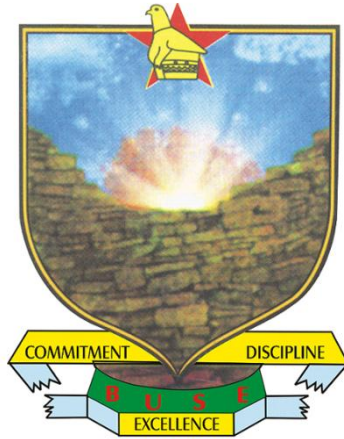


BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF COMMERCE
DEPARTMENT OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY STUDIES



**THE EFFICACY OF FOOT PATROLS ON CRIME REDUCTION IN MASVINGO
CENTRAL POLICE DISTRICT**

BY

EDGAR TICHARWA (B202041B)

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
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FACULTY OF COMMERCE

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APPROVAL FORM

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my sons, Anopaishe and Tinevimbo.

ABSTRACT

The rise in the level of crime has brought about considerable fear and economic costs among citizens and the nation at large hence authorities have to rise to the occasion. During the previous years, the police have been utilizing foot patrols as the main measure to reduce crime levels but to no avail. It is within this background that the researcher was motivated to carry out the study. The purpose of the research was to investigate the efficacy of foot patrols on crime reduction with specific reference to Masvingo Central Police District. This study was conducted using a descriptive survey research design. The target population was police officers from Masvingo central district. A sample size of 77 participants was selected composed of the regular police officers, members of the Neighborhood Watch Committee, Crime Liaison Committee and Business against Crime Forum of Zimbabwe using stratified random sampling and purposive sampling techniques. Questionnaires and interviews were used to collect data. The researcher used SPSS to analyze quantitative data and summative content analysis to analyze qualitative data. The main findings of the research were that the main forms of patrols conducted are saturation, hotspot and beat patrols. It found out that foot patrols are very significant on quick solving of crime, increasing crime awareness and improving police-public relations. The study also found out that limited manpower, inadequate resources and lack of motivation are the challenges which impact on the efficacy of foot patrols. The researcher concluded that the use of foot patrols can be effective on crime reduction if challenges involved are addressed. In order to counter the challenges which hinder the efficacy of foot patrols, the study recommended formulation of policies, measures and strategies such as to allocate adequate resources to the police, persistent engagement with the public and motivation of police personnel.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BACFoZ _ Business Against Crime Forum of Zimbabwe

CLC _ Crime Liaison Committee

NWC _ Neighborhood Watch Committee

ZRP _ Zimbabwe Republic Police

ZIMPOD – Zimbabwe Police Development Programme

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The ancient community policing program of foot patrols has been persistently embraced by the international police organizations in the 21st century policing environment as a weapon in dealing with crimes of concern. In an effort to support local law enforcement agencies in their fight against crime, governments have been pouring significant resources through law enforcement agencies into criminal deterrence across the globe (Stenburg, 2011). The first structured police agency was established by Sir Robert Peel in London (United Kingdom) in 1829, which is when foot patrols first became common. In Ratcliffe et al.'s words, "unremitting crime deterrence through visible patrols" was the major goal of his concept. It was discovered through studies carried out by the National Research Council in the United States (Washington), according to Ratcliffe et al. (2011), that foot patrols were found to be an unfocused community policing method that showed only moderately weak evidence of lowering fear of crime. However, the Kansas City Preventative Patrol Experiment was carried out in Missouri. It involved varying the amount of routine preventive patrol within 15 Kansas City police beats, and it was discovered that doing so had no impact on crime, citizen fear of crime, community attitudes toward police, or the way in which police services were provided.

Citizens' cooperation and the reporting of crimes are encouraged via foot patrols. The Liberian government's rural "confidence patrols" program, according to Blair et al (2019), found that exposing citizens to newly created, better equipped police officers through town hall meetings, foot patrols, and neighborhood watch teams increased crime reporting. However, people were less inclined to report crimes to the police and less likely to provide tips when asked whether they felt alienated or had a poor opinion of police personnel. Therefore, by boosting foot patrols, there is a greater likelihood of developing a positive public perception of the police, and citizens are more willing to report crimes when they happen and provide information about impending crimes, aiding law enforcement in making communities safer.

According to Wood et al. (2015), foot patrols help police get to know their neighborhoods and engage in proactive enforcement activities, introducing a guardianship element that could help stop crimes from happening. During the Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment, it was discovered that foot patrols reduced violent crime by 23% in 2009 compared to regular police patrols.

The history of patrols in Zimbabwe dates back to August 1890 when the British colonial force, the British South Africa Company Police (BSACP) entered into Zimbabwe and formed the first police station at Fort Victoria now Masvingo. The commander of the BSACP Colonel Edward Graham Pennefather instructed the member in charge Captain Keith Falconer saying “In the case of any native laborers absconding, stealing or misconducting themselves in any way....he should be brought to the chief and police officers demand that he be punished” (Gibbs et al, 2009). This alone demonstrates that the police were now mandated to patrol around the native villages and arresting the purported offenders. The police were also mandated to safeguarding the British South African Company’s property as well as providing general security to settlers. Policing extended to cover securing of the territorial boundaries and conducting general patrols (Chihuri, 2015). However, the discriminatory policing regime imposed on the indigenous people of Zimbabwe brought untold suffering amongst the general populace.

In the Zimbabwe Republic Police, the Zimbabwe Police Organisation Development Programme (ZIMPOD) of 1993 transformed and strengthened the effectiveness and capacity of the Zimbabwe Republic Police with regard to crime prevention, investigation and detection. The crime strategy of the ZIMPOD came about as a result of an increase in crime despite using foot patrols as a preventive measure. This saw the inception of the ZRP vision 2020 in 2008 where various policing initiatives were embraced and this included the advent of patrol units. Joint operations were conducted by the police departments including Support Unit, Criminal Investigations Department, Canine Section and the Police Intelligence Unit to conduct stop and searches in a bid to reduce crimes of concern such as robberies, unlawful entry and theft, murder and rape. However, despite such efforts by the police, the crimes of concern maintained a rising trajectory and according to the Masvingo Central District Annual Report (2021), the crime rate remained high.

In Masvingo Central District, information at hand indicates that when comparing the 2020 and 2021, crime figures for crimes which can be preventable through the use of well-articulated and resourced patrols were alarmingly high in 2021 as illustrated in the 2021 Annual report. According to the report, statistics show that crimes of concern rose by 21% despite the use of

foot patrols. This therefore prompted the researcher to carry out a study on the efficacy of foot patrols in reducing crime.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Like any other progressive police organizations in the world, the Zimbabwe Republic Police's core mandate remains crime prevention and ensuring that citizens are safe. Foot patrols have perpetually been in use in a bid to reduce crimes of concern but in reality the crime pattern has maintained an upward trend and the police authorities cannot fold hands and watch whilst the situation go out of hand. An online publication reported that Bulawayo residents were now forced to be indoors before the sunset due to the increase in violent crime such as robbery and theft (Zimeye, 2022). Areas such as Mzilikazi, Makokoba and Northend have been declared by the public as no go areas at night due to high incidence of robberies (Zim eye, 2022). Masvingo Central District has witnessed an upsurge in the crimes of concern between 2020 and 2021. The statistics reflected on Table 1.1 shows an overall rise of crimes of concern by 21%.

Table 1.1: Statistics for crimes of concern from 2020 to 2021

Offence	Year 2020	Year 2021	Difference	(percentage change)
Murder	45	60	15	33%
Unlawful entry and theft	325	380	55	17%
Rape	28	40	12	43%
Total	398	480	82	21%

Source: Masvingo Central District Crime Statistics

As indicated on table 1.1 above, murder cases rose from 45 in 2020 to 60 in 2021 indicating a 33% increase. Cases of rape perpetrated on juveniles rose from 28 to 40, indicating a 43% increase in 2021. 380 cases of unlawful entry and theft were recorded in 2021, indicating a 17% increase since 325 cases had been recorded in 2020.

It is true that police authorities and the government are channeling of resources on crime prevention, specifically crime prevention patrols. Hence they must be conscious of the efficacy of the patrols in addressing the problem of crime. As a result, this study highlights the types of

foot patrols that have been conducted and the challenges faced in conducting them in Masvingo Central District.

1.3 Research Objectives

The study was steered by the following objectives:

- To describe the foot patrols in Masvingo Central Police District.
- To determine the efficacy of foot patrol on crime reduction in Masvingo Central Police District.
- To identify the challenges hindering the conduct of foot patrols in Masvingo Central Police District.
- To recommend appropriate measures for enhancing the efficacy of foot patrols.

1.4 Research questions

The following research questions guided the researcher throughout the study:

- How are foot patrols conducted in Masvingo Central Police District?
- How effective are foot patrols in reducing crime in Masvingo Central Police District?
- What are the challenges hindering foot patrols in Masvingo Central Police District?
- What should be done to improve the execution of patrols in Masvingo Central police District?

1.5 Significance of the study

The principal object of the study was to describe the nature of foot patrols and determine their efficacy in reducing crime. The research is of paramount importance to the following:

To the government of Zimbabwe. This research will inform policy makers on the use of foot patrols and how effective they can be in reducing crimes of concern. It will assist the policy makers on directing relevant and sufficient financial, technical and human resources towards the reduction of crime.

To the University. The findings of this research will supplement the existing knowledge and as a result it will be of great concern to both academics and researchers who may wish to carry out further studies.

To the police officers. The study informs police officers on how they can effectively conduct foot patrols and achieve the goal of crime reduction.

To the researcher. The research is done by the researcher as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for attainment of the Bachelor of Business Administration Honours in Police and Security Studies degree. Moreover, as a police officer, the researcher will be glad to unearth the effective ways to use foot patrols and utilize them during the course of his duties when he returns to work.

1.6 Assumptions

The research was conducted based on the following assumptions:

- Foot patrols are not effective in reducing crime.
- Foot patrols if conducted well, can reduce crime.

1.7 Delimitations of the study

The research was confined to Masvingo Central Police District in Masvingo Province where major crimes of concern were on record as compared to other districts in the province. The district also houses a large number of members of the public due to an increased rural to urban migration. It is also located in the town of Masvingo linking major border posts which are Beitbridge, Sango, Plumtree and Chirundu, hence due to high human and vehicular traffic passing through the town, most criminal activities have been occurring within the district. The research was conducted during the period from September 2022 to May 2023.

1.8 Structure of the research

The research is organized as follows:

Chapter one provides the background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives and research questions, significance of the study, assumptions of the study, limitations and delimitations of the study and the chapter summary.

Chapter two dwells on theoretical framework, conceptual framework, and the relationship between foot patrols and crime reduction. The chapter also covers empirical findings by other researchers on the effectiveness of foot patrols in reducing crimes of concern.

Chapter 3 provides the research design which was used to collect data. The researcher identified the targeted population, sample size, sampling technique and the research instruments.

Chapter 4 focuses on the presentation, interpretation and analysis of the data collected. The data collected was categorized into different related sections and then presented through graphs and tables.

Chapter 5 provides a summary of the research, its key findings and the forthcoming recommendations.

