American Journal of Social and Humanitarian Research

Vol. 5 Issue 3 | **pp.** 33- | **e-ISSN:** 2690-9626
Available online @ https://www.globalresearchnetwork.us/index.php/ajshr

Policing for Sustainable Development in Public Universities in South-South Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria

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Abstract:
Public universities, being vibrant spaces with diverse populations, have become particularly vulnerable to these security threats. This necessitates the incorporation of sustainable development initiatives and the development of effective policing strategies within the public university system. The study aims at making a critical analysis of the crimes that occur in universities in south-south Nigeria with a view to effectively police the environment for effective teaching, learning and research to take place. The objective of this study amongst others is to determine the various methods of policing for sustainable development in Universities in South-South Geo-political zone of Nigeria. The study looked at the concept of policing, policing for sustainable development, challenges of policing in Nigeria, and methods of policing. Policing for sustainable development not only enhances the safety and security of public universities but also contributes to the achievement of sustainable development goals within the South-South geo-political zone of Nigeria. Through their actions, these institutions can serve as exemplars of sustainable practices, inspiring positive change in their communities and beyond. Hence, the study recommends amongst others that, public universities in south-south should establish a proactive policing strategy that addresses the unique security challenges faced by their campuses. This strategy should incorporate community-oriented policing principles, focusing on collaboration, engagement, and trust-building with the local community.

Keywords: policing, sustainable development, public universities, Nigeria.

Citation: Agbongiasede, C. K. Policing for Sustainable Development in Public Universities in South-South Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria. *American Journal of Social and Humanitarian Research* **2024**, *5(3)*, 33-50.

Received: 7 January 2024
Revised: 18 January 2024
Accepted: 6 February 2024
Published: 1 March 2024

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1. Introduction

Policing for sustainable development is critical to establishing secure and welcoming environments inside public universities. As institutions of higher learning, public universities in Nigeria's South-South geopolitical zone must prioritize sustainable development to guarantee the overall growth of their campuses and communities. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the role of policing in sustainable development in public universities in Nigeria's South-South geopolitical zone, highlighting key strategies and initiatives that can be implemented to improve security, promote ecological preservation, and foster social cohesion within these institutions. In recent years, Nigeria has faced an increase in security threats ranging from cultism and thievery to abduction and terrorism [1]. Public universities, being vibrant places with diverse people, are particularly exposed to these security issues. These demands integrating sustainable development projects and developing effective policing techniques within the public university system.

To successfully address these concerns, public institutions must implement policing approaches that include three major characteristics of sustainable development:

economic, social, and environmental [2]. Implementing community-oriented police strategies, for example, can serve to strengthen ties between campus security officers and the surrounding community. This can increase mutual trust, make it easier to share information, and contribute to the university's overall safety. This article will critically assess the present policing systems in public universities in Nigeria's South-South geopolitical zone and make practical recommendations to improve their efficacy in promoting sustainable development. By taking a multifaceted approach to policing, public universities may make a substantial contribution to achieving sustainable development goals and making campuses safer.

1.1. Aim and objectives of the study

The aim of this study is to make a critical analysis of the crimes that occur in universities in south-south Nigeria with a view to effectively police the environment for effective teaching, learning and research to take place. The objective of this study is to:

1) Determine the various methods of policing for sustainable development in Universities in South-South Geo-political zone of Nigeria.

1.2. Research questions

1) What are the various methods of policing for sustainable development in Universities in South-South Geo-political zone of Nigeria?

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1. The differential association theory

According to Matsueda [3], the Differential Association Theory suggests that criminal behavior is acquired through personal groups where members are exposed to a broader variety of definitions, attitudes, and explanations that are supportive to illegal activity. The attitudes and actions of their closest peers are likely to have a direct impact on students who engage in violent physical behavior toward other students on campus [4]. The theory asserts that criminal behavior is learned in interaction in the process of communication within intimate groups. These intimate personal groups could be classmates or roommates, friends or cult members who spend a lot of time together on the campuses of various universities especially those in South-South Nigeria. As they interact, they share many secrets, including criminal behavior. A new student makes new friends and joins bad gangs like cult groups, takes pride in hard drugs, some are introduced into the world of crime while those with criminal record may be introduced into advanced crime like kidnapping etc.

2.2. Concept of policing

Police have always been necessary in all societies for the maintenance of order, safety and social relations [5]. The need for police becomes even more evident in modern societies characterized by the diversities and contradictions that derive from the heterogeneity of the population, from urbanization, from industrialization, from conflicting ideologies on appropriate socio-political and economic forms of organization. But in human history, the rise of the police—a force of men and women hired and funded by the state to uphold law and order—is a relatively new phenomenon. Historically, the police were the province of the community's adults. Any organizational action that aims to maintain community order, security, and peace through components of prevention, deterrent, infringement investigation, and punishment is considered surveillance [6]. Surveillance is not limited to state police activities. Since it is a governance mechanism, both the state and non-state organizations may approve and supply it.

Numerous agents and agencies are capable of doing jobs and have in the past. Professionals employed by the state in an organization with an omnibus police mandate, the quintessential modern definition of police, or state agencies primarily serving other purposes (e.g., the British police, the Parks constabularies, the atomic energy authority police, and other "hybrid" police forces) can conduct surveillance [7].

Internal security refers to security workers engaged by an entity whose primary function is not law enforcement, or police officers can be professionals hired by specialized private law enforcement organizations (contractual security). Agencies such as support officers from the police community, which lack the complete status, authority, apparatus, or training of the main state police, can still carry out the patrol. In addition, civilians might volunteer to carry out police duties in totally independent groups or inside state police organizations like Neighborhood Watch Schemes (such as the myriad control bodies that have grown in many times and locations).

