

The Role of Bhabinkamtibmas Officers in Preventing Crime and Maintaining Public Security and Order in Jayapura City

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the role of Bhabinkamtibmas officers of Jayapura City Police in preventing crime and maintaining public security and order in Jayapura City. The findings indicate that their community-policing activities include establishing Police–Community Communication Forums (FKPM) and facilitating the resolution of disputes through deliberation and mutual agreement. These activities reflect an approach that positions the police as partners of the community in maintaining local security. However, the implementation of this role faces internal and external constraints. Internal constraints include the need for clearer operational guidelines, adequate facilities and infrastructure, sufficient budget allocations, and qualified personnel. External constraints include challenges in community engagement and the need to adapt policing approaches to local social and cultural characteristics. The study concludes that although Bhabinkamtibmas activities have been implemented in accordance with applicable regulations and have received a positive response from the community, they have not yet succeeded in reducing crime in Jayapura City. Strengthening personnel capacity, improving operational resources, increasing budget support, and enhancing collaboration among the police, local government, and community stakeholders are therefore necessary to improve the effectiveness of community policing and crime prevention.

Keywords: Bhabinkamtibmas, Community Policing, Crime Prevention, Public Security and Order.

I. Introduction

Public security and order are fundamental conditions for social stability, community well-being, and the effective functioning of public institutions. In contemporary policing, maintaining security requires more than law enforcement and reactive responses to criminal incidents. It also requires preventive strategies that enable police officers to understand local problems, build public trust, and work collaboratively with community members. Community-oriented policing provides a framework for this approach by emphasizing police–community partnerships, public participation, and locally responsive problem-solving (United Nations Police, 2018). This approach recognizes that sustainable public security depends not only on police capacity but also on the willingness and ability of communities to participate in preventing crime and resolving local problems. Research on community policing, however, indicates that its implementation should not automatically be equated with crime reduction. Mazerolle et al. (2013) found that police interventions emphasizing procedurally just communication can improve public satisfaction, confidence, and cooperation

with the police. Nevertheless, improvements in public perceptions and police–community relations are not necessarily equivalent to measurable reductions in criminal activity. Similarly, Hinkle et al. (2020) reported that problem-oriented policing was associated with significant reductions in crime and disorder, although the magnitude of the effects varied across studies and intervention contexts. These findings highlight the importance of examining both the implementation of community-policing activities and their practical contribution to public security.

In Indonesia, community policing is institutionalized through the Community Policing framework, including Regulation of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police No. 3 of 2015 on Community Policing. One important frontline component of this framework is Bhabinkamtibmas (Bhayangkara Pembina Keamanan dan Ketertiban Masyarakat), whose responsibilities include community engagement, early identification of potential security disturbances, and the facilitation of cooperation between police officers and local residents. Suryanto (2017) discusses the role of Bhabinkamtibmas in maintaining public security and order at the village and community levels, particularly through community-based detection. This institutional arrangement places Bhabinkamtibmas in a strategic position to identify emerging problems, facilitate communication, and support preventive action within their assigned communities. The effectiveness of community policing nevertheless depends on how its principles are translated into operational practices. Ekici et al. (2022), in a meta-analysis of community-policing research, found that its effects differed across crime categories. Their findings suggest that community policing may contribute to reducing certain types of crime, but its effects should not be generalized to every criminal offense or local setting. Evidence concerning preventive policing also indicates that implementation strategies and resource allocation matter. Weisburd et al. (2024), for example, found modest crime-prevention benefits associated with increased preventive patrol across larger geographical areas, while noting that the available evidence provided limited guidance on the most effective allocation of patrol resources. These findings reinforce the need to evaluate policing practices in relation to their local implementation conditions rather than assuming that increased police activity alone will produce better outcomes.

