

The Impact of Situational Crime Prevention on Crime Rates in Starehe Constituency

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ABSTRACT

This study explored the application of Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) strategies in Starehe Constituency, Nairobi. It examined how environmental design and community-based interventions influence crime reduction. Grounded in rational choice and routine activity theories, the study viewed offending as a product of opportunity structures rather than fixed offender dispositions. A case study design was employed using a mixed-methods approach. Surveys, interviews and direct observations were conducted with a sample size of 400 respondents including residents, security officials and community leaders. The findings indicated that SCP measures such as improved street lighting, CCTV surveillance and access control increased the perceived risks and effort of offending. These strategies also reduced potential rewards for offenders. However, the effectiveness of these interventions was constrained by inadequate funding, vandalism of infrastructure and political interference. Awareness and participation among residents were moderate leading to the opinion that people engaged with the interventions but not consistently. The study concluded that SCP offers a practical and adaptable framework for addressing urban crime. Its success in Starehe Constituency requires greater investment, inter-agency collaboration and stronger community ownership. The study recommends enhancing public awareness, safeguarding installed infrastructure and ensuring political goodwill to strengthen the sustainability of SCP initiatives.

INTRODUCTION

The idea of situational crime prevention dates back to the 1970's when it was first conceived by the criminologist Ronald Clarke. Clarke identified a gap in the existing policing methods noting that they were largely reactive and focused on the offender rather than the underlying reasons for offending. Situational crime prevention (SCP) is basically an approach to crime prevention that seeks to reduce opportunities for specific categories of crime by increasing the associated risks and reducing the rewards of crime (Felson, 2008). SCP involves multiple stages which is built upon a framework that seeks to understand where, when and how crime incidents occur based on an analysis of the incidence and distribution of a given crime problem. The SCP approach identifies risk factor and formulates appropriate solutions addressing these gaps that facilitate criminality.

SCP is different from other criminological perspectives in that it seeks to predict criminal behaviour through focusing on proximal causes of crime in the settings where they occur rather than arresting and punishing offenders. It does not intend to prevent crime by addressing the so called "root causes" of criminal offending such as social inequities but rather does so through the reduction of crime opportunities. SCP ought to alter environments which host criminal behaviour in order to make them less suitable for offending (Cornish & Clarke, 2003).

The SCP framework currently includes five general strategies encompassing 25 techniques to reduce crime (Felson 2008). This includes both "direct" and "indirect" interventions (Weisbard, 2008). Direct interventions include either deterring offenders from committing the offense or making it impossible for the offender to commit the crime regardless of their level of motivation while indirect interventions reduce situational prompts

that increase a person's motivation to commit a crime during specific types of events (Freilich & Chermak, 2009; Wortley & Smallbone, 2008). The five main strategies in SCP include; increasing effort for offending, increasing risks, reducing the rewards, removing provocations and removing excuse for offending.

Problem Statement

Crime rate reduction is a critical requisite for the attainment of sustainable economic development globally. The potential of a country's growth and prosperity depend on the safety and security of its people. However, increase in crime has emerged as a critical hindrance to trade, investment, provision of necessary facilities, social cohesion and integration. Criminal activities have no respect for people's socio-economic status and anyone can fall victim to these unpleasant activities. Kenya is not a crime free nation as cases of criminal deeds have been hitting the news headlines day in day out. The government, the civil society and the international community have put great efforts to curb crime. However, available statistics show increased crime rates across the nation. Currently, various horrid episodes of criminal incidences feature in the daily media reports on multiple parts of the country. These emerging trends tend to raise questions such as; why are we not able to detect and prevent these crimes before they occur? Should we shift focus from the criminals to the factors that promote their criminal behaviour? Is traditional policing still the way to go? Can the environment be manipulated to reduce criminality and crime? This study is inspired by the shallow literature on the successful application of the SCP model as a modern crime prevention strategy in Kenya. In particular the National Crime Research Centre; Crime patterns and trends in Kenya Annual report (NCRC, 2022) notes that there are few documented urban case studies, limited evaluations of community policing and little evidence from Nairobi and other major urban areas. Therefore, the study addresses the gap and will help inform the decision-making process on reducing crime rates through SCP. Starehe constituency was used as the research area with the aim of the study being to assess the various SCP methods that are currently in place at Starehe and how they have led to reduction in crime rates.

