ROLE OF NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE DURING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES: CASE OF COVID 19 PANDEMIC IN MOMBASA COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

The National Police Service is in charge of keeping the public secure and the community free from criminal activity. In some cases, their harsh tactics used to deter crime have recognized the police, including beating and gassing members of the public. The National Police Services are enlisted in times of public health emergencies like the Covid-19 outbreak. Although very important, their involvement in such health risks is still not fully understood. With reference to the Covid-19 outbreak in Mombasa County, Kenya, this study was conducted to precisely explore the role that the National Police Service performs during public health emergencies with a focus on the Covid-19 pandemic in Mombasa County, Kenya. The study was guided by the following specific goals: to examine the National Police Service's roles during the Covid-19 pandemic, to identify the difficulties the police encountered in performing their duties, and to determine the most effective strategies for reducing those difficulties in Mombasa County. Contingency theory, the complexity of problem theory, and social disorganization theory were used in the study. The study used a descriptive survey with 530 police officers as the target population, and a sample size of 228 officers was determined using stratified random sampling and Yamane's formulas. To gather primary data for the study, structured questionnaires and key informant interviews been employed. With the help of SPSS version 24, descriptive statistics were utilized in analyzing the data. Descriptive statistics were expressed in terms of frequencies, means, and standard deviation. Throughout the research process, ethical consideration was taken into account. The results of this study will help National policy makers, particularly the Ministry of Health, understand how to work with local police during pandemic outbreaks like Covid-19. According to the study findings the police officers were involved in enforcing containment measures such as wearing of masks, enforcing public health regulation and curfews which were also widely used to curb the Covid-19. However, the study findings revealed that police faced a lot of challenges which included lack of important protective gears such as PPE, disposable gloves, particle respirators, and disposable coveralls and gowns, hostility from the community, lack of motivation and even becoming victims which in some case led to death. The study therefore recommends that police should be properly equipped with the right gear, properly trained to handle emergencies, be counseled, participate in community awareness and be motivated to enable them observe basic human rights during their duties to reduce hostility with the community.

Key Words*: Kenya National Police Service, Public Health Emergencies, COVID 19 Pandemic*

INTRODUCTION

There is an increasing global recognition that places emphasis on partnership between public health and policing (Punch & James, 2017; Police Scotland, 2017). Despite the difference in contexts of their operations in which policing (traditionally linked to establishing law and order and criminal justice) and public health (social well-being, mental, health crisis and provision of physical) operate, both fields share similar complex challenges; necessitating closer partnership working between them (Van Dijk & Crofts, 2017). Police officers have always played a critical role in the protection and maintenance of public health. Preventing the spread of Covid-19 became a major public health challenge for police officers and this was likely to have a significant impact and thus, partnership with public health officials should be considered essential (World Health Organization, 2020).

Globaly before the Covid-19 pandemic, police officers and public health authorities in the United States were collaborating to address events like earthquakes, storms, and terrorism. Law enforcement organizations play a crucial role in preserving public safety and providing essential services during a pandemic. In health pandemics, police officers participate in the implementation of health measures such vaccination, treatment, contact tracing, travel restrictions, quarantine, isolation, and social distancing in partnership with public health officers. Police personnel must also inform the public about these precautions, but their primary duty is to stop the spread (Poston, 2020). Public health departments, local hospitals, and law enforcement agencies have joined forces to combine their resources and expertise for the community's effective defense against the virus. The police have employed problem-solving techniques to lessen community worries and anxiety (Brennan Center for Justice, 2020).

In Canada, police officers are required to enforce confinement measures to contain the spread since it was revealed that Covid-19 could be impacted by territorial management (OECD, 2020). Police in the country have been using various strategies such as community-based measures to identify mitigation's and risks strategies that would be applicable in various community settings such as events, gatherings, outdoor recreational activities and spaces, child and youth settings, business/workplaces and congregate living settings. In Canada, the application of the risk-based approach in community settings has reduced the number of people infected and reduced the demand for health services care to a manageable level (Government of Canada, 2021).

In Africa, police strategy reforms have been undertaken to reconfigure and improve the management of Covid-19 transmission for the safety of the public. Despite these reforms, African countries have experienced dynamic challenges on how these strategies in conjunction with public health measures, can be implemented. The shift from reactive policing to community policing as one of the strategies of police service is yet to bear fruits in the fight against Covid-19 (Fleming, 2015). Several African countries have been affected by the spread of the virus, and policing strategies has identified as an important strategy to complement health care workers' efforts. Police service strategies in the fight against the pandemic in the continent reside on the ethos of trust between local communities, public health officers and police officers, inclusivity and dialogue (International Crisis Group, 2020).

Police service strategies, in conjunction with public health measures, have been used in the management of health infections in Africa, for instance, in the containment of the spread of Ebola in Côte d'Ivoire (Japan International Cooperation Agency, 2020). The training was offered to police officers to strengthen border control and increase public awareness. Police officers were also involved in securing the safety of the infected persons in quarantine centers to ease pressure on the medical personnel (JICA, 2020). WHO (2015) identified community resistance as one of the factors which contributed to the spread of the virus and recommended various agencies' involvement in the management of the future spread of viruses such as Covid-19.