Government agencies with other principal duties, like the military in Northern Ireland, or private sector workers as an addition to their regular work (such shop clerks, bus drivers, or janitors who guard against robberies) can carry out surveillance tasks.

Surveillance is also done using technologies such as CCTV cameras or listening devices. Surveillance can be engineered into the architecture and function of streets and buildings, as summarized by Mike Davis' famous shock bench example [8, p. 199]. It is increasingly carried out by transnational agencies [9].

Whether the apparent shift in surveillance from the state to private, citizen, and international forms represents a fundamental and qualitative revolution is a topic of much dispute [10]. There has been opposition to this assertion. Even if the number of private security employees has surpassed that of public police officers in several nations, it was already increasing throughout the postwar years [11].

Furthermore, part of the increase in the number of private security services is due to companies increasingly replacing contracts with homeland security, thus increasing the statistics on private security employment.

Although the state has claimed control over legitimate force in stable liberal democracies, there is no indication that this domination of legitimacy is under threat. The state has never had a monopoly on security arrangements [12]. Theorists of modern policing assert that private security has undergone a transformation in both status and image, and that this change has occurred for reasons other than their mere existence.

While they are certainly more in demand, it is evident that the masses view them in positive light.

The field of policing is always evolving. The advancements made in the 1960s and 1970s due to the introduction of new technologies, like automobiles, two-way radios, computer-aided dispatch systems, and centralized databases of criminal records, are now considered standard practices by both law enforcement and the general public [13]. In a similar vein, modern scientific methods, data gathering tools, and quantitative analytical processes are influencing many facets of law enforcement, such as intelligence gathering, crime investigation, and public order management [14].

The lines between gathering, evaluating, and punishing evidence are blurred by technologies like "body worn cameras," PDAs, and mobile fingerprint and DNA testing analysis tools. Because these technologies make it possible to monitor the entire population, they also make it more difficult to distinguish between an innocent individual and a suspect. Most western democracies saw a shift in police toward more community- and problem-oriented strategies in the last decades of the 20th century [10].

Osakede, Ijimakinwa, Arijeniwa, Adesanya, Ojo and Abubakar [15] stated that achieving effective policing worldwide had intensified the review and adoption of various strategies for safe and sustainable development for the citizenry to thrive. However, research on police efficacy suggests that the police currently play a role in

maintaining order and controlling crime [16]. Starting out, it is crucial that we distinguish between "police" and "policing" at this point. While "policing" suggests a set of procedures with a particular societal role, the police are a specific type of institution. The foundation of community policing is a structured interaction between the police and all members of the public. Police duties and responsibilities go beyond simple law enforcement to include methodical problem-solving of a wide range of societal issues. The Nigerian police are not exempt from the global practice of integrating traditional policing into contemporary policing, sometimes known as community policing.

As a theory and practice, community policing is in fact a powerful instrument for administrative reform inside the Nigeria Police [17]. In order to combat the range of crimes that define modern Nigerian society, community policing seeks to involve the unofficial indigenous social control mechanisms in the country and integrate them into police operations. One recurring theme is the necessity of viewing tackling Nigeria's current security issues—namely, crime detection, prevention, and control—as a collective endeavor [16].

The police role is the part that police are expected to play in a democratic society. There are several major sources of expectations concerning what the police should do and how they should do it, including the law, the police organization, the community and the individual [18]. The Nigerian Police Force (NPF) is therefore statutorily responsible for the detection and prevention of crime, apprehending and prosecution of offenders, protection of lives and properties of citizens, enforcement and maintenance of laws and order [19].

There is need to distinguish between the word police and policing in fighting and curbing crime. Police refers to a socio-political and quasi-legal institution charged with the responsibility of enforcing criminal law and the maintenance of law and order [20]. Police can also be seen as a civil organization whose members are given special legal powers by the government to carry arms and ammunitions for the task of maintaining public order, solving and preventing crimes and supporting other sister security agencies to achieve internal security in the county.

Policing on the other hand, refers to the measures and actions taken by a variety of institutions and groups (both formal and informal) in the society (led by the Nigerian Police Force) to regulate social relations and practice in order to secure the safety of members of the society as well as compel them to conform to the norms and values the society expects of them. Also, police, according to Adoyin, Onoja and Agwanwoare [21], are the formal institutions charged with the responsibility of policing in order to ensure security of life and property and the concept of policing are embedded in the constitution of all institutions and communities. Hence, policing may be described as the works carried out by agencies as diverse as family, peer group, armed forces, persons, schools, whose interaction in the form of measures and activities ensure the regulation of social relations and practices in order to secure the safety of members of the community as well as conform to norms and values of the society [21].

The police are the most visible security operatives in charge of social control in the society and they enforce the law using discretionary powers that are derived from the constitution. Their powers are regulated and exercised under certain international conventions, police departments' orders, professional codes and state laws in Nigeria. Supporting this view, Alemika and Chukwuma [22] argued that police operations involve the use of force based on their codes that define the rules of engagement in crime prevention but at some point, they probably exceed the limits permissible by the law due to the nature of crime they try to prevent.

Policing a free university community involves the use of internal university mechanism recognized by the university law to control law and order for a successful implementation of the institution's academic calendar without any hindrance. The police are state officials assigned with the responsibility of maintenance and enforcement of law

and order in the society. This assigned statutory responsibility is due to the fact that there is a link between the state, order and law for the sustainability of human society. Thus, Biereenu and Nnabugwo [23] opined that a state without law is inconceivable and as such must have an appropriate framework for the enforcement of the law. With the emergence of the Nigerian state, the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) has been scheduled to perform the following duties:

1) Prevention of crime
2) Protection of lives and properties
3) Enforcement of law
4) Maintenance of peace and public order
5) Provision of a wide range of services to the citizens.

