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A Study on People's Recognition of the Effect of Community POLICING on Crime Prevention in KOREA: Focusing on Sociodemographic Characteristics

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Abstract

The quantitative and qualitative changes in crime have required the appearance of new forms of police activities. Community policing appeared to meet these requirements and has been introduced in many countries around the world including USA, UK and Japan and is now in use. Community policing has also been introduced here in Korea. The police in Korea have accepted it as the new paradigm for the police to prevent crime in local communities.

This study is designed to find out people's recognition of the effect of community policing on crime prevention, which is its ultimate goal and analyze the difference in people's recognition of its effect on crime prevention from the sociodemographic perspective in order to provide the police with basic data for improvement in their community policing.

For the achievement of the purposes of this study, the factors such as 'reduction in the fear of crime', 'reduction in crime occurrence' and 'reduction in disorder in the local community' were selected to measure people's recognition of its crime prevention effect. The research using questionnaires was conducted from Nov. 20, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2013 and administered to 303 people. The SPSS 21.0 program was used as the statistical analysis tool and the t-test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were conducted.

The analysis results show that the average points in the factors of reduction in the fear of crime, reduction in crime occurrence and reduction in disorder in the local community were all below 3 points, thus indicating that people do not recognize the positive effect of community policing on crime prevention.

For checking the difference in citizen's recognition depending on the sociodemographic factors, the people's recognition of the effect of community policing on crime prevention has been researched depending on 5 factors such as the sex, age, urban residential area, period of residence and job. It was found in this research that the job factor (1) makes a significant difference on the recognition of the reduction in the fear of crime, the job factor (1) makes a significant difference on the recognition of the reduction in crime occurrence and the three factors (3) such as job, form of urban residence and period of residence make a significant difference on the recognition of the reduction in disorder in the local community.

Company workers showed higher level of recognition in all respects such as the reduction in the fear of crime, reduction in crime occurrence and the reduction in disorder in the local community than those in technology and production fields. In addition, those who live in the residential area showed higher level of recognition of the reduction in disorder in the local community than those living in industrial areas and others. In terms of period of residence, those who lived for at least 1 year but less than 3 years and those for 9 years or above showed higher recognition of the reduction in disorder in the local community than those who lived for at least 6 years but less than 9 years did.

These analysis results indicate that there is a need for a more diversified community policing in consideration of the people's characteristics in terms of their job, urban residential area and period of residence and there should also be a continuous effort for change in community policing through the periodic evaluation of community policing to improve people's positive recognition toward community policing.

[Keywords] *Community Policing, Crime Prevention, Reduction in the Fear of Crime, Reduction in Crime Occurrence, Reduction in Disorder in Local Community*

1. Introduction

Community policing has been adopted by the Korean police as a new paradigm for police activities to meet the growing social demand for preparation against crime which continues to increase quantitatively and qualitatively and gets more diversified, violent and clever. Korean police are now making effort to realize the philosophy and idea of community policing[1].

Then, do the Korean police conduct community policing in a satisfactory way from the view of general people?

Sparrow argued that community policing is evaluated by the frequency of crime and disorder[2]. That means that the core goal of community policing is to prevent crime in local communities and that the success in community policing depends on the keeping of the local community from crime.

Accordingly, this study will find out how people recognize the effect of community policing on crime prevention and analyze the difference in people's recognition of crime prevention effect depending on the people's sociodemographic characteristics in order to provide the police with basic data for successful implementation of the community policing system.

2. Theoretical Background

2.1. Definition of community policing

For the efficient conduct of police work for the police organization, community policing has been suggested as the new alternative to traditional policing. Community policing was first studied in the US in the 1970s and has been adopted as a new paradigm in many countries including UK and Canada[3]. However, though community policing has been discussed by many scholars in many countries for long, it has still not been clearly defined

yet. It may be caused by the fact that community policing has diverse types of police activities and that the 'community' also has a comprehensive and broad meaning[4][5].

As for the definitions made by the scholars on community policing, Hooper said that it is a series of values and organizational strategies emphasizing the problem-solving partnership between local residents and police, in which the police check the criminal issues under the goal of improving the general quality of life of the local resident, determine the priorities and make efforts to solve the issues along with the local community[6]. In addition, Ford defined it as the strategy emphasizing the police making a partnership, teamwork and knowledge management with the local community in which, the police organization enforces the quality of life in the local community and makes crime prevention activities[7]. Fraizer defined the community policing as the cooperation between police and local residents on four items such as apprehension of criminal, crime prevention, problem monitoring and solving and improvement of quality of life for local people[8].

When considering all the definitions made by the scholars on community policing above, community policing may be defined as a new form of police activities, in which the police and the local community cooperate with each other for the strengthening of the quality of life in the local community, crime prevention and problem solving.

2.2. Community policing and crime prevention

As shown in the definitions of community policing, community policing considers the social disorder and the fear of crime as the main targets for the police's main works[9]. In addition, it considers that advance crime prevention is the police's goal which should be ultimately achieved through community policing[10].

