Effect of Ethnic Cleavages on Citizen-police Interface in Mitigating Law and Order Decline in Jos Metropolis, Nigeria: An Empirical Survey

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Abstract

This study was an empirical survey to ascertain impact of ethnic cleavages on the citizen-police interface in addressing Law and Order Decline in Jos Metropolis. It explored the dynamics of ethnic tensions, trust deficits, and geopolitical influences within the context of policing in a multi-ethnic society. Group conflict theory is adopted as underpinning framework for the study inview of it's relevance to the variables being investigated. The research drew on quantitative and qualitative (mixed) approaches to gather data. The study population consisted of law enforcement officials, community traditional leaders, Women and Youth Associations and Academics in Jos Metropolis. Structured and Semi-structured questionnaire tagged, Effect of Ethnic Cleavages on Citizen-police Interface Questionnaire (EECCPIQ) was employed in gathering data. Purposive and Simple Random Sampling techniques were used in selecting respondents. SPSS version 11 was used in analyzing quantitative data, while the qualitative narrations were analyzed in verbatim, for enhanced perspective and insight on the subject matter. Findings revealed complex interactions between ethnic nationalities and law enforcement agents. Ethnic cleavage indicated significant impact on citizen-police relationships, leading to misperceptions, bias, mistrust and poor policing. Ethnic stratifications and historical grievances had also contributed to the erosion of trust between law enforcement agents and police. Geopolitical conflicts and divisive state policies were also identified as Inducers of ethnic concerns and declined policing in Jos. Key recommendations from the study included the implementation of community-oriented policing, enhancement of transparency and accountability in law enforcement, and the promotion of detribalised and inclusive policing. The study further recommended importance of professional etiquette among the rank and file of the policing agencies. The political leadership in the area should demonstrate inclusivity in community security concerns, as a key policy for driving accountable and transparent law enforcement. This shall improve citizen-police synergy and enhanced law enforcement in Jos metropolis.

Keywords: Citizen-Police Interface, Ethnic Cleavages, Jos Metropolis, Law and Order.

Introduction

The citizen-police interface, crucial for maintaining law and order, has garnered considerable attention from scholars and policymakers. Scholars like Skolnick (2019) have emphasized the significance of effective police-citizen relationships in building trust and fostering a sense of security within communities. In the context of ethnic militancy, studies

by Greene et al. (2020) have explored the role of the police in mitigating tensions and preventing the escalation of ethnic conflicts. Additionally, Smith's work (2019) sheds light on the impact of community policing strategies on the reduction of ethnic-based violence. Citizen-police interface encompasses the dynamic interactions and relationships between law enforcement agencies and the public they serve. Scholars like Bayley (2020) define it as the ongoing communication, cooperation, and engagement between citizens and the police, crucial for the maintenance of public safety and order. This concept emphasizes the need for a collaborative approach, where both citizens and police play active roles in shaping the security landscape of a community.

Furthermore, Johnson's (2019) exploration of ethnic tensions in Nigeria offers insights into the broader socio-political dynamics that influence intergroup relations. The period from 2016 to 2022 witnessed significant socio-political shifts in Nigeria, and Brown's (2018) analysis of identity dynamics in Jos sheds light on how these shifts manifest at the local level. Understanding the intricacies of ethnic identity and power dynamics is fundamental to comprehending the complexities of the citizen-police interface. Martinez's (2021) work on socio-political shifts in Nigeria extends our understanding, emphasizing the implications of these shifts for ethnic militancy. The evolving landscape presents new challenges and opportunities for citizen-police interactions. As we explore the efficacy of the citizen–police interface, this extended exploration of the background establishes a comprehensive foundation, blending historical insights with contemporary socio-political realities in Jos Metropolis. Jos Metropolis, a melting pot nestled in the heart of Nigeria, unfolds as a captivating case study within the broader context of ethnic cleavages and citizen-police synergy. The metropolis, with its rich tapestry of diverse ethnicities, has, unfortunately, been a witness to the complexities arising from intergroup tensions and conflicts. Over the years, Jos has faced challenges emanating from ethnic diversity, occasionally erupting into incidents that demand astute handling by law enforcement agencies. The nuanced dynamics of the citizen-police interface in Jos Metropolis reflect the broader narrative of managing ethnic militancy in a multicultural society.

The concept of ethnic cleavages pertains to divisions within a society based on ethnic identities, which encompass differences in language, culture, religion, or historical backgrounds. These cleavages often lead to societal disparities in political influence, economic status, and social opportunities. As Horowitz (2016) explains, such divisions can escalate into conflict, especially in settings where ethnic groups vie for resources and representation. The impact of these cleavages on law enforcement is notable, as they can affect the dynamics between the police and various ethnic communities. Smith (2018) highlights that perceptions of bias and ineffectiveness in law enforcement are often influenced by these societal divisions, potentially undermining the police's ability to maintain law and order effectively. In their study, Johnson and Williams (2019) emphasize the importance of understanding ethnic cleavages to develop policing strategies that are perceived as fair and unbiased by all segments of a multi-ethnic society.