Research Objectives

- i. To examine the common Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) practices present within Starehe constituency.
- ii. To determine the effectiveness of SCP in preventing crime within Starehe constituency.
- iii. To identify challenges and recommend improvements for SCP implementation in Starehe constituency.
- iv. To evaluate the impact of SCP as a method of reducing crime rates in Starehe constituency.

Theoretical Framework

The Routine Activity Theory

This study is anchored in Routine Activity Theory (RAT) (Cohen & Felson, 1979) and its integration with Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) (Clarke, 1983). These theoretical perspectives provide a robust foundation for understanding how crime opportunities emerge in everyday environments and how targeted interventions can disrupt criminal acts. While RAT explains the situational conditions necessary for crime to occur, SCP offers practical strategies to manipulate these conditions. Together, they form a powerful framework for analysing crime prevention mechanisms particularly in the Kenyan context where urbanization and social changes have altered criminal opportunity structures.

Motivated Offender

The concept of motivated offenders is a fundamental component of Routine Activity Theory (RAT), as introduced by Cohen and Felson (1979). Unlike other criminological theories such as Strain Theory or Social Learning Theory, RAT does not extensively explore the underlying causes of criminal motivation. Instead, it operates on the assumption that a pool of motivated offenders is always present in society waiting for suitable opportunities to commit crimes (Felson 2008). These offenders may range from professional criminals to impulsive situational offenders who seize opportunities as they arise.

Cohen and Felson (1979) emphasized that criminal behaviour is not necessarily driven by social or psychological conditions but rather by the convergence of three key elements: a motivated offender, a suitable target, and the absence of capable guardianship. This perspective suggests that offenders are rational decision-makers who weigh the potential rewards and risks associated with committing a crime. As Clarke & Cornish (1985) assert, "Offenders do not necessarily have extraordinary motives; instead, they are ordinary people who see crime as a means to satisfy everyday needs, such as money, status, or excitement."

In the Kenyan context, economic disparities, unemployment and income inequality are significant factors that contribute to the pool of motivated offenders (KNBS, 2022). A report by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2024) indicated that the unemployment rate among youth aged 15-24 years stood at 39.1%, creating a fertile ground for criminal activities such as theft, robbery and drug trafficking. Additionally, the rapid urbanization of cities like Nairobi has resulted in increased informal settlements where high poverty levels and limited access to legitimate income-generating opportunities may push individuals toward criminal behaviour (NCRC, 2023).

Felson (2008) argue that certain environmental factors can also increase offender motivation. For example, areas with visible signs of disorder such as littering, graffiti and broken windows may signal a lack of guardianship and thereby embolden offenders. This aligns with the principles of the Broken Windows Theory which suggests that visible signs of neglect and disorder can escalate criminal activity by conveying that criminal behaviour is tolerated (Wilson & Kelling, 1982).

Moreover, researchers like Wright and Decker (1997) emphasize that offenders often rationalize their actions based on perceived opportunities and risks. For instance, a burglar might target a poorly secured house calculating that the likelihood of getting caught is minimal. Similarly, a car thief may focus on vehicles left unattended in poorly lit areas as the absence of capable guardians increases the chance of a successful theft. This decision-making process underscores the importance of situational factors in shaping criminal behaviour.

Research by Clarke and Newman (2006) also highlights how social networks and peer influences can act as motivators for crime. Offenders often operate within social circles where criminal behaviour is normalized making it easier for them to rationalize their actions and justify their involvement in criminal activities. In Kenya, organized criminal gangs such as the Mungiki have been known to recruit unemployed youth offering them financial incentives in exchange for participating in illegal activities such as extortion and drug trafficking (NCRC, 2023).

Suitable Target

Suitable targets are considered one of the three core components in Routine Activity Theory as articulated by Cohen and Felson (1979). A suitable target is defined as a person, object or place that is perceived as attractive and accessible to a potential offender. The attractiveness of a target is often determined by factors such as its value, visibility, accessibility and inertia. Value refers to the potential financial gain or personal satisfaction an offender could derive from the target such as cash, jewellery, or high-end electronics (Cohen & Felson, 1979).

