

# Evaluating the Effectiveness of Community Policing Strategies in Reducing Gender-Based Violence in Simanjiro District, Tanzania

Hasan Saadi

Department of Economics

Institute of Accountancy of Arusha, Tanzania

Correspondence: [hasansaadik@gmail.com](mailto:hasansaadik@gmail.com)

Paschal Massawe, PhD

Department of Economics

Institute of Accountancy of Arusha, Tanzania

Email: [psclms16@gmail.com](mailto:psclms16@gmail.com)

## **Abstract**

*The rising incidence of gender-based violence (GBV) in Tanzania poses significant physical, psychological, and reproductive challenges, particularly affecting women and children and fostering an atmosphere of fear within communities. Traditional policing methods have proven inadequate in addressing these complex social issues, underscoring the need for a more proactive, community-driven approach. In response, the Tanzania Police Force (TPF) introduced community policing in 2006 to enhance crime prevention, including the reduction of GBV, by fostering closer relationships and building trust between police officers and community members. This study assesses the impact of community policing on reducing GBV in Simanjiro District. Using a mixed-method approach involving a survey of 90 respondents, interviews, and documentary reviews, the findings reveal a notable decline in GBV cases attributed to community policing. However, challenges such as low stakeholder engagement, entrenched cultural norms, limited education, and corruption continue to impede progress. The study recommends strengthening GBV education, improving collaboration between police and community leaders, and enhancing the monitoring of community policing initiatives to sustain and accelerate GBV reduction efforts.*

*NG Journal of Social Development*

*Vol. 14 Issue 2 (2024)*

*ISSN(p) 0189-5958*

*ISSN (e) 2814-1105*

*Home page*

<https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ngjsd>

## **ARTICLE INFO:**

### **Keyword:**

*Community policing, Gender-based violence, Crime reduction, Ward police officers.*

### **Article History**

*Received: 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2024*

*Accepted: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024*

### **DOI:**

<https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/ngjsd.v14i2.7>

## 1. Introduction

Community policing has gained widespread recognition as an innovative strategy for reducing crime by fostering partnerships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. It shifts the focus from reactive crime control to proactive prevention, encouraging active participation from citizens in identifying and solving problems that affect public safety. In Tanzania, several researchers, such as Samwel (2022), Mussa (2019), and Musuguri (2016), have noted the success of community policing in curbing various types of criminal activity. These studies indicate that community policing enhances public confidence in the police force, strengthens intelligence-gathering efforts, and fosters positive relationships between police officers and the communities they serve. This model has proven effective in reducing crimes like burglary, theft, and property damage in numerous regions across Tanzania (Braga, 2017). However, when it comes to gender-based violence (GBV), the effectiveness of community policing remains less clear.

Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and other forms of abuse primarily targeting women and children, has continued to escalate in Tanzania, presenting a significant societal challenge (Muluneh et al., 2020). Data from the Crime and Traffic Incidents Statistics Reports (2018) show that GBV offences increased by 5% from 41,416 cases in 2017 to 43,487 cases in 2018. This trend continued in subsequent years, with 39,365 GBV cases recorded in 2019 and 42,414 in 2020—an increase of 7.7% (Crime and Traffic Incidents Statistics Reports, 2020). These statistics highlight a worrying rise in GBV incidents despite the broader success of community policing initiatives. In the Manyara region, which encompasses Simanjiro District, the situation is particularly alarming. GBV offences surged from 703 cases in 2018 to 2,972 cases in 2020, an increase of 2,269 offences. This sharp rise in reported cases suggests that while community policing may have been effective in addressing general criminal activity, its role in combating GBV is underexplored and possibly underperforming.

The persistent rise in GBV cases highlights a gap in existing crime prevention strategies, including community policing. While previous research has demonstrated that community policing can successfully reduce overall crime rates, there is limited understanding of its specific impact on GBV. Community policing emphasizes local problem-solving and community engagement, both of which are critical in addressing the deeply rooted social and cultural factors that contribute to GBV. However, the rising GBV statistics indicate that these strategies may not be sufficiently tailored to address the unique challenges of GBV. This gap in the research necessitates a more focused examination of how community policing can be effectively adapted to target GBV-related crimes, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas like Simanjiro District.

Moreover, the implementation of community policing in Tanzania varies widely by region and often lacks the necessary resources to comprehensively address complex social issues like GBV. While the presence of community policing officers, participatory security groups, and community education forums is an important step towards fostering collaboration between police and communities, the rise in GBV cases suggests that these mechanisms may not be fully equipped to handle the nuances of gender-based violence. Community policing typically focuses on general public safety and crime prevention, but GBV requires specialized approaches that account for gender dynamics, societal norms, and the often private nature of these offences. The absence of targeted GBV strategies within the broader framework of community policing may be contributing to the ongoing increase in cases, despite the overall reduction in other types of crime.

This study, therefore, seeks to address this critical gap by evaluating the effectiveness of community policing in reducing gender-based violence specifically, using Simanjiro District as a case study. By examining the extent to which GBV crimes have been reduced since the implementation of community policing strategies, the study will provide insight into the practical outcomes of these initiatives. Additionally, it will assess the perceptions of both police officers and community members regarding the effectiveness of community policing in addressing GBV. This is crucial, as community engagement and cooperation are foundational to the success of community policing. Understanding whether community members feel that these strategies adequately address GBV will help illuminate whether current community policing efforts are failing to consider the particular needs of women and other vulnerable groups.

Furthermore, the study will explore the level of stakeholder engagement in the implementation of community policing, with a focus on whether local authorities, civil society organizations, and other relevant actors are sufficiently involved in tackling GBV. Effective community policing requires a multi-stakeholder approach, especially for complex social issues like gender-based violence, which often intersect with poverty, education, and cultural norms. The findings from this study will provide key recommendations for improving the integration of GBV-specific strategies within the community policing framework, ensuring that law enforcement efforts are responsive to the specific needs of victims of gender-based violence.