In Jayapura City, Bhabinkamtibmas officers operate within a framework that requires coordination between the police and local communities. The article under study identifies several implementation issues, including the perceived inadequacy of crime-prevention activities, limited community participation, and the need to strengthen cooperation between police officers and residents. It also identifies institutional constraints relating to operational guidelines, personnel qualifications, facilities, infrastructure, and budget support. These issues raise an important practical question: to what extent can Bhabinkamtibmas translate the principles of community policing into sustained community participation and effective crime-prevention practices in Jayapura City? The question is particularly relevant because community-policing programs may be formally established while their implementation and outcomes remain constrained by organizational capacity and local conditions. Recent developments in Indonesian community-policing research further support the importance of examining implementation at the local level. Setiawan et al. (2026), in a systematic literature review of the Polisi RW program, identified police–community partnerships, citizen participation, problem-solving practices, organizational capacity, and resource constraints as important dimensions of implementation. Although the Polisi RW program is not identical to Bhabinkamtibmas, the findings provide a relevant comparative perspective on the organizational and community conditions that shape community-policing practices in Indonesia. International evidence also suggests that policing strategies designed around community engagement and problem-solving may produce different outcomes from approaches that rely primarily on enforcement or generalized police presence (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2022; Weisburd et al., 2024).

Despite these contributions, findings from international systematic reviews and studies of other Indonesian policing programs cannot, by themselves, establish how Bhabinkamtibmas performs its role in Jayapura City. The present article addresses this contextual and empirical question by examining the implementation of Bhabinkamtibmas's role, the constraints encountered in carrying out community-policing activities, and the implications for maintaining public security and order. Its contribution lies in connecting

the formal responsibilities of Bhabinkamtibmas with the practical challenges reported in the Jayapura City Police context, particularly the distinction between implementing community-policing activities and achieving the intended crime-prevention outcomes. Accordingly, this study aims to analyze the role of Bhabinkamtibmas of Jayapura City Police in preventing crime and maintaining public security and order in Jayapura City, identify the internal and external constraints affecting the implementation of this role, and formulate recommendations for strengthening community-policing practices. By focusing on the relationship between institutional responsibilities, community engagement, and implementation constraints, the study is expected to provide context-specific insights for improving police–community cooperation and informing the development of more responsive crime-prevention strategies.

II. Literature Review

2.1. Role Theory

Role theory provides a conceptual foundation for understanding the relationship between an individual's institutional position, expected responsibilities, and actual behavior. Biddle (1986) explains that role theory encompasses several perspectives on how social positions generate expectations that guide individual behavior. Within public institutions, roles are associated with formal responsibilities and social expectations, while their implementation is influenced by organizational structures and interactions with other actors. In policing, this perspective helps explain how officers translate institutional mandates into practical activities within the communities they serve. In the context of this study, Bhabinkamtibmas officers occupy a strategic position between the police institution and local communities. Their responsibilities extend beyond enforcing legal provisions to include facilitating communication, identifying emerging security problems, and encouraging public participation in crime prevention. Role theory therefore provides a framework for examining the alignment between the formal responsibilities of Bhabinkamtibmas and their actual implementation in Jayapura City. It also helps identify potential discrepancies between institutional expectations and operational realities, particularly when personnel, facilities, or community cooperation are limited.

2.2. Community Policing

Community policing is an approach to law enforcement that emphasizes partnerships between police officers and community members, public participation, and collaborative responses to local security problems. Rather than relying exclusively on reactive enforcement, this approach encourages police officers to understand community needs, develop trust, and address problems through sustained interaction. The United Nations Police (2018) identifies community-oriented policing as an important approach to strengthening police–community relationships, public confidence, and cooperation. Empirical research demonstrates that community policing should be evaluated through multiple outcomes. Gill et al. (2014), in a systematic review of 65 tests of community-oriented policing, found improvements in citizen satisfaction and perceptions of police legitimacy, although the overall effect on crime was small and not statistically significant. Similarly, Mazerolle et al. (2013) found that police interventions emphasizing procedural justice can improve public satisfaction, confidence, cooperation, and perceptions of legitimacy. These findings indicate that effective community policing requires not only police presence but also fair treatment, meaningful communication, and opportunities for community participation. Community policing is closely related to problem-oriented policing, which focuses on identifying and addressing the underlying causes of recurring crime and disorder. Hinkle et al. (2020) reported that problem-oriented policing produced statistically significant reductions in crime and disorder across the studies included in their systematic review and meta-analysis. Their findings support the importance of structured problem identification, tailored interventions, and assessment of outcomes. For Bhabinkamtibmas, these principles imply that routine

community visits and communication forums should be connected to systematic identification of local problems and appropriate preventive responses.

