



## Strengthening Crime Prevention through Community Policing in West Nusa Tenggara Regional Police

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### Abstract

The purpose of this research is to examine the policy of strengthening crime prevention through community policing. (Community policing). The method used in this research is a mixed method approach, combining descriptive methods with survey methods. The use of descriptive methods aims to discover and collect data that will be used to answer the research questions. This data source will be explored through the data collection techniques used, especially with the selected research informants according to the research informants' criteria. The second data source is secondary data in the form of data/information released by the police or institutions outside the police that can serve as supporting data in this research. Data analysis is conducted through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The findings of this research indicate that efforts to strengthen crime prevention through community policing in the jurisdiction of the West Nusa Tenggara police have been progressing well by implementing various preventive approaches and strategies, including optimizing functional units at the Polda, Polres, and Polsek levels that incorporate preventive aspects, prioritizing law enforcement over crime prevention, recognizing that crime prevention is the responsibility of the police, conducting direct prevention efforts, sharing knowledge with the community, and showing intent in budget and resource support.

**Keywords:** Strengthening, Crime Prevention, Policing, Community.

### INTRODUCTION

Crime is one of the issues that often arises and causes concern for society and the nation. With the advancement of technology and the development of the times, crime also frequently arises with various new forms of modus operandi and different incidents. Law enforcement officers, especially the police, are the frontline or the first line of defense and the first to directly confront criminals. The hard work of law enforcement officers or the police in addressing every crime that occurs requires participation and support from various parties, especially the community. (Hartono, 2016).

Crime prevention currently has two strategic benefits: protecting the environment from crime and fear of crime. Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and community policing, which will be explained in more detail in Chapter II of this paper. CPTED programs are realized through the design and management of the physical environment of buildings, residential areas, and businesses, aiming to enhance public safety and reduce the fear of crime.

Community policing programs aim to make the police more visible and familiar with the community and the physical environment in which they operate. The strengthening of this effort is carried out by promoting police-community partnerships to prevent crime and disorder. (U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs National Institute of Justice, 1996). This suggests that crime prevention through a community policing approach is a strategic step to intervene in crime opportunities by physically presenting the police and simultaneously building a closer relationship between the police and the community.

Community policing attempts to emphasize crime prevention based on the reasonable idea that although society values quick responses, reactive investigations, and the arrest of criminals, society still prefers if crime events can be prevented from the outset and not experienced by them. Most modern police departments devote a significant amount of their resources to crime prevention in the form of officers or specialized units. Community policing seeks to go further by emphasizing that prevention is the largest part of police duties. Some approaches aim to focus on prevention that has been adopted by the police, such as situational crime prevention, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), youth-oriented prevention, and various programs involving schools, communities, property owners, and businesses. In relation to community safety, community policing emphasizes that police officers are not only first responders but also first preventers (Kelling dan Bratton, 2006).

Crime prevention through community policing activities is a form of community policing that is oriented towards a specific problem focus. Crime is placed within the framework or as a police problem and simultaneously a societal issue that requires synergistic handling between the police, the community, and other stakeholders. Polmas, both as a philosophy and a strategy, becomes a modality for the police to address crime issues and control crime rates to a tolerable degree. Efforts to fulfill and create a sense of safety and tranquility in society are strategic steps that also influence the success of national development.

In this study, the main interest and intention of the researcher is the fact that the crime rate remains relatively constant despite the various strategies, programs, and activities continuously carried out by the police in collaboration with the community to prevent crime. Referring to BPS data in the Criminal Statistics of West Nusa Tenggara Province for the year 2023, it shows that reported criminal incidents to the NTB Police have fluctuated over the past three years. The number of reported crimes (crime total), commonly referred to in police data as the Number of Reports, decreased from 5,636 cases in 2021 to 4,205 cases in 2022. Subsequently, the number of reported crimes increased by 30.27 percent in 2023, reaching 5,478 cases. In contrast to the crime cases, the number of cases solved decreased in 2023, from 3,726 solved cases (Crime Cleared) in 2022 to 3,708 solved cases in 2023. In response to this situation, the researcher is interested in conducting a study titled Strengthening Crime Prevention through Community Policing.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research is a mixed method between descriptive method and survey method. The use of the descriptive method is aimed at discovering and collecting data that will be used to answer the research questions. By using the descriptive method, the experiences, levels of understanding, attitudes, and orientations of police officers towards strengthening crime prevention through community policing to improve the performance of public order and community safety are treated as reality. This method allows for the exploration of all conditions, events, occurrences, and various behaviors and attitudes surrounding the observed phenomenon to be positioned as the framework of the research focus. The use of survey methods is employed to understand the experiences, knowledge, and attitudes of police officers and the community related to crime prevention and its reinforcement efforts through community policing modalities to support the maintenance of public order by the police. The sources of data and information for this research consist of primary sources in the form of statements or written products containing data or information regarding the strengthening of crime prevention through community policing to support public order and safety.