Visibility and accessibility are equally crucial in determining target suitability. For instance, items displayed in open view or carried in easily accessible locations increase their risk of being targeted (Clarke, 1995). Dark alleys, poorly lit streets and isolated parking lots further exacerbate the risk by providing offenders with concealment and an easy escape route. Studies by Felson and Eckert (2018) indicate that areas with reduced natural surveillance and limited pedestrian traffic often become hotspots for opportunistic crimes like snatching and pickpocketing.

Inertia is another critical component that pertains to the physical attributes of a target that may either facilitate or hinder the commission of a crime. Lightweight and portable objects are more susceptible to theft as they can be easily carried away without attracting attention (Clarke, 1983). For instance, laptops, mobile phones, and purses are more likely to be targeted due to their portability compared to larger cumbersome items like televisions or safes. The concept of inertia is also applicable to people with vulnerable individuals such as children, the elderly or intoxicated persons being perceived as easier targets for crimes like mugging, kidnapping, or assault

(Felson, 2008). Furthermore, research by Wright and Decker (1997) highlights that offenders often engage in target selection based on a quick assessment of perceived risk and reward.

Absence Of Capable Guardianship

The absence of capable guardianship is another critical factor that contributes to the occurrence of crime, as highlighted in Routine Activity Theory (Cohen & Felson, 1979). Capable guardianship usually includes formal agents like police officers and security guards as well as informal agents such as vigilant neighbours, shopkeepers or even bystanders. The mere presence of guardians can act as a significant deterrent to potential offenders by increasing the perceived risk of apprehension and reducing the likelihood of successful criminal activity (Felson 2008).

Guardianship can also be extended to physical mechanisms such as alarm systems, CCTV cameras, motion detectors and reinforced locks. Research by Welsh and Farrington (2009) demonstrates that properties equipped with surveillance systems experience significantly lower rates of burglary as offenders are deterred by the heightened risk of detection. Similarly, Clarke (1992, 1997) found that the strategic placement of security personnel and surveillance cameras in shopping malls reduced theft incidents by as much as 30%.

However, the absence of guardianship creates opportunities for crime. Areas characterized by social disorganization such as abandoned buildings, vacant lots and poorly maintained public spaces are particularly susceptible to criminal activities (Sampson & Groves, 1989). In such areas, the lack of capable guardians creates a conducive environment for offenses like vandalism, drug dealing, and gang-related violence.

The concept of capable guardianship extends beyond physical presence. Situational factors such as time of day and weather conditions can also affect the level of guardianship. For instance, Felson (2008) note that crimes like street robbery and sexual assault are more likely to occur during late-night hours when pedestrian traffic is sparse and fewer potential guardians are present. Similarly, heavy rainfall or fog can reduce visibility thereby decreasing the effectiveness of surveillance systems and increasing offenders' confidence in committing crimes without being seen (Cohen & Felson, 1979).

Absence of capable guardianship not only facilitates the commission of crime but also perpetuates a cycle of criminal behaviour particularly in areas marked by poverty, neglect and a lack of community cohesion. Addressing such vulnerabilities through enhanced surveillance, increased police presence and community-based programs can significantly reduce crime rates, as demonstrated in numerous SCP case studies (Clarke, 1997).

Therefore, since the Routine Activity Theory posits that fluctuations in crime rates stem primarily from transformations in societal patterns rather than changes in criminal motivation. At its core, this theoretical perspective maintains that predatory crimes require the simultaneous convergence of three essential elements: motivated offenders, suitable targets and the absence of capable guardianship. The absence of any single element effectively prevents the criminal act from occurring regardless of offender disposition. This framework fundamentally redirects analytical focus from individual pathology to environmental opportunity structures.

Contemporary Kenyan society demonstrates this principle through several observable phenomena. The nation's rapid urbanization with an annual growth rate of 4.4%, has dramatically altered the landscape of criminal opportunities by creating densely populated spaces with limited natural surveillance particularly in informal settlements. Simultaneously, Kenya's technological revolution exemplified by mobile money penetration exceeding 80% of the adult population has generated entirely new categories of suitable targets in the digital realm while outpacing the development of corresponding guardianship mechanisms. These systemic changes in routine economic activities have facilitated novel forms of financial fraud that align precisely with RAT's predictive framework.

