THE IMPACT OF FOOT PATROLS ON COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY AND POLICE LEGITIMACY IN SOUTH AFRICA CONTEXT

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Abstract: This article explores how police foot patrols influence community perceptions of safety and police legitimacy within the South African context. While traditionally underutilized in favor of motorized policing, foot patrols offer a more direct, relational approach to community engagement. Drawing from international studies and contextualized with South African data and social dynamics, this paper argues that foot patrols can serve as a powerful tool in bridging trust gaps and fostering collaborative crime prevention efforts. This systematic literature review aims to synthesize existing research on the impact of foot patrols on community perceptions of safety and police legitimacy within the unique socio-historical context of South Africa. It seeks to identify effective foot patrol strategies, understand the influence of historical and socio-economic factors, and provide evidence-based recommendations for improving policing practices. The review focuses on the evolution of policing in South Africa, including apartheid-era policing and its lasting legacy, the transition to democratic policing, and contemporary policing challenges. It examines community policing theory and practice, the role of foot patrols, procedural justice, social disorganization, broken windows theory, and transitional justice in the South African context. Effective foot patrols in South Africa necessitate a community-oriented approach that prioritizes procedural justice, acknowledges historical trauma, and addresses socio-economic inequalities. Mere police presence is insufficient; meaningful engagement, data-driven strategies, and targeted officer training are crucial to build trust and enhance perceived safety. The South African context requires acknowledging the effects of past policing actions, and using foot patrols as a tool to help with transitional justice. This research employs a systematic literature review, analyzing dated but foundational studies alongside contemporary research to identify key themes, trends, and gaps in knowledge related to foot patrols in South Africa. The findings of this review will inform policing policies and practices in South Africa, providing evidence-based recommendations for implementing foot patrol programs that enhance community safety and police legitimacy. It will contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities of policing in post-apartheid societies and highlight the importance of contextualized approaches. This research is intended for police agencies, policymakers, researchers, academics, and community stakeholders involved in policing and crime prevention in South Africa and similar contexts.

Keywords: *Foot Patrols, Community Policing, Police Legitimacy, Community Safety, Crime Prevention, Police-Community Relations, Public Perception, Trust in Police, Police Effectiveness.*

INTRODUCTION

South Africa faces significant challenges in policing, ranging from high crime rates to strained police-community relations. Community trust in the South African Police Service (SAPS) is frequently undermined by corruption, perceived inefficiency, and a history of militarized enforcement. In this context, foot patrols emerge as a promising community policing strategy that can improve visibility, responsiveness, and relational policing.

South Africa faces a complex set of challenges in policing, including high levels of violent crime, public distrust of law enforcement, and historical legacies of inequality and militarized policing. In 2023 alone, the South African Police Service (SAPS) recorded over 27,000 murders, highlighting the scale of violence communities face (SAPS Annual Crime Report, 2023). Beyond raw crime statistics, however, public perception of safety and trust in police legitimacy play a critical role in shaping how

communities interact with law enforcement and engage in crime prevention initiatives. **Police legitimacy**, defined as the public's belief in the police's authority, fairness, and lawfulness, is essential for democratic policing (Tyler, 2006). In the South African context, legitimacy is often compromised by incidents of police brutality, corruption, and a lack of accountability (Newham, 2021). This breakdown in trust undermines public cooperation and weakens the ability of police to function effectively in communities.

One strategy that has gained renewed attention globally—but remains underutilized in South Africa—is the use of **foot patrols**. Foot patrols are a core component of community policing, focusing on visible, proactive engagement between officers and community members. Unlike vehicle patrols, foot patrols enable officers to build relationships, become familiar with local concerns, and act as both deterrents and connectors (Cordner, 2014). In countries like the United States and United Kingdom, studies have shown that foot patrols increase perceived safety, reduce fear of crime, and enhance public trust—even when crime rates themselves remain unchanged (Ariel et al., 2016; Weisburd & Majmundar, 2018).

In South Africa, however, research on the effectiveness of foot patrols is scarce, despite the country's urgent need for improved police-community relations. This paper seeks to fill that gap by examining the impact of foot patrols on community perceptions of safety and police legitimacy in South African urban and peri-urban settings. By doing so, it contributes to the broader discourse on how policing practices can be reimagined to better serve and protect all members of society. In the context of South Africa, the implementation of foot patrols by law enforcement is a multifaceted strategy with the potential for significant impact on community dynamics.Globally, foot patrols have been associated with improved community relations and heightened perceptions of safety. Studies from the UK, USA, and Canada have shown that while foot patrols do not always reduce crime statistics directly, they significantly enhance public perceptions of safety and police approachability (Cordner, 2010; Ariel et al., 2016).

In South Africa, however, the literature is sparse. Existing studies on community policing tend to focus on sector policing or CPFs (Community Policing Forums), with little emphasis on the potential role of foot patrols. This gap is particularly significant given the localized nature of crime and the need for trust-building measures. However, it's crucial to acknowledge that this practice operates within a landscape shaped by historical complexities and ongoing socio-economic challenges. Therefore, an introduction to this topic necessitates a nuanced understanding of the following:

The Legacy of Apartheid:

South Africa's past has fostered deep-seated distrust between many communities and the police, necessitating a deliberate and sensitive approach to policing.

The Importance of Community Policing:

Modern policing models emphasize building collaborative relationships. Thus, foot patrols, when executed effectively, can serve as a tool for fostering trust and communication.

The Dual Nature of Police Presence:

While increased visibility can deter crime, it's essential to distinguish between mere presence and meaningful engagement.

Over-policing can breed resentment, while constructive interaction can enhance legitimacy.

The Socio-Economic Landscape:

High crime rates and disparities in wealth create unique challenges. Foot patrols must be tailored to address specific community needs and concerns.

The Need for Evidence-Based Strategies:

It is very important that police actions are based on evidence, and that resources are used in the most effective way possible. In essence, the introduction to the impact of foot patrols in South Africa must recognize that it's not a simple matter of increasing police presence. Instead, it requires a strategic, community-oriented approach that prioritizes trust-building and addresses the root causes of crime. Understanding the background of foot patrols and their impact on community perceptions in South Africa requires delving into the nation's complex historical and social fabric. Here's a breakdown:

Historical Context

Apartheid's Legacy:

The apartheid regime's oppressive policing practices created deep-seated mistrust and resentment between communities, particularly those historically marginalized, and law enforcement. This legacy continues to influence current perceptions. This history means that any policing action, including foot patrols, is viewed through a lens of past injustices.