Closer to home in Uganda, police service techniques and public health initiatives have helped to stop the virus's spread (Davis, et al., 2013). Since 1990, there have been sporadic instances in Kenya where police

service tactics have been used to handle pandemics. The "Nyumba Kumi Initiative" has been used by the government, through the ministry of health, to mobilize police participation in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic (Komesha Corona). This endeavor makes sure that no outsiders enter the neighborhood. Through technical and surveillance infrastructure, the government has increased the capabilities of numerous authorities, including law enforcement agencies. Additionally, police personnel were deployed throughout the nation to enforce travel restrictions, curfew orders, illness surveillance, and wearing of masks in public places and social distancing guidelines (Ministry of Health, 2020).

Due to the fact that Mombasa had the second-highest number of Covid-19 infections after Nairobi, harsh measures including movement restrictions and a 10 pm to 4 am curfew resulted in police violence, which left hundreds of individuals injured across the county. Police officers were encouraged to adopt community policing since the use of violence undercuts the government's efforts to garner support from the general population in the fight and control of the virus' spread and to contain securitization of law and order (Kimari, 2020; UNDP, 2020). However, during medical emergencies like the Covid-19 pandemic, the function of police is still not entirely obvious. Security threats and emergencies may have a clearer definition of the police's involvement. Hence, this research aimed to find out the role of the national police during health emergencies with a focus on the Covid-19 pandemic in Mombasa County.

Statement of the Problem

The Covid-19 outbreak has presented policing agencies with hitherto unheard-of difficulties. As a result, the tasks the police must carry out in times of public health emergency have changed. Since Covid-19 is a pandemic that spreads through contact with the general public, the National Police Service (NPS) became crucial in managing and containing these epidemics. Police officers, public health officials, and local populations that were susceptible to Covid-19 infections all played a part and contributed to the NPS role, which was based on community support, participation, conversation, inclusion, and trust (ACSRT/CAERT, 2020).

Globally, the police service has been recognized as an important initiative in solving community problems such as the spread of the virus; hence citizens place the demand on the police institutions to adopt strategies (Ruteere & Pommerole, 2017); and reinforce the public health officers in the management and compliance of Covid-19 health measures (Kimari, 2020).

In July 30 2021, Mombasa county became second in the Covid-19 cases with 13,727 (Statista, 2021). This led to stringent measures deployed by the police, such as violence and tear gassing members of the public. Generally, the NPS has been identified to be very critical in crime prevention, but its role to the management and containment of Covid-19 transmission is yet to be understood. With overwhelming number of Covid-19 cases, rapid spread of the disease, and no clear policy in place, public health capacity to fight the virus in the country was questionable and there was fear that widespread virus without sound containment measures could lead to social and economic collapse in the country (Kimari, 2020).

Objectives of the Study

This study was based on the following specific objectives:

- To examine the nature of the National Police Service roles during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa County.
- To establish the challenges faced by the police in their roles during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa, County.
- To assess the best ways that can be employed to mitigate the challenges faced by police during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa, County.

This study attempted to provide answers to the following research questions:

- What are the roles of the National Police Service during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa County?
- What are the challenges faced by the police in their roles during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa, County?
- What are the best ways that can be employed to mitigate the challenges faced by police during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa, County?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Empirical Review

Role of National Police Service during the COVID-19 Health Emergency

Quaife *et al*., (2020) examined how Covid-19 control measures such as mask wearing impacted transmissions and social contacts in the Kenyan informal settlements. Social contact survey was conducted in Nairobi's five informal settlements, where 213 residents were recruited for the study. The study concluded that control measures especially wearing of masks in public had–substantially reduced Covid-19 transmissions, but they had a negative impact on the economic and food security of the informal sector. Hence there is a need for social protection in future since control measures had a negative impact on the economic and food security within the affected areas.

Van-dijk et al (2019) research on public health and law enforcement in Australia focused on improving and recognizing integrated solutions. This report was based on a thorough assessment of the ways that law enforcement can successfully advance public health at both the strategic and operational levels. According to the study, it can be difficult for police officers to think about their participation in public health activities. One of the primary obstacles was deemed to be the ongoing and fierce competition in demand. The study came to the conclusion that law enforcement is crucial to maintaining public safety and security. Hence police officers should recognize their roles in public health as this will help them in dealing with health, security and social issues. This study created a research gap on the mismatch between law enforcement institutions and the demand for security and health; hence it is important for researchers to provide an intersect oral link between public health and law enforcement.

Recently, Korir (2020) studied hotspot mapping in relation to police institutional capacity in Kasarani, Nairobi. The study adopted a survey research design, where 240 administrative and regular police officers were targeted from Ruai, Sub-County. The study found that hotspot mapping in the community was necessary for police officers to maintain law and order as well as reduce the rapid spread. It was further revealed that additional resources and training of police officers were necessary for the capacity building with skills of hotspot mapping of community. The study recommended that new strategies such as involving the community leaders and sensitization should be adopted to address issues of hot spot mapping. This study failed to examine how hot spot mapping among the community influenced by citizens' participation. Thus, creating a conceptual research gap.

Challenges Faced by Police Officers During Health Emergencies and Pandemics

The initial effects of the Covid-19 epidemic on law enforcement were studied by Jennings and Perez (2020). The study's foundation was a desk evaluation of pertinent prior research. According to the assessment, the pandemic has made the agency's major resource management, public health limits, and communication challenges more apparent. The study suggested a few measures, including the usage of PPE, disposable gloves, particle respirators, and disposable coveralls and gowns by police officers as they serve the community, to ensure the security and safety of both communities and police personnel. There is a research gap on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on law as a result of this study's reliance on a desk review of US-based academic publications that could not be generalized.