This data source will be explored through the data collection techniques used, especially with research informants selected according to the criteria for research informants. The second data source is secondary data in the form of data/information released by the police or institutions outside the police that can serve as supporting data in this research. To find the data and information that will be used as material to answer the research questions, several data collection techniques will be used in this study, namely through interviews with research subjects. This

technique is used to gather information in the form of direct statements from subjects related to their experiences, perceptions, and attitudes. Interviews at the Polda level will be conducted with subjects:

- \*Karoops along with 3 personnel
- \*Dirreskrim along with 3 personnel
- \*Dirreskrimsus along with 3 personnel
- \*Dirresnarkoba along with 3 personnel
- \*Dirintelkam along with 3 personnel
- \*Dirbinmas along with 3 personnel
- \*Dirsabhara along with 3 personnel
- \*Irlantas along with 3 personnel
- \*Kabidhumas along with 3 personnel
- \*Bhabinkamtibmas members (3 representatives)
- \*Kakesbangpolinmas Province
- \*Community members totaling 5 people (representatives of tomas, toga, todat, and toda)
- \*Alumni Personnel of STIK Class of 66 to 81 related to teaching materials at STIK

Meanwhile, interviews at the district police level will be conducted with the following subjects: Kapolres/Wakapolres

- \*Kabag Operasi
- \*Kasat Reskrim
- \*Kasat Binmas
- \*Kasat Sabhara
- \*Kasat Lantas
- \*Kasat Intel
- \*Kasie Humas
- \*Personnel Bhabinkamtibmas (4 orang perwakilan)
- \*Kakesbangpol Kabupaten/Kota
- \*Each 1 representative from the community leader, religious leader, traditional leader, and youth leader.

Next, data collection techniques will be conducted through document studies. This technique will be used for information related to crime prevention activities, including reinforcement activities carried out through community policing activities. The documents referred to may include guidelines, manuals, reports, activity plans, MOUs, and other supporting documents relevant to the research issue. The data collection technique through document study is also used to gather information related to products, schedules, concepts, role descriptions, and job responsibilities, as well as implementation reports and work results at the individual and unit levels. The data collection technique through questionnaires will be distributed via Google Forms. The information to be gathered includes the knowledge, attitudes, and experiences of respondents related to crime prevention activities and efforts to strengthen crime prevention carried out through community policing. This information will be collected from internal police respondents and external community respondents according to specific clusters or segments. This research is conducted at the West Nusa Tenggara Regional Police and its ranks.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Description of the West Nusa Tenggara Regional Police

The West Nusa Tenggara Regional Police or Polda NTB, formerly known as the Police Regional Command (Komdak or Kodak Lombok), is the executor of the duties of the Indonesian National Police in the West Nusa Tenggara Province. Polda Nusa Tenggara Barat, being classified as a type A police region, is led by a regional police chief with the rank of two-star general or Inspector General of Police. Polda NTB (Regional Police of West Nusa Tenggara) has a history closely related to the dynamics of security and order in the province's region. Like other regions in Indonesia, the

formation and development of Polda NTB are closely linked to the national history related to the establishment and restructuring of the police force in Indonesia.

After Indonesia's independence, the police, which were initially under military control, began to undergo restructuring. The Indonesian National Police (Polri) was established as an independent body responsible for maintaining public security and order throughout Indonesia. In the early days of independence, the region of West Nusa Tenggara did not have its own police department and was still part of a larger administrative area, namely the Lesser Sunda Province (now West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, and Bali). In 1958, West Nusa Tenggara Province officially became an independent province after separating from the Lesser Sunda Province. In line with the formation of this province, the police structure also began to be adjusted. Under the National Police Headquarters (Mabes Polri), Police Reserves (Polres) were established, responsible for security in the districts and cities in the NTB region. Currently, the role of the police is more focused on local law enforcement and regional security. Polda NTB was officially established in the early 1970s as part of the Indonesian National Police's efforts to strengthen the regional police structure throughout Indonesia. The establishment of Polda NTB aimed to facilitate coordination, law enforcement, and security oversight throughout the Nusa Tenggara Barat region, which consists of Lombok Island, Sumbawa Island, and other small islands.