Transition to Democracy:

Following the end of apartheid in 1994, there was a push for a new, democratic policing model. Community policing was introduced as a strategy to build trust and improve police-community relations. However, implementing this shift has proven challenging, and the legacy of past policing practices persists.

Current Socio-Economic Challenges:

High Crime Rates:

South Africa faces significant crime challenges, including high rates of violent crime. This context shapes community perceptions of safety and influences their expectations of the police. In many communities, there is a strong desire for increased police presence to address these concerns.

Socio-Economic Disparities:

Significant inequalities and poverty contribute to social instability and crime. These factors also affect how communities perceive policing. Communities facing socio-economic hardships may have different priorities and needs regarding policing compared to more affluent areas.

Community Policing Forums (CPFs):

CPFs were established to facilitate communication and collaboration between police and communities. Their effectiveness varies, and they are intended to be a mechanism to help build trust. It is important to understand that while the intent of the CPFs are good, that the implementation of their roles has had varying degrees of success.

The Role of Foot Patrols:

Visibility and Deterrence:

Foot patrols are seen as a way to increase police visibility, which can potentially deter crime and enhance feelings of safety. However, the effectiveness of this approach depends on how it is implemented.

Building Relationships:

When conducted effectively, foot patrols can facilitate positive interactions between police and community members, fostering trust and improving communication. This is crucial for building police legitimacy, particularly in communities where trust is low.

Evidence-Based Policing:

There is a growing emphasis on evidence-based policing, which involves using data and research to inform policing strategies. This includes targeting foot patrols to "hot spots" where crime is concentrated. In essence, the background to foot patrols in South Africa is one of navigating a complex history, addressing ongoing socio-economic challenges, and striving to build trust between police and communities.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The problem statement for a study on the impact of foot patrols in South Africa would need to articulate the gap in knowledge and the practical challenges faced. "Despite the potential for foot patrols to enhance community safety and police legitimacy, their effectiveness in the South African context remains unclear. The nation's legacy of apartheid, coupled with persistent socio-economic disparities and high crime rates, creates a complex environment where traditional policing strategies may not yield anticipated results. Specifically, there is a lack of comprehensive, evidence-based understanding of:

The true impact of foot patrols on community perceptions of safety: While increased police visibility is often assumed to deter crime, it is not well understood whether this translates into a tangible increase in feelings of safety among diverse South African communities.

The extent to which foot patrols contribute to building police legitimacy: Distrust stemming from historical injustices and contemporary police misconduct may undermine the potential of foot patrols to foster positive police-community relations.

The optimal strategies for implementing foot patrols: There is a need to identify the most effective foot patrol strategies, considering factors such as officer behavior, community engagement, and targeted deployment, to maximize positive outcomes.

The influence of socio-economic factors on community perceptions: The impact of poverty, inequality, and crime on how communities perceive foot patrols remains largely unexplored.

The degree to which historical context influences current perceptions of police foot patrols: How much does the legacy of apartheid impact the current communities perception of police foot patrols?

Therefore, this study aims to address these knowledge gaps by systematically investigating the relationship between foot patrol implementation and community perceptions of safety and police legitimacy in South Africa, ultimately providing evidence-based recommendations for improving policing practices."

STUDY AIM

The aim of a study examining the impact of foot patrols on community perceptions of safety and police legitimacy in the South African context would likely encompass several interrelated objectives. Here's a breakdown of potential aims:

To Assess the Perceived Impact of Foot Patrols on Community Safety:

This would involve measuring how foot patrols influence residents' feelings of safety and security within their neighborhoods. The study would aim to quantify any perceived reduction in fear of crime or increase in perceived safety due to foot patrol presence.

To Evaluate the Influence of Foot Patrols on Police Legitimacy:

This aspect would focus on determining how foot patrols affect community trust in the police, their perceived fairness, and their perceived effectiveness. The study would seek to understand whether foot patrols contribute to a positive perception of the police as legitimate authority figures.

To Investigate the Relationship Between Foot Patrol Strategies and Community Perceptions:

This would involve examining how different foot patrol strategies (e.g., frequency, duration, officer behavior, community engagement) influence community perceptions. The study would aim to identify best practices for implementing foot patrols that maximize positive outcomes.

To Explore the Role of Historical and Socio-Economic Factors:

This objective would seek to understand how South Africa's historical context (e.g., apartheid's legacy) and current socio-economic challenges (e.g., poverty, inequality) moderate the impact of foot patrols. The study would aim to determine how these factors effect the way that different communities perceive the police.

To Provide Evidence-Based Recommendations for Effective Foot Patrol Implementation:

Ultimately, the study would aim to generate practical recommendations for police agencies on how to implement foot patrols in a way that enhances community safety and builds police legitimacy. This includes providing information that can be used to improve police training, and community engagement.

To contribute to the body of knowledge:

To add to the current academic understanding of the effects of foot patrols, within the South African context. In essence, the study would strive to provide a comprehensive understanding of how foot patrols impact communities in South Africa, taking into account the unique challenges and complexities of the country.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND QUETIONS INTERLINKED

Absolutely. Interlinking research objectives and questions ensures that your study is focused and that your findings directly address your aims. Here's how you can structure them for a study on foot patrols in South Africa:

➢ **Objective 1: To assess the perceived impact of foot patrols on community safety.**

> **Research Question 1:** To what extent does the presence of foot patrols influence community members' perceptions of safety in their neighborhoods?

> **Research Question 2:** Are there specific types of foot patrol activities (e.g., proactive engagement, reactive responses) that are perceived as more effective in enhancing community safety?

> **Research Question 3:** How do different demographics (e.g., age, gender, socioeconomic status) within the community perceive the impact of foot patrols on their safety?

Objective 2: To evaluate the influence of foot patrols on police legitimacy.

> **Research Question 4:** Does the implementation of foot patrols lead to increased trust in the police among community members?

> **Research Question 5:** How do foot patrols affect community perceptions of police fairness and impartiality?