By doing this, it has the potential for violence and right to use coercive means in order to establish social control. To Yecho [24], the Nigerian Police is statutorily required to fight crime through detection, investigations, apprehension and prosecution of offenders in the law court and the protection of lives and properties through proactive policing. The power of the police to enforce law and" order in the society gives it the authority to limit freedom through surveillance, questioning, investigating individuals suspected of certain breaches, search and arrest with or without court warrant. In the university system, it is assumed that the police do not have jurisdiction within its boundaries due to the autonomy enjoyed by the university and bestowed on it by the law. This assumption is questionable and may not stand the test of law in the courts since the university is part of the society and guided by the constitution.

Supporting this, Alemika and Chukwuma [22] opined that, the police are invested with a great deal of authority under a system of government in which authority is reluctantly granted and, when granted, it is sharply curtailed. To Reiner [5], policing has always been necessary in all societies for the preservation of order, safety and social relations. The necessity of policing becomes even more evident in modern societies characterized by diversities and contradictions arising from population heterogeneity, urbanization, industrialization conflicting ideologies on appropriate socio political and economic form of organization. However, the emergence of the police, a body of men recruited and paid by the state to enforce law and maintain order, is a recent development in human history.

Traditionally, policing was the responsibility of all adults in the community. In medieval society, all adult males were obliged to contribute towards the prevention and control of crime and disorder under the system of 'hue, cry and pursuit' and the 'watch and ward that preceded the emergence of specialized police forces as organs of the state. But the emergence of the state, with its vast bureaucracies anchored on centralization, hierarchical authority/power structure, and professional staff charge the traditional policing philosophy rooted in the idea of policing as everybody's business. The emergence of the state as an entity with claim to the monopoly over the means of legitimate violence in society resulted into the creation of specialized agencies such as the police and the armed forces for controlling the use of violence by other groups.

Approaches to policing vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Gaines and Cordner [25] suggested that Police agencies can choose from among four overreaching strategies: professional crime fighting, strategic policing, and problem-oriented policing and community policing. For decades, Police followed the professional model, which rested on three foundations: preventive patrol, quick response time, and follow-up investigation. Sensing that professional model did not always operate as efficiently and effectively as it could, criminal justice researchers set out to review current procedures and evaluate alternative programmes. By the 1970s, research began to show that rapid response to crime does not necessarily lead to more arrest and that having more Police Officers using methods made popular under the professional or reform model does not significantly reduce crime. What was emerging was the view that unattended disorderly

behavior in neighborhoods-such as unruly groups of youth, prostitution, vandalism, drunkenness and disorderly vagrants, and aggressive street people-is a signal to more serious criminals that residents do not care what goes on in their community and that the criminals can move in and operate with impunity.

The 1970s and 1980s saw some experimentation with community and neighborhood-based policing projects. Those projects got mixed result and many were abandoned because of high costs, administrative neglect and citizen apathy. Higher crime rates continued, and recognition of the failure to control crime caused law enforcement to again question that role it was playing. The enforcer role still was not working well enough. It appeared senseless simply to respond to calls for service and arrive at scenes of crime and disorder time and time again without resolving the problems or having any lasting effect on the lives of the residents of the community. Out of this failure and frustration came the concept and idea of community policing in contemporary policing.

Once the word policing is mentioned what comes to the minds of vast majority of people is the activity of state police. However, policing is not just an activity of the state police, in involves any organized activity that seeks to ensure the maintenance of communal order, security and peace through elements of prevention, deterrence, investigation of breaches, and punishment [6]. It is in fact a mechanism of governance. As such it can be authorized and provided by non-state groups as well as the state.

2.3. Policing for sustainable development

Law enforcement is about keeping society safe. And society entails all aspect of the environment including the school environment. So, it is no surprise that as society has changed, so too has law enforcement. New technologies, new methods, and new ideas have brought significant change to the profession. But at its core, law enforcement requires the same dedication to communities, the same sense of duty and sacrifice, and the same integrity it always has. At this point it is important to examine the various methods of policing.

Historically, policing and police work did not start as a paid profession, rather, it started as a noble, incorruptible profession with considerable responsibility and distinction, [26]. However, the police as we know it today went through three distinct stages before it became profession. First, the populace, though small was responsible for maintaining law and order, then justice of the peace emerged on the scene to provide both the law and justice at the bar, and in the present era, paid professional police were established to maintain law and order [27].

For Nigeria, policing was dated back to the colonial era. Policing in Nigeria has always reflected the society that created it. In this period, the primary purpose of the police was to advance the economic and political agenda of the colonialist. In many areas, the police engaged in the brutal subjugation of communities and the suppression of resistance to colonial rule. Thus, the use of violence and repression from the beginning of colonial era, marked a dislocation in the relationship between the police and local communities, which has characterized law enforcement practices in Nigeria ever since. In spite of this colonial enterprise on policing in Nigeria, the police are at the forefront of the criminal justice process and, for people, the only personal experience they have with that process is contact with local police.

