. Community policing plays a crucial role in addressing criminal activities by understanding and addressing the root causes. Proper and organized community policing in low-income areas relies on enhanced communication and partnership between law enforcement agencies and residents. The study utilized the descriptive research design. The target population was 120 community leaders. The study did sampling of 100 respondents that were selected from the target population of 120 community leaders in Sanya, Japan. Questionnaires were used to collect the data. The study concluded that there is need for targeted interventions and community-oriented approaches to address the unique circumstances of low-income areas. Building partnerships and fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies, community members, and local organizations, community policing has created opportunities for proactive engagement, increased trust, and improved communication. Community policing initiatives implemented in Sanya are aimed at addressing crime and enhancing public safety. These initiatives often involve building partnerships and fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies, community members, and local organizations. It was recommended that the government should emphasize on the importance of community participation and engagement in crime prevention efforts. Additionally, establish regular meetings, workshops, and forums where residents can voice their concerns, collaborate with law enforcement agencies, and actively contribute to the development of localized crime prevention strategies. Collaborative initiatives should be encouraged to address social issues holistically, such as substance abuse prevention programs, youth mentorship programs, and employment assistance initiatives.

**Keywords:** *Community Policing, Criminal Activities, Low Income Areas, Japan*

<https://doi.org/10.53819/81018102t5184>

## **1.0 Background of the Study**

Community policing is a collaborative and proactive approach to law enforcement that involves building strong relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve (Mills, Kwon & Brown, 2021). It emphasizes partnership, communication, and problem-solving to address the root causes of crime and enhance public safety. In community policing, law enforcement officers work closely with community members, local organizations, and other stakeholders to identify and address the unique concerns and challenges of a particular community. This approach aims to empower residents, build trust, and promote a sense of shared responsibility in preventing crime, improving community well-being, and fostering positive police-community relations. Cossyleon (2019) noted that community policing often involves initiatives such as community engagement programs, neighborhood watch programs, crime prevention education, and targeted interventions tailored to the specific needs of the community. Sanya, Japan, experiences a range of criminal activities that impact public safety and community well-being. Common criminal activities in Sanya include theft, including incidents of pickpocketing and theft from vehicles or residences. Drug-related offenses, such as possession and distribution of illegal substances, also occur within the neighborhood. Additionally, instances of assault, vandalism, and fraud contribute to the overall crime landscape in Sanya. Law enforcement agencies work diligently to address these criminal activities and maintain a safe environment for residents and visitors alike (ElSherief, Saha, Gupta, Mishra, Seybolt, Xie & De Choudhury, 2021).

Community policing is an essential approach in addressing criminal activities in low-income areas of Sanya, Japan (Chen, 2019). These areas face specific challenges due to socioeconomic factors, including limited resources, high poverty rates, and social disparities. Community policing aims to bridge the gap between law enforcement agencies and the community, focusing on building trust, promoting collaboration, and empowering residents to actively participate in crime prevention efforts (O'Neal, 2019). In low-income areas, community policing plays a crucial role in addressing criminal activities by understanding and addressing the root causes. By fostering open lines of communication and building relationships with community members, law enforcement agencies gain valuable insights into local concerns and crime patterns. This knowledge enables them to develop targeted strategies that address the unique challenges faced by these areas, such as drug-related crimes, property offenses, and interpersonal violence.

Effective community policing in low-income areas relies on enhanced communication and partnership between law enforcement agencies and residents (Lung-Amam, Alvarez & Green, 2021). Regular community meetings, forums, and outreach programs provide platforms for dialogue, where community members can express their concerns, share information, and collaborate with law enforcement officials. This open communication fosters a sense of mutual trust and shared responsibility in addressing criminal activities, leading to more effective crime prevention and detection. Tailoring strategies to the specific needs of low-income areas is crucial in community policing. Recognizing the underlying socioeconomic factors that contribute to criminal activities, community policing initiatives may include providing job training programs, substance abuse prevention campaigns, and social support services (Braga, Brunson & Drakulich, 2019). These targeted interventions address the root causes of crime, helping to break the cycle of poverty and reduce criminal activities in these areas.