1.9 Chapter Summary

This chapter introduced the research by identifying the background to the study which emphasized on the advent of foot patrols, their nature, and challenges hindering their effectiveness. The researcher identified the origins of foot patrols in different parts of the world and how unsuccessful they have been in reducing crime, thus prompting the conduct of this study. The chapter also covered research objectives, research questions and delimitations of the study. The significance of the study to the researcher, government, future researchers and police officers was also discussed. The upcoming chapter will concentrate attention on literature review.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The inherent nature of this chapter is to discover the pertinence of the study in regard to the conduct of foot patrols and their effectiveness in reducing crime. The chapter will discuss thoroughly the conceptual framework and suitable theories relating to the study. Empirical evidence given by previous researchers will also be reviewed, at the same time identifying the knowledge gap.

2.1 Purpose of literature review

A literature review, per the Bloomberg University of Pennsylvania Library Handbook (2022), is a thorough synthesis of earlier studies on a subject. This prior research should be listed, described, summed up, impartially evaluated, and clarified in the review. It need to provide a theoretical framework for the study and aid the researcher in defining its scope. A literature review, according to McCombes (2019), is an examination of academic materials on a particular subject. It gives you an overview of what is known right now, enabling you to spot pertinent theories, approaches, and gaps in the body of prior work. According to Arlene (2014), a literature review is crucial for locating your own research within the context of earlier works.

For the purpose of this study, literature review will describe the nature of foot patrols, how effective foot patrols are, the relationship between foot patrols and crime reduction, theoretical framework and the empirical literature review.

2.2 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework is going to describe and explain the nature and types of foot patrols, explain the concept of crime prevention and outline the relationship between foot patrols and crime prevention.

2.2.1 Conceptualizing foot patrols

One of the oldest methods of crime prevention employed by law enforcement agencies, typically the police, appears to be patrols. Patrols are the core of law enforcement, the focal point of police operations, and the foundation of all police action, according to Walker et al. (2002). Patrols can be divided into two categories: mobile and on foot. Various techniques may be employed with each sort of patrol, based on a variety of variables. Horses, bicycles, and cars are all used in mobile patrols. Another option for mobile patrol, particularly in wealthy nations, is the helicopter. The primary goals of patrols are to reduce crime, increase public safety perceptions, and make officers more visible and accessible for assistance (Cowell, 2015). One way to conduct patrols is on foot. Police visible contact with the public has long been a crucial component of policing, despite the fact that policing techniques are always changing (Smith et al., 2013). As a result, police patrols—which make up a sizable amount of police work—become a key component of policing (Mugari et al., 2018).

The cops circling the neighborhood on foot is the most evident sign of foot patrol. One officer "walking the beat" is often responsible for conducting foot patrols (Vail, 2010). The officer on patrol picks up a lot of information, such as which windows and doors are often closed in the neighborhood, which lights are typically left on at night, and which staff are permitted at certain times of day and in specific locations. This highlights the key benefit that the officer frequently and randomly places himself near high-risk regions, making it difficult for criminals to enter the area. Foot patrols were a method of law enforcement that frequently provided officers with chances to engage with the community they served, according to Groff et al (2013). According to Dahman (2015), police patrols serve as the public's first point of contact with the police by responding to aid requests, taking responsibility at crime scenes, and providing visible support on the streets.

2.2.2 Concept of Crime Prevention

Any effort intended to lower the actual level of crime and/or the perceived fear of crime is considered a form of crime prevention (Lab, 2010). In accordance with Article 3 of the United Nations' guidelines for preventing crime from 2002, crime prevention strategies and tactics aim to lessen the likelihood that crimes will be committed as well as any potential negative effects on people and society, including the fear of crime, by intervening to affect the various causes of crimes. This suggests that carefully thought out crime prevention techniques contribute to

the sustainable development of nations by preventing crime and victimization as well as promoting community safety.

According to van Dijk et al. (2016), "crime prevention" is also defined as the sum of all private activities and governmental policies, other than the application of criminal law, that are intended to lessen the harm caused by actions classified as criminal by the state. According to Murphy (2010), preventing crime not only addresses the root causes of offenses but may also do so in the long run in the most economical manner. Crime prevention encompasses all actions taken to lessen, discourage, or stop the commission of specific crimes. These actions include first changing the circumstances that led to the crime, then changing the circumstances that are believed to have caused it, and finally introducing a strong deterrent through a robust criminal justice system (Shiner et al. 2004).

Community policing, often referred to as involvement in action, calls for the participation of all residents of a community at all levels of government as well as the business sector. The expectancy, acceptance, and appreciation of a criminal scenario, as well as the formulation of a decision to alter and lessen it, are known to constitute crime prevention (Buchere et al., 2013). For the purposes of this study, the term "prevention of crime" refers to efforts to lessen and dissuade criminal activity. It is used when government officials work to reduce crime, uphold the law, and preserve public order (Buchere et al., 2011).

According to Perlmutt (2011), there are four different types of crime and delinquency prevention. Which are: Corrective prevention is an approach to crime prevention that aims to improve social factors that are thought to contribute to crime, such as by easing overcrowding, building livable communities, renovating slums, and offering community health centers and recreational facilities (Govender, 2012). Through the use of attorneys, police courts, jails, and the legal system, punitive prevention employs police to deter crime. Hardware like locks, doors, and burglar bars are emphasized in mechanical prevention. In order to lessen the likelihood of crime, environmental prevention modifies building design and the interaction of buildings with their surroundings. Punitive, corrective, mechanical, and environmental measures will almost certainly be used in a successful security plan; the latter two fall under the umbrella of "situational crime prevention."

2.2.3 Nature of foot patrols

There are various foot patrol strategies that are in use across the globe.

Saturation patrol

When conducting a saturation patrol, more police officers are stationed in a specific region than usual (Mugari, 2021). The purpose of this strategy is to deploy a significantly larger number of police officers in a location in order to cover it completely (Mugari, 2021). The goal is to boost the effectiveness of measures to prevent crime by preventing potential offenders from committing crime owing to the elevated chance of being apprehended (Mugari, 2021). Hess et al. (2017) claim that saturation patrols are an effective method for implementing foot patrols. They also asserted that this tactic takes use of increased police visibility in order to induce restraint in repeat criminals and lower concern offences. Morris et al. (2012:230), who stated that there is a connection between police visibility and crime reduction, backed this viewpoint. They came to the conclusion that "Police visibility must be increased to extremely high levels before crime preventive effects occur" based on study done in Kansas, USA, in 2004.

Maggio (2011) claimed that for patrol police to be effective, there must be persistence in the deployment formation in addition to simple saturation of the region with patrol officers. According to Maggio (2011), prolonged saturation patrols are more effective than brief ones since the latter have a deterrent effect on potential offenders. The Deterrence theory supports this idea, according to White (2015), who claimed that the theory argues that people respect the law out of fear of being detected and punished for their misdeeds. According to notions and theories put out, using saturation patrols as a beat patrol implementation approach has a significant deterrent effect on repeat and likely offenders.

Random patrol

According to Paterson et al. (2011), a random patrol technique can be utilized to establish patrols as a means of suppressing crime of concern. The patrol approach involves placing police officers on patrol in arbitrary locations at arbitrary times. In this method, patrols are conducted at random to make them unpredictable. As a result, criminals are put in an unexpected situation and find it challenging to plan how to get away from such patrols in order to perpetrate crimes (Paterson et al., 2015). The deterrent measure proposed by Paterson et al. (2011) may be used to lessen crime, in accordance with the deterrent theory. According to the Deterrent Theory, Paterson et al. (2011)'s deterrent measure may be used to reduce crime. The Bar Council of India (2011) put up the following argument in support of the theory: "The offender knows that if he violates the law he would be visited with penalty, and this fear in him causes him to behave as a normal human being."

The theory shows that under normal circumstances, human beings restrain from committing offences if there are clear indications that they can be caught. Random patrols are mainly used to prevent crime in general.

Directed patrol

Police also employ the directed patrolling method, which simply entails increasing visible patrols, whether in cars or on foot, in areas where it is anticipated that there will be an increase in crime (i.e., hot spots). Police officers on directed patrol are given instructions regarding target selection, patrol tactics, and other procedures to follow while on patrol (Mugari, 2021). The underlying assumption is that the presence of police patrols will deter would-be offenders. When used in conjunction with identifying the root causes of crime, this tactic has some success in lowering crime in high-risk areas. The directed patrols shouldn't involve aggressive and zero-tolerance policing, stopping, interrogating, frisking, and hunting for ways to arrest locals as much as possible in hotspots. Direct or directed patrols concentrate their attention on regions of your business that are vulnerable to security breaches or where crime has previously happened, according to Perry et al. (2013). Security staff can now concentrate on the parts of a firm that are most at danger. Direct patrol may also be carried out in reaction to security breach evidence, such as when a break-in is captured on CCTV. In order to attempt to address the situation quickly and safely, the security patrol will go immediately to that site rather than patrolling the entire region.

Hotspot patrol

According to Weisburd et al. (2012), hot-spot policing is a policing strategy that targets areas with disproportionately high crime rates and implements traditional policing tactics there, such as increasing the number of police officers and arrests. Hot spots policing: This tactic is predicated on the idea that placing patrols in neighborhoods with a higher crime rate will lower crime rates (Grossrieder et al., 2017; Ariel and Partridge, 2017). Patrolling hot areas can be found via statistical forecasting (also known as "predictive policing"), which is often done through geospatial and spatiotemporal crime analyses. Traditional hot spot analysis is covered in a handbook by the National Institute of Justice (Eck et al., 2005); predictive policing is covered in a more in-depth report and a brief guide by RAND (Perry et al., 2013). They argue that it is beneficial for agencies to view directed patrols as the initial stage in problem-oriented policing, gathering information on the issues that contributed to the region becoming a hotspot for crime rather than as an objective in itself.

According to Mugari (2021), hotspot policing is placing police officers on foot patrol in a particular region of a community where there is a high level of criminal activity. The fundamental argument is that only a few addresses or locations account for the majority of calls for police assistance in a given region, and if resources are concentrated in these locations, call volume will decrease and crime will be discouraged (Clarke et al., 2014). Officers can use a variety of information-gathering techniques, including speaking with locals to learn about potential hazards and issues related to crime as well as just observing and documenting potential crime-related environmental elements. The advantages of hotspot policing for crime control have been identified by systematic reviews of more than 40 experiments (Braga et al., 2019).

Active patrol

Active patrol is when security personnel frequently depart from a fixed position to routinely examine the perimeter and the surrounding area, observing the setting and spotting any potential security hazards. International Association of Crime Analysts (2013) states that when a problem is discovered, active patrols move immediately to bring it under control and make sure that it is reported, preventing a repeat of the incident. These patrols are beneficial in settings like offices because they typically take place frequently, almost on a rota-like basis (Mugari, 2021).

Beat patrol

A beat is the area that a police officer is tasked with patrolling in police jargon. In order to efficiently distribute the officers that are available across the territory of a law enforcement agency, beats are used (Practical Adult Insights, 2022). Police men walking their beats are a common theme in "policing in the good old days" images (Hoover, 2014: 119). However, "beat" can also be used to simply denote a defined area patrolled by a police officer using any means, such as an officer in a police car or police helicopter (Kochel et al., 2019). "Beat" frequently particularly refers to foot patrols or bicycle patrols.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The framework is going to discuss the theories that exist in relation to the conduct of foot patrols and perceived efficacy in crime prevention.