The discussion of law enforcement thus far has made it clear that not all matters of policing in Nigeria are settled. However, some of the issues that continue to be major topics of debate in law enforcement and have significant impact on the quality of life in neighborhoods and communities will be highlighted. One of such issue is discretion. Discretion is the exercise of individual judgment, instead of former rules in making decisions [18]. In other words, the officer makes a choice concerning both what laws will be enforced and how that enforcement will take place. The issue of police discretion is

very controversial. Some believe that the discretion of police officers should be reduced. The movement to limit the discretion of police officers is the result of abuses of that discretion, such as physical abuse of citizens or unequal application of the law in making arrests. Other people argue that we should acknowledge that officers operate with great discretion and not attempt to limit it. Advocates of this view believe that better education and training would help officers exercise their judgments more wisely. Even more pertinent is the fact that some of the more critical situations involve decisions about stopping, searching, and arresting criminal suspects. Many citizens have been inconvenienced and some have been abused because of a police officer's poor use of discretion in some areas in Nigeria.

In the same vein, no issue in policing has caused as much controversy in recent times as the use of force. In Lagos, Kaduna, Kano, Enugu, Port-Harcourt and many other cities, excessive – force charges against police officers have been made and documented and have resulted in the loss of public confidence in the police. Not only is the persistent use of excessive force by the police against citizens unethical, civilly wrong, and criminally illegal, but it also creates a situation where nobody wins. In fact, the scope and context of contacts between the police and citizen are largely restricted to law enforcement situations. These are situations which citizens consider restrictive and therefore resent. The ineffectiveness of Nigerian police, arising from inadequacy of human resources, facilities and funds, lowers the estimation of the police in the eyes of the public. These conditions alienate police from the public and engender police-citizen hostility and violence [22]. In the same vein, it has been observed that the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is psychologically and structurally too distant from the people they are meant to protect; and do not share or get bound by the values, interests and sentiments of the people. This situation stemmed from the fact of colonial origins of the Federal Police, which adversely affected the quality of those recruited into the police, and the type of training and orientation (brutal and oppressive) they were given, all of which in turn adversely affected how (negative) they perceived and behaved towards people. Their negative perception and treatment of Nigerians also made Nigerians not to trust or want to go near the police [28].

For many years, police followed the professional model, which rested on three foundations: preventive patrol, quick response time, and follow up investigation. Sensing that the professional model did not always operate as efficiently as it could, Nigeria opted to the use of community policing is being practiced all over the world. This will help solving both minor and major problems in a neighborhood and to reduce crime and fear of crime. In other words, police and citizens should work cooperatively to build a strong sense of community and should share responsibility in the neighborhood to improve the overall quality of life within the community. However, due to the age-long suspicious and antagonistic relationship between the police and members of the public, it has been difficult for the members of the public to accept or trust the Community Policing Project [29]. Nonetheless, a community policing perspective differs in a number of ways from a traditional policing perspective. For example, in community policing, the police must share power with residents of a community, and critical decisions need to be made at the neighborhood level, not at a downtown police headquarters. Such decentralization of authority means that credit for bringing about a safer and more secure community must be shared with the people of the community, a tall order for any group of professionals to accept.

In addition, allegations leveled against the police and its personnel, some of which have proven to be true, include arbitrariness in exercising its power, corruption, perversion of justice, and delays in the administration of justice. However, these allegations are a product of 'god fatherism'. This concept of godfatherism has become a dominant issue in Nigerian polity and impedes the course of justice across the country. Many highly placed public officers in Nigeria are known to pervert the course of justice by the virtue of their closeness to the seat of power. Often, the police get sucked in, and

this accounts for their complicity in several unresolved crimes across the country [30]. A reference point is unresolved assassinations of political figures, which the police have to fish out the perpetrators. This and other similar actions, rightly fuel the suspicion of police duplicity and belief that they are nothing but a bunch of hired guns in the secret service of select criminal political godfathers [30].

In the same vein, policing system have been politicized in Nigeria. In most Nigerian cities, party politics prevented the development of professional police departments. Local political leaders understood that controlling the police was a means of maintaining their own political power and of allowing criminal friends and political allies to violate the law with impunity. In fact, in some states, the police were clearly extensions of the state party machine, which attempted to dominate all activity in a community. This has been witnessed recently in Rivers State, where the Commissioner of Police has been accused of taking parts in the party affairs of the state. In collaboration with local politicians, but often on their own, the Police were more than willing to ignore violations of the law if the law breakers gave them money, valuables or privileges.

Similarly, human rights violations by the police have been a contested issue. One of the major responsibilities of government is to preserve and protect the human rights of its citizens or foreign nationals. However, the Nigeria police have consistently come under severe public criticism for its poor human rights records. This was most pronounced in the years of military rule with its usual castration of the rule of law, which foisted a utopian character on the people's demand for the protection of human rights [29]. Despite continuous attempts by successive police administrators to change the human rights image of the force, the notion persists among members of the public that the Nigeria police has very scant regard for the civil rights of the average citizen.

Police corruption is another issue. Almost from the beginning of formal policing in Nigeria, corruption of law enforcement officers has been a fact of life. Throughout history, police officers have bought their positions and promotions, sold protection, and ignored violations of the law for money. Why is policing so susceptible to bribery and other form of corruption in Nigeria? Basically, this has to do with combination of two critical features of the police role in the society. On the one hand, the police have authority to enforce laws and to use power to make sure that those laws are obeyed. On the other hand, they also have the discretion not to enforce the law. The combination of those two features makes the police vulnerable to bribes and other forms of corruption. In this context, allegations of police corruption erupt on daily basis. These come in various forms: extortion from motorists at illegally mounted road blocks, collection of monetary gratification (bribery) in order to alter justice in favors of the highest bidder.