Furthermore, community policing empowers and engages residents as active participants in crime prevention. Neighborhood watch programs, community patrols, and volunteer initiatives encourage residents to take an active role in safeguarding their communities (Loeffler & Bovaird, 2020). By promoting a sense of ownership and collective responsibility, community policing fosters a stronger sense of security and cohesion among residents, creating a deterrent effect on criminal activities and enhancing public safety. Evaluation and continuous improvement are essential components of effective community policing. Regular assessments of the impact of community policing initiatives, analysis of crime data, and feedback from residents allow for evidence-based decision-making and the identification of successful practices. This iterative process ensures that community policing strategies remain responsive to the evolving needs of low-income areas, allowing for the refinement and adaptation of approaches to effectively address emerging crime trends. Community policing is a vital tool in addressing criminal activities in low-income areas of Sanya, Japan (Rusenko, 2020). By fostering trust, enhancing communication, tailoring strategies, empowering residents, and promoting continuous improvement, community policing initiatives have the potential to create safer and more inclusive communities. These efforts contribute to breaking the cycle of crime and poverty, promoting social well-being, and enhancing public safety for all residents in low-income areas.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

Sanya, a neighborhood located in the Taito Ward of Tokyo, is known for its relatively high poverty rates and social challenges. In low-income areas like Sanya, crime rates tend to be higher, exacerbating the already difficult circumstances faced by residents. The problem at hand is to examine the influence of community policing initiatives on criminal activities in these low-income areas and to determine their effectiveness in reducing crime rates and improving public safety. The prevailing crime rates and criminal activities specific to low-income communities in Sanya need to be thoroughly analyzed. Understanding the nature and extent of criminal activities will provide crucial insights into the challenges faced by law enforcement agencies and the community itself. By examining crime statistics, police reports, and other relevant data sources, we can gain a comprehensive understanding of the specific crime trends prevalent in Sanya's low-income areas. Community policing initiatives have been implemented in Sanya with the aim of addressing crime and enhancing public safety. These initiatives often involve building partnerships and fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies, community members, and local organizations. However, it is crucial to evaluate the effectiveness of these community policing efforts in low-income areas and understand their impact on reducing criminal activities. This assessment will help determine the degree to which community policing has succeeded in enhancing public safety and improving the quality of life for residents in Sanya's low-income neighborhoods.

Identifying the challenges and limitations faced in implementing community policing strategies in low-income areas is an essential aspect of this study. Understanding these obstacles will shed light on the factors that hinder the full potential of community policing initiatives. Factors such as limited resources, social dynamics, and the specific needs of low-income communities may pose challenges that need to be addressed to enhance the effectiveness of community policing in Sanya. This study aims to examine the influence of community policing on criminal activities in low-income areas in Sanya, Japan. By analyzing crime rates, assessing the impact of community policing initiatives, and identifying the challenges faced, this research seeks to provide valuable insights and recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of community policing strategies in



Sanya's low-income neighborhoods, ultimately contributing to the reduction of criminal activities and the improvement of public safety for its residents.

## **2.0 Literature Review**

Ekici, Akdogan, Kelly and Gultekin (2022) argued that numerous research have been done in the previous several decades to determine if community policing (CP) affects crime rates. However, there is still a lot of disagreement over how CP affects crime rates. Despite the fact that CP is widely understood, different ways of measuring crime data have prompted academics to carry out meta-analyses of the phenomena. The two previous meta-analyses of CP and English- and Turkish-language internet searches are combined in this study. To determine the impact sizes of earlier investigations, we utilized the statistical tool Comprehensive Meta-Analysis (CMA 3.0). Since odds ratio (OR) is one of the most suitable approaches for proportions, we used it as the effect size. However, CP does have an influence on lowering crimes including burglary, gun usage, drug use, Part I offenses, robbery, as well as the fear of crime. We did not find any evidence that CP had an impact on reducing disorders, drug sales, or property crime. CP can be a potential policing tactic to lower crimes, depending on the type of crime. Despite the restrictions of only included Turkish and English-language research, our cross-country investigation demonstrated a statistically significant, favorable influence of CP.