The first Chief of Police (Kapolda) to serve in Polda NTB played an important role in formulating regional security strategies, considering that at that time the security conditions in several areas were still prone to conflict due to post-independence social and political issues. The main task in the early days of Polda NTB was to ensure security stability in newly developing areas and to build cooperative networks with community leaders and local government.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Polda NTB faced various new challenges along with the economic, social, and cultural developments in the region. Tourism on Lombok Island began to develop rapidly, and NTB became a popular destination for both local and international tourists. The NTB Police must adapt to this new dynamic by ensuring the safety of tourists while also addressing various social issues such as the increase in drug-related crimes and human trafficking.

In addition, the NTB Regional Police also have to handle social conflicts in several areas on Sumbawa Island, which are often triggered by land disputes and inter-group community conflicts. During this period, the role of intelligence and the Brimob unit (Mobile Brigade) became very important in addressing riots and security disturbances. In the early 2000s, Indonesia, including NTB, faced an increasing threat of terrorism, especially after the Bali Bombing in 2002. The NTB Police collaborated with Densus 88 Anti-Terror and other security agencies to prevent and address the threat of terrorism in this region. Lombok Island, which is close to Bali, is considered a high-risk area, so the NTB Police have increased surveillance at key points and tourist centers.

In addition, NTB is also an area prone to natural disasters, such as earthquakes and tsunamis. In 2018, the NTB Police played a crucial role in post-disaster management when a major earthquake struck Lombok and Sumbawa. The police were involved in evacuation efforts, aid distribution, and maintaining order in the disaster-affected areas.

Nowadays, the NTB Regional Police continue to modernize in line with technological advancements and increasingly complex security needs. Polda NTB has adopted various digital innovations to improve public services, such as an online information system for driver's license issuance, public complaints, and traffic monitoring. In addition, the NTB Police continue to strive to enhance the professionalism of their members through training and capacity building, as well as strengthening cooperation with related agencies, both at the national and international levels. In recent years, the NTB Police have also been active in maintaining the security of international events, such as the MotoGP at Mandalika Circuit, which has attracted global attention. Security challenges related to the organization of international events and the development of the tourism sector present new challenges for the NTB Police in maintaining order and security in this province.