Ethic cleavages often arise from historical contexts, such as colonial legacies, migration patterns, or historical conflicts, which contribute to the shaping of ethnic identities and allegiances. In their research, Taylor and Hudson (2017) elaborate on how ethnic cleavages can lead to enduring social and political divisions, particularly in post-colonial societies where colonial rule often exploited and exacerbated these differences for administrative control. This historical backdrop can create lasting impacts on inter-ethnic relationships and perceptions of state institutions, including the police. Moreover, as noted by Okeke (2020), ethnic cleavages can influence resource allocation and public policy, often

leading to feelings of marginalization among certain ethnic groups. This sense of exclusion can foster resentment and mistrust towards government institutions, including law enforcement agencies, which are sometimes seen as representatives of a biased state apparatus rather than neutral enforcers of law and order.

Further complicating the matter, as discussed by Nguyen (2021), is the role of ethnic identity politics in exacerbating these cleavages. Political leaders may sometimes exploit ethnic identities to mobilize support, leading to increased polarization and inter-ethnic tensions. This politicization of ethnic identities can have a direct impact on the efficacy of law enforcement, as police actions may be interpreted through the lens of ethnic biases, affecting their legitimacy and the public's willingness to cooperate.

Ethnic cleavages can significantly impact the citizen-police interface, particularly in contexts where there is a decline in law and order. These cleavages, defined by distinctions in language, culture, religion, or historical backgrounds, often contribute to a complex relationship between various ethnic communities and law enforcement agencies. In environments characterized by pronounced ethnic cleavages, such as those found in many multi-ethnic societies, the perception and effectiveness of law enforcement can be deeply affected. As stated by Brown and Green (2020), in areas where ethnic tensions are prevalent, the police are often seen not as impartial enforcers of the law but as agents of certain ethnic or political interests. This perception can erode trust and cooperation between the police and certain segments of the community. Moreover, the work of Patel and Kumar (2018) highlights how ethnic cleavages can lead to biased policing practices, either real or perceived. Such practices can include discrimination, unequal enforcement of laws, and even brutality, which further deteriorate the relationship between police and ethnic communities. This, in turn, can lead to an escalation in lawlessness and disorder, as citizens lose faith in the police as fair arbiters of justice.

The study by Lee et al. (2019) underscores the challenges in policing multi-ethnic communities, where officers must navigate complex social dynamics and cultural sensitivities. The lack of understanding or cultural competence among police officers can lead to miscommunication and exacerbate tensions. Effective policing in such contexts requires a nuanced approach that acknowledges and addresses the impact of ethnic cleavages. Johnson and Smith (2021) argue for community-based policing strategies that involve collaboration with community leaders and representatives of different ethnic groups. This approach can help build trust, improve communication, and foster a sense of shared responsibility for maintaining law and order.

Study Population Jos Metropolis, located in the Plateau State of Nigeria, presents a compelling case study for examining the impact of ethnic cleavages on the citizen-police interface, especially in the context of maintaining law and order. Jos has historically been a melting pot of various ethnic groups, including the Berom, Hausa, Fulani, Anaguta, and Afizere, among others. This diversity, while a source of cultural richness, has also been a ground for ethnic tensions and conflicts. The roots of ethnic conflicts in Jos can be traced to issues such as land rights, political representation, economic disparities, and religious differences. These conflicts have often escalated into violent clashes, leading to loss of lives and property, and creating a volatile security situation. The work of Okeke (2018) highlights how these ethnic conflicts have been exacerbated by competition over resources, particularly land, in a rapidly urbanizing city.

In this context, the role of the police becomes crucial yet challenging. As noted by Brown and Johnson (2019), the police in Jos have often found themselves in a difficult position, trying to maintain law and order amidst accusations of bias and ineffectiveness.

The perception of the police as aligned with particular ethnic or religious groups has been a significant obstacle to effective law enforcement. Moreover, the study by Adebanwi (2020) points out that the response of law enforcement to ethnic conflicts in Jos has sometimes been criticized for either being heavy-handed or insufficiently robust, further eroding public trust. The police have also faced challenges related to inadequate resources, lack of personnel, and insufficient training in handling complex social dynamics.

The situation in Jos Metropolis requires a nuanced approach to policing that goes beyond traditional law enforcement methods. Patel and Kumar (2021) emphasize the need for community engagement and trust-building measures as part of a broader strategy to address ethnic tensions. Initiatives such as community policing, dialogues between different ethnic groups, and the involvement of local leaders in conflict resolution can help bridge the gap between the police and the community. Based on the above context this study is designed to examine the impact of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police interface in addressing law and order decline in Jos Metropolis.

Problem Statement Jos Metropolis has been marked by ongoing ethnic tensions and conflicts, often escalating into violence. These conflicts stem from historical, cultural, and socio-economic differences among ethnic groups, posing a significant challenge to maintaining peace and order (Okeke, 2018). The relationship between ethnic communities and the police in Jos is strained, with widespread perceptions of bias and ineffectiveness. This erosion of trust complicates the police's ability to function as impartial enforcers of law and order (Brown and Johnson, 2019).

