

ABSTRACT

Crime remains a significant problem in many areas, negatively impacting the safety and wellbeing of residents. In response to this issue, community policing has emerged as a promising strategy to address and prevent crime, particularly in developing countries. In recent years, community policing has gained popularity as a successful crime-rate technique. Developing on this background, this study aimed to assess the effectiveness of the community policing unit in reducing crime rates in the Dar es Salaam. The study employed a cross-sectional design and a mixed-methods approach; data were collected from 97 respondents using a survey questionnaire and interview guide. Descriptive statistics and content analysis were used in data analysis. The findings reveal that there is common understanding between police and the community regarding the importance of police-community relations, highlighting the significance of trust and legitimacy. Effective community policing initiatives were found to depend on the allocation of suitable resources, including funding, manpower, training, and technology. The study also identified challenges, such as low police officer interest in community policing, insufficient training, and negative public perceptions of the police force. The study recommends the adoption of community policing strategies that prioritize community involvement, problem-solving, and collaboration to address specific community needs and encourage active resident participation in crime reduction efforts.