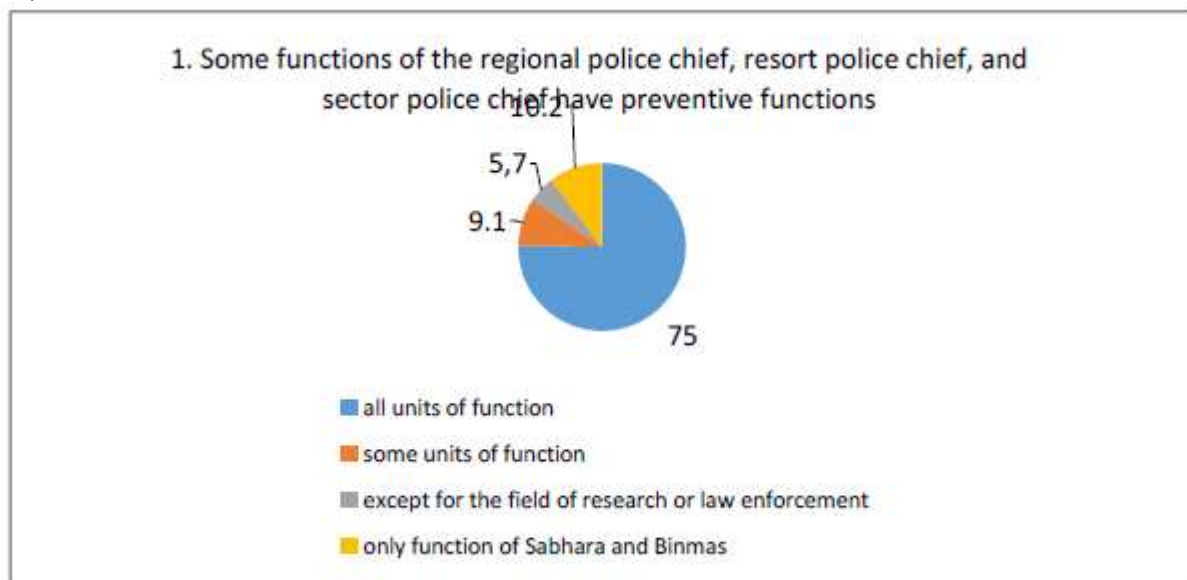
### **Strengthening Crime Prevention**

In essence, it is an integral part of the efforts for social defense and the efforts to achieve community welfare. (Social welfare). Therefore, it can be said that the ultimate goal or main objective of criminal policy is the protection of society. In his theory, Barda Nawawi explains the connection between crime prevention policies and criminal policies, which are rational efforts by society or authorities to prevent crime and respond to crime. Criminal policies for addressing economic crimes can basically be divided into two stages. First is the prevention policy before the occurrence of a crime. Based on that theory, the findings in this research explain that strengthening crime prevention by police units can be realized through community policing. (Community policing).

Lawrence W. Sherman defines crime prevention as "efforts to reduce the existing crime rate or prevent crimes that may occur in the future." In its implementation, the levels of crime prevention include primary prevention (early prevention), which is a proactive approach and involves preventive efforts before a crime occurs. Examples include community education about crime, child development programs, community empowerment, and efforts to reduce social factors that can lead to crime. Secondary Prevention (actual prevention) is an approach or level that focuses on further intervention after the potential for crime has been identified. The goal is to prevent criminals from being able to realize their intention to commit crimes. Tertiary Prevention (recidivism prevention) is a level that aims to avoid repeat offenses or prevent previously convicted offenders from engaging in criminal behavior again. Examples include rehabilitation programs within the prison system, comprehensive victim recovery, and strict supervision of released offenders.

The main crime prevention approach used as a perspective in this research is Situational Crime Prevention. This approach was chosen to focus on the forms of crime prevention activities carried out by territorial units that are the subject of observation in this research. This allows a researcher to observe the level of accuracy between the police intervention patterns in preventing crime and the nature of crime threats and the characteristics of potential crimes that may occur and be predicted from the outset by the police at the regional unit level, particularly in the Legal Region of the West Nusa Tenggara Police. From the survey conducted on the respondents of PJU Polda NTB, the following graph can be shown:

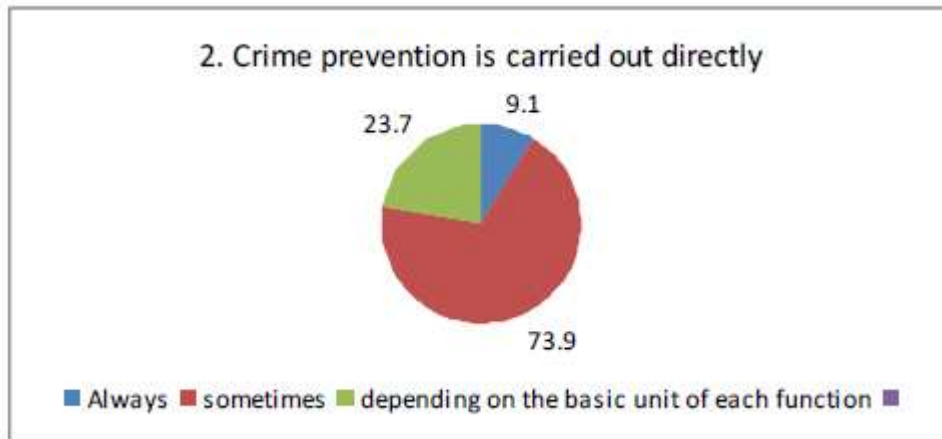
Figure 1. Functional Units in Regional Police, Resort Police, and Sector Police Contain Preventive Aspects



Based on the above image 1, it is known that the majority of respondents (75%) stated that every functional unit is attached to the dimension of crime prevention in the main tasks of each functional unit at all territorial levels. Then, 10.2% stated that the task of crime prevention is only the main task of the sabhara function and the binmas function. Subsequently, 5.7% stated that the task of crime prevention is carried out by all functions except the detective function. The rest stated