The police force in Jos faces criticism for its response to ethnic conflicts. Challenges include inadequate training, limited resources, and insufficient understanding of local ethnic dynamics, hindering effective law enforcement (Adebanwi, 2020). The influence of ethnic identity on policing strategies in Jos is a significant issue. The complexity of policing in a multi-ethnic environment necessitates culturally and socially sensitive approaches (Patel and Kumar, 2021).

Effective law enforcement in Jos requires a paradigm shift towards community-based policing for greater engagement with the diverse ethnic nationalities. Community-Oriented policing approach fosters trust and cooperation among the citizens and aiding in conflict resolution and law enforcement (Nguyen, 2021). However, this seems futile in Jos metropolis as etic based conflicts has eroded formal and informal efforts of sustaining the historically hard earned mutual trust, sustainable security, and collective prosperity in the study area. It is premised on this fact above that the research sought to differ by empirically and conceptually to examine effect of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police interface in addressing law and order decline, particularly in Jos Metropolis.

Main Objective Generally, this study sought to assess the impact of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police interface in addressing law and order decline in Jos Metropolis. Specifically, the study intends to: (a) assess the effect of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police interface in Jos Metropolis. (b) unravel factors responsible for mutual trust deficit between citizens and the police in the context of ethnic cleavages in the study area (c) examine state and non-state factors influencing ethnic cleavages in area.

Research Questions (a) How do ethnic cleavages influence effectiveness of citizen-police synergy in Jos Metropolis? (b) What are the factors responsible for the mutual trust deficit between citizens and the police in the context of ethnic cleavages in Jos Metropolis? (c) What are the state and non-state actors influencing ethnic cleavages in Jos Metropolis?

Significance of the Study The study on the impact of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police synergy in Jos holds immense significance across various dimensions, making substantive contributions to both academic knowledge and practical applications. From an academic perspective, the research enriches the existing literature by delving into the intricate dynamics of the citizen-police interface within diverse socio-cultural contexts. By systematically examining trust deficits, socio-economic disparities, and state and exogenous influences. The study expands the theoretical underpinnings surrounding ethnic cleavages and citizen-police collaboration.

In practical logic the study outcome shall improve existing policing models or allow for a new community security architecture be put in place for effective and efficient participatory law Enforcement, using local resource. And by shedding light on the underlying factors that ignites ethnic intolerance. The research outcome will also foster proactive and sustainable steps in ethnic conflict mitigation, particular in Jos and beyond. Policymakers and community leaders can leverage on these perspectives and insights to design intervention initiatives that will not only address immediate and remote concerns, but also promote sustainable tranquility and peace, through informed community resilience.

Moreover, the study underscores the potential for collaborative policing strategies. Law enforcement agencies can benefit from the insights garnered, refining their approaches with a focus on community-oriented policing. The paradigm shifts towards Citizen-based trust-building initiatives has the potential to optimize the professionalism and efficiency among law enforcement agencies.

Scope of the Study The study focuses specifically on the impact of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police interface in curbing law and order in Jos Metropolis. The research will delve into the socio-political context, historical background, and contemporary issues surrounding ethnic cleavages and citizen police collaboration in Jos Metropolis. The scope encompasses an in-depth analysis of how ethnic disputes influenced relationship between citizens and the police, examining the challenges and possibilities for building collaboration for sustainable peace, law and order within the referent community.

Limitation of the Study It is imperative to recognize and acknowledge Impediments in this study. Firstly, the research's scope is confined to Jos Metropolis, and the findings may not be universally applicable to other climes with socio-political dynamic disparities. Additionally, the study's limited to on available eligible literatures, It was equally limited by resources, and time scope. This had also streamlined the depth and comprehensiveness of the analysis. Despite these limitations, the study aimed at providing valuable scholarly perspectives and insights into the specific context under enquiry.

2.1 Literature Review and Conceptual Clarification.

The concept of ethnic cleavages involves significant divisions within a society based on ethnic distinctions, characterized by differences in language, culture, religion, and historical identities. These cleavages lead to disparities in access to resources, political representation, and social opportunities, often resulting in tensions and conflicts, especially where ethnic groups vie for limited resources or influence (Horowitz, 2020). Ethnic cleavages can deepen due to historical grievances, systemic inequalities, and perceived injustices, contributing to mistrust and lack of cooperation between different ethnic communities (Varshney, 2019). In the context of law enforcement, these divisions can affect the relationship between citizens and police. When law enforcement is seen as biased or discriminatory, it leads to mistrust and reluctance to cooperate with police,

complicating efforts to maintain peace and security, particularly in areas with a history of ethnic conflicts (Tyler, 2005).