Conceptual Framework

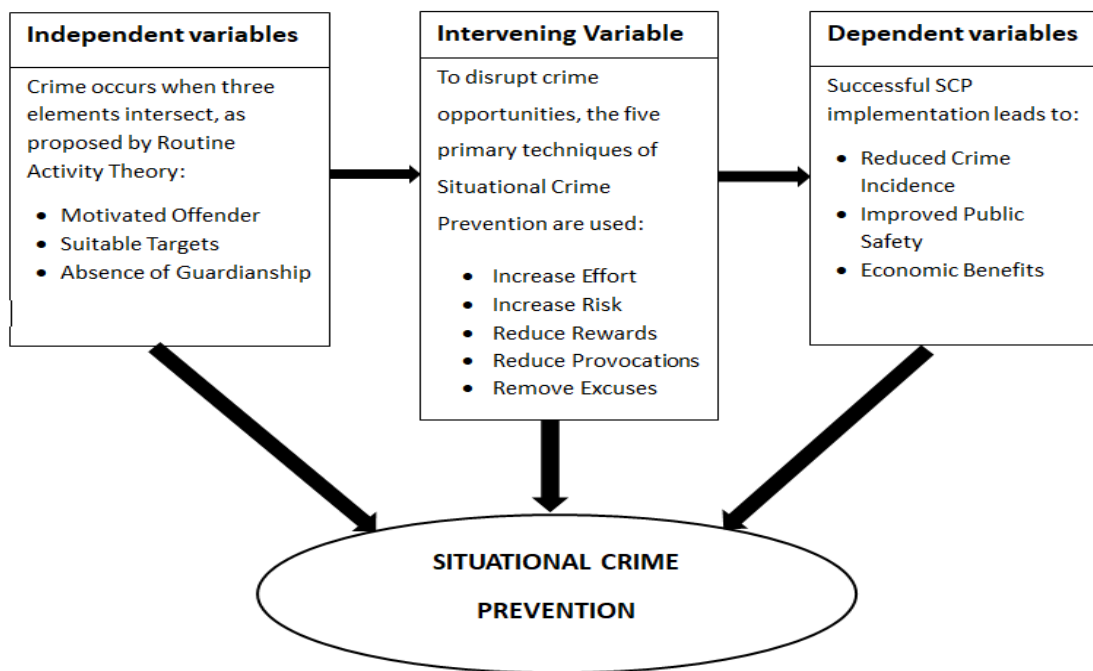
The conceptual framework integrates RAT and SCP to provide a dual-layered approach to crime prevention. RAT identifies the conditions under which criminal opportunities are likely to arise while SCP offers practical strategies for disrupting these conditions. The integration is depicted as follows:

Motivated Offenders. SCP addresses motivated offenders by reducing potential rewards and increasing perceived risks. For instance, installing alarm systems in residential areas not only increases the effort required to commit a crime but also raises the risk of detection thereby deterring potential offenders.

Suitable Targets. SCP strategies such as target hardening aim to reduce target suitability by implementing physical security measures. For example, banks deploy armed guards, secure vaults and biometric access controls to make financial assets less accessible.

Absence of Capable Guardianship. SCP reinforces guardianship through measures such as community policing, the establishment of neighbourhood watch programs, and the installation of surveillance cameras (Welsh & Farrington, 2009). This approach not only deters potential offenders but also fosters community cohesion by engaging residents in crime prevention efforts.

The conceptual framework developed for this study offers a comprehensive, actionable model for analysing and addressing crime opportunities through the combined lenses of Routine Activity Theory and Situational Crime Prevention. By systematically identifying and disrupting the convergence of motivated offenders, suitable targets and absent guardianship, the framework provides a robust foundation for implementing targeted SCP interventions. In the context of Kenya, the application of this framework has significant implications for policymakers, law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders particularly in urban areas where crime rates are disproportionately high. The illustration below shows how these various factors co-relate with each other as they aim at reducing crime rates.



METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a mixed-methods case study design to examine the current situational crime prevention (SCP) practices in Starehe. The mixed-methods approach combined both qualitative and quantitative techniques allowing the researcher to gather numerical data while also capturing in-depth insights from participants. This ensured a more holistic understanding of the research problem. The target population in this research included different residents from Starehe constituency and different enterprise owners within Starehe aged between 18-50 years.

To determine the exact sample size for the study on the impact of Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) in reducing crime in Starehe Constituency, the study used the Slovin’s formula which is commonly used when the population size is known but the exact variability is uncertain. The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) 2019 Census places the exact population of Starehe Constituency at 210,423. The Slovin formula is:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where;

n = Sample size

N = Population size (210,423 Starehe constituency population)

e = Margin of error (0.05)

$$n = \frac{210,423}{1 + (210,423 \times 0.0025)} \approx 399.24$$

n = 400 respondents

Stratified random sampling was used to ensure representativeness across the different wards within the study area. The population was divided into strata based on wards and participants were then randomly selected from each stratum. This approach minimized selection bias and improved the generalizability of findings. In addition, convenience sampling was employed particularly for respondents who were more easily accessible, available and willing to participate in the study. Convenience sampling was chosen for its practicality, cost-effectiveness and time efficiency especially where logistical constraints limited access to some participants.

This involves both primary and secondary sources of data collection. Questionnaires were the main tool for primary data collection. This tool is particularly useful in studies aiming to understand participants' perspectives, experiences or behaviours. Secondary data was collected from textbooks, journals and the internet. This helped the researcher understand the study through what other researchers have done on the topic of study. The quantitative data obtained from the research was analysed using descriptive and inferential approaches and presented using graphs, pie charts and tables and percentages.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Awareness of Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) Measures

The findings showed that 278(72.0%) respondents reported being aware of SCP measures showing that the majority recognize strategies such as street lighting, security patrols, CCTV surveillance, or community policing initiatives operating in their neighbourhoods. Contrarily, 108(28.0%) reported that they were not aware of any SCP measures in their area. This indicated that there was a gap in communication or visibility of these initiatives as nearly a third of the population may not fully engage with or benefit from existing crime prevention strategies. The findings also suggested that while awareness levels are moderately high, a significant portion of residents were disconnected from or uninformed about the security measures intended to safeguard their communities.

The findings also revealed that 310 (80.3%) respondents considered street lighting as the most SCP common feature, reflecting its central role in enhancing safety. Additionally, 226(58.5%) respondents identified security patrols, 202(52.3%) respondents reported community policing initiatives such as Nyumba Kumi suggesting that both formal and informal patrol strategies are moderately active in the area. Additionally, 184(47.7%) respondents mentioned CCTV surveillance; 118(30.6%) respondents identified access control measures such as gates or guards; and 96(24.9%) respondents identified warning signs or posters. These findings were relevant in understanding the current landscape of crime prevention in the constituency.

Table 1: Awareness of Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) Measures

Awareness of Situational Crime Prevention	
	No (Percentage)
Aware	278(72.0%)

Not Aware	108(28.0%)
Availability of Situational Crime Prevention Security Features in Neighbourhoods	
	No. (Percentage)
Street Lighting	310 (80.3%)
Security Patrols	226(58.5%)
Community Policing Initiatives	202(52.3%)
CCTV Surveillance	184(47.7%)
Access Control Measures	118(30.6%)
Warning Signs or Posters	96(24.9%)

Perceptions of Effectiveness of SCP Measures

The findings revealed that 128 (33.2%) of respondents strongly agreed that situational crime prevention (SCP) measures have reduced crime in their area. Besides, 146(37.8%) of respondents agreed indicating that a majority of respondents perceive SCP strategies as having some level of effectiveness. Additionally, 56(14.5%) of respondents were neutral, reflecting mixed experiences or limited exposure to such interventions; 34(8.8%) of respondents disagreed while 22(5.7%) of respondents strongly disagreed that SCP has reduced crime in their area. The high rates of neutrality and disagreement highlighted disparities in implementation and outcomes indicating that while SCP has a role in crime prevention its effectiveness is not uniform across all areas.