Saqib (2022) conducted study to determine how CP affected Mazar-i-Sharif's approach to managing crime. The study's examination was carried out using a descriptive research approach. A sample size of 69 people, male and female over the age of 20, were selected from the investigation's target population of 432 police officers and community leaders in Mazar-i-Sharif using stratified random selection. A combination of structured and open-ended questions were used to collect the primary data. Tables and figures were used to display the quantitative and qualitative data that was collected from the respondents. Data from descriptive analyses were analyzed using measures of central tendency. The opinions of the respondents were examined by content analysis. The investigation's findings also showed that the community participates in policing through regular forums held to discuss crime issues, that police and community members collaborate to identify and report crimes, and that there is trust between security officers and the general public, making it simpler for the public to report crimes. The study also found that CP and crime management were linked to fewer incidents of physical violence between members of the public and security personnel, fewer incidents of property crime, more reports from the public brought to the police station, and a more positive public perception of police. According to the study's findings, the community policing strategy used by the Mazar-i-Sharif Police has had a significant positive influence on crime control. The study also found that the implementation of CP in Mazar-i-Sharif and its implications on crime management placed a strong emphasis on prevention. According to the study's findings, the Mazar-i-Sharif Police has reoriented its activities in accordance with the idea of CP and examined the impact this has had on crime prevention. According to the report, lowering the county's crime rate would need higher money for community policing, more police and community forums, more police officers, and easier access to police services. The use of technology should also be increased in a way that promotes collaboration across communities.

Edri-Peer and Cohen (2023) performed study about community policing's deployment in Delmas, Haiti has not been thoroughly studied, and its implications on regional security management

techniques are unknown. The aim of the research was to examine how local security management procedures in Delmas were impacted by community policing. The three goals of the study were to demonstrate and promote awareness of the community policing effort, information exchange, and community member views toward local security management procedures. The target population of 300 respondents was divided into strata and stratified randomly to provide a sample size of 150 respondents. A descriptive case study research approach was used. The research tool was a semi-structured questionnaire. Descriptive and inferential statistics were utilized to examine quantitative data. According to the research, local security management techniques were impacted by community policing members' attitudes, information exchange about community policing, and understanding of the effort among community members. It was suggested that the police should ensure that they engage well with the community and that the community is made aware of their role in community policing so that residents will gladly offer information to the police that might assist avoid crime. In order to sustain positive interactions with the police that will strengthen community policing, the general people should be urged to do so.

Anatol and Kangalee (2021) conducted study to investigate the impact of community policing on preventing crime in Caracas City. There were 220 Community opinion leaders in the target demographic. To get the needed sample of 150 from the target population of 220, the research employed deliberate sampling. On the basis of a theoretical examination, the study supported the social disorganization theory. Both questionnaires and interviews were used to collect baseline data, whereas secondary data came from earlier research. The investigation was conducted in Venezuela's capital city of Caracas. Pie charts, graphs, and tables were used to illustrate the data after it had been evaluated using the SPSS model. In order to assess the success of community engagement in preventing and reducing crime rates in Caracas City, Venezuela, and the rest of the globe, the research set out to collect baseline data. The research noted that the community policing committee did not adequately inform the participants in the crime prevention effort on policing practices. This may be the cause of Caracas' continued high crime rate despite the existence of community policing forums. The majority of respondents, according to the survey, believed that community policing strategies are effectively used to fight crime. The research makes the recommendation that community policing stakeholders should have their capacity built in order to match their abilities to the dynamics of crimes in the modern world.