There have been a lot of ideas on how community policing should be implemented for crime prevention in addition to traditional patrol activities[11]. The police in Korea has prepared a lot of programs and now implement them, which include the volunteer crime prevention team, children's safety keeping house, local security committee, people's police school, police dedicated to schools and others for the goals of expansion of the crime information channel for the people, thereby helping the people and local community to actively participate in crime prevention activity, and in the preparation of the crime prevention program depending on the type of crime[12].

3. Description of Study Method and Variables

3.1. Method of study

This study has been conducted through the research of prior studies and the empirical studies. 350 sheets of questionnaires were distributed to people from Nov. 20, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2013. Among them, 303 sheets which were responded were used for the final analysis.

As for the method of analyzing the questionnaires, the SPSS 21.0 program was used and the t-test and ANOVA were conducted to find out people's recognition of the effect of community policing on crime prevention depending on the sociodemographic characteristics of people.

3.2. Description of variables

The factors such as reduction in the fear of crime, reduction in crime occurrence and reduction in disorder in the local community have been selected to measure the people's recognition of the effect of community policing on crime prevention.

Each factor can be defined as follows.

First, the reduction in the fear of crime means the reduction in the fear that a person can be a victim of a crime. Second, the reduction in crime occurrence means the degree of

recognition of the reduction in crime and the increase in crime suppression. Third, the reduction in disorder in the local community means the degree of recognition of the reductions in behaviors such as the violation of basic orders.

4. Researches and Analysis

4.1. Sociodemographic characteristics

The analysis results of the people's sociodemographic characteristics show the followings; the people were composed of males of 50.2%(152 people) and females(49.8% or 151 people), with their ages in teens(1.0%, 3 people), 20s(47.2%, 143 people), 30s(36.0% or 109 people), 40s(10.6% or 32 people), 50s(4.3% or 13 people) and 60s(1.0% or 3 people).

The people can be classified according to their urban residential area; people living in residential area(79.1%, 239 people), those in agricultural and fishery area(2.6% or 8 people), commercial and amusement area(10.3%, 31 people), industrial area(5.6%, 17 people), and others(2.3% or 7 people), showing that more than 50% of the respondents were living in the residential areas.

Their period of residence was found as follows: people living for at least 1 year but less than 3 years(34.6% or 104 people), for at least 3 years but less than 6 years(24.9%, 75 people), for at least 6 years but less than 9 years(17.3%, 52 people) and for 9 years or longer(23.3% or 70 people): As for the job, the subjects were composed of students(28.4%, 86 people), people in agricultural and fishery industry (0.3%, 1 person), company workers(26.7% or 81 people), public officers(17.2% or 52 people), those in service business(5.3% or 16 people), those in technical and production field(2.0% or 6 people), self-employed people(4.6% or 14 people) and others (15.5% or 47 people).

These results can be summarized as shown in <Table 1> Sociodemographic characteristics.

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics.

Classification		Frequency (no. of people)	Ratio (%)	Classification		Frequency (no. of people)	Ratio (%)
Sex	Male	152	50.2	Period of resi- dence	At least 1 year but less than 3 years	104	34.6
	Female	151	49.8		At least 3 years but less than 6 years	75	24.9
	Total	303	100.0		At least 6 years but less than 9 years	52	17.3
Age	10s	3	1.0		9 years or longer	70	23.3
	20s	143	47.2		Total	301	100.0
	30s	109	36.0				
	40s	32	10.6				
	50s	13	4.3	Job	Students	86	28.4
	60s or above	3	1.0		Agriculture and fishery	1	.3
	Total	303	100.0		Company worker	81	26.7
Urban residential form	Residential area	239	79.1		Public officers	52	17.2
	Agricultural and fishery area	8	2.6		Service business	16	5.3
	Commercial and amusement area	31	10.3		Technology and production	6	2.0
	Industrial area	17	5.6		Self-employed	14	4.6
	Others	7	2.3	Others	47	15.5	
	Total	302	100.0	Total	303	100.0	

4.2. People’s recognition of the crime prevention effect of community policing

The people’s recognition of the effect of the community policing on the crime prevention was researched using a 5-point scale for each factor of reduction in the fear of crime, reduction in crime occurrence and reduction in disorder in the local community. The results showed the average value of 2.94 for the

reduction in the fear of crime, 2.89 for the reduction in crime occurrence and 2.89 for the reduction in disorder in the local community. These results indicate that the local people do not recognize the crime prevention effect much in terms of all 3 factors, thus showing that there is a need for general corrective actions to the crime prevention activities of community policing.

Table 2. People’s recognition of the crime prevention effect of community policing.