The findings showed that 112 (29.0%) of respondents considered streetlighting as the most effective situational crime prevention measure. This showed that the measure improved visibility at night discourages potential offenders and makes residents feel safer when moving around after dark. About 98(25.4%) of respondents considered CCTV surveillance as the most effective, which suggested that strong community confidence in technology-based monitoring both as a deterrent to offenders and as an investigative tool when crimes occur. Besides, 84 (21.8%) of respondents considered frequent police patrols as the most effective, which indicated that many residents continue to rely on visible law enforcement presence as a cornerstone of crime prevention and as immediate reassurance of safety in areas prone to incidents. Additionally, 52 (13.5%) of respondents identified community policing initiatives such as Nyumba Kumi as the most effective, which indicated the recognition of grassroots participation in security. About 28 (7.3%) of respondents identified access control measures such as gates and guards as the most significant, which largely represented the households or neighbourhoods that rely on physical barriers to secure property. Finally, 12 (3.0%) of respondents considered warning signs and posters as the most effective SCP measure suggesting that symbolic deterrents are not viewed as particularly impactful compared to physical or technological strategies.

Table 2: Perceptions of Effectiveness of SCP Measures

Effectiveness of SCP to Reduce Crime	No (Percentage)
Strongly Agreed	146(37.8%)
Agreed	146(37.8%)
Neutral	56(14.5%)
Disagreed	34(8.8%)
Strongly Disagreed	22(5.7%)

Most Effective SCP Measures	No. (Percentage)
Street Lighting	112 (29.0%)
Security Patrols	84 (21.8%)
Community Policing Initiatives	52 (13.5%)
CCTV Surveillance	98(25.4%)
Access Control Measures	12 (3.0%)

Challenges to SCP Implementation

The findings showed that 244 (63.2%) of respondents felt that the local government is not doing enough to support situational crime prevention (SCP) strategies in Starehe. This reflected a prevailing sense of dissatisfaction with how local authorities implement or fund crime prevention initiatives. Besides, 142 (36.8%) of respondents claimed that the local government was doing enough to support SCP efforts. This reflected where interventions such as police patrols, access control, or neighbourhood lighting are more effective and consistently applied suggesting that the benefits are not evenly distributed across the constituency. The findings pointed to a significant confidence gap between residents and local authorities.

The findings showed that 238 (61.7%) participants agreed that most people in their area were not actively involved in community safety initiatives. This pointed to the limited participation in efforts such as Nyumba Kumi which may stem from lack of awareness, mistrust in collective action or the belief that security is primarily a government responsibility. This also revealed a gap between the need for community engagement and the actual level of resident involvement. Contrarily, 148(38.3%) of respondents claimed that people in their neighbourhoods do actively participate in safety initiatives. This group likely represents areas where local leadership has mobilized residents effectively or where higher crime experiences have encouraged communities to work together. This revealed that although challenges existed there were pockets of strong engagement that could serve as examples for broader adoption. The findings also showed an uneven participation in community safety programs and suggests that improving awareness, building trust, and strengthening collaboration between residents and law enforcement could help increase involvement.

The findings revealed that 226 (60.1%) of respondents claimed that police presence in Starehe was not sufficient to support effective situational crime prevention (SCP) implementation. This indicated that the patrols, visibility and responsiveness from officers was inadequate in addressing crime in the constituency. Besides, 150 (39.9%) of respondents claimed that that police presence was adequate, indicating that they likely lived in areas where patrols were more frequent or where collaboration between police and the community was stronger, leading to a greater sense of safety and reassurance.

Besides, the findings showed that 130(33.6%) of the respondents strongly agreed that the lack of funding and resources negatively affects crime prevention infrastructure in Starehe and 164(42.5%) respondents agreed that lack of fundings was an issue. This showed that most people view underfunding as a major barrier to effective situational crime prevention (SCP). Besides, 46(11.9%) of respondents were neutral, which reflected limited awareness of how financial resources shape security outcomes. Meanwhile, 28 (7.3%) of respondents disagreed that funding was an issue, whereas 18(4.7%) of respondents strongly disagreed. This suggested that some residents attribute weaknesses in SCP more to issues like corruption, mismanagement, or poor community involvement rather than lack of funding.