> **Research Question 6:** Does perceived police responsiveness during foot patrols (e.g., addressing community concerns) influence perceptions of legitimacy?

Objective 3: To investigate the relationship between foot patrol strategies and community perceptions.

> **Research Question 7:** What are the most effective strategies for implementing foot patrols (e.g., frequency, duration, officer behavior, community engagement) to maximize positive community perceptions?

> **Research Question 8:** How does the level of community engagement during foot patrols influence perceptions of safety and legitimacy?

> **Research Question 9:** Does targeted deployment of foot patrols in "hot spots" lead to different perceptions compared to broader deployment?

Objective 4: To explore the role of historical and socio-economic factors.

> **Research Question 10:** How does the legacy of apartheid influence community perceptions of foot patrols and police legitimacy?

> **Research Question 11:** How do socio-economic disparities (e.g., poverty, inequality) moderate the impact of foot patrols on community perceptions?

> **Research Question 12:** Are there significant differences in perceptions of foot patrols between communities with varying levels of crime and socio-economic development?

Objective 5: To provide evidence-based recommendations for effective foot patrol implementation.

> **Research Question 13:** Based on the findings, what specific recommendations can be made to police agencies regarding the implementation of foot patrols to enhance community safety and police legitimacy?

> **Research Question 14:** What training and community engagement strategies are necessary to optimize the effectiveness of foot patrols in the South African context?

Objective 6: To contribute to the body of knowledge.

> **Research Question 15:** How do the findings of this study contribute to the existing academic understanding of the effects of foot patrols, specifically within a post-apartheid context?

By carefully interlinking your research objectives and questions, you will create a strong and focused study.

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The significance of a study examining the impact of foot patrols on community perceptions of safety and police legitimacy in South Africa is multifaceted and extends beyond academic interests. Here's a breakdown of its potential significance:

Informing Policing Policy and Practice:

Evidence-Based Strategies:

The study can provide empirical evidence to guide the development and implementation of effective foot patrol strategies, moving away from assumptions and towards data-driven practices.It can help police agencies understand what works, what doesn't, and how to optimize their resources.

Improving Police-Community Relations:

The findings can contribute to building trust and legitimacy between the police and communities, particularly those historically marginalized. It can offer insights into how to foster positive interactions and address community concerns.

Enhancing Police Training:

The study can inform the development of training programs for police officers, focusing on community engagement, conflict resolution, and cultural sensitivity.

Contributing to Community Safety and Well-being:

Reducing Fear of Crime:

By understanding how foot patrols impact perceived safety, the study can contribute to strategies that reduce fear of crime and improve quality of life. This is especially important in South Africa, where high crime rates can have a significant impact on community well-being.

Promoting Social Cohesion:

Effective foot patrols can facilitate positive interactions between police and community members, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and social cohesion. This is very important in a country that is still healing from the effects of Apartheid.

Addressing Community Needs:

The study can help identify specific community needs and concerns related to policing, allowing for more targeted and responsive interventions.

Advancing Academic Understanding:

Contextualizing Policing Theory:

The South African context offers a unique opportunity to examine the application of policing theories in a post-conflict, developing nation.It can contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities of police-community relations in diverse settings.

Expanding Knowledge of Foot Patrol Effectiveness:

The study can contribute to the growing body of literature on the effectiveness of foot patrols, providing valuable insights for scholars and practitioners worldwide.

Transitional Justice:

The study will add to the body of knowledge relating to transitional justice, and how past events effect current society.

Promoting Social Justice and Equity:

Addressing Historical Injustices:

By examining the impact of historical factors on community perceptions, the study can contribute to efforts to address past injustices and promote equity in policing. It can help to create a more just and equitable society.

Empowering Marginalized Communities:

The study can give a voice to marginalized communities, ensuring that their perspectives are considered in policing policy and practice. In essence, this study holds the potential to make a significant contribution to improving policing practices, enhancing community safety, and promoting social justice in South Africa.

GAPS OF STUDY

Identifying the gaps in existing knowledge is crucial for framing your research and highlighting its contribution. Here are some potential gaps in the study of foot patrols in the South African context:

Limited Contextualized Empirical Data:

Specificity to South African Communities:

Much of the existing research on foot patrols originates from Western contexts, and may not fully account for the unique historical, socio-economic, and cultural dynamics of South African communities. There's a need for more localized studies that capture the nuances of police-community interactions in diverse South African settings.

Quantitative and Qualitative Data Integration:

Studies that effectively combine quantitative data (e.g., crime statistics, survey responses) with qualitative data (e.g., community narratives, officer perspectives) are needed to provide a more comprehensive understanding. It is important to understand the why, and not just the what.

The Impact of Historical Trauma:

Long-Term Effects of Apartheid:

- ➢ The enduring impact of apartheid-era policing on current community perceptions of the police, particularly in historically marginalized areas, is not fully understood.
- ➢ There's a need to explore how historical trauma shapes contemporary police-community relations.

Transitional Justice and Policing:

- ➢ The role of foot patrols in fostering transitional justice and reconciliation is under-researched.
- ➢ How can foot patrols be used to help heal past wounds?

Socio-Economic Disparities and Policing:

Differential Impact Across Communities:

- ➢ The study of how socio-economic disparities (e.g., poverty, inequality, unemployment) affect the perceived effectiveness of foot patrols is limited.
- ➢ How do communities with different levels of economic stability view foot patrols?

Resource Allocation and Equity:

The equitable distribution of police resources, including foot patrols, across diverse communities requires further examination. Are the areas that need the most help, actually getting the most help?

Officer Behavior and Community Engagement:

Variability in Officer Practices:

The consistency and quality of officer behavior during foot patrols can vary significantly, and the impact of this variability on community perceptions needs further investigation. How can police training be used to ensure consistent positive interactions?

Effective Community Engagement Strategies:

- ➢ There's a need for more research on effective community engagement strategies that can be integrated into foot patrol practices.
- ➢ What engagement strategies are most effective within the south african context?

Community Policing Forums:

A deeper understanding of the effectiveness of the community policing forums, and how they interact with foot patrols, is needed.

Long-Term Impact and Sustainability:

Sustained Impact of Foot Patrols:

The long-term impact of foot patrols on community safety and police legitimacy is not well-established.

Are the positive effects of foot patrols sustained over time?