2.3. The Role of Bhabinkamtibmas in Indonesia

In Indonesia, community policing is institutionalized through the *Pemolisian Masyarakat* (Polmas) framework. Regulation of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police No. 3 of 2015 on Community Policing provides a regulatory basis for implementing this approach. Bhabinkamtibmas, or *Bhayangkara Pembina Keamanan dan Ketertiban Masyarakat*, serves as a frontline police officer responsible for community engagement and the facilitation of public security and order at the village or urban-village level. Suryanto (2017) discusses Bhabinkamtibmas as part of the police service structure supporting community-level security and early detection. This role places officers in a position to gather information about local conditions, communicate with residents, and identify potential disturbances before they escalate. Such activities are consistent with the preventive orientation of community policing, in which local knowledge and public cooperation are important resources for maintaining security. Nevertheless, the existence of a formal mandate does not necessarily guarantee effective implementation. Setiawan et al. (2026), in a systematic literature review of Indonesia's Polisi RW program, identified police–community partnerships, citizen participation, problem-solving practices, organizational capacity, and resource availability as important dimensions of community-policing implementation. Although Polisi RW is institutionally distinct from Bhabinkamtibmas, this research offers a relevant comparative perspective on the organizational and social conditions that may influence community-policing practices in Indonesia. In particular, staffing limitations, budget constraints, workload, and governance arrangements may affect the continuity and quality of police–community engagement.

2.4. Crime Prevention and the Maintenance of Public Security and Order

Crime prevention involves measures intended to reduce opportunities for criminal activity, address conditions associated with crime, and strengthen the capacity of communities and institutions to maintain security. Within community policing, prevention may include early detection, community education, conflict mediation, information exchange, and collaborative problem-solving. These activities are expected to strengthen the relationship between police officers and residents while supporting timely responses to local security concerns. However, the effectiveness of preventive activities should not be inferred solely from the number of visits, meetings, or communication forums conducted. Crowl (2017), in an empirical review of community-policing research, emphasizes the need to assess outcomes across different dimensions, including crime reduction, fear of crime, police legitimacy, and organizational outcomes. Hinkle et al. (2020) further demonstrate that structured problem-solving can contribute to reductions in crime and disorder, although outcomes vary according to intervention characteristics and implementation conditions. For this study, maintaining public security and order is therefore understood as a practical objective involving both preventive activities and the capacity to respond to community problems. The role of Bhabinkamtibmas must be examined in terms of how officers establish partnerships, facilitate collective problem-solving, identify potential threats, and address obstacles to implementation. This distinction is particularly important because positive community responses to police activities do not necessarily demonstrate that criminal activity has decreased.

2.5. Analytical Framework

Based on role theory and the community-policing literature, this study conceptualizes the role of Bhabinkamtibmas through three interconnected dimensions: the implementation of institutional responsibilities, the development of police–community partnerships, and the management of operational

constraints. Institutional responsibilities concern the execution of assigned duties in accordance with applicable regulations. Police–community partnerships concern communication, participation, deliberation, and cooperation in addressing local security problems. Operational constraints include limitations in personnel capacity, guidelines, facilities, infrastructure, funding, and community participation. These dimensions provide an analytical basis for examining the implementation of Bhabinkamtibmas activities in Jayapura City. The framework distinguishes between the performance of community-policing activities and their intended outcomes in preventing crime and maintaining public security and order. Accordingly, the study examines how Bhabinkamtibmas performs its role, what internal and external constraints affect implementation, and what improvements may strengthen community-policing practices. This framework does not assume that community policing has already reduced crime; rather, it provides a basis for interpreting the implementation challenges and outcomes reported in the study.