2.3.1 Routine Activities Theory

In 1979, criminologists Lawrence Cohen and Marcus Felson proposed the routine activity concept. Three conditions must be present for crime to occur: a suitable target, an insufficient guardian, and a likely motivated criminal (Cohen, 1979:589). In other words, a crime occurs whenever any one of these three factors occurs. According to routine activity theory, the likelihood of crime increases if all three components—a suitable target, the absence of an appropriate guardian, and a probable motivated offender—are present in the same location. On the other hand, if one of these components is missing, the likelihood of crime decreases. According to Cohen and Felson, "guardianship by ordinary citizens of one another and of property as they go about routine activities may be one of the most neglected elements in sociological research on crime, especially since it links seemingly unrelated social roles and relationships to the occurrence or absence of illegal acts." (Cohen et al. 1979:589).

The number of guardians who spend a significant amount of time at a residence during the day has declined, according to Cohen et al (1979), as a result of more women working in regular jobs. While mothers and fathers are at work and kids are in school for education, homes are frequently left unattended. Additionally, the number of familiar guardians, such as neighbors, family, or friends, has decreased due to the growth of suburban life and the speed at which traditional neighborhoods are disappearing. Therefore, when the authors refer to "routine activities," they indicate that people put themselves in situations throughout daily and routine activities of life that either increase or decrease their chance of becoming a victim of crime (Degarmo 2011:585–586). The theory of routine activities suggests combining time and location as a crucial component of criminal understanding of places of crime, particularly to conceptualize the situational features of crime.

Crime is a built-in component of our social structure because of the emphasis on situational characteristics, particularly of space (Degarmo 2011:585). The likelihood and distribution of criminal activity are influenced by the individuals we connect with, the locations we visit, and the activities we partake in. Crime is not inescapable even when there is a motivated criminal, a good target, and no guardianship. The idea contends that the presence of these three factors determines whether crime is more likely to occur or not. In conclusion, the trivet is what determines the extent of this property crime hypothesis. First, there is a higher chance of victimization in areas where the target is more visible and easily accessible. Second, individuals' risks and high rates of predatory crime can be reduced where self-protection or

guardianship is enabled at high levels. Third, less desirable targets pose a reduced probability of becoming victims of criminal activity than do people and objects with higher material or subjective value (Brunet 2002:69).

The Elements of Routine Activity Theory.

A crime picture is painted by three elements, according to the routine activity hypothesis. A suitable target would be the first one. Any property, person, or location that is appealing to and profitable to criminals can serve as a target. When something is visible, has a high value, and is simple to get, it may be very alluring. To put it another way, a suitable target is something that gives criminals an immediate benefit. This may be a woman walking home alone at night, an overpass that is just waiting to be vandalized, or a handbag or wallet that has been left on a chair in a restaurant while its owner exits to use the restroom (Daglar, 2016). The victim is a simple target that a determined criminal might approach with ease (NSW Attorney General, 2011). Criminals typically prefer not to engage in extensive planning but rather simply act upon an opportunity. Therefore, it can be said that choosing an appropriate target is crucial.

The absence of a competent guardian is the second component. According to Hollis-Peel et al. (2011), "guardianship" is defined as the actual or symbolic presence of a person (or group of people) who works to thwart a possible criminal activity. The effective guardian is someone or something that deters criminal activity. Examples include a friend, the police, illumination, locks, or an alarm system. However, if a guardian is ineffective, simply having them around won't be enough to stop an offender. We cannot argue, for instance, that a young child is a mother's guardian in the middle of the night on a calm street since the young child might not be deemed an effective guardian in such a scenario. The current multi-contextual criminal opportunity theory can be used to define guardianship specifically at both the person and environmental levels. According to Wilcox et al. (2003), interpersonal control refers to "the degree to which individuals and objects in a bounded locale can be observed and impeded from experiencing criminal acts because they are close to and exposed to agents of formal control, agents of informal control, and nonhuman protection devices." At the individual level, guardianship is defined as "possessing qualities that relate to social ties and interpersonal control." Environmental-level guardianships refer to "the collective degree to which individuals or objects in a bounded locale possesses qualities related to social ties and social control," where social control once more includes informal, formal, and nonhuman security (Wilcox et al., 2003:64).

The likely offender is the final component. There is a risk that a crime will occur when an appropriate target is left undefended by an experienced guardian. As a result, the last element in this picture is that a likely offender must be present for the crime to be committed. In other words, a potential offender will commit a crime once they have the right target in their hands at the right time and location without any guardians present. The hypothesis goes on to claim that the absence of only one of these three components will be enough to prevent effective criminal activity. Additionally, Cohen et al. (1979) made the case that modern society's shifting social and economic systems give motivated criminals more possibilities to commit crimes of various kinds.

In summary, according to routine activity theory, crime can only be committed if a likely offender thinks that a target is suitable and a capable guardian is absent. Daily and ordinary activities of life can put people in a situation which makes them easy victim of crime.

2.3.2 The broken windows theory

The broken windows theory states that visible signs of crime, anti-social behavior and civil disorder create an urban environment that encourages further crime and disorder, including serious crimes (Kelling et al, (1982). The theory suggests that policing methods that target minor crimes such as vandalism, loitering, public drinking, jaywalking, and fare evasion help to create an atmosphere of order and lawfulness.

The broken windows theory states that visible signs of disorder and misbehavior in an environment encourage further disorder and misbehavior, leading to serious crimes. The principle was developed to explain the decay of neighborhoods, but it is often applied to work and educational environments. The broken windows are a metaphor for any visible sign of disorder in an environment that goes untended. This may include small crimes, acts of vandalism, drunken or disorderly conduct, etc. Being forced to confront minor problems can heavily influence how people feel about their environment, particularly their sense of safety. The broken windows theory informed the researcher how foot patrols can use foot patrols to combat minor crimes which in turn deter the commission of bigger crimes in Masvingo Central Police District.

The Broken Windows Theory as advanced by Hess et al (2012) articulates that implementation of patrols to monitor urban environments to prevent small crimes such as vandalisms, public

drinking and toll jumping helps to create an atmosphere of order and lawfulness, thereby preventing more serious crimes of concern such as murder from happening.

2.3.3 The Zero Tolerance theory

The zero tolerance theory emphasize the role of informal social controls in helping contain crime in local neighborhoods (Kelling et al, 1982). The key note to this work is the ways in which routine minor incivilities and disorder such a vandalism and littering, are the basis of a vicious circle. According to Mugari (2021), the zero tolerance policing strategy consists of aggressive policing of minor problems such as public drinking, minor assaults, loitering and minor drug-related offences through strategies such as stop and search, questioning and arrests. The primary goal is to prevent these minor offences from degenerating into serious crimes. The zero tolerance strategy is however, not discerning, unlike other strategies, focus is on making stops and arrests to crack down on all types of disorder. The main basis is that the existence of the very low level offenses proves that the area is not well controlled, which in turn will manifest into more serious crimes. Therefore, according to Kelling et al (2006), the zero tolerance policing idea of policing employs strategies that seek to eradicate the social incivilities like disorderly conduct and minor offenses.

2.4 Empirical Evidence

Different researchers have conflicting opinions in analysing the effectiveness of foot patrols in reducing crimes of concern. From observations in previous studies, foot patrols are regarded as a preventive measure as well as a mere desperate measure.

The Kansas City Police Department (Missouri) (1973) conducted an experiment from October 1, 1972, through September 30, 1973, designed to measure the impact routine patrol had on the incidence of crime and the public's fear of crime. In the experimental locations, there were three controlled levels of regular preventive patrol. One region, known as "reactive," didn't get any proactive patrols. Only in response to public calls for help did officers enter the area. As a result, the police presence there was significantly reduced. Police visibility in the second region, referred to as "proactive," was boosted by two to three times the regular amount. The third region, called "control," had the same quantity of patrols as usual. Data analysis revealed that there were no significant variations between the three locations in terms of crime levels, policing attitudes, policing fears, policing response times, or policing response time satisfaction. According to the findings, the experiment's 60% of police officers' free time might

be employed for activities other routine patrol without having any detrimental effects on the public's safety. The experiment also shows that, as opposed to routine preventative patrol, deployment techniques should be based on specific crime

In a similar study, a foot patrol experiment called the Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment was carried out. It was as a randomized and controlled field experiment. Researchers used data from 2006 to 2008 to pinpoint the city's top concentrations of violent crime in 60 different sites. Following the creation of 120 foot patrol zones by police commanders, stratified randomization was used to designate pairs of foot patrols with comparable crime rates as either a target area or a control region. Officers patrolled in pairs, with two pairs assigned to each foot patrol, according to Ratcliffe et al. (2011). During the summer of 2009, they worked in two shifts from Tuesday to Saturday (10 am to 6 pm and 6 pm to 2 am). After three months, violent crime dropped 23% from the comparison locations. Official records of police activities during the intervention period reveal the following in the target areas: Drug-related detections increased by 15%, pedestrian stops increased by 64%, vehicle stops increased by 7%, and arrests increased by 13%. Even with some crime displacement to nearby locations, analysis indicated that the foot patrols prevented 53 violent crimes during the summer. Since the 1980s, it had long been the opinion of many police and criminology researchers that police foot patrols improve community perception of the police and reduce fear of crime, but they do not prevent actual crime. Results from the Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment suggested a more positive view of intelligence-led targeting of foot patrol officers to violent crime hot spots (Ratcliffe et al, 2011).

According to research on police patrol effectiveness done by Dahman (1975), there is evidence that patrols implemented in high-crime areas have been accompanied by crime levels that are lower than would have been anticipated based on past crime levels in the area, even though there is no consistent relationship between overt police patrol activity and official crime levels. Therefore, overt patrols should not be disregarded as a potential technique for reducing crime in high-crime regions.

The study conducted by (Ratcliffe et al, 2018) in Newark, New Jersey, showed that foot patrols in violent crime hot spots might significantly reduce violent crime rates. In sum, foot patrol has been shown to reduce citizen fear, increase citizen satisfaction, improve the attitudes of police officers, and improve job satisfaction among police officers (Kelling, 2018). In London, a

randomized controlled trial aimed at reducing crime and disorder was conducted at the 102 "hottest" bus stops (Ariel et al, 2017).

In the late 1980s, community policing, which mostly consisted of foot patrols, rose to prominence in Uganda. Dissatisfaction with police performance in the face of rising electrical items theft led to the creation of a pilot project. Kagoro (1997) conducted research on the efficacy of foot patrols and characterized them as a gentle relationship between the police and the population. Despite this, the survey also discovered that community policing, in particular, foot patrols, had become a widely accepted idea among both the people and the police. They had enhanced police-public relations, boosted police crime intelligence capabilities, and reduced the incidence of domestic violence.

Through researches conducted by the National Research Council in the United States of America (Washington), it was concluded that foot patrols was an unfocused community policing strategy that provided only weak moderate evidence of reducing fear of crime (Ratcliffe et al, 2011).

Prinsloo et al (2010) investigated and found out that in South Africa the rate of serious and violent crimes remained high. South African Police Service fails to transform from being a brutal pre-independence apartheid police to being a community sensitive contemporary service provider. In as much as the study's aim was to recommend ways of reducing crime, its finding reflected a need for considerable training on community policing issues broadly without zoning into foot patrols as being a means of reducing crimes of concern, precisely.