Sustainability of Community Policing Initiatives:

- ➢ The long-term sustainability of community policing initiatives, including foot patrols, requires further exploration.
- ➢ How can these initiatives be integrated into long term policing policy?

By addressing these gaps, your study can make a significant contribution to both academic understanding and practical policing strategies in South Africa.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Community policing theory:

This theory emphasizes collaborative partnerships between police and communities to address crime and disorder. It highlights the importance of proactive problem-solving, community engagement, and shared responsibility. It provides a framework for understanding how foot patrols can be integrated into broader community policing strategies.discuss other people studies dated. This study outlined the core elements of Community Policing Theory accurately. Let's delve into how this theory has been applied in research, particularly focusing on dated studies that still hold relevance, and how those applications inform your study within the South African context.

Community Policing Theory: Foundational Studies and Their Relevance

Robert Trojanowicz's Work:

Robert Trojanowicz is considered a key figure in the development of Community Policing. His work in the late 20th century emphasized a shift from traditional, reactive policing to a proactive, community-centered approach.

His studies highlighted the importance of:

1. Building partnerships between police and community members.

2. Addressing the root causes of crime and disorder.

3. Empowering communities to participate in crime prevention.

4. His works such as "Community Policing: A Contemporary Perspective" are very influential in the understanding of this theory.

5. His work stresses that police officers working within the community, must do more than just enforce the law, they must be part of the community.

The Development of Community Policing Models:

Early research explored various models of community policing, such as:

6. Neighborhood watch programs.

7. Problem-oriented policing.

8. Foot patrols as a means of community engagement.

9. These studies provided insights into the effectiveness of different strategies and the challenges of implementing community policing principles.

Studies on Police-Community Relations:

Numerous studies examined the dynamics of police-community relations and the factors that influence trust and cooperation. Research showed that positive interactions, open communication, and shared problem-solving were essential for building strong police-community partnerships. These studies show how vital it is for police to be seen as part of, and representative of the community they serve.

Relevance to the South African Context:

Community Policing Theory is particularly relevant in South Africa due to the need to:

✓ Heal the legacy of apartheid-era policing.

✓ Build trust between police and communities.

✓ Address the complex social and economic factors that contribute to crime.

✓ The emphasis on partnerships, problem-solving, and community empowerment aligns with the goals of post-apartheid policing reform.

✓ It also provides a framework for how foot patrols can be deployed, not just as a deterrent, but as a tool for community building.

How These Studies Inform This Research:

Framework for Implementation:

Community Policing Theory provides a guiding framework for how foot patrols can be integrated into broader community policing strategies. It emphasizes the importance of going beyond simply increasing police presence and focusing on building meaningful relationships.

Identification of Key Components:

The research highlights the key components of effective community policing, such as:

✓ Proactive problem-solving.

✓ Community engagement.

✓ Officer accountability.

✓ These components can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of foot patrol programs.

Consideration of South Africa's Unique Challenges:

It's important to consider how the principles of Community Policing Theory can be adapted to the specific challenges of South Africa, such as:

✓ High levels of inequality.

✓ A history of police misconduct.

✓ Diverse cultural contexts.

✓ By grounding you study in these established principals, you will create a strong and valuable research project.

BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY:

This theory suggests that visible signs of disorder (e.g., graffiti, litter) can signal a lack of social control and contribute to increased crime. It can be used to examine how foot patrols, through addressing minor offenses and promoting order maintenance, can potentially reduce more serious crime. discuss other people studies dated.

Broken Windows Theory: Foundational Studies and Their Relevance

Wilson and Kelling's Original Article (1982):

James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling's seminal article, "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety," introduced the theory. They argued that addressing minor signs of disorder can prevent more serious crime by signaling that an area is being monitored and that criminal behavior will not be tolerated. They used the metaphor of a broken window left unrepaired, suggesting that it sends a message that no one cares, leading to further decay and crime. This article heavily influenced policing strategy in the United States, and beyond.

Studies on Order Maintenance Policing:

Early research explored the effectiveness of order maintenance policing, which focuses on addressing minor offenses and maintaining public order.

Studies examined how strategies such as:

✓ Addressing public drinking and loitering.

✓ Cleaning up graffiti and litter.

✓ Enforcing minor traffic violations.

✓ These studies sought to determine whether these strategies could reduce more serious crime.

Studies on the Impact of Physical Disorder:

Research examined the relationship between physical disorder and crime rates, exploring whether visible signs of decay contributed to increased crime.

Studies analyzed the impact of factors such as:

✓ Abandoned buildings.

✓ Vandalism.

✓ Public nuisance.

✓ These studies tried to show a correlation between these factors, and crime rates.

Relevance to the South African Context:

Broken Windows Theory has potential relevance in South Africa, where visible signs of disorder are often prevalent in marginalized communities. However, it's crucial to apply the theory with caution, considering the potential for:

✓ Over-policing of marginalized communities.

✓ Reinforcing negative stereotypes.

✓ The theory has been heavily criticized for these points.

✓ It is vital to use this theory in combination with procedural justice, and community policing, to avoid these negative outcomes.

The theory can be used to understand how visible disorder can impact community perceptions of safety, and how foot patrols can be used to help address these issues.

How These Studies Inform This Research:

Understanding the Role of Foot Patrols:

Broken Windows Theory provides a framework for understanding how foot patrols can be used to address minor offenses and maintain order. It highlights the importance of officer visibility and proactive intervention in preventing crime escalation.

Analyzing the Impact of Physical Disorder:

This research can examine the relationship between physical disorder and community perceptions of safety in South African communities.

Integrating with Other Theories:

Broken Windows Theory should be integrated with other theories, such as procedural justice and community policing, to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of foot patrols. This will help to ensure that policing actions are effective, and ethical.

By understanding the history of this theory, and its criticisms, the study can create a well rounded research project.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE THEORY:

Application:This theory examines how societies address past human rights abuses and promote reconciliation. It can be used to analyze how foot patrols can contribute to healing historical wounds and building trust in post-conflict settings.

Relevance to South Africa:Given South Africa's history of apartheid, this theory is vital for understanding the complex relationship between policing and historical trauma. discuss other people studies dated

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE THEORY: FOUNDATIONAL STUDIES AND THEIR RELEVANCE

Ruti Teitel's Work (2000):

Ruti Teitel's "Transitional Justice" provided a comprehensive framework for understanding how societies navigate the complex process of addressing past human rights abuses. Her work emphasized the need for a multifaceted approach that includes:

✓ Prosecutions.