III. Research Method

3.1. Research Design

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach to examine the role of Bhabinkamtibmas officers of Jayapura City Police in preventing criminal acts and maintaining public security and order in Jayapura City, Indonesia. A descriptive qualitative approach was selected to provide an account of how the role was implemented, the challenges encountered in its implementation, and the measures identified to strengthen community-policing practices. The research focused on the implementation of Bhabinkamtibmas responsibilities within the local policing context.

3.2. Research Location and Data Sources

The research was conducted at Jayapura City Police Headquarters. The study focused on the role of Bhabinkamtibmas officers in implementing community policing, facilitating police–community cooperation, and addressing challenges related to crime prevention and the maintenance of public security and order. Data were obtained through interviews and documentation. The identities and number of interview participants, the criteria used to select them, the period of data collection, and the specific documents examined must be specified based on the actual research records.

3.3. Data Collection Techniques

Two data collection techniques were identified for this study: interviews and documentation. Interviews were used to obtain information relevant to the implementation of Bhabinkamtibmas responsibilities, police–community engagement, crime-prevention activities, and constraints encountered in the field. Documentation was used to examine relevant written materials that could support the analysis of institutional responsibilities, community-policing practices, and the maintenance of public security and order. The interview procedures, participant selection, interview protocols, and types of documents examined should be reported according to the procedures actually undertaken.

3.4. Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using the qualitative data analysis framework developed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014). This framework consists of three interconnected analytical activities: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification.

- a. Data condensation involves selecting, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, and transforming information obtained from interviews and documents. In this study, the analysis should focus on information relevant to the implementation of Bhabinkamtibmas responsibilities, police–community cooperation, internal and external constraints, and crime-prevention practices.
- b. Data display involves organizing the condensed information into a structured and accessible form to facilitate interpretation. Relevant information may be presented through descriptive narratives, thematic categories, or matrices that distinguish the implementation of Bhabinkamtibmas responsibilities, the forms of community engagement, and the constraints identified in the research data.
- c. Conclusion drawing and verification involves interpreting patterns and relationships in the displayed data and examining whether the emerging conclusions are supported by the available evidence. Conclusions concerning the role of Bhabinkamtibmas, implementation constraints, and implications for maintaining public security and order should be grounded in the interview and documentary evidence. These analytical activities are iterative and interconnected rather than strictly sequential (Miles et al., 2014).

3.5. Research Credibility and Ethical Considerations

The procedures used to establish the credibility of the findings, including any comparison between interview information and documentary evidence, should be described according to the steps actually undertaken. The final manuscript should also specify the research authorization, consent procedures, and measures used to protect participants' confidentiality, where applicable. These details are necessary to ensure methodological transparency and enable readers to assess the credibility of the findings.

IV. Result and Discussion

4.1. Implementation of the Bhabinkamtibmas Role in Community Policing

The findings reported in the original article indicate that Bhabinkamtibmas officers of Jayapura City Police perform a frontline role in maintaining public security and order through community engagement and preventive policing. Their responsibilities include visiting residents, listening to community concerns, facilitating communication, and helping direct local problems to appropriate forums. The article identifies the Police–Community Communication Forum (*Forum Komunikasi Polri dan Masyarakat*, FKPM) as one mechanism for addressing disputes through deliberation and mutual agreement. These activities reflect the community-policing principle that police officers should work in partnership with residents rather than rely exclusively on enforcement. The approach described in the article emphasizes four activities—arriving, sitting, listening, and discussing—followed by recording relevant information. This practice illustrates the importance of regular interaction and communication in identifying local concerns and facilitating preventive responses. From the perspective of role theory, these activities represent the practical expression of the institutional responsibilities assigned to Bhabinkamtibmas officers. Their role involves not only implementing police duties but also facilitating communication between the police and the community. However, the description of these activities does not, by itself, demonstrate their effectiveness in reducing crime. Assessing effectiveness requires evidence showing how community engagement contributes to problem resolution, public participation, and changes in security outcomes.