A similar study conducted by Bradley in 1998 as cited by Wakefield (2006) in his research on "Value of Foot Patrols", identified potential deficiencies in the training of policing agents in the areas of community policing. The study revealed alarmingly negative perceptions of the police among Afro-Caribbean and Pakistani participants in particular. On the same vein, the study was biased on training on community policing disregarding the fusion of foot patrols as a way to reduce crimes of concern.

A study by Reilly (2011) investigated on the effectiveness of foot patrol in the Downtown Yonge BIA in Canada. The findings of the research were that police presence and foot patrols affected the crime level by reducing sources of fear and crime. Furthermore, it concluded that the relationship between public and private organizations and individuals affected the levels of crime.

Nagin (2013) finds support for using increased police presence in small geographic areas to reduce crime. He argues that the evidence is clear that large changes in police presence strongly affect crime rates. The change in presence may be the result of an unplanned event, such as a terror alert that triggers a large increase in police officers in public spaces, or it may be a strategic response to a known crime problem, such as in hot spots policing deployments. In either case, crime rates are reduced in places where police presence has been materially increased.

Areil et al (2016) investigated the impacts of beat patrols on assault cases in Peterborough, England between 2014 and 2015. The study revealed that use of foot patrols reduces crimes. A similar study by Mugari and Thabana (2018) on foot patrols and crime prevention in Harare Central Business District: police officers' perspectives found that despite the advent of modern crime control methods, chiefly brought about by technological advancement, foot patrol has remained as one of the crucial crime prevention methods in both the developed and developing world. The study revealed that hot spot patrols and high visibility are the most widely used patrol initiatives in Harare CBD. Foot patrols were widely viewed to be effective in reducing specific crimes/problems such as assault, loitering, touts, plain robbery and pick pocketing. It was also felt that reduction in specific crimes within the central business district also lowers the aggregate crime levels for the whole city. Reduction in fear of crime and provision of a reassuring presence were also considered to be the major benefits of foot patrols by community representatives.

A study by Mwaeke (2019) in Kenya on the effectiveness of policing and the social costs of crime concluded that the ineffectiveness of policing was also costly to the police itself. The study made major recommendations to improve police effectiveness that include the establishment of a national team whose job is to frequently gather public views, refine them and turn good ones into public policy. The study also recommended for the national task force in consultation with the National Police Service Commission, be tasked with frequent benchmarking especially from developed countries on best policing practices and modern state of the art equipment to improve on police effectiveness.

2.5 Research Gap

All aforementioned researches are different from this research because they strived to investigate the effect of beat patrols, (through use of foot, bicycle and motorized patrols) in reducing crime.

Most of the researches were focusing on a particular crime of their choice, ignoring that there are several other crimes which were of concern to the police and the community at large. The cited empirical studies were done in small geographical areas in major urban towns. For example, the research by Mugari and Thabana (2018) investigated on the effectiveness of foot patrols in Harare Central Business District without considering their effectiveness residential locations and rural set ups. This research will focus particularly on the effects of foot patrols in reducing all the crimes in the whole of Masvingo Central Police District which incorporates the central business District and, rural and urban locations.

Ariel et al (2016) study had a very narrow scope; it was concerned with the effect of beat patrols in reducing Assault cases, only. It left out Murder, Rape and Unlawful Entry into Premises which are other crimes of concern to members of the public. The major weakness of this investigation is that it was targeted on a petty offence of assault. There was also no focus on foot patrol as a tool in crime reduction. Hence, the current research would look into the efficacy of all forms of foot patrols on crime reducing the general crime level in the whole Masvingo Central Police District.

2.6 Chapter Summary

The researcher looked at the conceptual framework with regard to foot patrols and their efficacy in crime reduction. The chapter also covered the broken windows theory, deterrence theory and the arousal theory which formed the basis of this study. Empirical findings by previous studies on the efficacy of foot patrols on crime reduction were also discussed. The next chapter seeks to explain the methodology, which was used for the research.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

A discussion of the research design was done in this chapter indicating how the researcher planned and conducted the study. The chapter also focused on the nature of the target population and the techniques which were used to generate the sample population. A conclusion was then provided on the overall framework for collecting data, data presentation and analysis and the ethical issues related to the research.

3.1 Research Design

Research design is one of the important components of the research study as it addresses the feasibility and capability of answering the research question (Ciesielska et al, 2018). Similarly, McMillan et al (2014) advanced that a research design is a plan for collecting data and interventions and the design that was used allowed the researcher to draw the most credible and valid conclusions from the responses to the research question. The researcher adopted the descriptive survey research design.

3.1.1 Descriptive Survey Research Design

Salaria (2012) defines descriptive survey research design as research that is devoted to the gathering of information about prevailing situations or conditions for the purpose of description and interpretation. This type of research method includes proper tabulating, analyses, interpretation, comparisons, identification of trends and relationships. Descriptive survey research design attempts to collect data from a target population in order to determine the prevailing status of that population with respect to one or more variables (Mugenda et al, 2015).

The method was chosen as it allowed the researcher to carry out interviews which easily covered a large population with much ease. This was in tandem with Vogt et al (2022)'s notion that when interviews are used to collect data, the method makes it possible for in-depth data to

be obtained as it facilitates for a face to face interaction with the respondent in which clarifications can be made there and then. Using a questionnaire was beneficial to this research because it was easier to construct, cheaper to administer and helped to reduce biasing errors that could be obtained through interviews (Fraenkel, et al, 2016). Questions were structured in an easily understandable manner thereby increasing the accuracy of responses to the topic under investigation (Johnson and Christensen, 2014). The research instrument was completed by the researcher who asked questions to the participants. This gave room for the researcher to probe for more answers, and lead to a shorter time on the respondent. The processing of data gathered through questionnaires was less complex than if the researcher had chosen other methods like observation.

3.2 Target Population

According to Brown et al (2015) population can be defined as a comprehensive group of individuals or objects having same characteristics that are the interest of a researcher. The target population for this study are police officers from Masvingo Central District, members of the Crime Liaison Committee and Business against Crime Forum of Zimbabwe for Masvingo, a city in the Sothern part of Zimbabwe. Masvingo Central District is the hub of the province's economic activities and mainly involving activities such as retailing, banking and manufacturing. The town also links traffic and all cross border travellers coming from Beitbridge to Harare, some to Chirundu, Zambia, Mutare and Bulawayo. There are provincial government institutions and security establishments situated in the town, thus situating it as the ideal location for conducting the study. The entire population of Masvingo Central Police District area is estimated to be 64600 (2022 Census), including 647 police officers stationed in the district.

3.3 Sample Population

According to Zambani (2021) a sample is a smaller set of data that the research chooses or selects from a large population. When choosing a sampling method there are certain things to look at that includes time and resources. Canals (2017), asserts that the decision about the size of the sample needs to consider time and cost, the need of precision, and a variety of further considerations. In this study, the researcher opted for a smaller sample taking consideration the resources available and time constraints hence judgemental sampling was selected. Groves et al (2011) averred that, in coming up with a sample population, not less than 10% fraction of the target population may be used. Guided by this notion, the researcher identified a sample

population of 65 police officers which is 10% of the target population composed of 647 officers. Additionally, the researcher took a sample of 12 members for interviews from regular police officers, Crime Liaison Committee (CLC), Business Against Crime Forum of Zimbabwe (BACFoZ) and Neighborhood Watch Committee (NWC) to make a total sample of 77.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

Sampling is the process by which a relatively small number of individuals, objects or events is selected and analysed in order to find out something about the entire population from which it was selected (Connaway et al 2010).

3.4.1 Stratified Random Sampling

Howell (2020) then described stratified sampling as being a probability sampling technique where the entire population is divided into subgroups or strata and then elements randomly selected proportionally from different strata. The researcher used ZRP Masvingo Central District nominal role to select a sample population as depicted in table 3.1 shown below. The target population was put into strata according to their ranks for ease of instituting a fair selection and sampling as espoused by Khan (2015). Two categories were drawn, one for supervisors being the ranks of Chief Inspector, Inspector and Assistant Inspector and another comprising patrol officers who were of the ranks of Sergeant and Constable. The area under study was subdivided according to police stations and their respective areas of policing. Table 3.1 shows the number of individuals that were selected to be part of the sample basing on their ranks.

Table 3.1 Sample distribution

Target group (Operational Officers)	Target population	Percentage sample	Sample size
Chief Inspectors	03	10%	01
Inspectors	10	10%	01
Assistant Inspectors	24	10%	02
Sergeants	98	10%	10
Constables	512	10%	51
Total	647	10%	65

Source: ZRP Masvingo Province Nominal Roll for December 2021: Sample size

The researcher used the stratified sampling because it affords all strata to have a proportionate representation among all ranks and promotes fairness in the selection. It is guaranteed that each subgroups of a given population were adequately represented within the whole sample population of a research study and measurements are more manageable when the population is grouped into strata.

Moreover, stratified sampling provided a higher statistical precision compared to simple random sampling because the inconsistency within the subgroups is lower compared to the variations when dealing with the entire population.

3.4.2 Purposive Non-random Sampling

The purposive non-probability sampling technique was used in coming up with 12 interview participants who included regular police officers, members of the CLC, BACFoZ and NWC. It is also called judgement sampling meaning it's a deliberate choice of a participant due to the qualities the participant possesses. Simply put, the researcher decides what needs to be known and sets out to find people who can and are willing to provide the information by virtue of knowledge and experience. This involves identification and selection of individuals that are proficient and well-informed with a phenomenon of interest (Etikan, 2016).

Table 3.2 shows the individuals that were carefully selected to be part of the sample basing on their knowledge on the crime patterns of their policing areas and how foot patrols are conducted and their impact crime reduction in the area.

Table 3.2: Non-random sample of respondents

Respondent	Number of respondents
CLC	03
BACFoZ	02
NWC	03
Police Officers	04
Total	12

Source: Primary Data

The purposive sampling technique was employed by the researcher to determine the efficacy of foot patrols in reducing crimes of concern in Masvingo Central District. Individuals were purposively selected since they are the ones responsible for conducting patrols in their respective areas of policing. Since regular police officers are the ones who are responsible for conducting foot patrols, the researcher took the largest sample as compared to other categories.

3.5 Research Instruments

Research instruments refers to any tool that can be used by a researcher to obtain, measure and analyse data. For the purpose of this study, the researcher will use interviews and questionnaires.

3.5.1 Questionnaires

According to Shkedi (2019) questionnaire can be defined as a research instrument used to collect data when carrying out a study or research and it consist of series of questions that evoke the purpose. Yin (2015) suggests that questionnaire is a research tool that consists of questions that helps a researcher to gather information required about the opinions of the respondent on the topic studied. Basically, questionnaires can be viewed as written down interview.

The questionnaires were made up mainly of closed ended questions. Closed-ended questions are those that require the respondent to choose from a predetermined set of responses or scale points.