In line of duty, Law enforcers encounter various communities, therefore, it is important for them to have a good relationship with the community they work with. For effective response during public health emergencies, police-community relations and trust play a key role (Laufs & Waseem, 2020). Poor police response can lead to lack of confidence in the police service, resulting in anxieties and fear, which is a major challenge (Bonkiewicz & Ruback, 2012). Consequently, this may lead to violence and confrontations (Reicher & Stott, 2020). In a study conducted in Zambia by Chirambwi (2016), found that during the implementation of the containment measures against Ebola, use of force and militarization by police resulted in confrontations between the police and the affected communities. In addition, lack of mutual trust, lack of funds and lack of information are some of the challenges faced by the police-public health partnerships in the country (Wanjohi, 2019). Police-community partnerships should be based on trust and acceptability of responsibility, which implies adopting strategies which are beyond the standard of law enforcement in order to identify priorities and develop responses. This can broaden the outlook of police activities and improve the orderliness of the community neighborhood. For all these to be possible, confidence and trust must be built within the community (Muchira, 2016).

In performing their duties, the police officers, engage in playing multiple roles including enforcing containment measures, maintaining order, public security among other responsibilities (Adams & Stewart, 2015; Bonkiewicz & Ruback, 2012). Emerging evidence shows that majority of the law enforcement officers suffered physical and psychological harm (Edwards, & Kotera, 2021), particularly because in many cases they were required to be physically present in order to carry out their duties within the communities. A systematic review study conducted by Laufs and Waseem (2020) on policing in pandemics highlighted effects of pandemics on law enforcers as acute stress (Regehr et al., 2019), lack of preparedness and improper planning. Psychological harm may be experienced in form of trauma, anxiety or depression (Kowalski, 2019; Mao et al., 2018; West et al., 2008). These are mental issues that are likely to affect the effectiveness of the National Police Service, and thus an important gap that the current study intends to establish.

Ways to Mitigate Challenges Faced by Police Officers During Health Emergencies
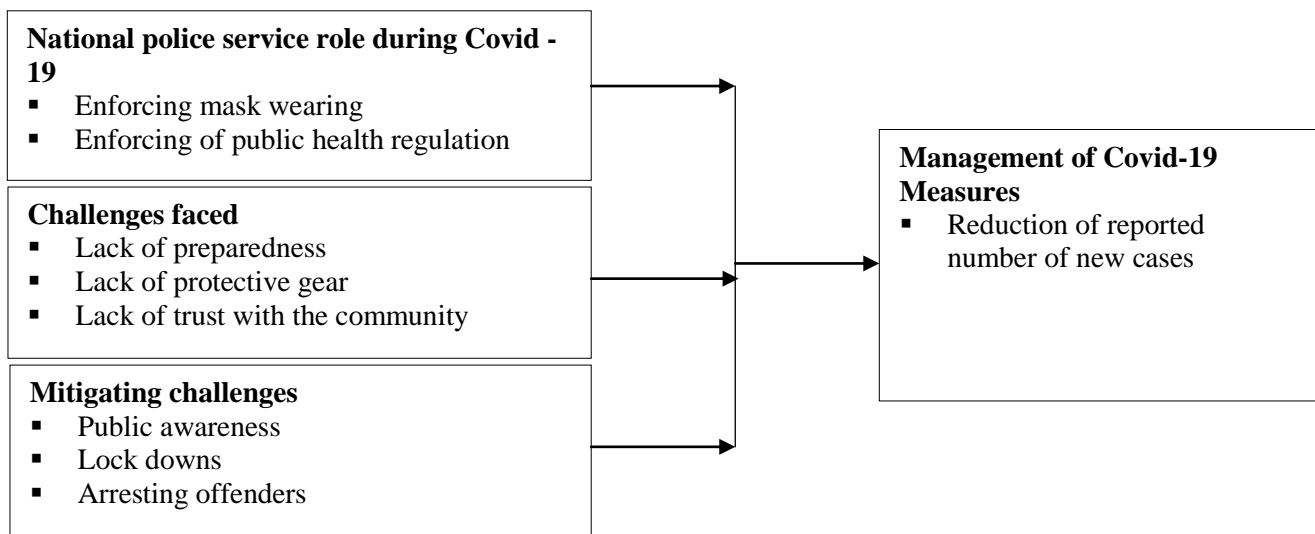With regard to psychological challenges and well-being, Laufs & Waseem, (2020) posit that there is need for appropriate training and building social support networks to enhance resilience as well as healthy coping strategies. It would be interesting to determine ways that these challenges can be curbed among the National Police Service since most of the studies were conducted in the West. Police agencies were thought to have a significant role in public awareness transmission during emergency management (Bruns, Burgess, Crawford, & Shaw, 2012).

Internet connectivity is required to make sure that information reaches those who are affected by the infection. Any existing internet disruptions or shutdowns should be stopped, and online access should be maintained. States should work to ensure the widest possible People have a right to participate in decisions that affect their life. To ensure that people take part in actions intended to safeguard their own health and the health of the general population, as well as that those actions also take into account their unique situations and needs, it is essential to be open and transparent and to include those who may be impacted in decision-making. By adopting initiatives to address digital gaps, particularly the gender digital divide, more people may have access to internet service. It is crucial to deal with these issues through the implementation of effective public health emergency plans that need to be put in place by police forces, also, to establish pre-crisis instructions for training officers to develop the abilities needed in the future to prevent the pandemic from escalating when comparable public health catastrophes occur (Laufs & Waseem, 2020).