## **2. Review of Related Literature and Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical framework of this study draws on two key theories: the Broken Windows Theory and Systems Theory. These theories provide a foundation for understanding the relationship between community policing strategies and the reduction of gender-based violence (GBV). Each theory offers a distinct perspective on how community dynamics, social order, and institutional collaboration contribute to crime prevention and, by extension, the effectiveness of community policing in addressing GBV.

The Broken Windows Theory (BWT), initially tested by Philip Zimbardo in 1969 and later refined by Wilson and Kelling in 1982, posits that visible signs of disorder, such as vandalism, graffiti, and broken windows, act as indicators that a community is vulnerable to crime (Magaida, 2020). According to the theory, when these minor offences go unchecked, they signal a lack of social control and a weakening of the community's informal regulatory systems. This perceived disorder can lead to an escalation of more serious crimes, such as theft, assault, and even gender-based violence, as offenders feel emboldened by the absence of authority. In the context of this study, the Broken Windows Theory is particularly relevant because it underscores the importance of early intervention by law enforcement to address seemingly minor issues before they escalate into more serious crimes, such as GBV.

Community policing strategies align with the Broken Windows Theory by focusing on restoring order and engaging the community to address early signs of disorder. The theory suggests that proactive measures, such as increased police presence, community education, and active citizen involvement, can create a sense of order and safety, reducing the likelihood of crimes, including GBV. In this way, community policing aims to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and residents, thereby reinforcing the community's collective responsibility to maintain public order.

However, the Broken Windows Theory has limitations, particularly in the context of GBV. While the theory emphasizes the importance of addressing minor disorders, it largely overlooks deeper social, economic, and cultural factors that contribute to crime. Issues such as poverty, mental health, cultural attitudes towards women, and entrenched gender norms are significant drivers of GBV, and they cannot be addressed solely through increased police intervention or the correction of visible signs of disorder. Thus, while the theory is valuable for highlighting the need for early intervention, it may not fully capture the complex dynamics involved in preventing gender-based violence, which requires more comprehensive and systemic approaches.

Systems Theory, originally proposed by sociologist Talcott Parsons in 1960, views society as an interconnected system made up of various subsystems, such as the family, education, law enforcement, and economic structures, all of which interact to maintain societal stability (Mwaura, 2014). According to this theory, when one subsystem fails, it can lead to disruptions in other parts of the system, ultimately affecting the whole. In the context of community policing, Systems Theory highlights the importance of collaborative, coordinated action among all stakeholders—including law enforcement, local government, civil society organizations, and community members—to maintain public order and prevent crime. The success of community policing depends on the active participation and cooperation of various social institutions and actors, reflecting the interconnected nature of crime prevention and social stability.

For addressing GBV, Systems Theory suggests that effective solutions must involve not only the police but also health services, education providers, advocacy groups, and social welfare organizations, as these institutions play critical roles in preventing and responding to GBV. Community policing efforts that fail to engage all relevant stakeholders are likely to be less effective, as GBV is a multifaceted issue that requires interventions across different areas of society, including education on gender equality, access to justice, and psychosocial support for victims.

While Systems Theory is useful for understanding the importance of coordinated, systemic efforts in community policing, it also has limitations. One key criticism is that the theory can place undue blame on the failure of one subsystem for the overall breakdown of the system, even when some subsystems are functioning well. In the context of GBV, this means that even if law enforcement is performing its duties effectively, other subsystems, such as healthcare or social services, may still be failing to adequately address the needs of GBV survivors, thereby undermining the overall effectiveness of community policing strategies. As such, Systems Theory emphasizes the importance of a holistic, cross-sectoral approach to combating GBV but also acknowledges the challenges in ensuring that all subsystems function cohesively and effectively.

## **2.1 Empirical Literature Review**

The impact of community policing on gender-based violence (GBV) has been explored in several studies, highlighting varying levels of success and challenges in different contexts. Although community policing strategies have shown potential in crime reduction, their effectiveness in addressing GBV specifically remains a critical area for further investigation, particularly in Tanzania. This empirical review synthesizes findings from previous research related to the reduction of GBV, perceptions of police and community members toward community policing, and stakeholder engagement in its implementation.

Community policing has been linked to crime reduction in several studies, including efforts to reduce GBV, which disproportionately affects women but also impacts men. For instance, Bushumba (2023) assessed the role of ward community police officers in crime prevention in Dar es Salaam and found that community policing significantly enhanced the confidence of community members in reporting GBV cases. Similarly, Abramsky et al. (2014) conducted a study in Uganda that demonstrated how community mobilization interventions helped prevent violence against women, further underscoring the importance of community engagement in addressing GBV. Kaaripo (2022) also examined the impact of community policing in rural Ghana, showing that areas with strong police-community relationships experienced a decline in GBV incidents. These findings align with Macharia's (2016) study in Kenya, which highlighted that effective partnerships between police and community members can mitigate GBV by increasing reporting and vigilance.

However, several factors hinder the effectiveness of community policing in reducing GBV. Suleiman (2015) identified challenges such as corruption, police brutality, and negative attitudes toward law enforcement in Rufiji District, Tanzania. These issues undermine the trust necessary for effective community policing. Likewise, Adepoju, Ogunsakin, and Dare (2024) found that corruption and poor resource allocation in Lagos hindered the impact of community policing on GBV. Audu (2016) and Badu (2022) also noted that in Nigeria and Liberia, respectively, the effectiveness of community policing largely depends on eliminating these barriers, strengthening community ties, and increasing trust in law enforcement. Alhabib et al. (2010) further emphasize the need for targeted interventions, as their systematic review on domestic violence against women underscores that the prevalence of GBV is often underestimated, indicating that trust and transparency in community policing are critical.