Advantages of Questionnaires

The researcher opted for questionnaires owing the fact that they are inexpensive. Collecting information from a group of people is always challenging nonetheless easier with the use of questionnaires. The information collected using questionnaires was detailed comparing other methods and was less time consuming and efficient. Anonymity was guaranteed to the respondents by use of questionnaires hence critical and sensitive issues were answered truthfully. There was total freedom from bias since respondents gave their answers at their own free will. The same questionnaire form was used throughout the entire population hence there was uniformity and reliability in the questions structure. A permanent record was created by the answering to questions written down. The processing of data gathered through questionnaires was less complex than if the researcher had chosen other methods like observation. Honest responses were be obtained, and complex questions clarified.

Disadvantages of Questionnaires

Although many people are more comfortable with questionnaire when answering questions, their credibility is questionable (Yin, 2015). He goes further to state that people tend to mend the truth when responding to questionnaires in order to give a positive image of themselves. With this in mind, the researcher thoroughly explained to the respondents the purpose of the research and how it impacts various groups of people and organisations, hence the need for truthfulness. Questionnaires do not provide room for clarifying ambiguities. Therefore, there was a possibility of respondents misinterpreting certain questions leading to ambiguous responses or omitting to respond. To counter this, the researcher structured the questionnaires in such a way that they were easy to understand using simple and straight forward language.

3.5.2 In-depth-Interview Guide

Beam (2012) stated that interviews are a data collection tool in which a researcher interacts with subjects to the study in a question and answer session, in order to gather data pertaining to the topic under study. The researcher views this as a very useful tool. By use of face to face interviews, unclear answers could be clarified there and then, an observation which resonates with an assertion by Beam (2012) who stated that face to face interviews have an advantage of

facilitating for the clearing of ambiguities. The researcher initiated the interviews and used semi structured interview questions.

Advantages of Face to Face Interviews

Interviews allowed greater flexibility (compared to a questionnaire) in that the researcher was in a position to clarify questions and words that were misunderstood. By using interviews, the researcher was in a position to ensure that the interview is conducted in private. A response was guaranteed as all respondents reached was interviewed.

Disadvantages of Face to Face Interviews

Some junior members were not too free to express themselves for fear of being labeled as being confrontational to their commanders, therefore the researcher took time to explain the aspect of research ethics and confidentiality, so that they open up to air their views. Researchers may sometimes stray from the purpose of the research, however, in this study, interviews were guided by an interview guide and having an interview guide in place helped a researcher to stick to the research objectives and not stray from the purpose of the research being done.

3.6 Data Collection Procedures

Questionnaire

The researcher clearly explained to the respondents the reason for the study and thereafter distributed questionnaires to them. Enough time of 2 days was given to the respondents to complete the questionnaire and return it to the researcher. A representative from each class of respondents was chosen to collect the questionnaires and submit to the researcher.

Face to Face Interviews

A total of 12 interviews were conducted with some of the sample population. Interviewees were drawn from police officers, CLC, BACFoZ and NWC from Masvingo Central District since they have all recorded high figures of crimes of concern and contributed a lot to the reason behind the study. Proceedings during the interviews were recorded using a smartphone.

3.7 Validity and Reliability

Baumgarten (2013) posited that validity is concerned with the effectiveness or soundness of a data collection instrument, where the issue is to ascertain if the instrument is measuring the

concept or phenomenon accurately. In response, the researcher compiled a list of questions in the interview guide that addressed the research objectives. A pilot study was carried out first prior to the actual study, in which the instrument was found to be valid.

Baumgarten (2013) stated that reliability is concerned about whether a particular technique applied to the same object would yield the same results when repeated over and over again, under the same conditions. To verify the interview guide's reliability, the interview guide was administered on eight (8) fellow students, as a pilot project and the results showed consistency on the part of the instrument. Only eight (8) were selected as guided by Baumgarten (2013) who is of the view that a pilot study must make use of a reasonable number in order to do the pilot study prior to engaging on a full scale study.

3.8 Data Presentation and Analysis Procedures

Collected data from the interview sessions and questionnaires was considered raw henceforth data analysis helped in the interpretation. According to Akhtar (2016) analysing of data means studying the organised materials in order to determine inherent facts of meaning.

Once the instruments had been administered the researcher scored the data that had been collected and then organised it to facilitate analysis. Quantitative data was analysed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) to reveal descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and variance. Results were presented on tables for easy understanding.

Qualitative data analysis was used to complement the quantitative data analysis. The researcher used summative content analysis, a research technique for making valid and replicable inferences from texts or other meaningful matter to the context of their use. Content analysis was used to understand communication and some of the features of communication were to inform the recipients and cause behavioural changes or invoke feelings.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

When undertaking a research, it is critical for the researcher to seriously consider ethical issues. According to Anderson and Morrison (2011) ethics is that branch of philosophy relating to human conduct, with respect to the rightness or wrongness of certain actions, and to the badness or goodness of the motives and ends of such actions. In other words, these are guidelines for professional conduct or behaviour. According to Fadhel (2013) qualitative research is guided

by voluntary participation on informed consent, anonymity of the participant and confidentiality of the information divulged. Additionally, there should be protection of research participants against potentially harmful results and protection of privacy too. Therefore for this research, participants were assured that information acquired is to be used for academic purposes only and will be treated with strict confidentiality.

3.10 Chapter Summary

The chapter highlighted the research design, target population and sample population which were available for the research. The chapter further described the sampling techniques, research instruments and data collection procedures that the researcher used in conducting the research and the benefits of using such procedures, instruments and techniques. The chapter highlighted the validity and reliability of the study, data presentation and analysis procedures and the ethical considerations involved in the study. The next chapter will focus on data presentation, analysis and discussion.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter concentrated on the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the data collected on the efficacy of foot patrols on crime reduction in Masvingo Central District. The data was collected from interviews conducted and questionnaires distributed and presented through simple statistical tools which are tables.

4.1 Response rate

The data was collected from a sample size of 77 individuals using questionnaires and face to face interviews.

4.1.1 Questionnaire response rate

Information which illustrates questionnaire response rate is shown in table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Questionnaire response rate (N=65)

Questionnaire	Frequency	Percentage
Total number distributed	65	100
Returned fully answered	61	94

Source: Primary Data

As shown in table 4.1 above, questionnaires totaling 65 were distributed and 64 were returned, leaving 1 which the researcher could only refer to as lost. From the returned 64 questionnaires, 61 were duly completed indicating a 94% response rate whilst two were spoiled and one was partially answered and considered unusable.

The high response rate of 94% is attributed to a number of reasons. Considerable effort was put in making multiple follow ups of the questionnaires which the researcher personally handed over to and collected from the respondents. Sampled individuals showed enthusiasm to dedicate their time to participate in the research. Simple language was used by the researcher and respondents found it easy to respond to the questionnaire. However, a very few individuals seemed to lack interest as evidenced by some questionnaires which were not returned and some which were partially answered.

4.1.2 Face to face interview response rate

Interviews were carried out with people from various backgrounds. Table 4.2 below illustrates the interview schedule as planned.

Table 4.2: Face to face interview schedule (N= 12)

	Frequency	Response rate
Scheduled interviews	12	100
Interviews conducted	11	91
Cancelled interviews	1	9

Source: Field Data

As shown in the table 4.2 above, 12 interviews were scheduled, however, the researcher managed to conduct 11 interviews due to the fact that some of the intended interviewees were busy with other commitments. Therefore, it is shown that 91% of the scheduled interviews were successful. This can be attributed to the fact that the researcher made appointments with respondents targeted for interviews at their convenient timings to ensure a high response rate.

4.2 Demographic characteristics

The section dealt with demographic data that included age group, gender, rank and educational qualifications and length of service. The results are as presented in table 4.3 below.

Table 4.3: Demographic characteristics (N=61)

Variable		Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	38	62.3
	Female	23	37.7
	Total	61	100
Age	Below 25	05	8.2
	25 to 30	10	16.4
	31 to 35	20	32.8
	36 to 40	14	23
	Above 40	12	19.7
	Total	61	100
Educational Level	O&A Level	35	57.4
	Certificate	10	16.4
	Diploma	07	11.5
	Undergrad	11	18.0
	Postgrad	02	3.3
	Total	61	100
Rank	Assistant Inspector to Chief Inspector	04	6.6
	Sergeants	09	14.8
	Constables	48	78.7
	Total	61	100

Length of service	Above 16 years	11	18.0
	13 to 16 years	13	21.3
	9 to 12 years	15	24.6
	4 to 8 years	18	29.5
	Below 4 years	8	13.1
	Total	61	100

Source: Primary Data

The statistics in table 4.3 above indicate that out of a total of 65 respondents, 39 were male and 26 were female culminating into 62.3 % males and 37.7 % females. The 31- 35 age group had the highest number with 32.8%, followed by the 36-40 age group with 23%, above 40 age groups had 19.7 % each, the 25-30 age group had 16.4 % and the below 25 age group with 8.2 %. Furthermore, 57.4 % had O and A level, 18.0 % had undergraduate degrees, 16.4 % had acquired certificates, 11.5 % respondents had diplomas and 3.3 % had postgraduate qualifications. Finally, the statistics indicate that 29.5 % of the respondents had between 4 to 8 years in the force, 24.6 % were between 9 to 12 years in service, 21.3 % were between 13 to 16 years in the force, 18 % were above 16 years in the force and 13.1 % were below 4 years of service.

The findings of the research also indicates that the dominant number of respondents were constables (78.7 %), followed by Sergeants (14.8 %) and lastly Assistant inspector to chief inspector (6.6 %).

The researcher drew inferences that it is mainly sergeants and constables who are hands on in the conduct of foot patrols. Considering that the sample was chosen from police officers from operational stations, it is also the junior ranks who are involved in the day to day crime prevention activities and therefore could be accessed by the researcher. The statistics also illustrate that as the age increases, the number of respondents decrease. This may imply that as age increases police officers tend to leave the organization on retirement or in search for greener pastures and other get promoted to higher ranks.

Inferences were also drawn by the researcher that a large number of respondents was drawn from those with a service of between 4 to 12 years of service were mainly constables and sergeants who are operational officers. A very small sample came from those below 4 years of service and it was implicated on the suspended or low recruitments by the organization. A smaller percentage was drawn from members above 16 years of service and this usually constitutes senior members who are Assistant Inspectors to Chief Inspectors and senior sergeants with administrative roles. The findings from this research indicate that generally a greater number of individuals who conduct foot patrols are men. This can also imply that the majority of people who can appreciate the efficacy of foot patrols are men. It is also the researcher's opinion that the respondents' higher levels of education exhibited in the research entails that the respondents are subjects who can at least read and write. Therefore, the understanding of the questions was guaranteed and also they appreciate well the conduct of foot patrols and the resultant impacts.

4.3 The conduct of foot patrols

The researcher sought to find out the types of patrols usually conducted by the police and how often they are being utilized in Masvingo Central District. The majority of respondents indicated that they are mostly involved in saturation patrols, hotspot and beat patrols. Table 4.4 shows descriptive statistics of types of patrols used in crime reduction.