2.4. Challenges of policing in Nigeria

In this century, policing in Nigeria faces a lot of challenges. Thus, police work requires a combination of special characteristics, but personnel with the following qualities: quick decision-making, independent nature of police work, dirty work and danger are best able to carry out the difficult service role mandated for law enforcement officers. However, the spate of armed robbery is posing a big challenge to an effective policing in Nigeria. Why the police have been trying to curb this menace, the ill-equipped officers and outdated weapons have rendered their role in this direction unattainable. Of recent, the IG cried for an improved bullet proof for officers attached to the banks. Yet, nothing has been done therefore the Nigeria Police should equip the officers with modern and sophisticated weapons.

Similarly, human trafficking has become a recurring decimal in Nigeria. However, the Nigeria Police Force being the principal law enforcement organization in the country is naturally positioned to intervene in issues of human trafficking. This intervention should translate into the prevention, apprehension, investigation and prosecution of cases of trafficking in persons. Although, the police have recorded a lot of success in this

aspect of policing, but a lot of challenges still exists for a comprehensive success of this issues. Foremost among the problems encountered in the process was the attitude of the victims. Their uncooperative attitude is occasioned by the fearful oaths of secrecy forced on them by the traffickers and in whose efficacy, they believe without hesitation. Also lack of proper coordination of anti-human trafficking units occasioned by lack of effective communication amongst the twelve units spread around the country has militated against the progress of the unit [31].

Policing in Nigeria is not limited to domestic affairs. The Nigeria Police has participated in international peacekeeping operations. This gesture gave Nigeria the impetus to be ranked first in the UN Peace-Keeping Female Contributing Countries. Nigeria also boasts of five Nigeria police officers on the UN appointments [32]. However, the challenge faced in this area is the deployment difficulties. Countries have been known to refuse unhindered passage of arms and ammunition through their territories. In addition, there is a language barrier. The obvious difficulties confronting Nigerian Peace-Keepers in non-English speaking countries are compounded by social and cultural differences, which make it imperative for the best available men and women to be deployed for peace-keeping duties.

Recent identification development in criminal investigation is another challenge of policing in Nigeria. Two of the most significant advances in criminal investigation have been the development of fingerprinting and DNA profiling. While this has been working perfectly in advance countries like US and Britain, to the arrest and conviction of millions of criminals' suspects, the Nigerian case is pathetic. Although, the Nigeria police are trained up to this scientific level, but the challenge is that the Federal Government are not procuring the instrument for the police to display their work. Other challenges of policing in Nigeria include proper remuneration of officers so that the job can be attractive, recruitment of educated men and women, adequate funding and budgetary allocation, language barrier among ethnic nationalities, especially among the illiterates, which hindered police investigation and many others.

2.5. Methods of policing

There exist various methods of policing that could aid in achieving the aims of sustainable development in the society and more importantly in Higher Institutions. For most of its history in America, the work of the patrol officer and the investigator constituted the vast majority of police work. Uniformed officers patrolled the streets of America's cities, serving as a highly visible deterrent to crime and attempting to catch criminals in the act. If patrol failed, the investigator's job was to follow up, solving crimes by questioning victims, witnesses, and suspects. Only since the 1960s has empirical research highlighted the limits of both preventive patrol and criminal investigations in dealing with America's crime problem. It was not until the early 1990s that this research spawned a new wave of police reform aimed at proactive policing strategies. These proactive strategies meant that police efforts would shift (at least to some degree) from responding to calls for service to initiating action. Amidst the various methods of policing, some methods are highlighted below:

Patrol

This method of policing is referred to as the backbone of police operations. Here, the "police officers attempt to maintain social order; this is achieved in various ways but its focus is on crime prevention. Crime prevention is the expectation of a crime, followed by a risk assessment and action to prevent the crime. The police patrol operation includes various activities. Initially, the police will identify crime areas and provide a physical police presence at the location. This presence include officers on foots as well as officers in cars patrolling the location. Police patrol can also include other types of operation such as the use of 9-1-1 system and using

certain types of patrols strategies. These strategies include:

1) **Preventive Patrols-** Here, the police seek to achieve various objectives; these include: deterrence of crime, the interruption of crime, and the dispatch of officers to the scene of a crime. This technique helps to improve the neighborhood resident's sense of security and safety.
2) **Routine Incident Patrols-** In this technique, officers respond to routine incidents, such as minor hazards or disorderly conduct report. The incident response team are trained and prepared to fulfill the roles required by the specific situation.
3) **Emergency Response-** These are police officers who are trained to be the first line of response in any emergency situation. The primary role played is to check out any reported incident locally and assess the situation.

The responsibility of ERT is for high-risk warrant service, forgiving apprehension, curettage-barricade resolution, dignitary protection, crowed control, vehicular assaults, bus assaults, and the first response to a local or regional terrorist event. In consideration of the various methods of policing, it is important to state that patrol in whichever way it comes has been helpful but with a modification for Sustainable developments as suggested in lumenlearning.com that just pouring more officers out on the streets would have little or no impact as against the more aggressive proactive patrol strategies with a shift from random to targeted.

Patrol is often called the 'backbone' of the police department, and for good reason. Patrol consumes most of the average police department's resources. The basic philosophy and strategy of preventive patrol has not changed from Peel's time: the patrol officer makes circuits through a specified area, often called a beat. During Peel's time, most patrols were done on foot, with the occasional horse patrol. Technology ushered in the automobile, and modern police forces take full advantage of the benefits offered by cars. The most important of these advantages is the area that a single officer can cover. Automobile patrol officers can cover much wider beat areas than officers on foot. The bottom line is that because an officer in a car can cover a much wider geographic area, departments need fewer officers. This translates into huge savings. Automobile patrol is much cheaper than foot patrol.