Classification	Reduction in the fear of crime	Reduction in the crime occurrence	Reduction in the disorder in the local community
Average	2.94	2.89	2.89
Standard deviation (SD)	0.836	0.706	0.880

4.3. Difference in the recognition of crime prevention effect depending on the sociodemographic characteristics

T-test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were conducted to find out the difference in the recognition of effect of community policing on crime prevention depending on the sociodemographic characteristics. The results showed that the job factor (1) makes a significant difference on the people’s recognition of the reduction in the fear of crime, the job factor (1) makes a significant difference on the people’s recognition of the reduction in crime occurrence and the three factors (3) such as job, form of urban residence and period of residence make a significant difference on the people’s recognition of the reduction in disorder in the local community.

As for people’s recognition on the factor in the reduction in the fear of crime depending on their job, students(M=2.96), company workers(M=3.19), self-employed(M=2.82), and others(M=2.82) showed high level of recognition than the service business(M=2.59) and technology & production(M=1.94) and

that people in the service business have higher recognition of the reduction in crime occurrence than those in technology and production.

As for people’s recognition of the reduction in disorder in the local community depending on their type of urban living area, the people living in the residential areas(M=2.97) showed a higher level of recognition than those in the industrial areas(M=2.18) and those in other areas(M=2.14). As for the period of residence, those living for at least 1 year but less than 3 years(M=3.04) and those for 9 years or above (M=2.92) showed higher level of recognition than those living for at least 6 years but less than 9 years(M=2.62). As for the job, the company workers(M=3.23) showed a higher level of recognition of the reduction in disorder in the local community than those in service business(M=2.59) and technology & production industry(M=2.08) and that the students(M=2.81), public officers(M=2.81) and others(M=2.79) showed a higher level of recognition than those in the technology & production industry(p<0.01).

Table 3. Difference in the recognition of crime prevention effect depending on the sociodemographic characteristics.

Classification		Reduction in the fear of crime				Reduction in crime occurrence				Reduction in the disorder in the local community			
		Average	Standard deviation	t or F	p	Average	Standard deviation	t or F	p	Average	Standard deviation	t or F	p
Sex	Male	3.03	0.827	1.903	.058	2.96	0.748	1.612	.108	2.92	0.909	.758	.449
	Female	2.84	0.837			2.83	0.658			2.85	0.850		
Age	10s	2.83	0.289	.275	.927	2.78	0.192	.760	.580	2.67	0.577	.808	.545

	20s	2.94	0.909			2.94	0.735			2.89	0.906		
	30s	2.89	0.789			2.81	0.681			2.89	0.800		
	40s	3.06	0.770			3.02	0.703			3.05	1.058		
	50s	3.04	0.660			2.74	0.596			2.58	0.787		
	60s or above	3.00	0.866			2.89	1.072			2.33	1.041		
Urban residential form	Residential area	3.00	0.835	2.152	.074	2.94	0.692	1.670	.157	2.97b	0.859	4.961	.001
	Agricultural and fishery area	2.56	0.729			2.71	0.677			2.81ab	0.594		
	Commercial and amusement area	2.79	0.883			2.81	0.833			2.77ab	0.825		
	Industrial area	2.62	0.650			2.57	0.598			2.18a	0.883		
	Others	2.50	0.913			2.62	0.780			2.14a	1.069		
Period of residence	At least 1 year but less than 3 years	3.01	0.892	.688	.560	2.94	0.731	.525	.666	3.04b	0.871	2.919	.034
	At least 3 years but less than 6 years	2.92	0.784			2.86	0.760			2.83ab	0.840		
	At least 6 years but less than 9 years	2.81	0.817			2.81	0.721			2.62a	0.983		
	9 years or longer	2.95	0.826			2.92	0.601			2.92b	0.824		
Job	Students	2.96b	0.918	2.737	.013	2.97bc	0.734	4.780	.000	2.81bc	0.980	3.904	.001

Company worker	3.19b	0.772			3.12c	0.698			3.23c	0.822
Public officers	2.72ab	0.831			2.72bc	0.707			2.81bc	0.870
Service business	2.94b	0.512			2.58b	0.463			2.59ab	0.612
Technology and production	2.25a	0.612			1.94a	0.443			2.08a	0.801
Self-employed	2.82b	0.750			2.79bc	0.649			2.64abc	0.745
Others	2.82b	0.837			2.81bc	0.617			2.79bc	0.757

5. Conclusions

The analysis results show that people's level of recognitions of the reduction in the fear of crime, reduction in crime occurrence and reduction in disorder in the local community are at the range of 2 in average, showing that people don't think that community policing is effective in crime prevention.

As for the difference in the citizen's recognition depending on the sociodemographic factors, it was found that the job factor makes a significant difference on the recognition of the fear of crime, and the job factor also makes the makes a significant difference on the recognition of the reduction in crime occurrence and that the three factors such as job, form of urban residence and period of residence make a significant difference on the recognition of the reduction in disorder in the local community.

All these analysis results indicate that there is a need for methods for more diversified community policing considering the job, urban residential area and period of residence of people in order to make people recognize the effect of community policing on crime prevention in a more positive direction. In addition, there should be a continuous effort for change in community policing through periodic evaluation of community

policing to improve people's positive recognition toward community policing.

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