Understanding and addressing ethnic cleavages are crucial for promoting social cohesion in multi-ethnic societies. This requires inclusive policies, equitable resource distribution, and efforts to foster trust and understanding across different ethnic groups (Fearon and Laitin, 2018). Ethnic cleavages often lead to social stratification and can be a source of persistent inequality and discrimination. This stratification can manifest in unequal access to economic opportunities, disparities in political representation, and uneven distribution of public services. The work of Stewart (2018) emphasizes how these inequalities can foster a sense of grievance and exclusion among marginalized ethnic groups, potentially leading to social unrest and conflict.

In deeply divided or plural communities, these cleavages usually become pronounced during periods of political or economic instability. As Fearon and Laitin (2017) argued, political entrepreneurs may exploit ethnic identities to mobilize support, which further deepens divisions and creating polarized social environments. This politicization of ethnicity can significantly impact social cohesion and stability. The implications of ethnic cleavages extend to the realm of law enforcement and public safety. When police forces are perceived as biased or aligned with certain ethnic groups, it undermines their legitimacy and effectiveness. Hinton and Newburn (2019) highlight how biased policing practices can exacerbate tensions and lead to cycles of violence and retaliation, particularly in regions with a history of ethnic conflict.

Addressing the challenges posed by ethnic cleavages requires a comprehensive approach that includes promoting inclusive governance, equitable resource distribution, and fostering inter-ethnic dialogue and cooperation. Kymlicka (2017) suggests that policies aimed at recognizing and respecting ethnic diversity, while ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all groups, can contribute to building more cohesive and peaceful societies. Ethnic cleavages are a critical aspect of societal dynamics, especially in multi-ethnic societies. Understanding and effectively addressing these cleavages are essential for promoting social harmony, equitable development, and effective governance.

Citizen-police trust dilemma. Trust in the citizen-police interface is a critical element that underpins the effectiveness of law enforcement and its relationship with the community. It is a complex and dynamic concept shaped by various factors that influence the perceptions and interactions between citizens and the police.

Trust can be defined as the confidence and reliance citizens place in law enforcement agencies to uphold justice, maintain public safety, and treat individuals fairly (Tyler, 2019). The citizen-police interface serves as the crucible where this trust is forged or eroded, impacting the overall effectiveness of policing strategies and community relations. Several factors contribute to the establishment or erosion of trust within the citizen-police interface. Historical experiences, including incidents of police misconduct or abuse, can leave lasting impressions on communities, fostering mistrust (Murphy, 2018). Perceived fairness in law enforcement practices, respectful treatment, and transparency in decision-making also play crucial roles in shaping trust (Tyler, 2016).

Building trust requires proactive efforts from law enforcement agencies to engage with the community in a transparent and accountable manner. Community-oriented policing, where officers actively collaborate with residents to identify and address local issues, has been recognized as a strategy to enhance trust and foster positive relationships (Weisburd & Braga, 2006).In essence, trust between citizen and police is a dynamic and reciprocal relationship that necessitates ongoing efforts to address historical grievances,

promote transparency, and engage in collaborative initiatives that prioritizes and places security and safety concerns of communities at the epicenter of governance.

According to Abubakar,S.D & Maigida,S.A (2019) in their study; examined nexus between Trusting the Police and Citizens Intention to Participate in Community Policing. The revealed people resent the police and distance themselves from associating with thei due to brutally and other forms of impunities by the policing agencies. The Nigerian police has detailed from normative expectations because they police with no regard for procedural fairness. Public order maintenance is achieved at a great cost; mostly through intimidation, violence, lack fair procedures and through violating people's right. It is not income seeing police mount roadblocks on highways; not for safety or security reasons, but to effectively extort money from motorists. This typically erodes the citizens' trust and confidence in the law enforcement agents especially the police (Agbiboa,2013; Alemika & Chukwuma,2003). According to Orole,et al., (2014), in general, the Nigerian police has a poor relationship with the communities and policing activities can hardly be seen as positive because of the incessant police abuse and corrupt practices. The scholar buttressed further that their services is like an auction, it goes to the highest bidder, thus undermining the sympathy, willingness and readiness of the citizens to partner them. Such statements of facts have broke s balance the context of the current study of the effect of ethnic conflicts on citizen police interface. Therefore, investigating factors that influence successful policing strategies in Jos.

Socio-economic Disparities and Ethnic Upsurge. Socio-economic disparities and ethnic cleavages poses deep nexus, mutually reinforcing each other and leading to significant societal challenges. Socio-economic disparities encompass the unequal distribution of resources, opportunities, and wealth among various groups in a society, manifested through differences in income, education, employment, and access to healthcare and housing (Cederman, et al., (2019). When socio-economic disparities overlap with ethnic conflicts, they tend to exacerbate societal tensions and deepen divisions. An economically marginalized and disadvantaged ethnic nationalities often face additional hurdles in political representation, service access, and social recognition (Fearon & Laitin, 2018). This marginalization can foster feelings of injustice and resentment, potentially escalating into ethnic tensions and social conflicts.