Corona virus outbreaks required rigorous measures, including the lockdown of locations with a high incidence. For several months, the UK government, for instance, enacted local and national lock downs to limit movement. There are vaccination campaigns in place all around the world. But in different nations, these measurements work differently. Lock-downs, travel bans, and severe social isolation policies have been put in

place more recently to stop the virus from spreading in many countries, and the police are responsible for enforcing these measures (Laufs & Waseem, 2020).

Conceptual Framework

National police service role during Covid - 19 ▪ Enforcing mask wearing ▪ Enforcing of public health regulation	→	
Challenges faced ▪ Lack of preparedness ▪ Lack of protective gear ▪ Lack of trust with the community	→	**Management of Covid-19 Measures** ▪ Reduction of reported number of new cases
Mitigating challenges ▪ Public awareness ▪ Lock downs ▪ Arresting offenders	→	

Independent Variables   Dependent Variable

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Theoretical framework

Contingency Theory

Contingency theory was advanced by Lawrence and Lorsch (1967). The theory is based on the assumption that decisions in organizations are designed according to environmental conditions. Hence, various organizations should design their internal affairs according to their environmental demands. Another assumption that underpins the theory is that general principles and rules must be adhered to by the organization at all times. This theory helps to explain variation in law enforcement activities in the community. The final assumption of this theory is that organizational structure is not important for organizational performance (Scott, 2012). The level of threats to the community and size has been revealed to significantly influence the amount of time police officers spend on their functions such as threat control, order maintenance, and police functions of the service (Zhao, *et al.,* 2013).

In relation to this study, contingency theory can be used to address Covid-19 transmission problems through the adoption of policing strategies. By providing procedures and guidelines in which the strategy can be applied regardless of place and time. The importance of policing strategy in the management of Covid-19 is still new and the importance of the strategy is still underestimated. Hence, police service in the country requires some structural changes and behavioral and expectation changes to address Covid-19 pandemic. Hence this theory supports the variable of hot spot mapping as a response to address unexpected changes which occurs in the community or environment without expectation.

Complexity of Problem Theory

Complexity of problem theory was designed by ECK (2003). This theory was designed to provide the cure for problem-oriented policing which became the victim of the disease. Some of the symptoms of the problem-oriented approach which was meant to be cured by the above theory, include: the problem-oriented approach failing to recognize the new approach to policing, confusion about the relationship between community

policing and the problem-oriented approach and final examination of the internal operations of the police institution in the implementation of problem-oriented policing. It has been further revealed that law enforcement officers have failed to push the boundaries of problem-solving and also failed to explore unknown territories.

In relation to this study, this theory recognizes the importance of evaluating of the practice of problem-oriented policing in cases such as the management of Covid-19 transmission. The theory recognizes the importance of multi-agency collaboration between public health officials. This theory can also be used to explain how the community can address the problem of disease transmission without the involvement of the police. A deeper understanding of the theory can be applied to how public health officials and police can work together to create a partnership to address the pandemic. Jones (2018), applied this theory in examining the complex science of modern police administration in emerging issues. For this study the theory is designed to provide the cure for problem-oriented policing, which led to reinforcement of curfew and mask wearing.

Social Disorganization Theory

Social disorganization theory was coined by Shaw and McKay (1942). The theory is based on the notion that criminal culture in a community could emerge as a result of disorganized communities and the breakdown of social controls. Disorganized communities lack the efficacy to fight disorder and crime. The theory also states that crimes are particularly concentrated in particular areas of the community and despite the continual changes in the population, they remain relatively stable across different time periods. In summary, social disorganization theory is based on the notion that crimes in the community were not necessarily a result of individuals within the neighborhood but due to neighborhood dynamics.

In relation to this study, this theory can be used by police institutions in understanding Covid-19 trends and hot spots in the community and institute changes such as community policing to avert the pandemic. The theory can also provide the construct which is consistent with the uncertainty of Covid-19 pandemic and prompting police action. The theory can also be used to gauge community uncertainty relating to the pandemic. Finally, the theory provides a good start for community policing activities and can help police officers in Mombasa county to focus on certain parts of the city to handle the virus. In this study the theory supports the variable of police enforcing public health regulation on the premises that the theory is underpinned on the assumption that criminal culture in a community could emerge as a result of disorganized communities and the breakdown of social control requiring the use of national police force to reinforce the public health officers in enforcing the regulations to contain the Covid-19 pandemic in Mombasa county.