4.2. Institutional Capacity and Operational Support

The article identifies personnel capacity, operational guidelines, facilities, infrastructure, funding, and supervisory support as important conditions for implementing Bhabinkamtibmas responsibilities. It reports that 69 Bhabinkamtibmas personnel were assigned across villages and urban villages in Jayapura City in 2024. The article also emphasizes the importance of qualified personnel and adequate organizational support for

planning, implementing, coordinating, and supervising community-policing activities. These reported conditions suggest that the implementation of community policing depends not only on individual officers but also on the organizational resources available to support their work. When operational guidelines, facilities, funding, or personnel capacity are insufficient, officers may face difficulties in maintaining regular engagement with residents and responding consistently to local security concerns.

Nevertheless, the reported personnel figure should be interpreted within its appropriate context. Without additional information on the number of villages and urban villages covered, the distribution of personnel, workload, and staffing requirements, it is not possible to determine whether 69 officers are sufficient. A more comprehensive assessment would compare personnel availability with geographical coverage, community needs, and the frequency of required activities. The article therefore points to an important distinction between the formal assignment of responsibilities and the practical capacity to implement them. Strengthening organizational support may improve implementation, but its contribution to crime prevention needs to be assessed using evidence from actual policing activities and their outcomes.

4.3. Community Participation and Police–Community Partnerships

The original article identifies community participation as a challenge in preventing crime. It argues that residents need to be more actively involved in maintaining security in their neighborhoods and that Bhabinkamtibmas officers should strengthen cooperation with community leaders, religious leaders, and local government representatives. The proposed measures include community engagement, the development of practical field guidelines, and the improvement of officers' knowledge of local history and culture. These proposals are consistent with the collaborative orientation of community policing. Community members can contribute local knowledge, communicate emerging problems, and participate in resolving disputes. Cooperation with local leaders may also help officers understand community characteristics and select engagement strategies that are appropriate to local conditions.

However, the article does not provide sufficient empirical detail to establish the extent of community participation or explain why participation is reportedly limited. Factors such as public trust, awareness of police programs, accessibility of communication channels, and residents' willingness to cooperate would need to be examined using interviews or other documented evidence. Without such evidence, low participation should be treated as a problem identified by the article rather than a fully established explanation for crime-prevention outcomes. The practical implication is that police–community partnerships should be evaluated not merely by the existence of communication forums or community visits but also by the quality and continuity of participation, the problems addressed, and the follow-up actions undertaken.

4.4. Implementation Constraints and Crime-Prevention Outcomes

The article concludes that Bhabinkamtibmas activities have been implemented in accordance with applicable regulations and have received a positive response from the community. At the same time, it acknowledges that these activities have not yet reduced the crime rate in Jayapura City because implementation constraints remain. This conclusion highlights a central issue: compliance with formal responsibilities and public acceptance do not necessarily establish that crime-prevention objectives have been achieved. Several internal constraints are identified, including the need for clearer operational guidance, improved facilities and infrastructure, adequate budget allocations, and qualified personnel. External challenges include the need to strengthen community engagement and adapt approaches to local social and cultural characteristics. These factors may affect the continuity of community-policing activities and the ability of officers to respond to emerging problems.

The distinction between implementation and outcomes is important when interpreting these findings. Establishing communication forums, conducting community visits, and facilitating deliberation are implementation activities. Demonstrating a reduction in crime, however, requires outcome evidence, such as comparable crime statistics across defined periods or documented changes in specific security problems. Because the original article does not present a systematic comparison of crime statistics, the claim that crime has not decreased cannot be independently assessed from the information reported. The article also refers to

a planned demonstration in August 2024 and the associated police security measures. This example illustrates the operational responsibilities of the police in anticipating potential disturbances. However, the account does not establish whether the activities were conducted specifically by Bhabinkamtibmas officers or whether they produced measurable crime-prevention outcomes. It should therefore be treated as contextual information rather than direct evidence of the effectiveness of Bhabinkamtibmas.