The effectiveness of patrol operations within a department is usually judged by three major functions. These include answering calls for service, deterring crime by a highly visible police presence, and investigating suspicious circumstances. Of these three major functions of patrol, crime deterrence is the most controversial. The historical assumption, stemming from Peel's Day, was that a highly visible officer patrolling a beat would serve as a deterrent to would-be criminals. Research evidence since the 1970s has supported the idea that random preventive patrol has very little if any impact on crime.

The Newark Foot Patrol Experiment revealed that although foot patrol did not affect the rate of serious crime, citizens perceived their environments as safer and their opinions about the police improved [33]. In Houston, a multifaceted fear reduction project was implemented. The components of this project included community stations, citizen contact foot patrol, community organizing teams, and a victim re-contact program. The evaluation of the program found generally positive results. Although serious crime did not decrease, communication between police and citizens increased and fear of crime was reduced [33]. In view of Wilson and Hahonen [34], the aim of preventive patrol is to establish a sense of police visibility, to create a feeling of police 'omnipresence' and thereby reduce crime. While this is intuitively a reasonable expectation, it is only recently that the effectiveness of patrolling in the prevention of crime has been empirically examined. Result in this area has produced conflicting results.

Problem Oriented Policing

This has its origin in the year 1979, beginning with a seminar article published by Herman Goldstein [35]. Goldstein opined that "the basic fundamental job of the police is to deal with community problems". Upon the emergence of this policing method, a high demand of interest and publication was reached [36]. To understand the problem-solving process in a much-simplified way, it is helpful to consider what is meant by "problem." To guide into understanding the scope of problems of interest to police, we critically consider the police mission.

Problem-oriented policing is an approach to policing in which discrete pieces of police business (each consisting of a cluster of similar incidents, whether crime or acts of disorder, that the police are expected to handle) are subject to microscopic examination (drawing on especially honed skills of crime analysts and the accumulated experience of operating field personnel) in hopes that what is freshly learned about each problem will lead to discovering a new and more effective strategy for dealing with it. Problem-oriented policing places a high value on now responses that are preventive in nature, that are not dependent on the use of the criminal justice system, and that engage other public agencies, the community and the private sector when their involvement has the potential for significantly contributing to the reduction of the problem. Problem oriented policing carries a commitment to implement the new strategy, rigorously evaluating its effectiveness, and subsequently, reporting the results in ways that will benefit other police agencies and that will ultimately contribute to building a body of knowledge that supports the further professionalization of the police [37].

Under the professional model of policing, the focus was almost entirely on 'catching bad guys.' Other duties were often considered outside the prevue of 'real police work.' Goldstein suggests the following list of major police goals:

1) To prevent and control conduct threatening to life and property (including serious crime);
2) To aid crime victims and protect people in danger of physical harm;
3) To protect constitutional guarantees, such as the right to free speech and assembly;
4) To facilitate the movement of people and vehicles;
5) To assist those who cannot care for themselves, including the intoxicated, the addicted, the mentally ill, the physically disabled, the elderly, and the young;
6) To resolve conflict between individuals, between groups, or between citizens and their government;
7) To identify problems that have the potential for becoming more serious for individuals, the police or the government; and
8) To create and maintain a feeling of security in the community.

The traditional model of policing in the United States was decidedly reactive in nature. The primary methods used by police were preventive patrols and retroactive investigations. Early efforts at innovation were designed to be proactive, but they focused on the deterrence of crime through a limited 'toolbox' of arrests, summons, and citations. Recent decades have seen a shift in focus, due in large part to the confluence of two major developments in how both practitioners and academics viewed policing. The first was Problem-Oriented Policing (POP), and the other was a broader philosophy that would include POP, known as Community-Oriented Policing (COP).

Problem-oriented policing began with a seminar article published by Herman Goldstein in 1979. Goldstein essentially suggested that the basic, most fundamental job of the police was to deal with community problems. To do this job effectively, the police needed to develop a much larger toolbox, and a much more sophisticated

method of detecting, analyzing, and ultimately solving these problems. This seminal article led to an explosion of interest and publication in the emerging field of problem-oriented policing. The research suggested something extraordinary about POP: it actually worked (see [36] for a review of these studies).

A major tool in the analysis of community problems is the Problem Analysis Triangle. The idea of the crime triangle is to depict graphically depict the interaction between the features of the victim, the features of the location, and the features of the offender. As Spelman and Eck [38] pointed out, 10% of crime victims are involved in up to 40% of victimizations, 10% of offenders are involved in 50% of crimes, and about 10% of addresses are the location for about 60% of crimes. This suggests that a focus on a few high-volume victims, offenders, and locations can maximize the impact of scarce police resources. The developing field of situational crime prevention has also supported the problem-oriented policing movement since its genesis in the British Government's Home Office Research Unit in the early 1980s [39]. Instead of preventing crime by altering broad social conditions such as poverty and inequality, situational crime prevention advocates changes in local environments to decrease opportunities for crimes to be committed.

Situational crime prevention techniques comprise "opportunity-reducing measures that (1) are directed at highly specific forms of crime, and that (2) involve the management, design, or manipulation of the immediate environment in as systematic and permanent way as possible so as to (3) increase the effort and risks of crime and reduce the rewards as perceived by a wide range of offenders" [39]. The situational analysis of crime problems follows an action-research model that systematically identifies and examines problems, develops solutions, and evaluates results [39]. The applications of situational crime prevention have shown convincing crime prevention results to a variety of problems ranging from obscene phone callers [40], to burglary [41], to car radio theft [42], among many others. This simple but powerful perspective is applicable to crime problems facing the police, security personnel, business owners, local government officials, and private citizens. Indeed, Goldstein's [43] formulation of problem-oriented policing shares many similarities to the action-research underpinnings of situational prevention [39].