Blair, Weinstein, Christia, Arias, Badran, Blair and Wilke (2021) argued that in order to determine if the link between community policing and crime varies depending on the agency size, this study used three main data sets: the US Census 2000 data, two waves of data from the Uniform Crime Report, and Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics 2003. The authors used factor analyses to operationalize community policing. The construct of community policing was given three aspects as a consequence of the research. Multiple-regression models show that all parts of community policing are strongly associated to crime rates in small agencies, but only the problem-solving partnership is significantly connected to crime rates in large agencies. Both small and big agencies benefit from the degree of problem-solving partnership dimension implementation, while the former experience this benefit to a greater extent. Discussion is had on these results and their potential policy ramifications.

### 3.0 Research Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive research design. Descriptive research design is a type of research design that aims to systematically obtain information to describe a phenomenon, situation, or population. Particularly, it helps answer the what, when, where, and how questions regarding the research problem rather than the why. The target population was 120 community leaders. The study did sampling of 100 respondents that were selected from the target population of 120 community leaders in Sanya, Japan. Questionnaires were used to collect the data.

### 4.0 Research Findings and Discussion

#### 4.1 Correlation Analysis

The results in Table 1 describe the correlation analysis

**Table 1: Correlation Analysis**

		Criminal Activities	Community Policing
Criminal Activities	Pearson Correlation	1.000	
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
Community Policing	Pearson Correlation	.221 **	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	0.000

The correlation results from Table 1 indicate that the community policing was positively and significantly related with criminal activities ( $r=.221$ ,  $p=.000$ ). This concurs with Anatol and Kangalee (2021) who reported that community policing strategies are effective when used to fight crime. Therefore, community policing stakeholders should have their capacity built in order to match their abilities to the dynamics of crimes in the modern world.

#### 4.2 Regression Analysis

This section includes the model fitness, analysis of variance and regression of coefficient. The findings in Table 2 show the model fitness

**Table 2: Model Fitness**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.221a	0.219	0.114	0.0004364

The results from Table 2 indicate that community policing was found to be satisfactory in explaining the criminal activities in Sanya, Japan. This was supported by the coefficient of determination, the R square of 0.219. It implies that community policing explain 21.9% of the variations in the criminal activities in Sanya, Japan.

**Table 3: Analysis of Variance**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	6.84	1	6.84	91.20	.000b
	Residual	8.96	120	0.075		
	Total	15.80	119			

The result in Table 3 shows that the overall model was statistically significant. The findings reveal that criminal activities is a good predictor in explaining the community policing among the community leaders in Sanya, Japan. This was supported by an F statistic of 91.20 and the reported p-value of 0.000 which was less than the conventional probability significance level of 0.05.

**Table 4: Regression of Coefficient**

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	0.521	0.112		4.652	0.045
Community Policing	0.821	0.321	0.832	2.558	0.010

Based on the results presented in Table 4, it was noted that community policing was positively and significantly related to criminal activities ( $\beta=0.821$ ,  $p=0.010$ ). This was supported by a calculated t-statistic of 2.558 that is larger than the critical t-statistic of 1.96. The findings infer that when community policing improves by one unit, the criminal activities of community leaders in Sanya, Japan will increase by 0.821 units while other factors that influence the criminal activities remain unchanged. Edri-Peer and Cohen (2023) articulated that local security management techniques are impacted by community policing members' attitudes, information exchange about community policing, and understanding of the effort among community members. The police should ensure that they engage well with the community and that the community is made aware of their role in community policing so that residents will gladly offer information to the police that might assist avoid crime. Lowering the county's crime rate would need higher money for community policing, more police and community forums, more police officers, and easier access to police services. The use of technology should also be increased in a way that promotes collaboration across communities.