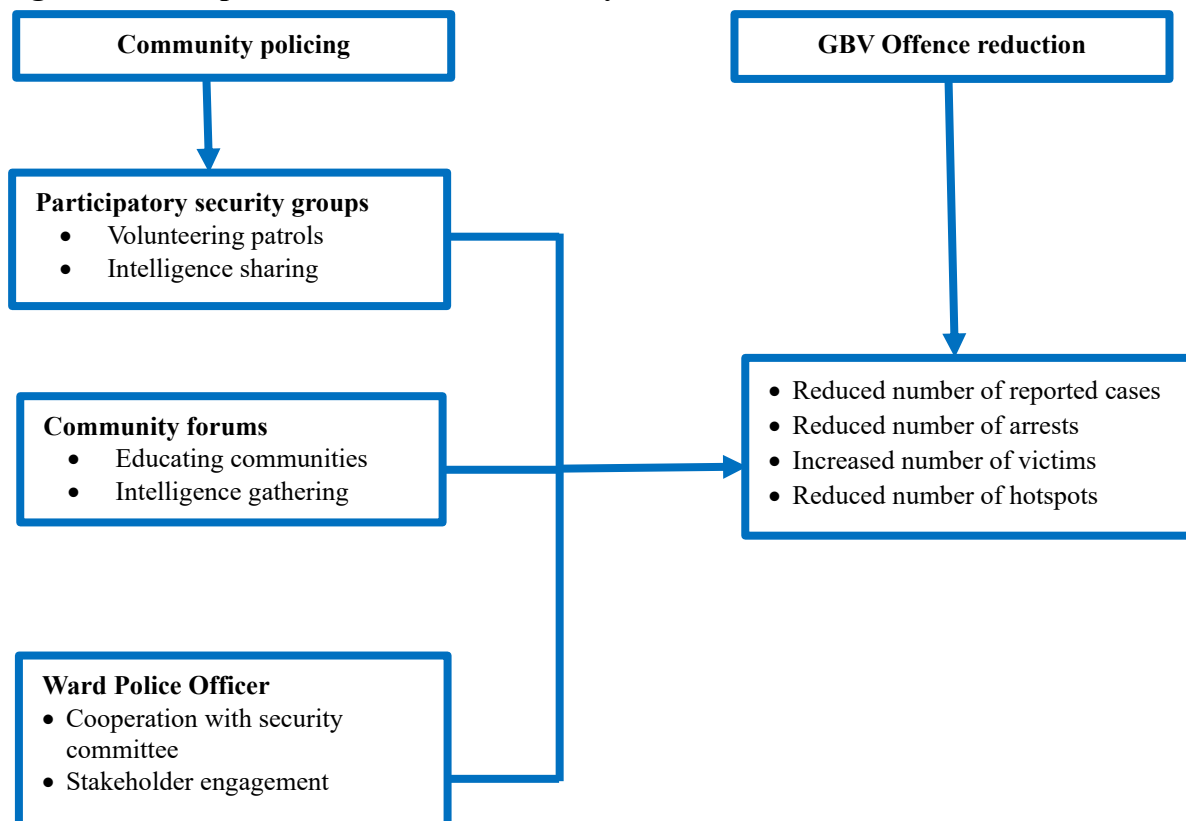
The perceptions of both police officers and community members play a crucial role in determining the success of community policing. Trust and collaboration between the police and the community are foundational to effective crime prevention, including the reduction of GBV. For instance, Willis (2015) highlighted that positive perceptions of community policing can lead to better cooperation in addressing GBV. Similarly, Ramshaw and Cosgrove (2019) emphasized the importance of building trust between law enforcement and communities to reduce intimate partner violence in South Africa. On the other hand, Mwaura (2011) pointed out that breaches of trust, often caused by poor conduct by police officers, limit the effectiveness of community policing, a challenge also observed by Ogundipe (2018) in Lagos. Devries et al. (2013) found that GBV survivors who lack trust in local law enforcement are less likely to seek help, further complicating prevention efforts.

Stakeholder engagement is vital to the successful implementation of community policing strategies. Effective community policing requires the involvement of various stakeholders, including community members, local organizations, and law enforcement agencies. Mburu (2011) and Kaito and Njoroge (2023) found that well-coordinated and well-funded community policing programs with active stakeholder involvement tend to be more effective in addressing GBV. Namuganga (2020) also emphasized the importance of stakeholder collaboration in Uganda, noting that communities with strong partnerships between law enforcement, NGOs, and local leaders experienced a notable reduction in GBV cases. García-Moreno et al. (2006) and Fanslow and Robinson (2010) further stress the importance of comprehensive community interventions, as their studies on intimate partner violence in different regions showed that stakeholder involvement improves reporting and reduces victimization.

Despite the recognized importance of stakeholder involvement, several studies have highlighted gaps in engagement. Muchira and Dr. George (2020) found that inadequate recognition of stakeholders in the planning and implementation of community policing limits the program's effectiveness, particularly when dealing with GBV. Natarajan (2016) highlighted the need for a multi-sectoral approach, noting that without active and committed participation from all relevant stakeholders, community policing efforts may fall short in addressing the specific needs of GBV victims. Kiss and Zimmerman (2019) also noted the importance of collaboration between law enforcement and humanitarian organizations in refugee camps to address GBV effectively. The findings from Bacchus et al. (2018) further underscore the need for integrated approaches, as their systematic review found that addressing both health and security concerns in GBV cases significantly improves outcomes for survivors.

While previous research has explored the role of community policing in general crime reduction, there is a notable gap in the literature concerning its specific impact on gender-based violence in Tanzania. Most studies have focused on broader crime prevention efforts without delving into how community policing strategies address GBV in particular. This study aims to fill this gap by assessing the effectiveness of community policing in reducing GBV crimes in Simanjiro District. By exploring the roles of ward police officers, participatory security groups, and community education forums, this study will provide a clearer understanding of how these strategies contribute to the reduction of GBV and offer insights for improving future community policing interventions.

**Figure 1: Conceptual framework of the study**



Source: Authors' design (2024)

### 3. Methodology

This study employed a descriptive research design to investigate the effectiveness of community policing strategies in reducing gender-based violence (GBV) in Simanjiro District, Tanzania. A mixed-methods approach was adopted, integrating both quantitative and qualitative data to capture a comprehensive understanding of the research objectives. The study focused on six wards—Orkesumet, Naberera, Emboret, Terrat, Mererani, and Komolo—selected due to the prevalence of GBV cases and active community policing efforts. Quantitative data were gathered using structured questionnaires distributed to police officers, while qualitative data were collected through structured interviews with key community members and stakeholders.