Table 4.4: Descriptive statistics on the types of foot patrols in use (N = 61)

Type of foot patrol	Very low	Low usage	Moderate usage	High usage	Very high usage	Mean	SD	Variance
	1	2	3	4	5			
	%	%	%	%	%			
Beat	4.9	8.2	13.1	31.1	42.6	3.98	1.162	1.350
Saturation	0	6.6	9.8	6.6	77.0	4.54	0.923	0.852
Hotspot	0	0	18.0	49.2	32.8	4.15	0.703	0.495
Random	1.6	0	49.2	32.8	16.4	3.62	0.820	0.672
Directed	0	41.0	45.9	8.2	4.9	1.82	0.785	0.617
Active	41.0	36.1	23.0	0	0	2.77	0.804	0.646

Source: Primary Data

Saturation patrol obtained a mean statistic of 4.54 ± 0.923 , with an overwhelming majority of 77% indicating that it has a very high usage rate. Hotspot patrol has a very high usage, as shown by mean statistics of 4.15 ± 0.703 and 49.2%. The Beat patrol mean statistic of 3.98 ± 1.162 and 42.6% indicated that its usage rate is very high. Random patrol has a mean statistic of 3.62 ± 0.820 and 2.8% indicating that its usage rate is high.

Directed patrol has a mean statistic of 1.82 ± 0.785 , with an average of 45.9%, indicating that it has moderate usage. Active patrol has a mean statistic of 2.77 ± 0.804 , with a 41% respondents indicating that it has a very low usage. Respondents' views are explained as below:

Saturation patrols

Saturation patrols are a widely used type of patrol in Masvingo Central District as reflected by the views obtained from the respondents. Data collected from interviews indicate that saturation patrols are the main method used by police officers in Masvingo to deter criminal activities and police officers are seen to be visible in all areas. *"Saturation patrols proved to be effective during the covid 19 outbreak, I saw more police officers regularly patrolling neighborhoods and business centres to ensure that the set regulations were adhered to. All the beer outlets and restaurants were closed and everything was under control"*. The goal of this tactic is to place substantially increased number of police personnel in an area to saturate it with coverage (Mugari, 2021). Maggio (2011) stated that in order for them to be effective, there must be persistency in the deployment formation. He further argued that short lived saturation patrols are less effective than persistent ones as the later have a deterrent effect on likely offenders. An explanation of this is can be done with reference to the Routine Activities theory by Renauler (2007) which states that crimes are considered normal activity when an opportunity arises. If the victim is available with no protection, then that situation will lead to criminal activity if the victim has value. The main principle is that opportunity is the causation of crime, and the social control theory main principle is to cancel all opportunities by saturating the area with police officers on patrol.

Hotspot patrols

Majority of respondents proved that hotspot patrols are widely used in Masvingo Central District as revealed by their views. Data collected from interviews indicated that hotspot patrols are conducted in all places where there are higher crime rates. One of the interview participants had this to say *"We were usually deployed to arrest shebeens which had emanated due to the closure of beer outlets as a result of the covid 19 outbreak. These shebeens had become havens for criminal activity"*. The other respondent said, *"Police officers are usually deployed at illegal gold mining sites where criminals hide and commit other new crimes"*. According to Weisburd et al (2012), hot-spot policing is explained as a policing strategy based on sites in which traditional policing strategies, such as increasing the number of police officers and arrests, are implemented in places where crime rates are disproportionately higher than in other

locations within a jurisdiction. A study by Mugari and Thabana (2018) revealed that hot spot patrols and high visibility are the most widely used patrol initiatives in Harare CBD. Foot patrols were widely viewed to be effective in reducing specific crimes/problems such as assault, loitering, touts, and plain robbery and pick pocketing. It was also felt that reduction in specific crimes within the central business district also lowers the aggregate crime levels for the whole city. This is supported by the Zero Tolerance Theory which is derived from Wilson et al (1982) 'Broken Windows Thesis', which emphasised the role of informal social controls in helping contain crime in local neighbourhoods. A zero tolerance strategy consists of aggressive policing of minor problems such as public drinking, public disorder situations, minor assaults, loitering, vandalism, and minor drug-related offenses, through strategies such as stopping, questioning, searching, and arrests (Mugari, 2021).

Beat Patrols

The majority of the responses revealed that beat patrols have a high usage in Masvingo central District as a measure to reduce crime. Some interview participants referred to beat patrols as a punitive method of patrol because of the rigorous checks made by the superiors and the strict use of foot to cover the area. One of the interview participants had this to say, *"We do beat patrols regularly but it seems the beat method is for punishing us, it would be very fair for us to do beats using motor vehicles"*. As a result of this perception from the majority of respondents, beat patrols have the potential for failure because those executing it tend to aim at meeting the target check points. Kochel et al (2019), clearly explains beat by referring specifically to foot patrols or bicycle patrols whilst it can also be used to describe a designated area patrolled by a police officer through any means, such as a police officer in a car or police aircraft. It is evident from the findings from the respondents that they are conducting beat patrols but they wish conduct them using different methods apart from the commonly used foot patrol method with regard to conditions such as weather and time of the day. Ratcliffe et al (2011)'s research findings in the Philadelphia Foot patrol Experiment can be equated to the Masvingo Central District policing area where beat patrols were successfully used to reduce criminal activity. Foot patrol has been shown to reduce citizen fear, increase citizen satisfaction, improve the attitudes of police officers, and improve job satisfaction among police officers.

Random Patrols

A considerable number of respondents revealed that random patrols are highly in use in Masvingo central police district. Responses from interview participants indicated that police supervisors deploy their manpower randomly in areas where they feel that crime is on the rise. One of the interview respondents said, *“Police officers usually do random patrols at ranks and bus terminuses to arrest touts and vendors and this has brought sanity especially in the Central Business District”*. This then poses an element of surprise on criminals who also find it difficult to plan how they will evade such patrols in order to commit crimes (Paterson et al, 2015). In London, a randomized controlled trial aimed at reducing crime and disorder was conducted at the 102 "hottest" bus stops (Ariel and Partridge, 2017). The findings of this research were that randomised patrols are an effective way of reducing crime. The Broken Windows Theory as advanced by Hess and Orthmann (2012) articulates that implementation of patrols to monitor urban environments to prevent small crimes such as vandalisms, public drinking and toll jumping helps to create an atmosphere of order and lawfulness, thereby preventing more serious crimes of concern such as murder from happening.

4.4 The efficacy of foot patrols

Respondents were asked to indicate the significance of the given factors and the results are presented on table 4.5. Table 4.5: Descriptive statistics on the efficacy of foot patrols (N=61)

Efficacy of foot patrols	Not Significant	Slightly Significant	Fairly Significant	Significant	Very Significant	Mean	SD	Variance
	1	2	3	4	5			
	%	%	%	%	%			
Reduce fear of crime	70.5	21.3	6.6	0	1.6	1.41	0.761	0.579
Increase crime awareness	0	0	13.1	44.3	42.6	4.30	0.691	0.478
Police-public relations	1.6	8.2	60.7	29.5	0	3.18	0.646	0.417
Detecting Crime	70.5	14.8	8.2	4.9	1.6	1.52	0.959	0.920
Quick solving of crime	1.6	0	4.9	4.9	88.5	4.79	0.686	0.470

Source: Primary data

Quick solving of crime obtained a mean statistic of 4.79 ± 0.686 , and indicated that 88.5% of the respondents were of the view that foot patrols are very significant on quick solving of crime.

Increase in crime awareness also obtained a mean statistic of 4.30 ± 0.691 and indicated that 42.6% of the respondents believed that foot patrols are very significant in increasing crime awareness. Police-public relations obtained a mean statistic of 3.18 ± 0.646 and indicated that 60.7% of the respondents viewed foot patrols as fairly significant on crime reduction. Respondents felt that detecting crime and reducing fear of crime were not significant effects of foot patrol, with mean statistics of 1.52 ± 0.959 and 1.41 ± 0.761 respectively and both 70.5%. Respondents' views are as explained below:

Majority of interview respondents indicated that foot patrols are useful in quick solving of crime. Some of the respondents said foot patrols are significant in increasing crime awareness while others indicated that they are significant in improving police-public relations.

Crimes are solved very quickly through foot patrols as indicated by the views obtained from respondents. Views from interviews revealed that when a crime occur whilst police officers are on patrol, it is easy for them to attend since they will be already in the area. One of the interview respondents said, *"It is easier for us to get assistance from the police whenever a crime is committed because they are always within us patrolling the area. A week ago, the police with the use of dogs on patrol, apprehended a suspect who had broken into a house and stole a television set"*. Patrols serve mainly three distinct functions which are; to deter crime, to improve visibility and make officers available for service, and to enhance the feelings of public safety (Cowell, 2015). This is supported by Walker and Katz (2002) who notes that police departments rely on foot patrols to proactively reduce crime and improve relations with community members. Therefore, quick solving of crime being the most popular impact of foot patrols implies that, patrols must be utilised for quicker response to crime.

Increasing crime awareness is another significant effect of foot patrols as alluded by the respondents. One respondent said, *"When we are on patrol, we educate people on the importance of installing security systems at their premises and how intruders take advantage of security breaches"*. This response is supported by Dahman (2015), who opines that it is the police patrol which offers the frontline of police operations to the consumer, the public, answering calls for assistance, taking charge at the scene of a crime and offering visible support on the streets. Thus police patrols offer visible support by bringing crime awareness to the public.

The majority of respondents showed that police-public relations improves significantly as a result of foot patrols. One of the non-police interview respondents said, *"Nowadays people can*

freely talk to the police making reports and giving information they require because they are more of friends, they are part of the community. The people no longer fear them". Smith and Scott (2013) opines that despite the evolving nature of policing strategies, visible engagement of police with the public has long been an important aspect of policing. This is supported by a study conducted in Uganda which revealed that foot patrols had improved the relationship between police and the public, increasing the police crime intelligence capacity and decreased domestic violence cases.

4.4.1 Uses of foot patrols

The study requested respondents to point out the uses of foot patrols based on their understanding and knowledge and the findings are shown on table 4.6 below:

Table 4.6: Uses of foot patrols (N=61)

Uses of foot patrol	Never	Not often	Often	Very often	Always	Mean	SD	Variance
	1	2	3	4	5			
	%	%	%	%	%			
State of emergency	23.0	67.2	6.6	3.3	0	1.90	0.651	0.423
Disaster awareness	1.6	0	3.3	65.6	29.5	4.21	0.661	0.437
Counter insurgency	63.9	27.9	8.2	0	0	1.44	0.646	0.417
General engagement with the public	0	0	11.5	13.1	75.4	4.64	0.684	0.468
Crime awareness	0	0	6.6	16.4	77.0	4.70	0.587	0.345

Source: Primary Data

Crime awareness had a mean statistic of 4.70 ± 0.587 and shows that 77.0% of respondents indicated that foot patrols are always used to enhance crime awareness. The same applies to general engagement with the public which obtained a mean statistic of 4.64 ± 0.684 with 75.4% of respondents indicating that foot patrols are always used for general engagement with the public. Disaster awareness was also viewed as very often a use of foot patrol with a mean statistic of 4.21 ± 0.661 indicating 65.6% respondents.

Respondents admitted that foot patrols are not often used in a state of emergency with a mean statistic of 1.90 ± 0.651 obtained from 67.7% of the respondents. Respondents' views indicated that foot patrols are never used for counter insurgency, with a mean statistic of 1.44 ± 0.646 obtained from 6.9% of the respondents. Respondents' views are explained below:

Most of the interview respondents indicated that foot patrols are always used for crime awareness, whilst some of them said they used foot patrols for general engagement with the public. The other group of respondents pointed out that they used foot patrols for fostering disaster awareness and to combat emergency situations.