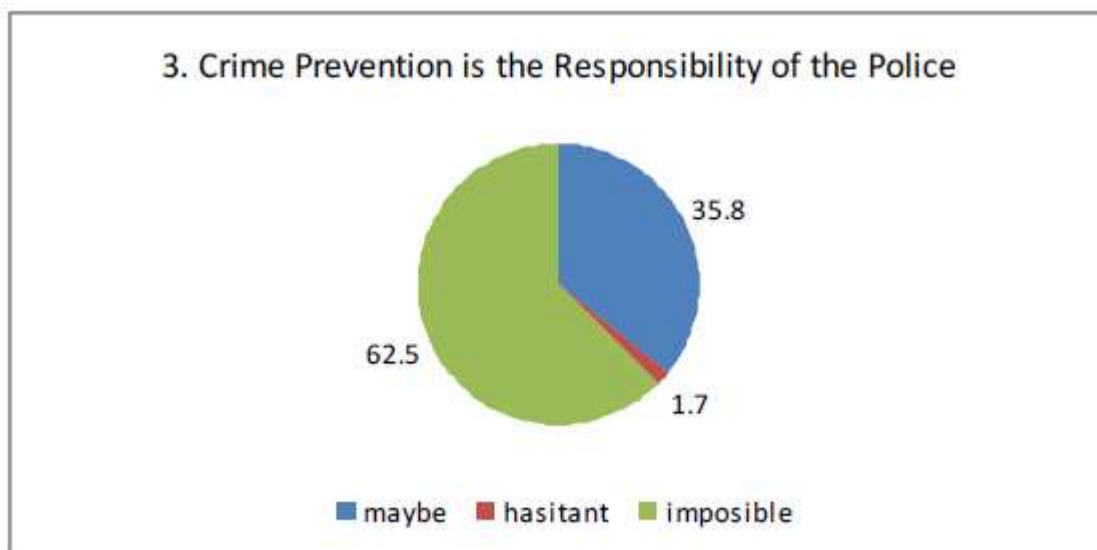
that only a portion of the functional units carry out crime prevention duties, which amounts to 9.1%. Next, the data presented in the images on the following pages show the respondents' understanding of whether crime prevention methods are direct or indirect. As many as 73.9% of respondents understand that crime prevention is always carried out directly. Meanwhile, 23.7% of respondents stated that it depends on the main duties of each functional unit, and the rest stated sometimes.

Figure 2. Direct Crime Prevention



Then, the data presented in 3 below show the level of knowledge of the research respondents regarding crime prevention responsibilities.

Figure. 3 Crime Prevention is the Responsibility of the Police

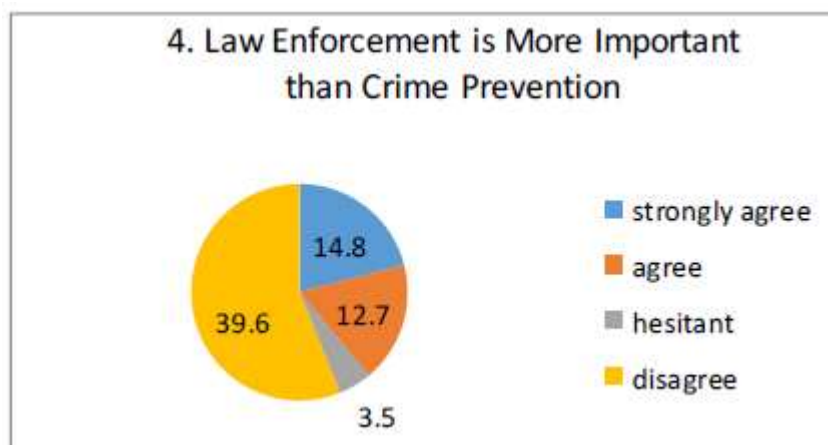


The data in Figure 3 above shows that 62.5% of respondents stated that it is unlikely that only the police have the responsibility for crime prevention. Then, 35.8% understand that crime prevention is very likely to be the sole responsibility of the police; and the remaining respondents expressed a doubtful attitude.

The data presented in Figure 4 on the following page shows the respondents' understanding of the importance of law enforcement compared to crime prevention. As many as 27.5% of the respondents stated that law enforcement is more important than crime prevention. Then, 69% understood that law enforcement is not more important than crime prevention, and the rest did not understand.