4.5. Implications for Strengthening Community Policing

The findings reported in the article indicate that strengthening Bhabinkamtibmas requires attention to both organizational capacity and community participation. The proposed improvements include providing practical operational guidelines, strengthening personnel capacity, ensuring adequate facilities and funding, and developing cooperation with local government and community stakeholders. These recommendations are relevant because community policing requires sustained engagement rather than isolated activities. Operational improvements should therefore be accompanied by mechanisms for documenting community concerns, recording actions taken, monitoring unresolved problems, and assessing the results of preventive interventions. Such procedures would help distinguish between the completion of assigned activities and their actual contribution to public security and order.

Future evaluations should also use clearly defined indicators, including the frequency and continuity of community engagement, the number and types of problems addressed, follow-up actions, community perceptions, and available crime statistics. These indicators would provide a stronger basis for assessing implementation and outcomes. Where crime statistics are used, the analysis should specify the observation period, data source, geographical coverage, and limitations affecting comparisons. Overall, the article presents Bhabinkamtibmas as an important link between the police and local communities in Jayapura City. Its central contribution is the identification of implementation challenges involving personnel, resources, and community participation. However, stronger empirical documentation is needed to establish the relationship between these challenges and crime-prevention outcomes. Addressing this evidence gap would improve the analytical strength of the study and provide a more reliable basis for recommendations on community policing in Jayapura City.

V. Conclusion

This study examines the role of Bhabinkamtibmas officers of Jayapura City Police in preventing crime and maintaining public security and order in Jayapura City. The findings reported in the article indicate that Bhabinkamtibmas responsibilities have been implemented in accordance with applicable regulations and have received a positive response from the community. The activities described include community engagement, facilitating communication between police officers and residents, and resolving local disputes through deliberation and cooperation. However, the article concludes that these efforts have not yet resulted in a reduction in the crime rate in Jayapura City because implementation constraints remain. The findings highlight the distinction between carrying out institutional responsibilities and achieving measurable crime-prevention outcomes.

The findings underscore the importance of examining the relationship between formal police responsibilities and their implementation in local communities. From a role-theory perspective, the performance of Bhabinkamtibmas depends not only on the duties prescribed by institutional regulations but also on the organizational and social conditions in which those duties are performed. From a community-policing perspective, police–community partnerships are an important component of preventive policing, but the existence of such partnerships should not be treated as sufficient evidence of crime reduction. Practically, strengthening the role of Bhabinkamtibmas requires adequate operational guidelines, qualified personnel, sufficient facilities and infrastructure, appropriate budget support, and sustained cooperation among the police, local government, and community stakeholders. Evaluation should also distinguish between activities undertaken and outcomes achieved. Documenting community concerns, follow-up actions, and changes in

local security conditions would provide a stronger basis for assessing program implementation and effectiveness.

The available article provides limited methodological and empirical detail for independently assessing its conclusions. In particular, it does not clearly report the research design, participant characteristics, interview procedures, documentary sources, or systematic comparisons of crime statistics across defined periods. Consequently, the reported conclusion that Bhabinkamtibmas activities have not reduced crime cannot be independently verified from the information presented in the manuscript. These limitations concern the transparency and evidentiary detail of the available report and should not be interpreted as proof that the underlying research did not collect additional data. Future research should examine the implementation and outcomes of Bhabinkamtibmas activities using clearly documented qualitative procedures and, where feasible, supporting quantitative evidence. Interviews with police officers, community members, local government representatives, and other relevant stakeholders could provide a more comprehensive understanding of implementation challenges and community participation. Documentary analysis could be complemented by comparable crime statistics from clearly specified periods to examine changes in reported criminal activity. Comparative studies across villages or urban-village areas could also identify how staffing, operational resources, local leadership, and community engagement influence implementation. Such research would provide a stronger empirical foundation for evaluating community policing and developing evidence-informed strategies to improve public security and order in Jayapura City.

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