

## **INVESTIGATING INFLUENCE OF ETHNIC CLEAVAGES ON CITIZEN-POLICE INTERFACE IN JOS METROPOLIS, PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA**

**BY**

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### **Abstract**

Ethnic disagreements and crises have become a persistent social dilemma in Plateau State, Nigeria. The phenomenon is usually responded to by mass deployment of security agencies to restore law and order in the area, and such often enhances ethnic solidarity and open confrontation between ethnic groups and policing agents in the line of duty. Previous studies have dwelled mostly on the causes and implications of cycle of ethno-religious conflicts in Jos, but no focus was accorded to influence of the conflicts on citizen-police collaboration in the study locality. This study was a paradigm shift investigating influence of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police interface in Jos Metropolis. Social Identity theory was adopted as underpinning orientation. Descriptive Research Design was employed as study blue print. Structured questionnaire tagged "Influence of Ethnic Cleavages on Citizen-Police Interface Questionnaire" (IECCPIQ) was used as data collection instrument. Law enforcement agencies, Community traditional institutions, Women and Youth Associations, Community Security Advisory Committees, and Academics constitute the study population. Descriptive statistical analysis was employed using calculated mean, standard deviation, frequencies and percentages, and presented in tables for decision making. Findings revealed that complex interactions exist among the various ethnic nationalities in Jos. Ethnic disaffection had significantly influence citizen-police collaboration in the area. Ethnic-based residency patterns in Jos have also impeded trust between police and citizens. Premised on the Key findings, the study recommended detribalized and accountable police framework. This would aid seamless navigation through complex sociocultural circumstances in Jos. A robust multi-ethnic education Programme be introduced in policing functions to foster trust between citizens and police. The study further suggested ethnic conflict merchants be well policed and deterred in all communities, using intelligence-oriented policing models. Policing agents should be encouraged to reside in the midst of other citizens for improved integration and synergy within the locality.

**Keywords:** Ethnic Cleavages, Citizen-Police Interface, Jos Metropolis, Plateau State

### **Introduction**

Citizen-police interface sacrosanct for law and order maintenance, has garnered considerable attention from among scholars and policymakers globally. Skolnick (2019) acknowledges the significance of effective police-citizen relations in building trust and fostering a sense of security within communities. Greene et al. (2020) explored and aligned with role of the police in managing ethnic disagreements. 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 social norms, values, roles, communication and relational dynamics shared 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 agitations.

In particular, Jos has witnessed prolonged ethnic crises that have consumed both human and non-human assets. Quite often, minor squabbles between persons in the course of social interactions between individuals usually transform to deleterious ethnic and religious crises. Such precarious situations compel government to deploy security forces in an attempt to arrest the situations. Jos is nestling diverse various ethnic groups, making it highly volatile and vulnerable to cleavages, yet weaved in rich tapestry of ethnic and cultural according to Krause (2011) Plateau has been a theatre of violent conflicts which has claimed at 4000 people, aside extensive damage of property. Jos the state capital appears to be the epicenter of the violence Higazi (2011). Ethnic issues have significantly ingrained misperceptions and mistrust among the people, including policing agents in the area. Nyam (2010), the violent conflict in Jos has affected residential relationships and pattern of residency. According to Smith (2018), police occasional responses to ethnic issues often present more ethnic problems than solution, and these often lead to societal disparities in political influence, economic status, and social opportunities, and 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) buttressed 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. 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 exploited and exacerbated these differences for administrative control. According to Okeke (2020), poor inter-ethnic relationships and perceptions of state institutions, including the police often lead to feeling of marginalization and bias. Nguyen (2021), argued that political leaders exploit ethnic identities to mobilize support, leading to increased polarization and inter-ethnic tensions.

Ethnic cleavages affect the citizen-police interface because cleavages are defined by distinctions in language, culture, religion, or historical backgrounds which often contribute to complex relationships between various ethnic groups. In environments characterized by historical ethnic conflicts, the perception and effectiveness of law enforcement stands to be affected. As stated by Brown and Green (2020), in areas where ethnic tensions are prevalent, the police are often seen not as impartial entities. Patel and Kumar (2018) highlights how ethnic conflicts 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. Lee et al. (2019) underscores the challenges in policing diverse 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. 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 is located in Plateau State of Nigeria with historical Incidents of recurring ethnic cleavages. Jos is a melting pot of various ethnic groups. The dominant ethnic nationalities are Afezere, Anguta, Berom, Hausa and Fulani. This diversity, while on one hand serves as source of cultural richness, has also been a ground for ethnic violence. According to Okeke (2018), 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) elucidated vividly 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 due to obvious ethnic entanglements and its considerable influence on willingness of citizens to partner security agencies. 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. Adebani (2020) points out that the response of law enforcement to ethnic conflicts has sometimes been criticized for heavy-handedness. In Jos Metropolis, this 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.

### **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 (Adebani, 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.

For effective law enforcement to be achieved in Jos requires a paradigm shift towards evolving a citizen-oriented policing model that will speak to the ethnic dynamics in the environment, which according to Nguyen (2021) fosters trust and cooperation among the citizens and aiding in conflict resolution. The Jos situation therefore demands for a swift paradigm shift by a citizen-oriented policing model to evolve in order to arrest the impending insecurity dilemma in the area. According to Nguyen (2021), for effective policing to be achieved, the police must understand existing ethnic dynamics, and foster trust and cooperation. It is premised on these facts, issues and conditions that motivated the study to investigate specifically, influence of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police interface in Jos Metropolis.