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. 530 police officers from various police posts and stations in the Mvita Sub-county was the study's target population. Police officers who participated in the study were chosen using stratified random sampling techniques. Six police stations in Mvita sub-County - Central, Makupa, Mbaraki, Tononoka, Mama Ngina, and Majengo were regarded as the stratus for purposes of consistency, whereas The study's sample size was 228 police officers, or 38 from each station, chosen using simple random sampling. Based on the goals of the study, the researcher created a structured questionnaire with both open-ended and closed-ended items. The survey included closed-ended questions graded on a Likert scale from 1 to 5 in order to quantify data. The survey was divided into several sections, including general information and research factors. To verify the validity and dependability of the research instrument, a pilot study was conducted. Additionally, the KMO and Bartlett Tests was used in evaluating the construct validity of the research instrument; KMO values above 0.5 has been considered acceptable, and the significance of the Bartlett Test has been assessed. Prior to being loaded into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24, the collected surveys were cleaned and coded.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistical analysis for the various study variables was based on measures of 5-point Likert scale. In the descriptive statistics presentation tables, abbreviations used in the heading indicate the following: SA-Strongly Agree, A- Agree, D- Disagree, SD- Strongly Disagree, with strongly agree having highest rating of five and strongly disagree having the lowest rating of one. The respondents' response ratings were expressed in percentage terms for easier analysis and understanding.

Nature of the National Police Service roles during the COVID-19 public health emergency in Mombasa County

The first objective of the study was to establish the nature and the role of the police during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa. A number of issues concerning the nature and the role were asked and the respondents responses measured in likert scale and summarized inters of percentages for easier understanding were presented in Table 1 below: -

Table 1: Police force role during Covid-19

Opinion Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Police officers participated in enforcing the mask-wearing	8.3	13.1	7.2	41.7	29.7
Police officer participated in enforcing curfew hours	4.5	5.3	8.1	54.4	27.7
Police officer participated in dispersing group gatherings	12.3	22.4	6.7	43.5	15.1
Police officers were also wearing masks while discharging their duties	13.4	21.1	5.6	36.6	23.3
Police officer participated in community awareness and training in addressing the unique challenges of Covid-19 pandemic enforcing the law during the pandemic	41.3	21.8	5.7	17.7	13.5
Police officers observed human rights approaches when dealing with citizens during the pandemic	48.7	31.7	10.9	6.3	2.4
Police officers participated in hot spot mapping	23.2	23.6	17.1	24.4	11.7
The police were involved on arresting those violating Public health regulations/rules	17.3	13.2	6.8	27.1	35.6
Police officers participated in the manning of isolation centers	22.1	13.4	2.7	26.1	35.7
Police officers were involved in burying the bodies of the victims of covid-19 pandemic	16.8	23.7	7.3	30.9	21.3

In terms of rating in nature of the National Police Service roles during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa County in table 1, Police officers participated in enforcing the mask-wearing 29.7% strongly agreed, 41.7% agreed, 7.2% were neutral, 13.1% disagreed while 8.3% strongly disagreed. Police officer participated in enforcing curfew hours, 27.7% strongly agreed, 54.4% agreed, 8.1% were neutral, 5.3% disagreed while 4.5% strongly disagreed. Police officer participated in dispersing group gatherings 15.1% strongly agreed, 43.5% agreed, 6.7% were neutral, 22.4% disagreed while 12.3% strongly disagreed. Police officers were also wearing masks while discharging their duties 23.3% strongly agreed, 36.6% agreed, 5.6% were neutral, 21.1% disagreed while 13.4% strongly disagreed. Police officer participated in community awareness and training in addressing the unique challenges of Covid-19 pandemic enforcing the law during the pandemic, 13.5% strongly agreed, 17.7% agreed, 5.7% were neutral, 21.8% disagreed while 41.3% strongly disagreed.

Police officers observed human rights approaches when dealing with citizens during the pandemic 2.4% strongly agreed, 6.3% agreed, 10.9% were neutral, 31.7% disagreed while 48.7% strongly disagreed. Police officers participated in hot spot mapping, 11.7% strongly agreed, 24.4% agreed, 17.1% were neutral, 23.6% disagreed while 23.2% strongly disagreed. The police were involved on arresting those violating Public health regulations/rules, 35.6% strongly agreed, 27.1% agreed, 6.8% were neutral, 13.2% disagreed while 17.3%

strongly disagreed. With regard to Police officers who participated in the manning of isolation centers, 35.7% strongly agreed, 26.1% agreed, 2.7% were neutral, 13.4% disagreed while 22.1% strongly disagreed. Police officers were involved in burying the bodies of the victims of covid-19 pandemic, 21.3% strongly agreed, 30.9% agreed, 7.3% were neutral, 23.7% disagreed while 16.8% strongly disagreed.

Challenges faced by the police in their roles during the COVID-19 public health emergency in Mombasa, County.

The second objective of the study was to find out the challenges by the police in their role during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa. A number of issues concerning the challenges were asked and the respondents responses measured in likert scale and summarized inters of percentages for easier understanding were presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Challenges faced by the police in their roles during the COVID-19

Opinion Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Police officers were fully prepared and equipped to face the Covid-19 pandemics	35.2	41.3	6.7	9.7	7.1
Police officer had the required protective gears when caring out the duties	39.1	26.2	8.3	17.3	9.1
Police officers had proper training's of handling the Covid-19 pandemic	46.8	38.3	7.1	4.6	3.2
Police officers got support and partnered well with the community to fight the Covid-19 pandemic	47.3	35.8	9.3	4.7	2.9
Police officers were given priority in testing of Covid-19 to help the medics to enforce the medical regulation	36.1	27.2	5.3	17.2	14.2
Police officers were motivated by the government through medical cover to facilitate enforcing the health regulation of Covid-19 pandemic	54.2	31.4	3.8	6.1	4.5
Police officers also become victims of Covid-19 pandemic within the due cause of their duties of enforcing health regulations and curfew	41.9	33.5	4.7	13.1	6.8
Police officers who become victims Covid-19 pandemic within their duties of enforcing health regulations when hospitalized their bills were offset by the government	42.3	30.8	4.5	13.2	9.2
Police officers who become victims Covid-19 pandemic within their duties of enforcing health regulations and died their families were compensated by the government	55.2	33.7	5.6	3.4.	2.1
Government in collaboration with health officers held counselling meetings for police officers to motivate help in enforcing health regulations and curfew	44.3	36.6	3.7	7.5	7.9