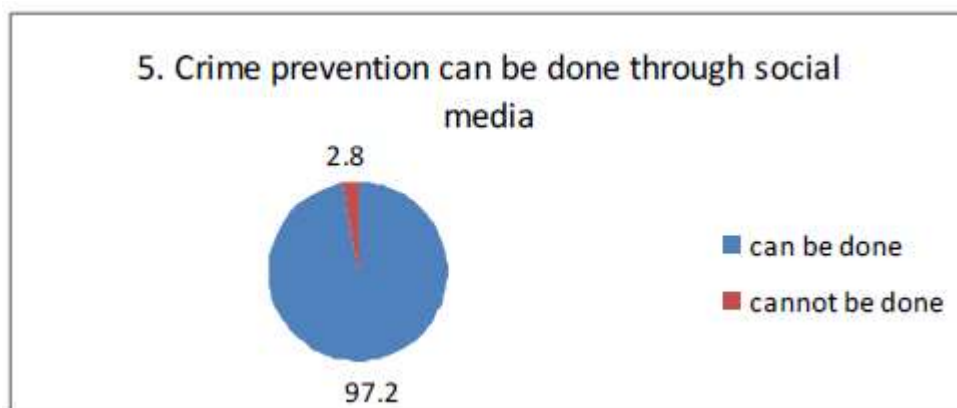
Figure 4. Law Enforcement is More Important than Crime Prevention





Then, the data presented in Figure 5 below shows the respondents' knowledge that crime prevention is very likely to be carried out through or by utilizing social media. As many as 97.2% of respondents stated that crime prevention can be carried out through social media, while the remaining 2.8% stated that crime prevention cannot be carried out through social media.

Figure 5. Crime Prevention is Carried Out Through Social Media Community Policing



In this study, it was found that the community policing approach, or polmas, is one of the approaches currently used by the Indonesian National Police (Polri) in efforts to prevent crime. With this approach, the police strive to invite all layers of society to partner in preventing crime. With this partnership, the police hope that community members can detect and identify security and public order issues in their environment and participate in their resolution.

This is in line with the meaning of the methods or strategies of community policing, which involve the participation of the community, government, and other stakeholders in efforts to prevent, deter, and address threats, disturbances, challenges, and obstacles in maintaining public security and order, from policy formulation to the implementation of those policies. From the explanation above, it shows that in implementing community policing, the ranks of the regional police in the West Nusa Tenggara area have understood their main tasks and functions in carrying out the aforementioned prevention.

In addition, another effort is that the police involve the local community in identifying and solving security problems, as stated by one of the senior officers of the East Lombok Police, who mentioned that:

\*"By coordinating and collaborating with all relevant elements or communities to jointly identify the root of the problems and find the best solutions to the issues that arise, the best solutions to the problems can be found."The Head of the Lombok Timur Police also, when asked how the Police utilize information technology to support community policing initiatives, said, 'The use of information technology to support community policing initiatives by utilizing social media,

prioritizing the public relations function to publicize every activity of the Lombok Timur Police in the Community Policing Program.”

From the interview results, it can be explained that with the Polmas Program, the level of vulnerability and crime has certainly decreased, as evidenced by the decline in crime rates and criminal acts in each respective area of responsibility. However, there are also challenges faced by the police apparatus, including several obstacles we encounter in implementing the Polmas program, such as: (a) Obstacles related to the low awareness of the community to obey the law, which must be supported by the hard work of Polmas officers to coordinate, collaborate, and cooperate with all elements of the community, including Toga, Toda, Tomas, and Todat, to support government programs in their respective areas; (b) Many criminals commit their actions due to economic factors, so the participation of the community and government is needed to provide job opportunities for their citizens, thereby reducing crime due to economic demands; (c) The negative image of criminals leads to their avoidance by the community, causing them to socialize with other criminals, which results in continuous deviant behavior. This requires attention from all related elements, including the community and government.

Another effort to strengthen crime prevention undertaken by the police is building collaboration between the police precinct and schools in supporting community policing, which is currently ongoing. The police precinct is conducting training and outreach in schools carried out by police functional units to convey community security messages and collaborate with schools through the Shaka Bhayangkara Program, including involving them in ceremonies and police operations as a form of national insight education.