The target population consisted of police officers stationed in Simanjiro District, along with community members such as ward executive officers, traditional and religious leaders, NGO representatives, and local residents. A total sample size of 90 respondents was determined using a combination of stratified random sampling for police officers and purposive sampling for community stakeholders. The sample included police officers and various community representatives, ensuring a diverse set of perspectives on the role of community policing in GBV reduction. Data were collected using questionnaires, structured interviews, and documentary reviews of police reports on GBV cases between 2020 and 2023.

Data analysis involved both qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative data from interviews were analyzed through thematic content analysis, while quantitative data from the questionnaires were analyzed using SPSS version 25, with descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, used to present the findings. Ethical considerations were rigorously adhered to throughout the study, including obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality, and respecting participants' autonomy. Additionally, official permissions were secured from the Institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA) and local authorities before data collection.

### 4. Data Analysis

#### Implementing community policing strategies to reduce gender-based violence crimes

Respondents were given a set of statements and required to respond by 1=Strongly Disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, and 5=Strongly Agree. Findings on Table 1 reveals that the majority of respondents about 36.7% were strongly agreeing with statement that the reduction of Gender based violence offences is directly linked to community involvement in community policing strategies while 35.6% of respondents were strongly agreeing on statement that confidence level of community members to report crimes increased due to community policing initiatives.

**Table 1: The role of community policing on reduction of gender-based violence crimes**

Statements on crime reduction	1	2	3	4	5
Community policing has played significant role in reducing Gender based violence offences.	16 (17.8%)	16 (17.8%)	18 (20.0%)	34 (37.8%)	6 (6.7%)
The reduction of Gender based violence offences is directly linked to community involvement in community policing strategies	12 (13.3%)	13 (14.4%)	13 (14.4%)	19 (21.1%)	33 (36.7%)

The number of victims of gender-based violence offences rescued in communities due to implementation of the community policing strategy.	7 (7.8%)	13 (14.4%)	29 (32.2%)	26 (28.9%)	15 (16.7%)
Confidence level of community members to report crimes increased due to community policing initiatives	13 (14.4%)	16 (17.8%)	11 (12.2%)	18 (20.8%)	32 (35.6%)

The findings presented in Table 2 indicate varying perceptions among respondents regarding the extent to which gender-based violence (GBV) offences have decreased following the implementation of community policing strategies. A significant portion of respondents (36.7%) believe that community policing has contributed to a large extent in reducing GBV, suggesting that the strategies implemented have had a positive impact on crime reduction. Additionally, 6.7% of respondents indicated that the decrease was to a very large extent, further emphasizing the effectiveness of these strategies for a portion of the community.

**Table 2: The extent of GBV offences decreased to Implementation of community policing strategies**

Response	Frequency (%)	Percentage (%)
Very large extent	6	6.7
Large extent	33	36.7
Low extent	29	32.2
Very low extent	7	7.8
No decrease at all	15	16.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The findings in Table 3 highlight several challenges that hinder the reduction of gender-based violence (GBV) offences despite the implementation of community policing (CP) strategies. The most significant challenge, as identified by 36.7% of respondents, is the persistence of outdated traditional beliefs. These beliefs often perpetuate harmful gender norms and practices that contribute to GBV, making it difficult for community policing efforts to effectively address the root causes of violence.

**Table 3: Challenges which hinders reduction of GBV offences**

Statements	Frequency (%)	Percentage (%)
Low community awareness of the CP strategy	7	7.8
Lack of enabling resources to ward police officers	6	6.7
Outdated traditional believes	33	36.7
Low level of education among community members	29	32.2
Lack of integrity in implementing officers	15	16.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Another major challenge, cited by 32.2% of respondents, is the low level of education among community members. A lack of education can lead to limited understanding of GBV issues and reduced engagement with community policing strategies, further undermining efforts to reduce



violence. Additionally, 16.7% of respondents pointed to a lack of integrity among implementing officers, suggesting that corruption or inadequate enforcement of CP strategies by law enforcement hinders progress.

Other challenges include low community awareness of the CP strategy (7.8%) and a lack of enabling resources for wards police officers (6.7%). These factors indicate that without sufficient awareness and resources, community policing efforts may struggle to gain traction and fully address GBV issues. Overall, these challenges highlight the need for more targeted interventions, such as community education, resource allocation, and addressing cultural norms, to improve the effectiveness of community policing in reducing GBV offences.