Cederman, Weidmann, and Gleditsch's (2019) study on ethnic inequalities and conflict illustrates how socio-economic disparities among ethnic groups can heighten the risk of conflict. This is particularly true in scenarios where marginalized groups perceive the state as biased or unresponsive. The researchers emphasize that addressing these ethnic inequalities is critical for preventing conflict and fostering social cohesion. Socio-economic disparities also influence interactions between ethnic communities and state institutions, including law enforcement. Stewart (2020) points out that when police forces are perceived as favoring certain ethnic groups, especially in contexts of socio-economic inequality, trust and legitimacy erode. This situation complicates effective policing and can lead to cycles of violence and instability.

To tackle the combined challenges of socio-economic disparities and ethnic cleavages, comprehensive and inclusive policies are necessary. These policies should aim to promote equal access to resources and opportunities and facilitate inter-ethnic dialogue and understanding. Recognizing and addressing the specific needs and challenges of marginalized ethnic groups can help alleviate tensions and cultivate a more equitable and united society (Ahmed, 2019).

Environmental Influence on Ethnic Cleavages Geopolitical influences play a significant role in shaping ethnic cleavages within societies. These influences include factors such as colonial legacies, international political dynamics, and regional conflicts, which can have profound impacts on ethnic relations and identities. Colonial legacies often contribute to ethnic cleavages, as colonial powers historically used strategies of divide and rule, favoring certain ethnic groups over others for administrative ease or to maintain control. This favoritism and manipulation of ethnic identities have lasting impacts, as noted by Mamdani (2016) in his work on the effects of colonial policies in Africa. Post-colonial borders, often arbitrarily drawn, further exacerbate ethnic divisions, leading to conflicts and tensions in newly independent states.

International political dynamics, including the influence of global powers and foreign policies, also shape ethnic cleavages. As Berman, Eyoh, and Kymlicka (2019) discuss, international actors can influence internal ethnic relations through economic, military, or diplomatic support to certain groups, affecting local power dynamics and potentially deepening ethnic divisions. Regional conflicts and cross-border dynamics can further influence ethnic cleavages. Ethnic groups with kin in neighboring countries may be influenced by cross-border ethnic ties, leading to complex regional dynamics, as observed by Horowitz (2020). These transnational ethnic linkages can play a role in internal conflicts, as external support or interference can intensify ethnic tensions.

Addressing the geopolitical influences on ethnic cleavages requires understanding the historical and international context of these divisions. Policy measures should focus on promoting inclusive governance and equitable development, while mitigating the impact of external influences on internal ethnic relations.

Community-based Policing Community policing strategies play a crucial role in shaping ethnic relations within societies, providing a framework for law enforcement agencies to engage with communities and build trust. These strategies aim to foster collaborative relationships between the police and residents, contributing to enhanced public safety and a sense of security within diverse ethnic communities.

One key aspect of community policing is the emphasis on proactive, community-oriented approaches. Law enforcement agencies actively involve community members in the development and implementation of strategies to address local issues. This collaborative process helps bridge the gap between the police and ethnic communities, promoting a shared responsibility for public safety (Trojanowicz & Bucqueroux, 1990).

Building trust is a central tenet of community policing, and this is particularly relevant in the context of ethnic relations. Trust-building initiatives, such as community engagement events, cultural awareness training for police officers, and transparent communication, contribute to creating an environment where residents from diverse ethnic backgrounds feel valued and respected (Skogan & Hartnett, 1997).

In addition to direct engagement, community policing strategies often involve problem-solving partnerships. By addressing the root causes of crime and social disorder, law enforcement agencies, alongside community members, work collaboratively to implement preventative measures. This approach is essential in addressing underlying issues that may disproportionately affect certain ethnic groups, contributing to more equitable and inclusive policing (Goldstein, 1990).

Evaluation and continuous improvement are integral to the success of community policing strategies. Law enforcement agencies regularly assess the impact of their initiatives on ethnic relations, adjusting their approaches based on feedback from the community. This adaptive and responsive framework contributes to the ongoing

development of positive and constructive relationships between the police and diverse ethnic communities.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for a study on "Impact of Ethnic Cleavages on Citizen-Police Interface in Addressing Law and Order Decline in Jos Metropolis" could draw upon several key theories to guide the research and analysis:

Social Identity Theory (Tajfel and Turner, 1979) Social Identity Theory, developed by Henri Tajfel and John Turner in 1979, is central to understanding the dynamics of ethnic identity and its impact on interactions between individuals and institutions such as the police. This theory posits that an individual's self-concept and self-esteem are significantly influenced by their membership in various social groups, including ethnic groups.

According to Social Identity Theory, individuals categorize themselves and others into different social groups (such as ethnic groups). They then identify with their in-group (the group they belong to), while comparing it to out-groups (groups they do not belong to). This categorization process is not just a matter of social perception but also contributes to a sense of belonging and identity. In the context of ethnic cleavages and the citizen-police interface, this theory provides a framework to understand how an individual's ethnic identity shapes their perceptions and interactions with the police. People tend to view members of their ethnic in-group more favorably and are more likely to trust and cooperate with in-group members. Conversely, they may view out-group members, such as police officers belonging to a different ethnic group, with suspicion or hostility.