In terms of rating of the challenges faced by the police in their roles during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa County the responses are presented in Table 2. above. Police officers were fully prepared and equipped to face the Covid-19 pandemics 7.1% strongly agreed, 9.7% agreed, 6.7% were neutral, 41.3% disagreed while 35.2% strongly disagreed. Police officer had the required protective gears when caring out the duties 9.1% strongly agreed, 17.3% agreed, 8.3% were neutral, 26.2% disagreed while 39.1% strongly disagreed. Police officers had proper training's of handling the Covid-19 pandemic, 3.2percentage strongly agreed, 4.6% agreed, 7.1% were neutral, 38.3% disagreed while 46.8% strongly disagreed. Police officers got support and partnered well with the community to fight the Covid-19 pandemic 2.9% strongly agreed, 4.7% agreed, 9.3% were neutral, 35.8% disagreed while 47.3% strongly disagreed. Police officers were given priority in testing of Covid-19 to help the medics to enforce the medical regulation 14.2% strongly agreed, 17.2% agreed, 5.3% were neutral, 27.2% disagreed while 36.1% strongly disagreed.

Police officers were motivated by the government through medical cover to facilitate enforcing the health regulation of Covid-19 pandemic 4.5% strongly agreed, 6.1% agreed, 3.8% were neutral, 31.4% disagreed while 54.2% strongly disagreed. Police officers also become victims of Covid-19 pandemic within the due cause of their duties of enforcing health regulations and curfew, 6.8% strongly agreed, 13.1% agreed, 4.7% were neutral, 33.5% disagreed while 41.9% strongly disagreed. Police officers who become victims Covid-19 pandemic within their duties of enforcing health regulations when hospitalized their bills were offset by the government, 9.2% strongly agreed, 13.2% agreed, 4.5% were neutral, 30.8% disagreed while 42.3% strongly disagreed. Police officers who become victims Covid-19 pandemic within their duties of enforcing health regulations and died their families were compensated by the government, 2.1% strongly agreed, 3.4% agreed, 5.6% were neutral, 33.7% disagreed while 55.2% strongly disagreed. Government in collaboration with health officers held counselling meetings for police officers to motivate help in enforcing health regulations and curfew, 7.9% strongly agreed, 7.5% agreed, 3.7% were neutral, 36.6% disagreed while 44.3% strongly disagreed

Ways employed to mitigate the challenges faced by police during the COVID-19 public health emergency in Mombasa, County.

The third objective of the study was to find out the ways to mitigate challenges faced by the police in their role during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa. A number of issues concerning the best ways to mitigate the challenges were asked and the respondents responses measured in likert scale and summarized inters of percentages for easier understanding were presented in table 3 below.

Table 3: Ways employed to mitigate the challenges faced by police during the COVID-19

Opinion Statement	1	2	3	4	5
The police were frequently trained on how to protect themselves when conducting their duties	41.4	34.3	5.7	10.1	8.5
The police involved on community awareness meetings to reduce hostility between the community and the police during their operations	43.7	33.1	8.6	9.3.	5.3
Police officers were allowed to work in shifts especially when manning road blocks and enforcing the cur view hours	11.1	12.5	6.9	36.3	33.2
Police officers were regularly equipped with the right gear during their work to avoid exposure to Covid-19 pandemic	52.6	31.4	4.3	8.6	3.1
There was centralized information-sharing platforms between police and the community to prompt quick response to the pandemic	41.3	27.9	10.7	13.4	6.7
There was information exchange between health agencies and police to enhance effective management of the pandemic	35.7	28.1	11.7	13.2	11.3
The benefits of sharing information about Covid-19 with the police outweigh the risks	46.8	33.1	7.6	8.2	4.3
Government helped the police officers settle their medical bill once they got victims and hospitalized from the pandemic	36.6	23.7	10.2	18.2	11.3
Law enforcement officers always had protective wear and protective types of equipment when handling the dead body of Covid-19 victims	43.6	21.2	15.4	7.7	12.1
The role of the police service in curbing Covid-19, should be demystified to the public	12.9	16.7	10.6	32.5	27.3

In terms of rating ways employed to mitigate the challenges faced by police during the Covid-19 public health emergency in Mombasa, County in table 3, The police were frequently trained on how to protect themselves when conducting their duties 8.5% strongly agreed,10.1% agreed, 5.7% were neutral, 34.3% disagreed while 41.4% strongly disagreed. The police involved on community awareness meetings to reduce hostility between the community and the police during their operations 5.3% strongly agreed, 9.3% agreed, 8.6% were neutral, 7.6% disagreed while 43.7% strongly disagreed. Police officers were allowed to work in shifts especially when manning road blocks and enforcing the cur view hours, 33.2% strongly agreed, 36.3% agreed, 6.9%

were neutral, 12.5% disagreed while 11.1% strongly disagreed. Police officers were regularly equipped with the right gear during their work to avoid exposure to Covid-19 pandemic 3.1% strongly agreed,8.6% agreed, 4.3% were neutral, 31.4% disagreed while 52.6% strongly disagreed.