The strategy implemented to involve the local community in identifying and solving security issues is by forming partnerships with local communities such as Yayasan Tulus Angen Community, Yayasan Gema Insan Berdikari, NGOs, Pamswakarsa, etc. All existing problems will be discussed to identify the root causes and develop strategies for their resolution.

To measure the impact of the Polmas program on the crime rate in the Polres area, a recapitulation of community complaints is conducted, both directly from Bhabinkamtibmas and through Police Reports and Complaint Reports at the Polsek to Polres levels. Until now, the police department has not encountered any significant obstacles because all supporting facilities are quite adequate. In supporting Polmas, the Police Chief stated that they have been intensively establishing partnerships with every school principal in the district to conduct community security outreach in each school. However, the system uses a priority scale by assessing the level of vulnerability to inter-school brawls.

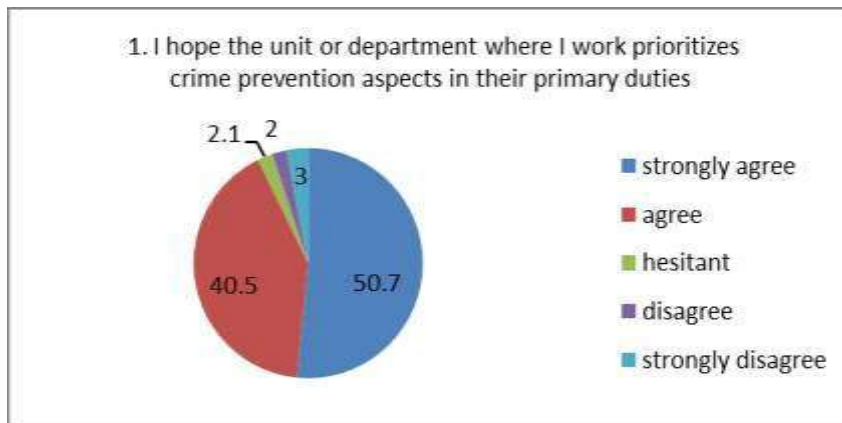
The police department utilizes information technology to support the community policing initiative, with the community using information technology through social media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook. Polresta Mataram measures the impact of the Polmas program on crime rates in their area by looking at the level of reports or complaints from the community regarding crimes that are predominantly reported to the police. In addition, through testimonies or direct interviews for gathering information by Bhabinkamtibmas, Community Police, or Intel to determine the extent to which the program is running, whether it has had positive implications or the opposite.

Another obstacle faced by Polresta in implementing Polmas in the Jurisdiction of Polresta Mataram is that there was a conflict between the primary duties that must continue and the community visits conducted in their respective areas. However, the Kapolresta has provided a policy for members to conduct community visits only once a week during working hours so that the Community Policing program continues to run. From the description of the research findings above, the members' intention in crime prevention is illustrated in the following graph:

#### **Aspects of Crime Prevention in the Implementation of Main Duties**

Figure 6. Intent in Preventing Crime

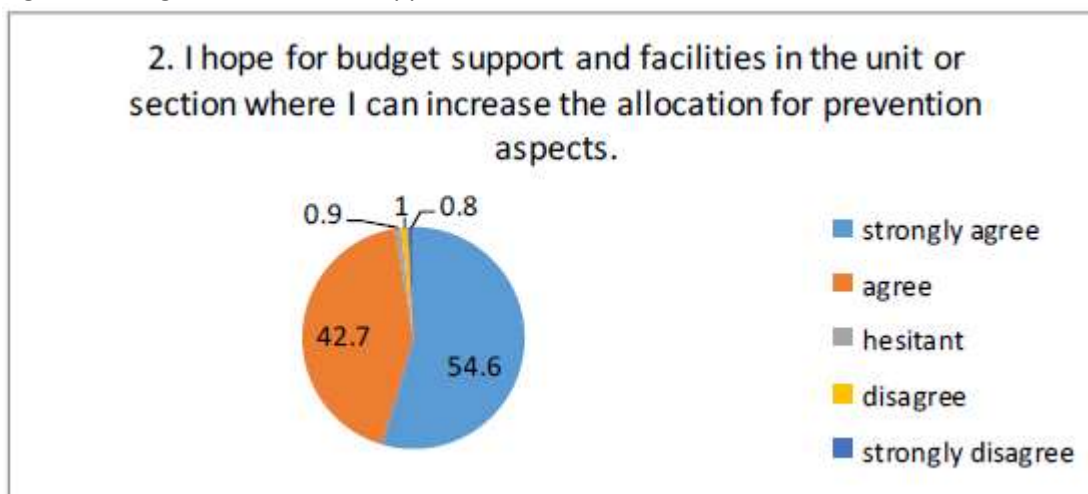




The data presented in this section shows the intention or tendency of Polri members in the jurisdiction of Polda NTB to engage in crime prevention. Of course, the level of this tendency can be traced from the dimension of knowledge about crime prevention and the dimension of attitudes towards crime prevention presented in the previous section. The data presented in Figure 6 above shows the tendency of research respondents to functionally engage in crime prevention activities. Most respondents (91.2%) expect that the function in which they work prioritizes crime prevention. Only 7.1% of respondents do not have expectations regarding the prioritization of crime in their function; the rest show a hesitant attitude.

#### Budget and Facilities Support

Figure 7. Budget and Facilities Support

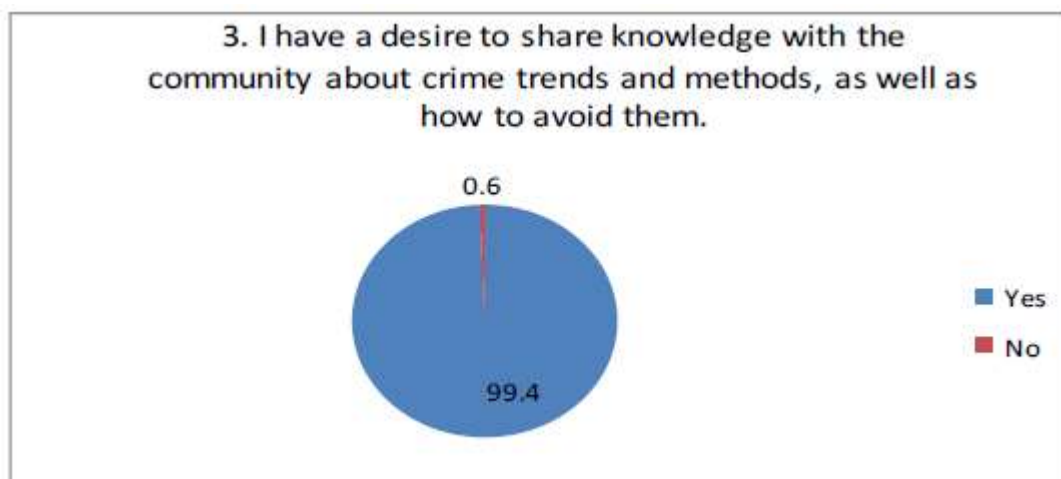


I hope for budget support and facilities in the unit or section where I can increase the allocation for prevention

The data presented in Figure 7 above illustrates the high expectations of the research respondents regarding the need for budgetary and facility support for crime prevention in their respective work units. 54.6% of the respondents expressed agreement with the statement related to budget support and facilities in the unit or section where they work.

#### Knowledge Sharing

Figure 8. Knowledge Sharing



I have a desire to share knowledge with the community about crime trends and methods, as well as how to avoid them.

Based on the above, it is evident that the majority of respondents (99.4%) have the desire to share knowledge with the community about crime trends and methods and ways to avoid them. Only a small number of police personnel in the jurisdiction of Polda NTB (0.6%) disagreed with the statement. This can be interpreted as the high intention of police officers in the jurisdiction of Polda NTB to engage in crime prevention activities based on their primary duties and organizational functions where they are assigned.

## CONCLUSION

The strengthening of crime prevention efforts appears to be directed towards enhancing organizational and personnel capacity. This is evidenced by the efforts of community policing approaches and strategies that have been implemented in the jurisdiction of the NTB Police. The efforts of strategies and strengthening crime prevention through community policing that have been carried out include the optimization of functional units in the Polda, Polres, and Polsek, which contain preventive aspects, prioritizing law enforcement over crime prevention, crime prevention being the responsibility of the police, direct crime prevention, sharing knowledge with the community, and intent in budget and resource support. The presence of many tasks that are not actually the primary responsibilities of functional units still poses an obstacle in the implementation of the reinforcement results that have been built and executed. The crime prevention methods being implemented still tend to not fully adapt to the local context and remain heavily oriented towards the methods developed at the National Police Headquarters (Mabes Polri).

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