Majority of respondents indicated through their responses that crime awareness is always the motive behind foot patrols in Masvingo Central police District. Most of the interview respondents pointed out that it is their duty as police officers to bring conscience to members of the public about what constitute crime and the negative effects of committing crime. They were also showing interest on proactive policing than reactive policing where people are advised to desist from crime. One of the interview respondent said, *“Most of the time we have to move around the locations teaching people about crime especially sexual related offences. The area has some religious groups which do not know about these offences hence we have to educate them. Moreover we also teach people on the ways to protect their property from theft, especially when they are not around and at night”*. Hence it is evident from the respondents’ views that public awareness campaigns during foot patrols are a very effective way of reducing crime. As supported by Buchere et al (2013), crime prevention is an important approach that should consider the use of public awareness campaigns as preventative measures to diminish crime.

Most of the respondents provided responses to the effect that foot patrols are always used for general engagement with the public. Through interview responses, it was observed that the public wish to engage with the police so that they feel at ease to provide support on crime prevention. One of the interview respondents said, *“The general public is now appreciating the role of the police and they are now comfortable to report their cases because we engage with them on a daily basis. The much required information about crime is now easier to obtain from them”*. From the responses it is clear that engagement of police with the public through foot patrols has yielded considerable results in terms of crime prevention. Scott et al (2013) supports this view and opines that despite the evolving nature of policing strategies, visible engagement of police with the public has long been an important aspect of policing and according to Mugari and Thabana (2018), this makes police patrols a central aspect of policing, which accounts for a significant proportion of police work.

Views obtained from majority of respondents indicate that foot patrols are very often used for conducting disaster awareness and dealing with emergency situations. Most of the interview respondents revealed that during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, police were patrolling neighborhoods disseminating information of the presence of the deadly virus and the need to remain in their homes. One of the non-police interview respondents said that, *“If it was not the intensive police patrols during the covid 19 outbreak, people would have ignored the containment regulations and measures. Police were firm on the ground making sure that they inform the public on the need to stay indoors and stop the spread of the pandemic”*. Thus disaster awareness and emergency remain one of the effective use of foot patrols. From the respondents’ views, crimes related to the covid 19 regulations were reduced significantly as a result of foot patrols

4.5 Challenges hindering the efficacy foot patrols

The researcher sought to explore the challenges faced on the conduct and implementation of foot patrols and the findings are as highlighted on the table 4.7 below:

Table 4.7: Descriptive statistics of challenges encountered on foot patrols (N=61)

Challenges encountered	No Impact	Very low impact	Low impact	Moderate impact	High impact	Mean	SD	Variance
	1	2	3	4	5			
	%	%	%	%	%			
Limited manpower	0	0	8.2	11.5	80.3	4.72	0.609	0.371
Inadequate resources	1.6	0	14.8	24.6	59.0	4.39	0.862	0.743
Lack of training	60.7	18.0	19.7	1.6	0	1.62	0.860	0.739
Lack of motivation	8.2	18.0	13.1	11.5	49.2	3.75	1.434	2.055
No clear objectives	65.6	24.6	8.2	0	1.6	1.48	0.788	0.620
Inadequate supervision	21.3	41.0	14.8	13.1	9.8	2.49	1.247	1.554

Source: Primary data

Limited manpower had a mean statistic of 4.72 ± 0.609 , with 80.3% of the respondents indicating that a limited manpower challenge had a high impact on the efficacy of foot patrols. The same view was obtained on inadequate resources, with a mean statistic of 4.39 ± 0.862 with 59% of the respondents indicating that the challenge of inadequate resources has a high impact

on the efficacy of foot patrols. Lack of motivation also had a high impact on the efficacy of foot patrol with a mean statistic of 3.75 ± 1.434 and 49.2% of respondents of the view that lack of motivation was challenge with a high impact on the efficacy foot patrol. A very low impact was observed on inadequate supervision, with a mean statistic of 2.49 ± 1.247 where 41.0% of the respondents were of the view that inadequate supervision had a very low impact on the efficacy of foot patrols. Respondents were also of the view that having no clear objectives and lack of training had no impact on the efficacy of foot patrol with a mean statistic of 1.48 ± 0.788 and 1.62 ± 0.860 respectively on results obtained from 65.6% and 60.7% of the respondents respectively. Respondents' views are explained below:

The majority of respondents indicated that limited manpower poses a high impact on the conduct of foot patrols. Majority of interview respondents alluded that there is a general strain on the available manpower hence hindering successful deployment of patrols. One of the interview respondent highlighted that *"Whilst patrols are very effective on crime reduction, it is not a secret that police officers are leaving the organization on a daily basis and recruitment is almost at a halt hence manpower shortages remain high. Patrols cannot be done with such shortages"*. This response is in line with the sentiments of Mugari (2021), who pointed out that the goal of saturation patrols is to place substantially increased number of police personnel in an area to saturate it with coverage. Hence with a limited manpower, saturation patrols cannot be successful. The respondents' views are in tandem with the element of guardianship outlined in the Routine Activities Theory where Guardianship is defined as the physical or symbolic presence of an individual (or group of individuals) that acts (either intentionally or unintentionally) to deter a potential criminal event (Hollis-Peel et al. 2011:4). A limited manpower therefore results in an increased absence of guardianship in neighborhoods.

Majority of respondents reiterated on the problem of limited resources which hinders the successful conduct of foot patrols. Majority of interview respondents also indicated that foot patrols are affected negatively by a shortage of resources. One of the interview respondents highlighted that *"The station has no motor vehicle to back the limited number of officers who will be on patrol. They need a motor vehicle to ferry accused persons to station, as well as a means of communication since radios are not functioning well. With a few resources, police officers become reluctant to make arrests, hence the patrols will be of no value"*. A study by Mwaeke (2019) in Kenya on the effectiveness of policing indicated that the challenge of limited resources hinder police effectiveness. Moreover the respondents' views are supported by the findings by Ratcliffe (2011) from the Philadelphia foot patrol experiment which indicated that

the police were given adequate resources to patrol 60 locations and the results was that crime reduced by 23% during the period. Thus limited resources impact heavily on the efficacy of foot patrols.

Almost half of the respondents were bold enough to highlight that foot patrols do not succeed mainly because they lack motivation to conduct them. Interview respondents were however clear that they were highly demotivated and had grievances to be addressed which deter them from performing well. One of the respondents said, *“We are not considered for paid deployments like United Nations duties, it’s only those in offices who are recognised. Even after spending a week doing patrols, we are only given a day time off which is not enough. I don’t even know who will come to recognise our efforts”*. It is therefore, the writer’s opinion that lack of motivation has a lot of negative impacts on the efficacy of foot patrols. Fortenbery (2015), supports this when highlighted that the nature of the job of policing can result in officer burnout, followed by a decrease in the motivation to perform. He further stated that recruits starting out in law enforcement with a strong desire to serve the noble cause easily can be swayed toward mediocrity by the contagiousness of other jaded officers

4.6 Recommended measures for improving the efficacy use of foot patrols

The researcher prompted the respondents to provide recommendations on the ways in which foot patrols can be used to enhance efficacy on crime reduction and the findings are shown on table 4.8 below:

Table 4.8: Descriptive statistics on the Recommended measures (N=61)

Recommended measures	Not Effective	Less effective	Slightly effective	Effective	Very effective	Mean	SD	Variance
	1	2	3	4	5			
	%	%	%	%	%			
Public engagement	0	0	18.0	29.5	52.5	4.34	0.772	0.596
Adequate resource Allocation	1.6	0	9.8	26.2	62.3	4.48	0.808	0.654
Constant supervision	65.6	32.8	1.6	0	0	1.36	0.517	0.268
Setting of performance targets	59.0	16.4	8.2	9.8	6.6	1.89	1.292	1.670
Motivation of personnel	0	0	24.6	29.5	45.9	4.21	0.819	0.670

Source: Primary Data

The majority of the participants indicated that adequate resource allocation, public engagement and motivation of personnel are very effective measures recommended to enhance the efficacy of foot patrols, with a percentage rating of 62.3%, 52.5% and 45.9% respectively. This shows that the majority of the respondents concurred that these were the most effective ways of improving the efficacy of foot patrols. Respondents' views are explained below:

Views obtained from the majority of respondents indicated that adequate resource allocation is very effective in improving the efficacy of foot patrols. Majority of interview respondents highlighted that allocation of adequate resources is the best way to improve the conduct of foot patrols. One of the interview respondents said that, *"The government must provide the police with enough resources such as motor vehicles, communication tools, uniforms, electronic surveillance devices and protective clothing so that they perform their work without hinderances"*. These same sentiments were echoed in the findings of a research by Mwaeka (2019) which suggested that modern state of the art equipment is required to improve on police effectiveness. If resources are provided and properly utilised, patrols will be effective I reducing crime.

Respondents also indicated that public engagement is a very effective tool for improving the efficacy of foot patrols. Most of the interview respondents alluded that the police can't work in isolation, thus they need the public in the fight against crime. One of the interview respondents said, *"As police officers, we have to work hand in hand with the public so that patrols won't be in vein. We need information from members of the public"*. The other non-police respondent also said, *"If the police engages well with the public and stop harassing them, foot patrols are capable of yielding positive results"*. This concurs with Gross et al (2013) that foot patrol was an approach to law enforcement that frequently granted police opportunities to be directly involved with the community they served. These findings are in tandem with the findings from a study by Reilly (2011), which concluded that the relationship between public and private organizations and individuals affected the levels of crime. This, from the researcher's view, generally means that the public is always ready to assist the police wherever possible if the police provide a favorable platform for engagement.

A number of respondents indicated that motivation of personnel is recommended to improve the efficacy of foot patrols. Majority of interview respondents highlighted that if they were given some form of motivation, they were prepared to do their job wholeheartedly. One of the non-police interview participants said that, *"police officers must be rewarded every time they*

excel in their duties so that they feel motivated to do more”. This is in tandem with Fortenbery (2015)’s findings that extrinsic rewards like pay raises and educational and longevity pay, often are considered motivators. The intrinsic factors of praise and recognition for job well done can help improve officers’ attitudes and increase their desire for doing the job (Fortenbery, 2015).

4.7 Chapter Summary

This chapter presented and interpreted the data collected from questionnaires and interviews, highlighting the major findings of the research. The next chapter will summarize the research findings, make conclusions and recommendations and finally highlight areas for further study.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This is the final chapter which summarizes the study and research findings and gives research based conclusions. The chapter also gives recommendations on areas of improvement and areas of future research.

5.1 Summary of the study

The main focus of the study was to investigate the efficacy of foot patrols on crime reduction in Masvingo Central police district as a case study. The fact that crime levels remained high despite intensive efforts by the police in conducting foot patrols, particularly in Masvingo Central district, motivated the researcher to carry out the research. On that note, the study sought to describe foot patrols in Masvingo Central police district, determine the efficacy of foot patrols, identify challenges hindering the conduct of foot patrols and recommend appropriate measures to enhance the efficacy of foot patrols.

The study covered the nature and forms of foot patrols and the concept of crime prevention. The researcher utilized three theories which buttressed the study and these are the routine activities theory, the broken windows theory and the zero tolerance theory. Empirical evidence provided by other researchers in relation to the efficacy of foot patrols on crime reduction was also reviewed and resultantly a research gap was identified.