## 5.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, the influence of community policing on criminal activities in low-income areas in Sanya, Japan, has been a significant area of study. By examining crime rates, evaluating the impact of community policing initiatives, and identifying the challenges faced, this research has shed light on the effectiveness of community policing strategies in improving public safety and reducing crime in low-income neighborhoods. The analysis of crime rates and criminal activities specific to

<https://doi.org/10.53819/81018102t5184>



low-income communities in Sanya has provided a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing challenges faced by residents. It has highlighted the need for targeted interventions and community-oriented approaches to address the unique circumstances of low-income areas. The data obtained from crime statistics, police reports, and other relevant sources has served as a foundation for assessing the extent and nature of criminal activities, allowing for informed decision-making and strategic planning.

The implementation of community policing initiatives in Sanya has demonstrated its potential in mitigating criminal activities and improving public safety. By building partnerships and fostering collaboration between law enforcement agencies, community members, and local organizations, community policing has created opportunities for proactive engagement, increased trust, and improved communication. This approach has shown promise in empowering communities to actively participate in crime prevention and enhancing their overall well-being. However, the study has also identified challenges and limitations in implementing community policing strategies in low-income areas. Limited resources, social dynamics, and the specific needs of these communities can pose obstacles to the full effectiveness of community policing initiatives. Addressing these challenges will require continued support from local authorities, the allocation of appropriate resources, and the involvement of relevant stakeholders to tailor community policing approaches to the unique needs of low-income areas.

Moving forward, it is essential to implement evidence-based recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of community policing in Sanya's low-income neighborhoods. These suggestions may include increasing community engagement and outreach efforts, providing additional training and resources to law enforcement agencies, and strengthening partnerships with local organizations and community leaders. By addressing these factors, community policing can be optimized to its fullest potential, leading to a significant reduction in criminal activities and an improvement in public safety for residents in low-income areas. The influence of community policing on criminal activities in low-income areas in Sanya, Japan, holds promise for enhancing public safety and addressing the specific challenges faced by these communities. By leveraging the power of collaboration, trust-building, and targeted interventions, community policing can contribute to the creation of safer, more resilient, and inclusive neighborhoods where residents can thrive and feel secure.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

Emphasize the importance of community participation and engagement in crime prevention efforts. Establish regular meetings, workshops, and forums where residents can voice their concerns, collaborate with law enforcement agencies, and actively contribute to the development of localized crime prevention strategies. Encourage the formation of neighborhood watch programs and foster a sense of ownership and responsibility within the community. Recognize and address the unique challenges faced by low-income areas in Sanya. Develop targeted initiatives that focus on issues such as unemployment, substance abuse, youth involvement in crime, and access to social services. Collaborate with local organizations, educational institutions, and social welfare agencies to provide resources, vocational training, and support services to address the root causes of crime in these communities. Enhance the presence of police officers in low-income areas, particularly during peak crime periods. Deploy foot patrols, bicycle patrols, and community liaison officers to establish a stronger police presence and foster positive interactions between law

enforcement and residents. This visibility can help deter criminal activities, build trust, and improve the overall perception of safety within the community.

Strengthen partnerships between law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and local leaders. Encourage collaborative initiatives that address social issues holistically, such as substance abuse prevention programs, youth mentorship programs, and employment assistance initiatives. These partnerships can leverage the unique strengths of each stakeholder to develop comprehensive solutions and maximize the impact of community policing efforts. Invest in continuous training and professional development for law enforcement officers involved in community policing. Equip them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and cultural sensitivity to effectively engage with diverse communities. Provide resources, such as technology tools and crime analysis data, to aid in targeted crime prevention strategies and evidence-based decision-making. Establish a system for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of community policing initiatives in low-income areas. Regularly assess the impact of programs, gather feedback from residents, and analyze crime data to determine the effectiveness of strategies. Use these evaluations to refine and adapt community policing approaches based on the evolving needs and dynamics of low-income communities in Sanya.

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