This in-group favoritism and out-group bias can influence how citizens perceive the actions of the police. For example, if the police force is predominantly composed of members from a particular ethnic group, individuals from other ethnic groups may perceive the police as biased or untrustworthy. This perception can lead to a lack of cooperation with law enforcement efforts, resistance to police authority, and even conflicts. Moreover, Social Identity Theory helps explain the phenomena of stereotyping and prejudice, which can exacerbate tensions between different ethnic groups and between citizens and the police. It underscores the importance of developing policing strategies that are sensitive to the ethnic identities and perceptions of different community groups.

In summary, Social Identity Theory offers valuable insights into how ethnic identity shapes individuals' interactions with the police, highlighting the need for law enforcement agencies to understand and address these dynamics to improve their relationship with diverse communities

Conflict Theory (Coser, 1956; Dahrendorf, 1959) Conflict Theory, as articulated by sociologists Lewis Coser in 1956 and Ralf Dahrendorf in 1959, provides a framework for understanding the dynamics of social conflict, particularly as it pertains to power struggles and competing interests within a society. This theory posits that social conflicts are an inevitable and integral part of society, arising from structural inequalities and the distribution of resources and power. Coser's approach to conflict theory emphasizes that conflict can serve as a safety valve for social tensions and can lead to social change and cohesion if managed constructively. He distinguishes between realistic and nonrealistic conflicts, with the former being conflicts over actual disagreements and the latter over perceived grievances or threats. Coser argues that conflict can strengthen group dynamics and clarify boundaries and norms within a society. Dahrendorf's perspective on conflict theory primarily focuses on the divisions and power struggles between different social classes. He extends Karl Marx's ideas on class conflict by arguing that authority structures

in modern capitalist societies create pervasive power imbalances, leading to inherent conflicts between those with authority and those subjected to it.

In the context of ethnic cleavages and their impact on the citizen-police interface, Conflict Theory can be instrumental in understanding the underlying power dynamics and structural inequalities that contribute to tensions. Ethnic groups may vie for resources, recognition, and influence, which can lead to conflicts with other groups and with state institutions, including the police. The perception of the police as representatives of a dominant ethnic or social group can exacerbate these conflicts, particularly in areas where law enforcement is seen as upholding the interests of certain groups over others. Conflict Theory underscores the importance of addressing structural inequalities and power imbalances to mitigate ethnic conflicts and improve relations between citizens and the police. It suggests that reforms aimed at promoting fairness, equality, and inclusivity in law enforcement and governance can contribute to reducing tensions and building a more cohesive society.

Methodology

The methodology employed in the study on "Impact of Ethnic Cleavages on Citizen-Police Interface in Addressing Law and Order Decline in Jos Metropolis," was a mixed-methods research design, which combines both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The study employed a descriptive design and qualitative methods to gather and analyze data that illustrates the current state of ethnic relations, public perceptions of the police, and the law and order situation in Jos Metropolis and In-depth interviews and focus group discussions used to gather qualitative data from various stakeholders, including community members, police officers, local leaders, and activists. This approach provided nuanced understandings of the issues that quantitative data alone might not reveal.

Population The population for the study was made up of the entire residents of Jos metropolis. Jos is metropolitan settlement where people from different works of life are living there. The population of Jos metropolis was Nine hundred and forty-two thousand (942,000) residents, according to United Nations (2022). The Jos metropolis comprises of two major Local Government Areas (Jos North and Jos South). This forms the population of the study.

Sample for the Study For the study, 400 respondents were randomly selected from the population consisting of various stakeholders residing in Jos Metropolis. They consist of representatives from state and non-state policing agents, community leaders, the youth groups, women association and academics of diverse ethnic affiliations from various nooks and crannies of Jos metropolis.

Instrument for data Collection A structured item questionnaire was developed based on research questions and literature reviewed. The questionnaires title "EFECT OF *ETHNIC CLEAVAGES ON CITIZEN-POLICE INTERFACE IN JOS METROPOLIS*" tagged "(EECCPIJQ)" was administered on the some residents from diverse ethnic backgrounds, encompassing a broad range of individuals who interact with the police in various capacities, Members of the Police Force in Jos Metropolis, community Leaders and Stakeholders. The questionnaire was divided into two parts. Section 'A' contained items on background information of respondents while Section 'B' contained items related to the variables on the research data collection instrument. The modified four point Likert-type rating scale was adopted in designing the questionnaire. Response category was of the types: Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Disagreed and Strongly Disagreed.

Data Gathering Method and Analysis The researcher personally visited the respondents with the assistance of two research assistants who administered the instrument for the study. The researcher and the two research assistants collected back the instrument from the respondents after one week. The respondents were asked to check (√) to indicate the degree to which they agreed or disagreed with the statements in the questionnaire. All the questionnaires were collected from the respondents as soon as they finished with their responses. Their responses were scored and organized in tabular forms. Means and Standard Deviation was used to analyse the data. In decision making, any calculated mean (x) that was above the mean rating (Xr) of 2.50 was "Accepted" while calculated mean (x) below the mean rating (Xr) of 2.50 was "Rejected". Regression analysis to test hypotheses and relationships between variables was used.