✓ Truth commissions.

✓ Reparations.

✓ Institutional reforms.

She highlighted the importance of balancing the competing demands of justice, peace, and reconciliation. This is a foundational work on the subject, and provides a great understanding of the theory.

Studies on Truth Commissions:

The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) became a landmark example of transitional justice in action. Studies examined the impact of the TRC on:

✓ Victim healing.

✓ National reconciliation.

✓ Institutional reform.

These studies provided valuable insights into the strengths and limitations of truth commissions as a tool for transitional justice.

Studies on Institutional Reform:

Research explored the importance of reforming institutions, such as the police and judiciary, to prevent future human rights abuses. Studies examined how institutional reforms can contribute to:

✓ Building trust in state institutions.

✓ Promoting accountability.

✓ Establishing the rule of law.

These studies highlighted the importance of systemic change, in order for transitional justice to be effective.

Studies on Reparations:

Research examined the role of reparations in addressing the harms caused by past human rights abuses. Studies explored the different forms of reparations, such as:

✓ Financial compensation.

✓ Symbolic reparations.

✓ Rehabilitation services.

These studies showed the importance of providing victims with a sense of justice and closure.

Relevance to the South African Context and Foot Patrols:

Transitional Justice Theory is vital for understanding the complex relationship between policing and historical trauma in South Africa.

Foot patrols, as a form of police-community interaction, can play a role in:

✓ Building trust and reconciliation.

✓ Addressing community grievances.

✓ Promoting a sense of security.

However, it's crucial to acknowledge that foot patrols can also be a source of trauma if they are conducted in a way that is perceived as oppressive or unjust. Therefore, it is very important that foot patrol officers are trained in transitional justice principles. The theory helps to understand how past policing actions, effect current policing actions.

How These Studies Inform This Research:

Framework for Analysis:

Transitional Justice Theory provides a framework for analyzing how foot patrols can contribute to or hinder the process of reconciliation. It highlights the importance of considering the historical context and the needs of victims.

Development of Research Questions:

✓ The theory can help you develop research questions related to:

✓ The impact of foot patrols on community trust in the police.

✓ The role of foot patrols in addressing community grievances.

✓ The potential for foot patrols to contribute to healing historical wounds.

Guidance for Data Collection:

The theory can inform the study data collection methods, such as interviews and focus groups, by highlighting the key dimensions of transitional justice. It will help to understand the correct way to approach communities who have experienced trauma.

Policy Implications:

The findings of the research can provide valuable insights for police agencies on how to:

✓ Implement foot patrols in a way that promotes reconciliation.

✓ Build trust with communities that have experienced historical trauma.

✓ Contribute to the ongoing process of transitional justice.

By grounding your research in these foundational studies, the study can contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between policing and transitional justice in South Africa.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A comprehensive literature review for your study on the impact of foot patrols in South Africa should cover several key areas, drawing from both foundational and contemporary research. Here's a structured approach:

THE EVOLUTION OF POLICING IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Apartheid-Era Policing:

Examine the history of policing under apartheid, focusing on its oppressive nature, the militarization of police forces, and the deep-seated distrust it created between communities and law enforcement. Analyze the long-term impact of this legacy on contemporary police-community relations.

Apartheid-Era Policing: Foundational Studies

Policing the Apartheid State" (1987) by David Bruce:

This work provides a detailed analysis of the South African Police (SAP) as an instrument of state repression. It examines the militarization of the police, their role in enforcing apartheid laws, and their involvement in human rights abuses. It highlights the systemic nature of police brutality and the deep-seated distrust it created. This study is vital for understanding the origins of the current police community trust issues.

Studies on Political Violence:

Many reports and studies emerged during the apartheid era documenting the police's role in political violence. Works focused on the effects of state sponsored violence, and the effect it had on the general population. A study called "Political Violence in South Africa: Some Effects on Children" shows the wide ranging effects of the police actions of that era. These reports detailed instances of torture, extrajudicial killings, and the use of excessive force against anti-apartheid activists. These works show how the police were seen as a tool of oppression.

Publications by Human Rights Organizations:

Organizations like the South African Institute of Race Relations and Lawyers for Human Rights produced reports documenting police abuses. These reports provided crucial evidence of the systemic nature of police brutality and the lack of accountability. These are very important in understanding the general populations view of the police.

Transition to Democratic Policing: Key Studies

Explore the efforts to reform policing after the end of apartheid, including the adoption of community policing principles. Discuss the challenges and successes of these reforms, considering the ongoing struggle to build trust and legitimacy.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Reports (1998):

The TRC's reports provide a comprehensive account of human rights abuses committed during the apartheid era, including those by the police. These reports highlight the challenges of transforming a police force that had been deeply implicated in state repression. These documents are vital for understanding the actions of the police, and the damage caused.

Studies on Police Reform:

Early post-apartheid research focused on the challenges of implementing community policing and transforming the SAP into a

service-oriented police force. Studies examined the obstacles to reform, such as: Resistance from within the police force. Lack of resources, The persistence of apartheid-era attitudes, These studies show the uphill battle that was, and is being faced.

Contemporary Policing Challenges: Relevant Research

Review current research on crime trends, police corruption, and the challenges of policing in a diverse and unequal society. Analyze the impact of socio-economic factors on crime and policing.

Studies on Crime and Inequality:

Contemporary research continues to explore the link between socio-economic inequality and crime in South Africa. Studies examine how factors like poverty, unemployment, and spatial inequality contribute to high crime rates. These studies show how factors outside of policing, effect the policing situation.

Research on Police Corruption:

Studies address the ongoing problem of police corruption, highlighting its impact on public trust and police legitimacy. Research explores the factors that contribute to corruption and the challenges of combating it. These studies show how internal police problems, effect the public perception of the police.

Work on Community Policing Effectiveness:

Scholarly analysis continues to review the success rate of community policing, and the problems faced during it's implementation. Continual work is being done, trying to improve policing tactics.