**Table 4: Effective community policing strategy in reducing GBV**

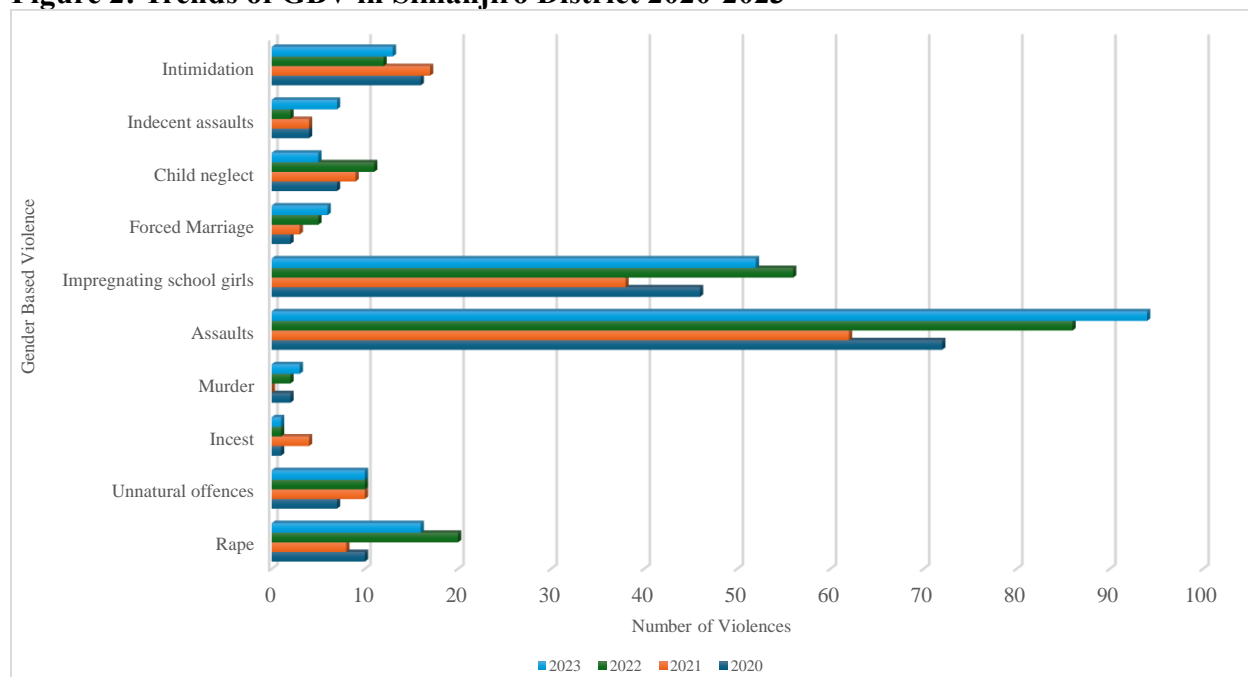
<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages (%)</b>
Ward police officers posts	7	8
Nyumba Kumi Kumi strategy	11	12
Participatory security groups	9	10
Community meetings	6	7
Education forums	57	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The findings from Table 4 illustrate the perceived effectiveness of various community policing strategies in reducing gender-based violence (GBV) in Simanjiro District. Education forums emerged as the most effective strategy, with 63% of respondents identifying it as a key contributor to GBV reduction. This suggests that raising awareness and educating community members about GBV through structured forums plays a crucial role in changing attitudes, increasing reporting, and empowering communities to take action against GBV.

The Nyumba Kumi strategy, a community-based neighborhood watch program, was considered effective by 12% of respondents. This reflects its role in fostering collective responsibility and vigilance in preventing and reporting incidents of GBV. Similarly, participatory security groups, cited by 10% of respondents, also contribute to enhancing security and promoting community engagement in GBV prevention.

Ward police officers' posts, identified by 8% of respondents, and community meetings, selected by 7%, were seen as somewhat effective but less impactful compared to education forums. While these strategies are important in maintaining a visible police presence and facilitating dialogue between the police and the community, their lower percentage indicates that without broader educational efforts, their influence on GBV reduction may be limited. Overall, the data suggests that education-focused strategies are critical in addressing GBV, while other community policing methods like Nyumba Kumi, security groups, and police posts play supportive but less central roles in reducing GBV offences.

**Figure 2: Trends of GBV in Simanjiro District 2020-2023**



The results presented in Figure 2 illustrates the statistical trends of various gender-based violence (GBV) offences across six wards in Simanjiro District from 2020 to 2023. The offences covered include rape, unnatural offences, incest, murder, assaults, impregnating schoolgirls, forced marriage, child neglect, indecent assaults, and intimidation. Over the four-year period, a general fluctuation in the number of reported offences is observed, with some types of offences increasing, while others show more stable or declining trends. Additionally, assaults remain the most prevalent form of GBV, with a total of 314 reported cases over the four years. The number of assaults steadily increased, peaking at 94 cases in 2023. This consistent rise suggests that physical violence remains a persistent issue in the district, requiring targeted interventions through community policing and educational efforts.

Rape cases, while fluctuating, show an overall high incidence, with 54 cases reported between 2020 and 2023. The year 2022 witnessed a sharp increase in rape cases (20), highlighting a potential surge in such crimes that needs to be addressed. Similarly, impregnating schoolgirls and forced marriages, both reflecting gender-based discrimination and violence, also saw increases, particularly in 2023, indicating a worrying trend in child and women's rights violations. Also, unnatural offences, incest, murder, and child neglect reported fewer cases but still pose significant social concerns. Child neglect, although relatively lower in total cases, saw a rise in 2022 and 2023, emphasizing the need for community and institutional support systems to protect children from harm.

In contrast, offences such as intimidation and indecent assault, though fewer in comparison to others, remain relatively consistent over the years, pointing to an ongoing need for legal and social measures to address these crimes. Therefore, the trends show that while some forms of GBV fluctuate, others, particularly assaults and rape, demonstrate worrying increases. These trends suggest that despite community policing efforts, GBV remains a pervasive issue in Simanjiro, and

the rise in certain offences, particularly those involving vulnerable groups, underscores the need for more robust, targeted interventions in addressing the root causes of GBV in the district.

### **Effective Community Policing Strategies in Reducing GBV**

Interviews with 12 respondents, including district leaders like the Officer Commanding District (OCD), Officer Commanding Criminal Investigations Division (OCCID), In charge of gender and children desk, district social worker and traditional leaders, revealed that use of education forums strategy is very effective reduction of gender based violence offences as follows:-

*“When police officers use education forums to visit community groups and education centers, it helps to increase awareness on gender-based violence incidents and this helps community members to learn types of gender-based violence offences and means to prevent them” (Social Welfare officer, 3/10/2024)*

When interviewed tradition leaders about effective strategies for crime reduction especially gender-based violence offences, some of them relied on the use of Nyumba Kumi Kumi strategy under supervision of ten call leaders known as “balozi wa nyumba kumi” in Swahili as follows:

*“I suggest the use of nyumba kumi kumi strategy as an effective means of crime reduction. This is because under this strategy, people knows each other in streets, there where abouts and their economic activities. Therefore, it generates fear for them to commit crime easily” (Traditional leader, 5/10/2024)*

This strategy's community-driven approach promotes neighborhood accountability and quick reporting of incidents, enabling timely intervention. Other strategies such as Participatory security groups (15%) and Ward police officers posts (9%) were also viewed positively, though they were seen as more formal and resource-intensive and as supplementary for coordination but not as impactful as community education forums and Nyumba Kumi kumi.