There was centralized information-sharing platforms between police and the community to prompt quick response to the pandemic, 6.7% strongly agreed, 13.4% agreed, 10.7% were neutral, 27.9% disagreed while 41.3% strongly disagreed. There was information exchange between health agencies and police to enhance effective management of the pandemic 11.3% strongly agreed, 13.2% agreed, 11.7% were neutral, 28.1% disagreed while 35.7% strongly disagreed. The benefits of sharing information about Covid-19 with the police outweigh the risks,4.3% strongly agreed, 8.2% agreed, 7.6% were neutral, 33.1% disagreed while 46.8% strongly disagreed. Government helped the police officers settle their medical bill once they got victims and hospitalized from the pandemic 11.3% strongly agreed,18.2% agreed, 10.2% were neutral, 23.7% disagreed while 36.6% strongly disagreed. Law enforcement officers always had protective wear and protective types of equipment when handling the dead body of Covid-19 victims, 12.1% strongly agreed 7.7% agreed, 15.4% were neutral, 21.2% disagreed while 43.6% strongly disagreed. The role of the police service in curbing Covid-19, should be demystified to the public, 27.3% strongly agreed,32.5% agreed, 10.6% were neutral, 16.7% disagreed while 12.9% strongly disagreed.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The dependent variable of the study was to find out the way managing Covid-19 pandemic in Mombasa. A number of issues concerning the best ways to manage Covid-19 were asked and the respondents responses measured in likert scale and summarized inters of percentages for easier understanding were presented in table 4 below.

Table 4: ways of managing Covid-19 in Mombasa County

Opinion Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Law enforcement officers assist public health officers in tracing potential individuals who are suspected of carrying the virus	25.7	22.2	13.3	18.3	20.5
Privacy and confidentiality of the suspected and potential carriers were maintained during contact tracing	21.7	19.2	13.7	21.1	24.3
Government equipped police officers with technological equipment to aid in contact tracing	43.3	35.2	16.1	3.3	2.1
Contact tracing data was availed to the law enforcement officers	36.7	31.8	24.2	3.9	3.4
Law enforcement officers were responsible for guarding quarantine centers	11.3	14.7	6.1	32.3	35.6
Police officers upheld fundamental human rights when guarding quarantine centers	33.8	27.8	15.2	17.5	5.7
Public health officials and law enforcement worked closely on how quarantine should be enforced	37	29	11	14	9
Law enforcement should consider community support when deploying restrictive measures such as quarantine	11.8	18.7	5.1	38.1	26.3
Enforcement of social distancing measures in conjunction with other measures has reduced the spread of the virus	28.3	27.6	4.9	21.4	17.8
Cancellation of mass gatherings through social distancing measures has reduced the risks of Covid-19 transmission	16.7	12.6	3.2	41.9	25.6

In terms of rating Covid-19 pandemic management, table 4. Law enforcement officers assist public health officers in tracing potential individuals who are suspected of carrying the virus 20.5% strongly agreed, 18.3% agreed, 13.3% were neutral, 22.2% disagreed while 25.7% strongly disagreed. Privacy and confidentiality of the suspected and potential carriers were maintained during contact tracing, 24.3% strongly agreed, 21.1% agreed, 13.7% were neutral, 19.2% disagreed while 21.7% strongly disagreed. Government equipped police officers with technological equipment to aid in contact tracing, 2.1% strongly agreed, 3.3% agreed, 16.1%

were neutral, 35.2% disagreed while 43.3% strongly disagreed. Contact tracing data should be availed to the law enforcement officers 3.4% strongly agreed, 3.9% agreed, 24.2% were neutral, 31.8% disagreed while 36.7% strongly disagreed. Law enforcement officers were responsible for guarding quarantine centers, 35.6% strongly agreed, 32.3% agreed, 6.1% were neutral, 14.7% disagreed while 11.3% strongly disagreed. Police officers should uphold fundamental human rights when guarding quarantine centers 5.7% strongly agreed, 17.5% agreed, 15.2% were neutral, 27.8% disagreed while 33.8% strongly disagreed. Public health officials and law enforcement should work closely on how to quarantine should be enforced, 10.5% strongly agreed, 18.3% agreed, 7.9% were neutral, 27.2% disagreed while 36.1% strongly disagreed. Law enforcement should consider community support when deploying restrictive measures such as quarantine, 26.3% strongly agreed, 38.1% agreed, 5.1% were neutral, 18.7% disagreed while 11.8% strongly disagreed. Enforcement of social distancing measures in conjunction with other measures has reduced the spread of the virus 17.8% strongly agreed, 21.4% agreed, 4.9% were neutral, 27.6% disagreed while 28.3% strongly disagreed. Cancellation of mass gatherings through social distancing measures has reduced the risks of Covid-19 transmission 25.6% strongly agreed, 41.9% agreed, 3.2% were neutral, 12.6% disagreed while 16.7% strongly disagreed.

Discussions of key findings

In Kenya, numerous measures were taken by the state through the National Police Service to curtail the spread of Covid-19 pandemic (Ministry of Health, 2020). These measures included the wearing of face masks, implementation of quarantine, social distancing, enforcement of curfews and isolation practices (Ministry of Health, 2020). Key findings discuses and supports how the respondents responded to the questions.