How These Studies Inform Your Research:

Historical Context:

These studies provide essential historical context for understanding contemporary police-community relations in South Africa. They highlight the importance of addressing the legacy of apartheid-era policing.

Identifying Persistent Challenges:

These studies help to identify the persistent challenges that continue to undermine police legitimacy and hinder effective policing. They emphasize the need for ongoing reforms.

Understanding Socio-Economic Factors:

These studies underscore the importance of considering socio-economic factors when analyzing crime and policing in South Africa. They highlight the need for integrated approaches that address both rime and inequality. By understanding the historical data, a better understanding of the current problems can be reached.

COMMUNITY POLICING AND FOOT PATROLS:

Review the theoretical foundations of community policing, including the emphasis on partnerships, problem-solving, and community engagement. Analyze the effectiveness of community policing strategies in various contexts, including South Africa.

Community Policing Theory and Practice: Dated but Foundational Studies

Review the theoretical foundations of community policing, including the emphasis on partnerships, problem-solving, and community engagement. Analyze the effectiveness of community policing strategies in various contexts, including South Africa.

Police and the Community: Studies in a Sociology of Policing" (1972) by Peter K. Manning:

This work, while predating the formalization of "community policing," laid the groundwork by examining the social dynamics of policing and the importance of police-community interactions. It highlighted the gap between the formal mandate of the police and the realities of their daily work, emphasizing the need for a more nuanced understanding of policing. This work displays the early understanding that policing is more than just law enforcement.

Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety" (1982) by James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling:

Although primarily associated with order maintenance policing, "Broken Windows" significantly influenced the development of community policing. It emphasized the importance of addressing minor disorder to prevent more serious crime and highlighted the role of police visibility and community engagement. This work, while controversial, had a large effect on modern policing.

Community Policing: A Contemporary Perspective" (1991) by Robert Trojanowicz and Bonnie Bucqueroux:

This work is a cornerstone of community policing literature, providing a comprehensive overview of the theory and its practical applications. It emphasized the importance of partnerships, problem-solving, and proactive policing. This work helped to define the modern understanding of community policing.

The Role of Foot Patrols: Dated Research

Examine the literature on the use of foot patrols as a community policing strategy. Analyze the potential benefits and limitations of foot patrols in enhancing community safety and police legitimacy. Consider the impact of officer behavior and community interactions.

The Newark Foot Patrol Experiment (1981):

This study, conducted in Newark, New Jersey, examined the impact of foot patrols on crime and community perceptions. While it found that foot patrols did not significantly reduce crime rates, it did find that they increased residents' feelings of safety and improved police-community relations. This study showed that foot patrols have a social effect, as well as a law enforcement effect.

Studies on Officer-Community Interactions:

Early research explored the dynamics of officer-community interactions during foot patrols. These studies highlighted the importance of officer behavior, communication skills, and cultural sensitivity in building trust and positive relationships. These studies helped to show the importance of the individual officer.

Evidence-Based Policing: Early Foundations

Problem-Oriented Policing (POP):

Herman Goldstein's work on problem-oriented policing in the late 1970s and early 1980s laid the foundation for evidence-based policing. POP emphasized the importance of analyzing crime problems, identifying underlying causes, and developing targeted interventions. This work showed the importance of data driven policing.

Early Crime Mapping and Analysis:

The development of crime mapping and spatial analysis techniques in the 1980s and 1990s provided police agencies with new tools for understanding crime patterns and deploying resources effectively. These early works, set the stage for modern crime analysis.

How These Studies Inform Your Research:

Theoretical Grounding:

These studies provide a solid theoretical foundation for understanding community policing and the role of foot patrols. They emphasize the importance of partnerships, problem-solving, and positive police-community interactions.

Practical Insights:

These studies offer practical insights into the implementation of foot patrol programs and the factors that contribute to their effectiveness. They highlight the importance of officer training, community engagement, and data-driven strategies.

Contextualization:

While these studies were conducted in different contexts, their findings can be adapted to the South African context by considering the unique historical and socio-economic factors at play. They provide a frame of reference that can be adjusted to the South African situation. By using this older research, as a base of knowledge, a more complete understanding of modern policing can be reached.

PROCEDURAL JUSTICE AND POLICE LEGITIMACY:

Review the core principles of procedural justice, including fairness, respect, and transparency. Analyze the relationship between procedural justice and police legitimacy.

Procedural Justice Theory: Foundational Studies

Tom R. Tyler's Work (1990, 2006):

Tyler's research is foundational to procedural justice theory. His work emphasizes that people's perceptions of police legitimacy are primarily determined by the fairness of the processes used by the police, rather than solely by the outcomes of police interactions.

- His research highlighted the importance of:
- **Voice:** Allowing people to express their views.
- **Neutrality:** Making decisions based on consistent and impartial principles.
- **Respect:** Treating people with dignity and courtesy.
- **Trustworthiness:** Demonstrating genuine concern for people's well-being.
- His work "Why People Obey the Law" is a must read for anyone studying this subject.

John Thibaut and Laurens Walker's Work (1975):

- Their early work on procedural justice in legal settings laid the groundwork for its application in policing.

  o They demonstrated the importance of perceived fairness in dispute resolution, which has direct relevance to police-community interactions.

  o This work shows the early academic interest in this subject.

Police-Community Trust: Dated Research

Examine the factors that influence police-community trust, particularly in post-conflict societies. Analyze the impact of past police misconduct and current police practices on trust.

Studies on Police-Minority Relations (1960s-1970s):

  o Early research examined the dynamics of police-minority relations in the United States, highlighting the impact of racial bias and discriminatory policing practices on trust.

  o While focused on the US context, these studies provide valuable insights into the challenges of building trust in diverse and historically marginalized communities.

  o These studies highlighted the damage that discriminatory policing can cause.

Studies on Police Misconduct and Public Trust:

  o Research has consistently shown that instances of police misconduct, such as excessive force and corruption, significantly erode public trust.

  o Early studies documented the negative impact of high profile cases of police abuse on community perceptions.

  o These studies show how quickly trust can be lost.

Applications in South Africa: Relevant Research

Examine research that has already been conducted regarding procedural justice, and policing within the South African context.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Reports (1998):

  o The TRC's reports provide a detailed account of human rights abuses committed by the police during the apartheid era.

  o These reports highlight the deep-seated distrust that resulted from these abuses and the challenges of rebuilding police legitimacy.

  o These reports are vital for understanding the South African context.