Community-Oriented Policing

This method of policing promotes strategies that support both the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to adequately address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder and fear of crime that could hamper sustainable development. Community-Oriented Policing reveals and recognizes that no matter how trained officers are, they can rarely solve safety problems of the public alone. A fundamental principle of community policing is that 'The public should play a role in prioritizing and addressing public safety problems. Community policing is a philosophy of policing that emphasizes community involvement in crime prevention efforts, in contrast to the forms of traditional policing on law enforcement and order maintenance. Community oriented policing (COP) is a law enforcement philosophy comprising three key components: Community partnerships, organizational transformation, and problem solving [44,45]. Community oriented policing is based on the premise that the police are not limited to traditional law enforcement powers in carrying out their work, and should draw on community involvement and input to define, prioritize, and address crime problems [46].

This approach requires the traditional hierarchy of the police department to be 'flattened' in order to delegate decision making to the frontline officers who directly engage the community [25,44,47,48]. Thus, community-oriented policing is not simply about improving relationship between police and citizens. It is also a

problem-solving process that draws upon citizens' expertise in identifying and understanding the social issues that create crime, disorder, and fear [47].

At the heart of Community Oriented Policing is a redefinition of the relationship between the police and the community, so that the two collaborate to identify and solve community problems. In this relationship, the community becomes a 'co-producer' of public safety [49]. Community oriented policing is not a single coherent programme, rather, it can encompass a variety of programs on strategies that rest on the assumption that policing must involve the community. Still, there are numerous elements frequently associated with COP programmes, including at least these six:

1) The empowerment of the community.
2) A belief in a broad police function.
3) The reliance of police on citizens for authority, information, and collaboration.
4) The application of general knowledge and skill.
5) Specific tactics targeted at particular problems rather than general tactics such as preventive patrol and rapid response.
6) Decentralized authority to better respond to neighborhood needs.

Typical strategies used in COP include foot patrols, school resource officers, storefronts and mini-stations, the geographic assignment of officers, and neighborhood-based crime prevention activities [50]. Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime. A dramatic departure from traditional policing is the idea of collaborative partnerships. These partnerships are between police agencies and the individuals and organizations they serve. These partnerships are designed to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police. To accomplish these goals, important changes must be made within departments. There must be a realignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving [50].

Community policing recognizes that the idea of a small band of officers, no matter how well intentioned and well trained, can solve all of the crime, delinquency, and disorder problems in a society as vast and complex as that of the United States rarely can solve public safety problems alone. Community policing encourages interactive partnerships with relevant stakeholders. The range of potential partners is large, and these partnerships can be used to accomplish the two interrelated goals of developing solutions to problems through collaborative problem solving and improving public trust.

Partnership

The police departments can partner with government agencies to work jointly to identify community concerns and proffer alternative solutions. Some of these agencies include Legislative bodies, Prosecutors, Neighboring law enforcement, Child support, Schools etc. More so, diverse members of the community such as Activists, Residents, Visitors, Tourists, etc. can be engaged in achieving at town hall meetings, decentralized offices such as store fronts in the community. One key note, as part of the community who have same intent gearing towards enhancement of sustainable development, they aim at achieving set goals without allowing for distraction of any sort.

Police departments can partner with a number of other government agencies to identify community concerns and offer alternative solutions. Examples of agencies include legislative bodies, prosecutors, probation and parole, public works

departments, neighboring law enforcement agencies, health and human services, child support services, ordinance enforcement, and schools. In addition, people who live, work, or otherwise have an interest in the community-volunteers, activists, formal and informal community leaders, residents, visitors and tourists, and commuters-are a valuable resource for identifying community concerns. These diverse members of the community can be engaged in achieving specific goals at town hall meetings, neighborhood association meetings, decentralized offices and storefronts in the community, and team beat assignments. Community-based organizations that provide services to the community and advocate on its behalf can be powerful partners. These groups often work with or are composed of individuals who share common interests and can include such entities as victims' groups, service clubs, support groups, issue groups, advocacy groups, community development corporations, and the faith community [50].

For-profit businesses also have a great stake in the health of the community and can be key partners because they often bring considerable resources to bear in addressing problems of mutual concern. Businesses can help identify problems and provide resources for responses, often including their own security technology and community outreach. The local chamber of commerce and visitor centers can also assist in disseminating information about police and business partnerships and initiatives, and crime prevention practices. The media represent a powerful mechanism by which to communicate with the community. They can assist with publicizing community concerns and available solutions, such as services from government or community agencies or new laws or codes that will be enforced. In addition, the media can have a significant impact on public perceptions of the police, crime problems, and fear of crime.

3. Method

In public universities in Nigeria's South-South Geo-Political Zone, policing for sustainable development is examined in this qualitative case study. A purposive sample technique chooses a variety of colleges according to their size, location, and population. Semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and document analysis are some of the methods used in data collecting. In interviews and focus groups, important stakeholders—such as university officials, security guards, students, and community members—participate to share perspectives on sustainable development efforts and police techniques. Document analysis also examines institutional records and policy documents. Patterns pertaining to resource allocation, community involvement, policing tactics, and institutional policies are found using thematic analysis. Data triangulation compares information from several sources to improve validity and dependability. The objective of this analytical approach is to provide sophisticated insights on the relationship between sustainable development and policing in higher education. Findings may inform policy decisions, improve practice, and guide future research efforts in promoting sustainable development within public universities in the South-South Geo-Political Zone of Nigeria.