### **Objective of the study**

Generally, this study sought to investigate the impact of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police interface in addressing law and order decline in Jos Metropolis. Specifically, the study attempts to:

- investigate how ethnic cleavages influence citizen-police synergy in Jos Metropolis.
- ascertain factors responsible for mistrust between citizens and the police in the area.
- establish geopolitical factors influencing ethnic cleavages in the area.

### **Research Questions**

- How do ethnic cleavages shape citizen-police interaction in Jos Metropolis?
- What are the factors responsible for mistrust between citizens and the police in the area?
- What are the geopolitical factors influencing ethnic issues in the area?

### **Significance of the Study**

As the research focuses on assessing the influence of ethnic cleavages on citizen-police interface in Jos, the outcome holds immense significance across various spheres, 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 js and beyond. Policymakers and community leaders can leverage on these perspectives and insights in designing and developing intervention models that would not only address immediate and remote concerns, but also promote sustainable tranquility and peace, through informed citizen-police resilience. Additionally, the research 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 shift 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.

### **Conceptual Clarification and Literature Review**

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 & Saleh, A.M (2020) examined nexus between Trust in the Police and Citizens Intention to Participate in Community Policing. The revealed people resent the police and distance themselves from associating with the 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 (Agbibo, 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 brakes 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 pose 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).

### **Regional 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. 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.

### **Methodology**

The study dwelled on descriptive survey design as blue print for the research. A sample size of four hundred (400) was determined using Taro Yamane scientific formula. Purposive and simple random sampling techniques were used to draw respondents, consisting officers from formal policing institutions, community security advisory committees, traditional leaders of various ethnic groups, religious leaders, the youth groups, women groups and academics from within the metropolis. A structured item questionnaire was developed based on research questions and literature

reviewed. 15 items questionnaires title “Influence of *Ethnic Cleavages on Citizen-Police Interface in Jos Metropolis Questionnaire*” tagged “(IECCPIJQ)” were administered on the targeted respondents and collected as soon as they finished with their responses. The 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”.

**Result and Discussion**

**Research Question 1:** How do ethnic cleavages influence citizen-police interface in Jos Metropolis?

**Table 1:** Mean score of how ethnic cleavages influence citizen-police synergy 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 discords among groups contribute to 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 being mishandled based on ethnic affiliations	2.8	1.11	Accepted
5	The effectiveness of community-police programme is hindered by underlying ethnic identity issues 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 citizen- police mistrust in Jos Metropolis?

**Table 2:** Mean score of the factors influencing mistrust between citizens and the police 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, citizen-police settlement patterns, undermines mutual trusting	2.3	0.89	Rejected

Source: Field Survey, 2024

**Table 2:** Factors contributing to trust deficits between citizens and policing agents in Jos: 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 exogenous factors influence ethnic agitations in Jos Metropolis?

**Table 3:** Mean score on geopolitical factors influencing ethnic cleavages in Jos Metropolis

S/No		Mean	S.D.	Decision
11	External ethnic conflict in neighboring regions have direct and significant influence on ethnic concerns in Jos Metropolis.	2.3	1.15	Rejected
12	State-sponsored discrimination influence agitation against cooperating with the police	3.1	0.97	Accepted
13	The ethnic conflict merchants influence group alliances against state security structures.	2.9	1.06	Accepted
14	Poor policies and inactions in security governance at the national level have a direct effect on ethnic cleavage dynamics in Jos.	2.8	1.11	Accepted
15	External interferences influence ethnic tensions and general mistrust.	2.4	1.23	Rejected

Source: Field Survey, 2024

**Table 3.** The extent of state and external factors influences 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 were explored, revealing mixed perceptions. While state-sponsored discrimination and national-level policies were seen as significant contributors, opinions diverged on the influence of external conflicts and international interventions. The geopolitical landscape's influence on ethnic cleavages and citizens' poor perception of police and policing and citizen 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 influence of ethnic tensions, the nature of trust deficits, and the role of geopolitical forces in exacerbating the phenomenon.

### **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 reveal 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 discourages citizens' intention to participate in community policing (Abubakar & Saleh, 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 reveal 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**

The study outcome elucidated that the locality's diverse opinions underscore the multifaceted nature of this recurring social malaise, and prompting comprehensive, absolute focus and approach towards sustainable panacea. The recognition dilemma confronting the police and cool relations need for proaction by transparent advocacy that foster community engagement, transparency in policing. 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 ethnic cleavages.

### **Recommendations**

Premised 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:

- **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.
- **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.

- **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.
- **Community Dialogue:** Facilitate open and inclusive community dialogues to foster understanding among different ethnic groups. Policing agencies should learn ethnicity dynamics for promoting intercultural exchange and collaboration and advocate discourage ethnic stereotyping within the community.
- **Diplomatic Engagement:** Engage in diplomatic efforts to address intra community intercommunal disputes with civility and mitigate their effect citizen-police perception in the study locality.
- **Neighborhood Effect Mitigation:** There urgent need to collaborate with neighboring regions and international bodies to promote positive peace and stability within the region to mitigate crises spillovers.
- **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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