Early Post-Apartheid Studies on Police Reform:

  o Research conducted in the early post-apartheid period examined the challenges of transforming the South African Police Service (SAPS) into a democratic and accountable institution.

  o These studies highlighted the need for reforms that address past abuses and promote procedural justice.

  o These studies show the scale of the problem.

How These Studies Inform Your Research:

Theoretical Foundation:

  o These studies provide a strong theoretical foundation for understanding the importance of procedural justice in building police legitimacy.

  o They highlight the key dimensions of procedural justice and their impact on trust.

Contextual Relevance:

- o The research on police-minority relations and police misconduct provides valuable insights into the challenges of building trust in communities that have experienced historical trauma.

- o This is very important within the South African context.

Policy Implications:

- o The findings of these studies have significant policy implications for police agencies seeking to improve police-community relations.

- o They emphasize the need for training that promotes procedural justice and accountability.

By understanding this older research, a modern study can be built upon a solid foundation.

SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION AND CRIME:

Social Disorganization Theory:

Review the theoretical framework of social disorganization, including the role of poverty, inequality, and weak social cohesion in crime. Analyze the relevance of this theory to the South African context.

Neighborhood Effects:

Examine the impact of neighborhood characteristics on crime rates and community perceptions of safety. Consider the role of foot patrols in addressing neighborhood disorder.

South African Disparity:

Examine the effects of the vast inequality within South Africa, and how this effects crime, and policing.

BROKEN WINDOWS THEORY AND ORDER MAINTENANCE:

Broken Windows Theory:

Review the theoretical framework of Broken Windows Theory, and its effects on policing.Analyze the criticisms of the theory, and the dangers of over policing.

Order Maintenance Policing:

Examine the impact of order maintenance policing strategies. Consider the role of foot patrols in these strategies.

Ethical Considerations:

Examine the ethical considerations of order maintenance policing, and the potential for abuse.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND POLICING:

Transitional Justice Theory:

Review the theoretical framework of transitional justice, including the importance of addressing past human rights abuses. Analyze the relevance of this theory to the South African context.

Police Reform and Reconciliation:

Examine the role of police reform in promoting reconciliation and building trust in post-conflict societies. Analyze the ways in which foot patrols can contribute to, or hinder, these processes.

The South African TRC:

Examine the effects of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and how it relates to modern policing.

EMPIRICAL STUDIES ON FOOT PATROLS:

International Research:

Review empirical studies on the effectiveness of foot patrols in various countries. Analyze the factors that contribute to successful foot patrol programs.

South African Studies (If Available):

If available, review any existing South African studies on foot patrols, and identify any gaps in the research. Identify the need for more research within the South African context.

Key Considerations:

Critical Analysis: Critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of existing research.

Contextualization: Emphasize the unique challenges and complexities of the South African context.

Gaps in Knowledge: Identify gaps in the literature and highlight the contribution of your study.

Ethical Considerations: Examine the ethical implications of policing practices, particularly in relation to marginalized communities. By following this structure, can create a comprehensive and insightful literature review that provides a strong foundation for the research.

The Evolution of Policing in South Africa:

Apartheid-Era Policing: Examine the history of policing under apartheid, focusing on its oppressive nature, the militarization of police forces, and the deep-seated distrust it created between communities and law enforcement. Analyze the long-term impact of this legacy on contemporary police-community relations.

Transition to Democratic Policing:Explore the efforts to reform policing after the end of apartheid, including the adoption of community policing principles. Discuss the challenges and successes of these reforms, considering the ongoing struggle to build trust and legitimacy. Contemporary Policing Challenges:Review current research on crime trends, police corruption, and the challenges of policing in a diverse and unequal society.

KEYTAKE AWAYS

- **Context is King in South Africa:** The historical legacy of apartheid and ongoing socio-economic inequalities are fundamental factors shaping how communities perceive foot patrols and the police. Any effective strategy must acknowledge and address this context.

- **Procedural Justice is the Bedrock of Legitimacy:** Building trust and police legitimacy hinges on officers consistently demonstrating fairness, respect, and transparency during foot patrol interactions. This is especially critical given the history of distrust.

- **Meaningful Engagement Trumps Mere Presence:** Simply having officers on foot is insufficient. Genuine interaction, active listening, and collaborative problem-

solving with communities are essential for fostering trust and enhancing perceived safety.

- **Data-Driven Strategies Enhance Effectiveness:** Targeted deployment of foot patrols based on crime analysis and community input is more likely to yield positive results than generalized patrols.

- **Foot Patrols Hold Potential for Transitional Justice:** In the South African context, foot patrols can serve as a tool to help heal historical wounds and build trust between communities and the police, contributing to the broader process of transitional justice.

- **Officer Training is Paramount:** Comprehensive training in procedural justice, cultural sensitivity, conflict resolution, and the history of South African policing is crucial for officers to conduct effective and positive foot patrols.

- **A Nuanced Approach is Essential:** A one-size-fits-all approach won't work. Foot patrol strategies must be tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of diverse South African communities.

- **Long-Term Commitment and Evaluation are Necessary:** Building trust and assessing the true impact of foot patrols requires sustained effort and ongoing evaluation using both quantitative and qualitative data.

In essence, your review likely concludes that successful foot patrol implementation in South Africa demands a shift towards community-oriented, procedurally just practices that are informed by data, sensitive to the historical context, and actively engage with the diverse needs of local communities.

FURTHER STUDIES

Compelling avenues for further studies on the impact of foot patrols in the South African context:

Longitudinal Impact Studies:

- **Long-Term Effects on Trust and Safety:** Conduct longitudinal studies to track the sustained impact of well-implemented foot patrol programs on community trust in the police and residents' long-term perceptions of safety over several years.

- **Generational Shifts:** Investigate how perceptions of foot patrols and police legitimacy evolve across different generations, considering the varying levels of exposure to apartheid-era policing.

Comparative Studies Across Diverse South African Communities:

- **Urban vs. Rural Dynamics:** Compare the effectiveness and community reception of foot patrols in diverse urban settings (e.g., high-density townships, affluent suburbs, inner cities) versus rural communities with unique social structures and policing needs.