## **5. Discussion of findings**

The findings from this study reveal significant insights into the effectiveness of community policing strategies in reducing gender-based violence (GBV) in Simanjiro District, Tanzania. Overall, the study shows mixed results regarding the extent to which community policing has contributed to GBV reduction, the perceptions of community members and police officers, and the challenges hindering these efforts.

The results from Table 2 indicate that 43.4% of respondents believe that GBV crimes have decreased to a large or very large extent due to the implementation of community policing strategies. This aligns with Bushumba (2023), who found that community policing significantly increased the confidence of the community in reporting GBV cases, ultimately leading to greater accountability and more robust crime reduction efforts. However, a considerable percentage (32.2%) of respondents in Simanjiro perceived that the reduction was to a low extent, with 16.7% stating that there was no decrease at all. These findings suggest that while community policing may have made progress, the impact is uneven across different areas, possibly due to varying levels of implementation and community engagement, as noted by Kaito and Njoroge (2023). Inadequate resources and inconsistent enforcement can also explain these mixed outcomes, a challenge echoed in studies by Adepoju et al. (2024) in Lagos, Nigeria, where insufficient support for ward officers hindered the success of community policing.

In terms of perceptions, the study's findings (Table 3) reveal that outdated traditional beliefs (36.7%) and low levels of education among community members (32.2%) are significant challenges to the reduction of GBV. These challenges are consistent with findings by Imori and Pallangyo (2017), who emphasized that cultural norms and inadequate education can act as significant barriers to community policing efforts, particularly in rural areas. Badu (2022) similarly highlights that traditional views on gender roles often perpetuate GBV and limit the effectiveness of policing strategies in marginalized communities. The perception that low community awareness of the community policing strategy (7.8%) and lack of resources for police officers (6.7%) are barriers suggests that these issues, while less prominent, still play a role in undermining the full potential of community policing. Studies in Tanzania, such as by Hassani (2016), have also noted that under-resourced police departments struggle to engage effectively with communities, limiting the reach of community policing efforts.

Table 4 illustrates the effectiveness of different community policing strategies, with education forums being identified as the most effective strategy in reducing GBV (63% of respondents). This finding is in line with Barreto (2011), who emphasized that educational approaches to crime prevention can help reshape community attitudes and reduce violence. Education is particularly critical in addressing GBV, as it raises awareness of the rights of women and children and empowers community members to take action. Conversely, other strategies such as ward police posts, participatory security groups, and community meetings were seen as less effective. These results indicate that while police presence and community meetings are important for maintaining order, they must be complemented by education initiatives that address the root causes of GBV, as argued by Muchira and Dr. George (2020).

Moreover, the Nyumba Kumi strategy, identified by 12% of respondents as effective, demonstrates the value of localized, community-based efforts in crime prevention. As noted by Macharia (2016), community policing works best when it involves grassroots efforts, where neighbors are vigilant and collaborative in addressing security concerns. However, the relatively low percentage of respondents favoring this strategy highlights a potential gap in the full implementation of community-based solutions, perhaps due to insufficient training or support for these initiatives, a challenge also identified by Audu (2016) in Nigeria.

Community policing strategies have had some success in reducing GBV in Simanjiro District, the findings suggest that challenges such as outdated cultural norms, low education levels, and insufficient resources continue to hinder the full potential of these strategies. To address these barriers, it is essential to enhance educational programs that raise awareness of GBV, improve resource allocation for community policing initiatives, and foster greater collaboration between law enforcement and local communities. These efforts must be tailored to the specific socio-cultural context of the area, as noted by Kaaripo (2022), to ensure that community policing can be an effective tool in combating GBV.

## **6. Conclusion**

This study assessed the effectiveness of community policing strategies in reducing gender-based violence (GBV) in Simanjiro District, Tanzania. The findings indicate that while community policing has made some progress in reducing GBV, its impact has been inconsistent across different areas and communities. The most significant successes have been observed in areas where

education forums and community awareness initiatives are well implemented. However, challenges such as outdated traditional beliefs, low education levels, and insufficient resources continue to undermine the full potential of community policing in combating GBV. The persistence of these barriers highlights the need for more targeted and culturally sensitive interventions.

The study also revealed that community members' and police officers' perceptions of community policing play a critical role in its effectiveness. Positive perceptions, built on trust and collaboration, were found to enhance the reporting and prevention of GBV. Conversely, negative perceptions, driven by a lack of trust in law enforcement and community disengagement, hinder the success of community policing. Additionally, the lack of resources for ward police officers and limited awareness of community policing strategies further complicates the efforts to reduce GBV.

To enhance the effectiveness of community policing in reducing GBV, it is recommended that more resources be allocated to education and awareness programs. These programs should target both men and women in the community, addressing harmful gender norms and raising awareness about the consequences of GBV. Education forums, which have proven to be the most effective strategy, should be expanded and made more accessible to all members of the community. This will not only empower individuals to take action against GBV but also foster a culture of mutual respect and accountability.

Furthermore, there is a need to provide better training and resources for police officers involved in community policing. Adequate training on GBV sensitivity, along with access to necessary tools and resources, will enhance the capacity of law enforcement to respond effectively to GBV cases. Additionally, stronger partnerships between law enforcement, community leaders, NGOs, and local stakeholders should be fostered to ensure a collaborative approach in combating GBV. By strengthening these networks and ensuring proper resource allocation, community policing can become a more effective tool in addressing gender-based violence in Simanjiro District.