Table 3: Challenges to SCP Implementation

Government support	No (Percentage)
Doing Enough	142 (36.8%)

Not Doing Enough	244 (63.2%)
Community involvement	No. (Percentage)
Actively Involved	148(38.3%)
Not Actively Involved	238 (61.7%)
Police Presence	No. (Percentage)
Sufficient	150 (39.9%)
Insufficient	226 (60.1%)
Insufficient Funds	No. (Percentage)
Strongly Agreed	130(33.6%)
Agreed	164(42.5%)
Neutral	46(11.9%)
Disagreed	28(7.3%)
Strongly Disagreed	18(4.7%)

Crime Experience and Perceptions

The findings showed that 148(38.3%) of respondents reported having personally experienced or witnessed crime showing that a significant portion of the community still faces crime in their daily lives. However, 238 (63.2%) of the respondents indicated they had not encountered crime directly suggesting that many residents perceive their immediate surroundings as relatively safe. This reflected the benefits of SCP strategies which could have reduced opportunities for crime to occur. It also showed a growing sense of security that aligns with the increased emphasis on situational prevention.

The findings showed that 42 (10.9%) respondents perceived the level of crime as very high representing a group that felt particularly unsafe and exposed to frequent incidents. Besides, 94 (24.3%) respondents rated crime as high suggesting ongoing concerns about exposure to criminal activity; 128 (33.2%) respondents considered crime levels to be moderate indicating that while they recognize occasional incidents, they do not view the area as persistently unsafe. Furthermore, 120(31.1%) respondents rated crime as low reflecting a sizeable group that experiences minimal exposure to crime; whereas 12 (3.1%) respondents viewed crime as very low, pointing to a relatively secure experience of their environment.

Table 4: Crime Experience and Perceptions

Crime Experience	No (Percentage)
Yes	148(38.3%)
No	238 (63.2%)
Perceived Level of Crime in the Past Year	No. (Percentage)
Very High	42 (10.9%)

High	94 (24.3%)
Moderate	128 (33.2%)
Low	120(31.1%)
Very Low	12 (3.1%)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Most residents in Starehe are aware of the available key measures of situational crime prevention (SCP). There is however a substantial minority that still do not know about the measures which suggested gaps in communication and the limited visibility of those particular initiatives. The lack of awareness of the measures invariably reduces the opportunities for community members to participate fully and also weakens the overall effects of the measures in crime prevention. Evidently street lighting came out as the most recognized SCP measure which indicated that the improvement in the environmental design played an integral role in enhancing a sense of security among residents in the deterrence of criminal activity. They are the prominent measures included security patrols, community policing, CCTV surveillance, and enactment of access controls. Their application however varied in terms of consistency and their perceived effectiveness.

The Starehe residents have confidence in SCP strategies. Even though a significant number are still uncertain about their impact in crime prevention. The mixed sentiment indicated uneven implementation and potential shortcomings when it comes to their reliability of particular interventions. The residents considered technology-based strategies such as CCTVS as highly effective which indicated a growing reliance on modern monitoring tools for surveillance. Contrarily community driven initiatives such as Nyumba Kumi received less endorsement which reflected possible challenges in the mobilization of residents towards the initiative.

Some of the key challenges associated with the implementation of SCP included insufficient government support, limited police presence, inadequate funding, and low levels of community involvement. The challenges reflected broader structural issues including fragmented coordination, lack of resources, and varied levels of trust between the residents, law enforcement, and local authority. Many residents however reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods despite these obstacles and this suggested that the SCP measures had yielded positive impact in terms of boosting security. However, since some were not aware of the measures or had not experienced increased safety, they implemented measures needed to be strengthened and equally distributed across the neighborhood. Therefore, while the SCP measures have meaningful contribution to the improvement of safety in the neighborhood their effectiveness is limited by the identified factors and there is need for a multifaceted approach to ensure they are optimized.

The study therefore commended that local authorities should come up with sensitization campaigns about the SCP programs. This could be achieved through digital platforms, community forums, and neighborhood associations where the residents will be educated about the measures and the targeted outcomes. The study also recommended the revitalization of the Nyumba Kumi initiative through incentives, training, and grassroots mobilization to boost the participation of residents. Additionally, street lighting, frequent police patrols, and CCTV networks should be prioritized particularly in high crime zones considering their perceived effectiveness.

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