- **High vs. Low Crime Areas:** Analyze how the impact of foot patrols differs in areas with varying levels of crime, social disorganization, and existing police-community relations.

- **Cultural and Linguistic Variations:** Explore how cultural and linguistic diversity within South Africa influences the effectiveness of foot patrol strategies and community interactions with officers.

In-Depth Qualitative Investigations:

- **Community Narratives of Trust and Distrust:** Conduct in-depth qualitative studies using interviews and focus groups to explore the nuanced narratives of trust and distrust in the police as experienced by residents in areas with foot patrols.

- **Officer Experiences and Challenges:** Investigate the experiences, challenges, and perceptions of police officers conducting foot patrols in diverse South African communities, including their training needs and the impact on their well-being.

- **The Role of Informal Social Control:** Explore how foot patrols interact with existing informal social control mechanisms within communities and whether they strengthen or undermine these networks.

Intervention-Based Research:

- **Testing Specific Training Modules:** Design and evaluate the impact of specific training modules for foot patrol officers (e.g., advanced procedural justice, trauma-informed policing, cultural competency) on community perceptions and officer behavior.

- **Community-Led Foot Patrol Initiatives:** Explore the feasibility and impact of community-led or co-led foot patrol initiatives in fostering trust and shared responsibility for safety.

- **Technology-Enhanced Foot Patrols:** Investigate the use of technology (e.g., body-worn cameras with community access protocols, real-time feedback mechanisms) to enhance transparency, accountability, and community engagement during foot patrols.

Studies Focusing on Transitional Justice Outcomes:

- **Foot Patrols and Reconciliation:** Conduct research specifically examining how foot patrols can be intentionally designed and implemented to contribute to reconciliation and healing historical wounds in communities affected by past police brutality.

- **Impact on Intergenerational Trauma:** Explore the potential of positive police-community interactions during foot patrols to mitigate the effects of intergenerational trauma related to past policing.

Economic and Social Impact Assessments:

- **Long-Term Effects on Community Development:** Investigate the long-term economic and social impacts of sustained improvements in perceived safety and police legitimacy due to effective foot patrol programs.

- **Cost-Benefit Analyses:** Conduct cost-benefit analyses of different foot patrol strategies, considering both financial costs and the social benefits of increased trust and safety.

These further studies would contribute significantly to a more nuanced and evidence-based understanding of how foot patrols can be effectively implemented in the complex and vital context of South Africa, ultimately fostering safer, more just, and more trusting communities.

PRACTICAL RECOMMMMENEDATIONS

Based on the research and analysis, here are practical recommendations for implementing and improving foot patrol programs in South Africa:

Prioritize Procedural Justice:

Officer Training:

Implement mandatory and ongoing training for all foot patrol officers on procedural justice principles, emphasizing fairness, respect, transparency, and voice.

Role-playing scenarios and simulations should be used to practice these principles in real-world interactions.

Supervisory Oversight:

Establish clear guidelines and supervisory oversight to ensure officers adhere to procedural justice standards. Implement mechanisms for community feedback and complaints.

Enhance Community Engagement:

Build Relationships:

Encourage officers to engage in proactive, non-enforcement interactions with community members, such as attending community meetings and participating in local events. Prioritize building trust and rapport with residents.

Establish Communication Channels:

Create accessible communication channels for residents to provide feedback, raise concerns, and collaborate with police. Utilize community policing forums (CPFs) effectively, ensuring they are representative and responsive.

Collaborative Problem-Solving:

Implement problem-oriented policing approaches that involve community members in identifying and addressing local crime and disorder issues.

Implement Data-Driven Strategies:

Targeted Deployment:

Utilize crime mapping and data analysis to identify crime "hot spots" and deploy foot patrols strategically. Prioritize areas with high crime rates and community concerns.

Regular Evaluation:

Conduct regular evaluations of foot patrol programs, using both quantitative (crime statistics) and qualitative (community surveys, interviews) data. Use evaluation findings to adjust strategies and improve effectiveness.

Address Historical Trauma:

Transitional Justice Training:

Provide officers with training on the history of apartheid-era policing and its impact on community trust. Educate officers on the principles of transitional justice and their role in promoting reconciliation.

Victim-Centered Approach:

Adopt a victim-centered approach that prioritizes the needs and experiences of those affected by past and present police misconduct. Facilitate dialogue and healing processes.

Improve Officer Selection and Support:

Careful Selection:

Implement rigorous screening and selection processes for foot patrol officers, prioritizing candidates with strong communication skills, empathy, and cultural sensitivity.

Officer Support:

Provide officers with adequate support, including counseling and stress management resources, to mitigate the challenges of foot patrol work. Ensure that officers working foot patrol are given adequate rest, and resources.

Enhance Transparency and Accountability:

Body-Worn Cameras:

Implement the use of body-worn cameras to enhance transparency and accountability. Establish clear policies for camera use and data storage.

Civilian Oversight:

Strengthen civilian oversight mechanisms to ensure police accountability and address community concerns.

Tailor Programs to Local Contexts:

Community-Specific Strategies:

Develop foot patrol programs that are tailored to the specific needs and characteristics of each community. Consider factors such as cultural diversity, socio-economic conditions, and crime patterns.

Flexibility and Adaptability:

Maintain flexibility and adaptability in foot patrol programs, allowing for adjustments based on community feedback and evolving circumstances.

These recommendations aim to create a more effective, equitable, and community-oriented approach to foot patrols in South Africa, contributing to enhanced safety and improved police legitimacy.

Literature review on the objectives of the study: Objective 1: To assess the perceived impact of foot patrols on community safety. To evaluate the influence of foot patrols on police legitimacy. To investigate the relationship between foot patrol strategies and community perceptions. To investigate the relationship between foot patrol strategies and community perceptions. Objective 4: To explore the role of historical and socio-economic factors. Objective 5: To provide evidence-based recommendations for effective foot patrol implementation. Objective 6: To contribute to the body of knowledge. discuss other othors studies dated

CONCLUSION

This review concludes that effective foot patrols in South Africa require a nuanced, context-sensitive approach that prioritizes community engagement, procedural justice, and the acknowledgment of historical and socio-economic factors. Further

research is needed to explore the long-term impact of foot patrols and to develop strategies that promote reconciliation and build sustainable police-community relationships.

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