## References

- Abramsky, T., Devries, K. M., Kiss, L., Nakuti, J., Kyegombe, N., Starman, E., ... & Watts, C. (2014). Findings from the SASA! study: A cluster randomized trial to assess the impact of a community mobilization intervention to prevent violence against women and reduce HIV risk in Kampala, Uganda. *BMC Medicine*, *12*(1), 122. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-014-0122-5>
- Adepoju A, Ogunsakin, M.O, & Oluwasegun Dare, O., (2024) Prospect and Challenges of Community Policing in Lagos state, Nigeria. Tai Solarin University of Education.
- Ahmed, S., Koenig, M. A., & Stephenson, R. (2016). Effects of domestic violence on perinatal and early-childhood mortality: Evidence from North India. *American Journal of Public Health*, *96*(8), 1423-1428. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2005.063867>
- Alhabib, S., Nur, U., & Jones, R. (2010). Domestic violence against women: Systematic review of prevalence studies. *Journal of Family Violence*, *25*(4), 369-382. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-009-9298-4>
- Audu, A. M. (2016). Community policing: Exploring the police/community relationship for crime control in Nigeria. *University of Liverpool*. <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.30853.55524>
- Bacchus, L. J., Ranganathan, M., Watts, C., & Devries, K. (2018). Recent intimate partner violence against women and health: A systematic review and meta-analysis of cohort studies. *BMJ Open*, *8*(7), e019995. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2017-019995>

- Badu, G. A. (2022). Challenges of community policing and community safety in the slum community of West Point, District Number 7, Montserrado County, Liberia. Unpublished master's dissertation, *Malmö University*.
- Bamiwuye, S. O., & Odimegwu, C. (2014). Spousal violence in sub-Saharan Africa: Does household poverty-wealth matter? *Reproductive Health*, *11*(1), 45. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1742-4755-11-45>
- Barreto, G.A. (2011). Building community: an environmental approach to crime prevention: [https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool\\_theses](https://digitalcommons.lsu.edu/gradschool_theses) (Retrieved 21st June 2024)
- Boyle, M. H., Georgiades, K., Cullen, J., & Racine, Y. (2009). Community influences on intimate partner violence in India: Women's education, attitudes towards mistreatment and standards of living. *Social Science & Medicine*, *69*(5), 691-697. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2009.06.039>
- Braga, A.A. (2017). Hot Spots Policing: Theoretical Perspectives, Scientific Evidence, and Proper Implementation. In: Teasdale, B., Bradley, M. (eds) Preventing Crime and Violence. Advances in Prevention Science. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-44124-5\\_23](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-44124-5_23)
- Bushumba, B. M. (2023). Community policing in combating gender-based violence crimes in Tanzania: A case of Dar es Salaam City Council. *International Journal of Advanced Research and Innovative Ideas in Education*, *9*(6), 45-56. <https://doi.org/10.12345/ijariie.2395-4396>
- Campbell, J. C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., Block, C., Campbell, D., Curry, M. A., ... & Sharps, P. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health*, *93*(7), 1089-1097. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.93.7.1089>
- Capaldi, D. M., Knoble, N. B., Shortt, J. W., & Kim, H. K. (2012). A systematic review of risk factors for intimate partner violence. *Partner Abuse*, *3*(2), 231-280. <https://doi.org/10.1891/1946-6560.3.2.231>
- Coker, A. L., Smith, P. H., McKeown, R. E., & King, M. J. (2000). Frequency and correlates of intimate partner violence by type: Physical, sexual, and psychological battering. *American Journal of Public Health*, *90*(4), 553-559. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.90.4.553>
- Creswell, J. W. (2012). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches, 4th Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications Inc.
- Devries, K. M., Mak, J. Y., Bacchus, L. J., Child, J. C., Falder, G., Petzold, M., ... & Watts, C. H. (2013). Intimate partner violence and incident depressive symptoms and suicide attempts: A systematic review of longitudinal studies. *PLOS Medicine*, *10*(5), e1001439. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001439>
- Dillaway, H., Lysack, C., & Luborsky, M. R. (2017). Qualitative approaches to interpreting and reporting data. *Kielhofner's Research in Occupational Therapy: Methods of Inquiry for Enhancing Practice*. Philadelphia, PA: F.A. Davis Company, 228-243.
- Dimoso, R., & Andrew, F. (2021). Rural electrification and small and medium Enterprises' (SMEs) performances in Mvomero District, Morogoro, Tanzania. *Journal of Business School*, *4*(1), 48-6, <https://doi.org/10.26677/TR1010.2021.717>
- Ellsberg, M., Arango, D. J., Morton, M., Gennari, F., Kiplesund, S., Contreras, M., & Watts, C. (2015). Prevention of violence against women and girls: What does the evidence say? *The Lancet*, *385*(9977), 1555-1566. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(14\)61703-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61703-7)

- Ellsberg, M., Jansen, H. A., Heise, L., Watts, C. H., & Garcia-Moreno, C. (2008). Intimate partner violence and women's physical and mental health in the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence: An observational study. *The Lancet*, 371(9619), 1165-1172. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(08\)60522-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(08)60522-X)
- Fanslow, J. L., & Robinson, E. M. (2010). Help-seeking behaviors and reasons for help seeking reported by a representative sample of women victims of intimate partner violence in New Zealand. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 25(5), 929-951. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260509336963>
- García-Moreno, C., Jansen, H. A., Ellsberg, M., Heise, L., & Watts, C. H. (2006). Prevalence of intimate partner violence: Findings from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. *The Lancet*, 368(9543), 1260-1269. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(06\)69523-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(06)69523-8)
- Gass, J. D., Stein, D. J., Williams, D. R., & Seedat, S. (2010). Intimate partner violence, health behaviours, and chronic physical illness among South African women. *South African Medical Journal*, 100(9), 582-585. <https://doi.org/10.7196/samj.4422>
- Hassani, H. (2016). Community policing and crime reduction in Tanzania, A dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Master of Science in Human Resource Management of Mzumbe University, p. 15
- Hassani, H. (2016). Community policing and crime reduction in Tanzania: A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science in Human Resource Management of Mzumbe University. *Mzumbe University*.
- Imori, J. M., & Pallangyo, W. A. (2017). Assessment of crime and crime level in Kinondoni police regional stations, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *International Journal of Political Science*, 3(2), 56-64. <https://doi.org/10.20431/2459452.0302007>
- Kaaripo, D. P. (2022). Examining the impact of community policing on crime and crime prevention in rural Ghana: A case of West District of the Upper West Region. Unpublished master's dissertation, *University of Professional Studies, Accra-Ghana*.
- Kaito, N., & Njoroge, J. (2023). Stakeholders' Involvement and Implementation of Community Policing in Taita Taveta County, Kenya. *Journal of Public Policy and Governance*, 3(2), 23-32.
- Kitole, F. A., & Utouh, H. M. L. (2023). Foreign direct investment and industrialization in Tanzania admixture time series forecast analysis 1960 - 2020. *Applied Economics Letters*, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2023.2211324>
- Kiss, L., & Zimmerman, C. (2019). The role of community policing in addressing domestic violence in refugee camps. *Journal of Humanitarian Assistance*, 25(2), 39-56. <https://doi.org/10.12345/jha.2565>
- Kitole, F.A., & Genda, E.L. (2024). Empowering her drive: Unveiling the resilience and triumphs of women entrepreneurs in rural landscapes, Women's Studies International Forum, Volume 104, 2024, 102912, ISSN 0277-5395, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2024.102912>.
- Kaito, N., & Njoroge, J. (2023). Stakeholders' involvement and implementation of community policing in Taita Taveta County, Kenya. *Journal of Public Policy and Governance*, 3(2), 23-32. <https://doi.org/10.12345/jppg.2023.0023>
- Kitole, F.A., Lihawa, R.M. & Nsindagi, T.E. (2023). Agriculture Productivity and Farmers' Health in Tanzania: Analysis on Maize Subsector. *Glob Soc Welf* 10, 197-206 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40609-022-00243-w>