4. Results and Discussion

This deals with analysis of data generated for the study. For purpose of clarity and logical presentation, data and result of each research question and its corresponding hypothesis are presented on the different tables.

Research Question 1: *What are the various methods of policing for sustainable development in Universities in South-South Geo-political zone of Nigeria?*

Table 1. Summary of mean rating on the various methods of policing for sustainable development in

Universities in South-South Geo-political zone of Nigeria

		N=1457	
SN	**Establishment of security outfit**	**Mean**	**SD**
1	Crime prevention	3.16	0.94
2	Crime deterrence	2.99	0.72
3	Apprehension of offenders	3.11	0.74
4	Creation of a sense of community security	3.01	0.94
5	Creation of a sense of community satisfaction	3.46	0.78
	Grand mean	**3.15**	**0.41**
SN	**Serialization of examination scripts**		
6	The provision of ogranised examination services	3.06	0.62
7	Tracking student examination malpractice	3.30	0.64
8	Identifying problems with respect to examination misconducts	2.69	1.05
9	Solving the problems with respect to examination misconducts	3.28	1.04
10	Creation of orderliness with respect to examination	3.38	0.62
	Grand mean	**3.14**	**0.52**
SN	**Online submittal of research work and classroom assessments**		
11	Submission of research work through online platform	3.46	0.53
12	Submission of class assignment through online platform	3.16	0.47
13	Submission of class test through online platform	3.08	0.96
14	Receiving of the responses and evaluations from the class lecturers through online means	3.03	0.77
15	Responding to student lecture and research related issues through online means	3.20	0.81
	Grand mean	**3.18**	**0.46**
SN	**Effective drug regulation**	**Mean**	**SD**
16	Identify hard drug users on campus	3.15	0.85
17	Arrest hard drug users	3.52	0.72
18	Try hard drug users	3.08	0.68
19	Discipline drug users	3.21	0.58
20	Keep the university hard drug free	2.94	0.90
	Grand mean	**3.18**	**0.42**
SN	**Digitalized filling**		
21	Creation of a portal to save student demographics	3.54	0.72
22	Online database of student academic records	3.36	0.68
23	A database of awards and other achievement	3.44	0.58
24	Database of student record of involvement in any university crime	3.01	0.70
25	Database of student record on community service	2.81	1.01
	Grand mean	**3.23**	**0.47**

Table 1 shows the summary of mean rating on the various methods of policing for sustainable development in Universities in South-South Geo-political zone of Nigeria. It shows that the grand mean rating of the respondents over establishment of security outfit was 3.15, SD=0.41 whereas that of serialization of examination scripts was 3.14, SD=0.52. The online submittal of research work and classroom assessments had a mean rating of 3.18, SD=0.46 whereas effective drug regulation had mean rating of 3.18, SD=0.42 and digitized filling system had a mean rating of 3.23, SD=0.47.

4.1. Discussion of findings

The various methods of policing for sustainable development in universities in South-South geo-political zone of Nigeria

The result from Table 1 shows that the grand mean rating of the respondents over establishment of security outfit was 3.15, SD=0.41 whereas that of serialization of examination scripts was 3.14, SD=0.52. The online submittal of research work and classroom assessments had a mean rating of 3.18, SD=0.46 whereas effective drug regulation had mean rating of 3.18, SD=0.42 and digitized filling system had a mean rating of 3.23, SD=0.47. The finding is in agreement with an earlier finding of Osakede et al [15] which found that there is a coefficient correlate between community policing and the Nigerian police in protection of life and property in Nigeria.

Summary of findings

The result showed that policing mechanisms were establishment of security outfit, serialization of examination scripts, online submittal of research work and classroom assessments, effective drug regulation, and digitized filling system.

5. Conclusion

Conclusively, implementing effective policing strategies at public universities in the South-South geo-political zone of Nigeria is crucial for establishing secure, diverse, and conscious campus environments. This study emphasizes the significance of utilizing a multi-dimensional approach to policing, which includes economic, social, and environmental aspects, in order to tackle the distinct issues encountered by these institutions. Public universities may strengthen security, develop trust, and promote collaboration inside their campuses by utilizing community-oriented policing strategies. This may be accomplished by enhancing connection and involvement with the local population, encouraging information exchange, and collaborating to address security issues.

Successful implementation of policing for sustainable development in public institutions necessitates commitment and collaboration from several stakeholders, such as university officials, campus security staff, students, and the local community. Sufficient financing, enhancing capabilities, and ongoing assessment of current strategies are crucial to guarantee the efficiency and sustainability of these initiatives. Enforcing sustainable development via policing improves safety and security at public universities and helps accomplish sustainable development goals in the South-South geo-political zone of Nigeria. These institutions may provide an example of sustainable practices via their activities, motivating good change in their communities and beyond. Therefore, it is imperative that public institutions in this region must prioritize and enhance their policing efforts to provide a favorable and lasting environment for learning and development.

The paper's study recommends the following solutions for enhancing policing for sustainable development in public universities in the South-South geo-political zone of Nigeria:

1) Public universities should have a proactive policing plan to tackle the specific security concerns on their campuses. The approach should include community-oriented police ideas, emphasizing collaboration, interaction, and trust-building with the local community.
2) Public universities should invest in modern security infrastructure, such surveillance cameras, access control systems, and emergency alarm systems, can improve the efficiency of policing. regular maintenance and upgrading of these

systems should be prioritized to maintain their long-term operation.

3) Public universities should form robust cooperation among its security professionals, local law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders is essential for efficient policing. Regular meetings, collaborative trainings, and information sharing platforms should be established to improve coordination and collaboration in solving security concerns.

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