A descriptive survey research design was used to understand the uses of foot patrols and their impact on crime reduction. The researcher used a sample of 77 participants using stratified random and purposive non-random sampling techniques to select the participants. Questionnaires and face to face interviews were used to collect data for the study. The researcher used statistical package for social sciences package to analyze quantitative data and used summative content analysis for qualitative data.

5.2 Summary of findings

It was found from the data that foot patrols are conducted in Masvingo central district. It was found that saturation, hotspot and beat patrols are the most conducted forms of patrol. These forms of patrol are most preferred because of their intensive nature and emphasis they put on results. The study also found out that majority of respondents believe that foot patrols are required as a crime prevention strategy.

The study found out that foot patrols gives a very significant for quick solving of crime. Police officers on patrol were useful on resolving crime which occur whilst they are in an area. It was also found that foot patrols helps to increase crime awareness to citizens very significantly. During their patrols, police officers were advising residents and business people of the presence of criminals in their areas and how to get rid of them. It found out that police-public relations is also significantly affected by foot patrols. People increased their trust of the police and felt that they were safe. The study found that detecting crime and reducing fear of crime are not significant benefits of foot patrols. Crime detection and reduction of fear of crime were believed to call for other strategies other than foot patrols.

The study found that crime awareness is always the use of foot patrols. The study found out that general engagement with the public is always a use of foot patrols. There are police departments like the victim friendly unit and the police public relations department who are usually involved in patrols so that they help build relations with the public. It was found that disaster awareness and emergency responses are always the uses of foot patrols. Foot patrols were used for disaster awareness during the covid-19 era. The study also found that counter insurgency and state of emergency are often the uses of foot patrols despite the fact that they were not in use in Masvingo central district at the moment.

The study found challenges which hinders or affect the conduct of foot patrols. It was found that limited manpower for high visibility patrols has a high impact on the conduct of foot patrols. There was high staff turnover due to retirements and no recruitment was being done. It was found that inadequate resources has a high impact on the conduct of foot patrols. There were no motor vehicles to back up officers on patrol. The study found that lack of motivation had a high impact on the conduct of foot patrols. Police officers who do the patrols were neglected while those in offices were recognized during paid duty deployments. It was found that inadequate supervision had a very low impact on efficacy of foot patrols.

The police officers indicated that they were able to work with no supervision when provided with enough resources. The study found that lack of training and having no clear objectives have no impact on the efficacy of foot patrols.

The study found that adequate resource allocation, public engagement and motivation of personnel are the effective ways to enhance the efficacy of foot patrols. It was also found that setting of performance targets and constant supervision of personnel are not effective ways to enhance the efficacy of foot patrols.

5.3 Conclusions

Making judgments from the data obtained from the respondents, foot patrols are being conducted in Masvingo central district. The most conducted forms of patrol are saturation, beat and hotspot patrol because they are intensive, have high coverage and are result oriented. Majority of respondents consider patrols as an effective way of crime reduction.

Results of the study reveal that foot patrols are used regularly as a method for reducing crime. Foot patrols are very significant on quick solving of crime, general engagement with the public and crime awareness.

Despite yielding positive effects on crime reduction, there are also challenges which hinders the efficacy of foot patrols. Therefore there is need to devise strategies to deal with these challenges. It is concluded that allocation of adequate resources, public engagement and motivation of personnel are very effective ways to enhance the efficacy of foot patrols.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the views gathered from the respondents and the above conclusion, the researcher is of the opinion that the following measures must be put in place to enhance the efficacy of foot patrols.

5.4.1 Adequate resource allocation

The Government of Zimbabwe must recognize the value foot patrols have on the fight against crime and allocate enough human and material resources so that police officers are not deterred from performing their work. This can be done by reviewing budgetary allocations given to the Zimbabwe Republic Police during annual budgets.

5.4.2 Public engagement

There is need for the police to continuously engage with the public in the fight against crime. This can be achieved through use of online media, national broadcast, whatsapp platforms, crime awareness campaigns and service charter relaunch. Moreover the use of the Crime liaison Committees, Business Against Crime Forum of Zimbabwe and neighborhood Watch Committees is an effective way the police can use to re-engage with the public.

5.4.3 Motivation of personnel

The police commanders should be informed that motivation is key for any organization to achieve its objectives. Motivation can be achieved through monetary incentives, time offs, commendation, study leaves, promotion and memorandums of good work.

5.4.4 Setting of performance targets

Where the results of patrols are persistently deteriorating, there is for police commanders to set performance targets so that those conducting patrols improve their approach. However, the targets have to be in line with the objective of crime reduction and have to conform to the smart criteria, that is specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time framed.

5.5 Future research

This study focused on the efficacy of foot patrols on crime reduction in Masvingo Central District without considering other methods police can employ to reduce crime. Thus, further studies should endeavor to explore the efficacy of other methods of crime reduction such as cycle patrol, mounted patrol and motorized patrol. Moreover, it is possible that not all challenges hindering the efficacy of foot patrols have been identified. Therefore, further studies should investigate the challenges hindering the efficacy of foot patrols in other policing areas other than Masvingo Central District. Furthermore, this study focused on an urban and rural sample of Masvingo Central district, which is a small city in Zimbabwe. Thus, further research should focus on the efficacy of foot patrols in residential areas in larger cities like Harare and Bulawayo or the nation at large.

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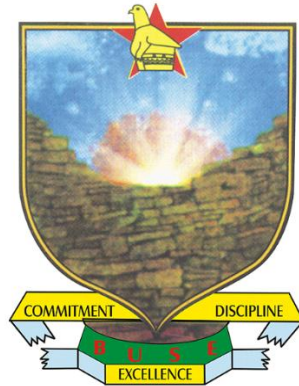
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BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF COMMERCE



Dear respondent

I am a student at Bindura University of Science Education doing a Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) Degree in Police and Security Studies (BBA-PSS). I am carrying out a research on the efficacy of foot patrols on crime reduction in Masvingo Central District.

I am kindly asking you to complete the questionnaire attached giving true representations and expressions of your views. Carefully follow the instructions written on the questionnaire and answer all the questions.

Please be advised that your participation in this study is voluntary and you can at any time decide to withdraw from the study without any prejudice. The information will be confidential as identity will not be disclosed to any other third parties and will be used strictly for academic purposes.

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Edgar Ticharwa

Contact Number 0783604941

Appendix 1

Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fill the information required by ticking the appropriate box or use the spaces provided to give your opinion.
2. Do not write your name in this questionnaire.

Section A: Demographic Data

1. Indicate your gender

Male []

Female []

2. Indicate your age

Below 25 years []

25-30 years []

31-35 years []

36-40 years []

Above 40 years []

3. Indicate your highest level of education

O/ A' Level []

Diploma []

Undergrad Degree []

Post Grad Degree []

Other [] Please specify.....

4. Indicate your rank

P/ Constable []

Constable []

Sergeant []

Assistant Insp and above []

5. Indicate your years of service

Below 4 years []

4 to 8 years []

9 to 12 years []

13- 16 years []

Above 16 years []

Section B: The conduct of foot patrols

6. The following are some of the foot patrols that are in use across the globe. Can you indicate the level of usage of the foot patrols in Masvingo Urban policing area in the past three years. Use a scale 0-5, with 0 representing not in use and 5 representing very high usage. **(Please tick only 1)**

	0	1	2	3	4	5
Beat patrol						
Saturation patrol						
Hotspot patrol						
Random patrol						
Directed patrol						
Active patrol						

Key: 0= not in use 1= very low usage; 2= low usage; 3= moderate usage; 4= high usage; 5= very high usage.

7. Among the following, what would you consider to be the major reason for using foot patrols (**Tick only 1**)

Improves police visibility [☐]

Improves case reporting [☐]

Is proactive to crime [☐]

Quick reporting of crime [☐]

8. How visible are police officers in crime prone areas?

Not visible [☐]

Visible [☐]

Very visible [☐]

Section C: The effectiveness of foot patrols

10. The following shows the extent to which foot patrols are effective in reducing crimes of concern. Can you rate the significance of each of the factors to crime reduction? Use the rating 1-5 with 1 representing not significant and 5 representing very significant.

Factor	Not Significa nt	Slightly Significa nt	Fairly Significa nt	Significa nt	Very Significan t
	1	2	3	4	5
Reducing fear of crime					
Increasing crime awareness					
Police-public relations					
Detecting crime					
Quick solving of crime					

11. The following are some of the circumstances in which foot patrols can be positively used as a crime reduction tool by the law enforcement agencies across the globe. Can you rate the extent to which foot patrol is being used in each circumstance towards the enhancement of crime reduction in Masvingo.

Use the scale of 1-5 with 1 representing never and 5 representing always.

	Never	Not Often	Often	Very Often	Always
	1	2	3	4	5
State of emergency					
Disaster awareness and management					
Intelligence gathering					
General engagement with the public					
Crime awareness					

Source: Primary data

12. The following are some of the obstacles to the effective use of foot patrols. Can you indicate the impact of the obstacles in Masvingo urban policing area using a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 representing no impact and 5 representing very high impact.

	1	2	3	4	5
Limited manpower for high visibility patrols					
Inadequate resources					
Inadequate supervision					
Lack of proper training					
Lack of motivation					
No clear objectives					

Source: Primary DataKey: Key: 1= no impact; 2= very low impact; 3= low impact; 3= moderate impact; 5= high impact.

Section D: Recommendations

13. The following are some of the measures that the government can take to improve the efficacy of foot patrols in crime reduction. Can you rate the effectiveness of each of the measures using the scale of 1-5, with 1 representing not effective, 2 is less effective, 3 is somewhat effective, 4 is effective and 5 is very effective.

	1	2	3	4	5
Public Engagement					
Adequate resource allocation					
Constant supervision of personnel					
Setting of performance targets					
Motivation of personnel					

14. What other recommendations do you suggest to improve the efficacy of foot patrols in crime reduction in Masvingo?

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Appendix 2

Interview guide for police officers

1. For how long have you known police foot patrols?
2. How often and in what circumstances are foot patrols conducted in Masvingo?
3. What activities are conducted by police officers on patrol?
4. To what extent do you support foot patrols as a crime reduction strategy?
5. What are the positive impacts of foot patrols in crime reduction?
6. What challenges do police officers encounter in the conduct of foot patrols?
7. In your opinion, what is the government doing to enhance the efficacy of foot patrols in crime reduction?
8. What are your suggestions on the way foot patrols should be used to reduce crimes of concern in Masvingo?
9. What are your recommendations on the best practice of foot patrols in Masvingo?

Interview guide for non-police interviewees

1. For how long have you known police foot patrols?
2. To what extent do you agree that foot patrols are conducted in Masvingo?
3. What activities are conducted by police officers on patrol?
4. How often do you meet police officers on patrol?
5. What are the positive impacts of foot patrols in crime reduction?
6. What is your reaction when you receive information relating to a criminal activity in progress? (Either theft, robbery, murder, rape)
7. What challenges do police officers encounter in the conduct of foot patrols?
8. What are your suggestions on the way foot patrols should be used to reduce crimes of concern in Masvingo?
9. What are your recommendations on the best practice of foot patrols in Masvingo?