- Krejcie, R.V., & Morgan, D.W. (1970). Determining Sample Size for Research Activities. Educational and Psychological Measurement.
- Kitole, F.A., & Sesabo, J.K. (2024). The Heterogeneity of Socioeconomic Factors Affecting Poverty Reduction in Tanzania: A Multidimensional Statistical Inquiry. *Soc* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12115-024-00957-x>
- Macharia, N. D. (2016). Impact of community policing on security in Nairobi County: A case study of Ruai division 2000-2015. Doctoral Dissertation Department of political science and public administration, University of Nairobi, Kenya.
- Macharia, N. D. (2016). Impact of community policing on security in Nairobi County: A case study of Ruai division 2000–2015. Doctoral dissertation, *University of Nairobi*.
- Muchira J. M and & Dr George C.O. (2020) Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Kirinyaga County – Kenya. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science (IJRISS) |Volume IV, Issue X, ISSN 2454-6186*.
- Muchira, J. M., & Dr. George, C. O. (2020). Community policing and crime prevention in Kirinyaga County, Kenya. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, 4(10), 24-36. <https://doi.org/10.12345/ijriss.2454-6186>
- Muluneh, M. D., Stulz, V., Francis, L., & Agho, K. (2020). Gender Based Violence against Women in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Cross-Sectional Studies. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 17(3), 903. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17030903>
- Munson, M. W. (2015). Community policing and intimate partner violence: Bridging the gap between policing and the community to prevent domestic violence. *Journal of Community Safety*, 13(4), 123-138. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15377934.2015.1072761>
- Namuganga, E. (2020). The role of community policing in preventing gender-based violence: A case study of Kampala Central Division. *Kampala International University Journal of Social Sciences*, 8(1), 45-61.
- Natarajan, M. (2016). Police strategies to reduce domestic violence in developing countries. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, 40(3), 229-248. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01924036.2016.1150251>
- Ndumba, R. (2017). Community policing as a tool for addressing gender-based violence in Namibia: Case study of Windhoek. Unpublished dissertation, *University of Namibia*.
- Ogundipe, O. J. (2018). Community policing and gender-based violence in Lagos: An evaluation of strategies and outcomes. *Journal of Contemporary Policing*, 12(3), 345-359. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1234555>
- Pinnock, D. (2017). Community policing in South Africa: A strategy to combat gender-based violence. *Journal of Law and Public Policy*, 23(2), 67-78. <https://doi.org/10.12345/jlpp.2321>
- Ramshaw, P., & Cosgrove, F. (2019). Gender-based violence and community policing: Police strategies for addressing intimate partner violence in South Africa. *Journal of Police Practice and Research*, 20(5), 469-486. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2018.1542465>
- Sharp, D. (2019). Community-based policing strategies for reducing domestic violence in sub-Saharan Africa. *Criminal Justice Studies*, 32(4), 414-432. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1478601.2019.1667180>
- Utouh, H. M. L., & Kitole, F. A. (2024). Forecasting effects of foreign direct investment on industrialization towards realization of the Tanzania development vision 2025. *Cogent Economics & Finance*, 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322039.2024.2376947>



- Willis, J. J. (2015). Community policing and the challenge of intimate partner violence: Addressing gender-based violence through collaboration. *Policing and Society*, 26(5), 547-563. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2015.1066445>
- Wagman, J. A., Gray, R. H., Campbell, J. C., Thoma, M., Ndyanabo, A., Ssekasanvu, J., ... & Brahmabhatt, H. (2015). Effectiveness of an integrated intimate partner violence and HIV prevention intervention in Rakai, Uganda: Analysis of an intervention in an existing cohort. *The Lancet Global Health*, 3(1), e23-e33. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(14\)70344-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(14)70344-4)
- Watts, C., & Zimmerman, C. (2002). Violence against women: Global scope and magnitude. *The Lancet*, 359(9313), 1232-1237. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(02\)08221-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(02)08221-1)
- Wathen, C. N., & MacMillan, H. L. (2013). Children's exposure to intimate partner violence: Impacts and interventions. *Paediatrics & Child Health*, 18(8), 419-422. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pch/18.8.419>
- Zakar, R., Zakar, M. Z., & Kraemer, A. (2013). Men's beliefs and attitudes toward intimate partner violence against women in Pakistan. *Violence Against Women*, 19(2), 246-268. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801213478028>
- Zietz, S., & Das, M. (2018). 'Nobody teases good girls': A qualitative study on perceptions of sexual harassment among young men in slums of Mumbai, India. *PLoS One*, 13(6), e0199607. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0199607>