The police officers were involved in enforcing containment measures such as curfews which were also widely used to curb the Covid-19 spread and the respondent acknowledged that it worked. The findings are supported by Khatatbeh (2020) studied the efficacy of a nationwide curfew to encounter the spread of Covid-19 in Jordan and concluded that the stringent statewide curfew had been effective in halting the virus's spread.

The partnership with the community was identified to have the following benefits: addressing community-awareness of the pandemic as well as the role of police supervision intervening to reduce public health threats as evidenced by a study of (Jannetta & Lachman, 2016). The success of the partnership depended on mechanisms for effective information sharing, clearly defined responsibilities and roles, education or training about the health threats, Giacomazzi and Smithey (2016) clearly supported responsibilities and roles, education or training about the health threats, carefully determined organizational structures and shared ownership and equal responsibility for decision making. However, the study findings indicated that Police-community partnerships should be based on trust and acceptability of responsibility. For all these to be possible, confidence and trust must be built within the community (Muchira, 2016).

Banning of large gatherings, closure of bars and restaurants and restrictions of opening and closing hours, mandatory quarantine of incoming residents also helped to manage Covid-19 pandemic as supported by (Ministry of Health, 2020) report. Further, during pandemics, hotspot mapping was utilized to implement strict measures. Macharia (2020) noted that concentrated populations should be the focus of hotspot mapping as they are most vulnerable groups. Police officers also became victims in the due cause of their duties. According to Edwards and Kotera (2021), being a police officer is a dangerous job. The possibility of infection for the security officers who are typically among the first respondents posed a significant challenge.

Police officer according to the study findings lacked important protective gears and suggested a few measures, including the usage of PPE, disposable gloves, particle respirators, and disposable coveralls and gowns by police officers as they serve the community, to ensure the security and safety of both communities and police personnel. For effective response during public health emergencies, police-community relations and trust play a key role (Laufs & Waseem, 2020). Poor police response could possibly lead to lack of confidence in the police service, resulting in anxieties and fear, which is a major challenge (Bonkiewicz & Ruback, 2012). Consequently, this could result in violence, confrontations (Reicher & Stott, 2020). In a study conducted in

Zambia, by Chirambwi, (2016) found that during the implementation of the containment measures against Ebola, use of force, and militarization by police resulted in confrontations between the police and the affected communities. Further the study is supported by Wanjohi (2019) who pointed out that lack of mutual trust, lack of funds and lack of information are some of the challenges faced by the police-public health partnerships in the country.

Police agencies were thought to have a significant role in public awareness transmission during emergency management (Bruns, Burgess, Crawford, & Shaw, 2012). However, for this study the respondent did not agree and this was attributed to lack of good partnership between the community and the police. Relevant information on the Covid-19 pandemic and response should reach all people, without exception. This requires making information available in readily understandable formats and languages, including indigenous languages and those of national, ethnic and religious minorities, and adapting information for people with specific needs.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

According to the study findings, the police tied their best to contain the spread of the deadly virus despite the numerous challenges they faced and by the fact that they were not well trained to handle pandemics and by the fact that they did not have the required equipment. The government did not motivate them well especially when they became victims and were unable to pay their hospital bills nor were their family compensated in case of death on the line of duty. Proper partnership with the community was a big hindrance as instead of support there was hostility as police did not observe basic human rights when enforcing the public heath regulation and curfews.

Recommendations were made according the study findings in chapter four. The findings indicated that the police to effective play their role and contain such a pandemic in future they should be properly trained and well equipped with the right gears to avoid exposing them. Further the government and public health officials should frequently hold counselling meetings and give the police priorities when it comes to testing and treatment to motivate them in their challenging role. A comprehensive medical cover for the police should also be unveiled as well as compensation for their families in case of death in line of duty.

According to the study finding, the biggest challenge with the police was working relationship with the relevant stakeholders especially the community. There is need to create a conducive working environment built upon confidence and trust among all the stakeholders. The role of the police should be demystified and a good communication and information sharing especially with the community to get the required support. Community awareness programs should be reinforced and observing of basic human rights should be emphasized during such meetings and operations. Police should be fully equipped with the right gears, well-motivated and given the necessary support by all collaborating partners. Police should also be given special training for handling pandemics.

Police should be frequently trained on how to protect themselves when conducting their duties and should be involved on community awareness meetings to reduce hostility between the community and the police during their operations. There should be effective information exchange between health agencies and police to enhance effective management of the pandemic. Further, the role of the police service in curbing Covid-19, should be demystified to the public to create environment of trust and confidence for effective collaboration.

According to the study findings, the authors recommended that the governments should ensure that during the police training ethics and human rights issues should be incorporated to ensure that police force can easily interact with the society without violating basic human rights and at the same time being ethical in conduct of their duties. Further, the government should have a sanitization campaign that will integrate the police to the community through collaborations and open communication to remove hostility between the community and

police during their operations. The community leaders and the government should create an environment of trust to enable the community give the police the necessary support during such operations.

Areas of further research

The study focused on the Mombasa county, such a study should be carried out in a different setting such as rural areas to see whether both the police and the community are informed and prepared in case of such a pandemic in future. There is also need to carry out a study concerning police officer's preparedness in handling other emergencies with an intention of advising the government the need for special training's in the police force over and above the role of security to ensure the police force can handle any other emergencies effectively without conflict with the society and loss of life.

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