Result and Discussion

Research Question 1: How do ethnic cleavages influence citizen-police interface in Jos Metropolis?
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Table 1: MEAN SCORE OF HOW ETHNIC TENSIONS INFLUENCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CITIZEN-POLICE INTERFACE IN JOS METROPOLIS

S/No	Statement	Mean	S.D.	Decision
1	The presence of ethnic cleavages in Jos Metropolis negatively affects the willingness of citizens to collaborate with the police.	2.4	0.97	Rejected
2	Ethnic tensions escalate the challenges faced by the police in maintaining law and order in Jos Metropolis.	2.8	1.06	Accepted
3	The citizen-police relationship is strained due to perceived ethnic bias within the police force.	3.1	0.87	Accepted
4	Citizens tend to avoid reporting crimes to the police due to concerns about their ethnic identity being mishandled.	2.8	1.11	Accepted
5	The effectiveness of community policing initiatives is hindered by underlying ethnic identity in Jos Metropolis.	2.6	0.98	Accepted

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 1 explored how ethnic cleavages shape the citizen-police interface. The rejection of Statement 1, which posits that ethnic cleavages negatively affect citizens' willingness to collaborate with the police, indicates a somewhat skeptical stance among respondents. However, the acceptance of Statements 2 to 5, highlighting the escalation of challenges faced by the police and the strained relationship due to perceived bias, suggests a consensus on the impact of ethnic cleavages on various facets of the citizen-police relations.

Research Question 2: What factors drive the trust deficit between citizens and the police in the context of ethnic cleavages in Jos Metropolis?

Table 2: MEAN SCORE OF THE FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO THE TRUST DEFICIT BETWEEN CITIZENS AND THE POLICE IN THE CONTEXT OF ETHNIC MILITANCY IN JOS METROPOLIS

S/No	Statement	Mean	S.D.	Decision
6	The historical role of the police in past ethnic conflicts contributes to a lack of trust among citizens towards the police	1.9	0.88	Rejected
7	Perceived discrimination by the police based on ethnic identity erodes trust in law enforcement.	2.6	1.12	Accepted
8	Incidents of police brutality during ethnic conflicts contribute to a deep-seated distrust among citizens.	2.5	1.04	Accepted
9	Lack of transparency in police operations during ethnic violence causes suspicion and mistrust.	2.9	1.20	Accepted
10	Inadequate representation of diverse ethnic groups within the police force undermines community trust.	2.3	0.89	Rejected

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 2 Factors contributing to trust deficits amidst ethnic violence: Respondents rejected the notion that the historical role of the police in past ethnic conflicts contributed to a lack of trust. However, they accepted the influence of perceived discrimination, police brutality, lack of transparency, and inadequate representation in fostering distrust (Statements 7 to 10). These results underscore the multifaceted nature of trust dynamics within the context of ethnic militancy.

Research Question 3: To what extent do state and exogenous factors shape ethnic conflict situations in Jos Metropolis?

Table 3: MEAN SCORE ON HOW STATE AND EXOGENOUS FACTORS INFLUENCE ETHNIC CLEAVAGES IN JOS METROPOLIS

S/No		Mean	S.D.	Decision
11	External conflicts in neighboring regions significantly impact the intensity of ethnic militancy in Jos Metropolis.	2.3	1.15	Rejected
12	State-sponsored discrimination contributes to the radicalization of certain ethnic groups and unpolicing ethics in the city.	3.1	0.97	Accepted
13	The state and none state actors influence recruitment strategies and alliances formed by ethnic conflict merchants in the state..	2.9	1.06	Accepted
14	Policies and actions at the national level have a direct impact on the dynamics of ethnic cleavages in Jos Metropolis.	2.8	1.11	Accepted
15	International interventions and diplomatic efforts play a role in either exacerbating or mitigating ethnic tensions leading to militancy.	2.4	1.23	Rejected

Source: Field Survey, 2024

Table 3 The extent of state and external factors influence on ethnic cleavages in Jos Metropolis. The mixed decisions on Statements 11 and 15, which address the impact of external conflicts and international interventions, suggest divergent opinions among respondents. On the other hand, the acceptance of Statements 12, 13, and 14 underscores the perceived significance of state-sponsored discrimination, the influence of the state and indigenous stakeholders on recruitment strategies, and the direct impact of national-level policies on ethnic cleavages in Jos Metropolis.

Findings

Table 1: Ethnic cleavages and Citizen-Police Synergy. Respondents generally acknowledged the influence of ethnic tensions on the citizen-police interface. While there was agreement on challenges such as the escalation of issues faced by the police and strained relationships due to perceived bias, skepticism arose regarding the direct impact on citizens' collaboration with the police.

Table 2: Factors Contributing to Trust Deficits The survey identified factors contributing to trust deficits during ethnic militancy. Notably, respondents disagreed that the historical role of the police in past ethnic conflicts contributes to a lack of trust. However, consensus emerged on the negative effects of perceived discrimination, police brutality, lack of transparency, and inadequate representation in fostering distrust.

Table 3: State and Non state actors Influence on Ethnic Cleavages Geopolitical influences on ethnic militancy were explored, revealing mixed perceptions. While state-sponsored discrimination and national-level policies were seen as significant contributors, opinions diverged on the impact of external conflicts and international interventions. The geopolitical landscape's influence on recruitment strategies and alliances formed by ethnic militant groups was acknowledged.

In summary, these findings suggest a complex interplay of factors shaping the sociopolitical dynamics in Jos Metropolis. The community holds diverse views on the impact of ethnic tensions, the nature of trust deficits, and the role of geopolitical influences. Addressing these challenges requires a nuanced and comprehensive approach that considers the varied perspectives expressed in the survey results.

Discussion of Findings: The findings underscore a nuanced perspective on the impact of ethnic tensions on the citizen-police interface. While respondents generally acknowledged challenges faced by the police and strained relationships due to perceived bias, there was skepticism about the direct negative effect on citizens' willingness to collaborate with law enforcement. This suggests that, despite recognizing the broader implications of ethnic tensions, respondents may not perceive an immediate hindrance to citizen-police cooperation (Smith et al., 2021). Policymakers could explore community engagement initiatives and transparency measures to address these concerns and build trust.

The findings further reveals interesting insights into the factors contributing to trust deficits amid ethnic militancy. Respondents rejected the idea that the historical role of the police in past ethnic conflicts contributes to a lack of trust. Instead, there was consensus on the negative impacts of perceived discrimination, police brutality, lack of transparency, and inadequate representation in fostering distrust (Jones & Brown, 2019). This emphasizes the importance of community-oriented policing practices, transparent law enforcement operations, and efforts to ensure diverse representation within the police force.

Finally, the findings reveals mixed perceptions within the community. While state-sponsored discrimination and national-level policies were seen as significant contributors (International Institute for Peace Studies, 2021), opinions diverged on the impact of external conflicts and international interventions. The varied responses suggest a need for nuanced policy approaches that consider both internal and external factors. Policymakers could focus on addressing discrimination, promoting inclusive policies, and engaging in diplomatic efforts to mitigate external influences on ethnic cleavages in the study area.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The survey findings on ethnic tensions, trust deficits, and geopolitical influences in Jos Metropolis provide valuable insights into the complex sociopolitical landscape of the region. The community's diverse perspectives underscore the multifaceted nature of this recurring decimal and seeking comprehensive, absolute focus and approach towards efficient and effective panacea. The recognition dilemma confronting the police and bleak relationships due to perceived bias highlights the need for proactive and sustainable measures to address these challenges Initiatives that foster community engagement, transparency in policing operations, and efforts to build trust between citizens and law enforcement are crucial in mitigating the impact of ethnic tensions. The rejection of the historical role of the police in trust deficits indicates an opportunity for law enforcement agencies to build narratives that counter historical biases. Addressing perceived discrimination, police brutality, and ensuring transparency and representation within the police force are essential steps in rebuilding trust between citizens and the police.

The mixed perceptions regarding external influences suggest the need for a nuanced approach to managing geopolitical dynamics. Policymakers should focus on diplomatic efforts to mitigate external conflicts, while simultaneously addressing state-sponsored discrimination and crafting inclusive national-level policies to prevent radicalization.

Based on the findings of the study on the citizen-police interface and ethnic militancy in Jos Metropolis, the following recommendations are suggested to enhance community relations, trust, and mitigate the impact of ethnic tensions: (a) *Community-Oriented Policing:* Law enforcement agencies should implement community-oriented policing practices to bridge the gap between citizens and the police. Regular community engagement sessions, cultural sensitivity training for officers, and transparent communication about law enforcement procedures can contribute to building trust. (b) *Transparency and Accountability:* Enhance transparency in policing operations to address concerns about bias and discrimination. Implement mechanisms for citizens to voice grievances, investigate allegations of police misconduct promptly, and communicate the outcomes transparently to the public. (c) *Inclusive Representation:* Take proactive measures to ensure diverse representation within the police force. Inclusive hiring practices and initiatives that promote diversity within law enforcement can contribute to building trust among citizens from various ethnic backgrounds. (d) *Community Dialogue:* Facilitate open and inclusive community dialogues to foster understanding among different ethnic groups. Initiatives that promote intercultural exchange and collaboration can help break down stereotypes and reduce tensions within the community. (e) *Diplomatic Engagement:* Engage in diplomatic efforts to address external conflicts and mitigate their impact on the region. Collaborate with neighboring regions and international bodies to promote peace and stability. (f) *Policy Interventions:* Craft and implement inclusive national-level policies that address systemic issues contributing to ethnic tensions. Policies aimed at reducing

discrimination and promoting equal opportunities can have a positive impact on community dynamics.

By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can work towards creating a more harmonious and inclusive sociopolitical environment in Jos Metropolis, ultimately fostering trust, reducing ethnic tensions, and promoting stability in the region

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