**Examining the Dynamics of Public Perceptions and Civic Engagement in Anti-Corruption Efforts within the Ghana Police Service: A Study of the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.**

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# List of Acronyms

CSO: Civil Society Organizations

CHRAJ: Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice

CPI: Corruption Perceptions Index

GACC: Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition

GII: Ghana Integrity Initiatives

AMA: Accra Metropolitan Assembly

GPS: Ghana Police Service

GCB: Global Corruption Barometer

IGC: International Growth Centre

NACAP: National Anti-Corruption Action Plan

OSP: Office of the Special Prosecutor

UN: United Nations

UNDOC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNIFEM: United Nations Development Fund for Women

# Abstract

This research discusses the dynamics of public perceptions and civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts within the Ghana Police Service, specifically in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. Even with a ranking above most countries in the Sub-Saharan African average on the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, corruption remains deeply rooted in Ghana, especially within the police service. The research adopts a multi-method approach by fusing qualitative data derived from surveys and interviews to examine public perceptions of corruption and their relationship with civic engagement in anti-corruption initiatives. The study shows that respondents perceived the Ghana Police Service to be among the most corrupt institutions in the country, with bribery perceived to be the most common form of corruption in the police service. Findings from the study indicates that, negative perceptions have a substantial influence on the willingness of citizens to engage in anti-corruption initiatives within the GPS. This perception has significantly eroded public trust in law enforcement, leading to widespread apathy and reduced civic engagement. Barriers such as a lack of trust in authorities, fear of retaliation, and low public awareness further impede civic participation in anti-corruption initiatives. The re-search also identifies strong leadership, community-based public awareness campaigns and legal frameworks as critical enablers of effective civic engagement. However, the persistent negative perceptions of corruption within the police service by the public undermines these efforts, as citizens approach anti-corruption efforts with scepticism because over the course of time, these negative perceptions build up to a certain threshold where the citizens look at the police as an institution in a certain negative way, leading to a loss of public trust and reduced participation in anti-corruption initiatives, further entrenching the cycle of corruption. The paper reiterates that, addressing the negative public perception through transparent and accountable governance system, effective whistleblower protections, and targeted community-based awareness campaigns is crucial to rebuilding trust and fostering public engagement in anti-corruption efforts aimed at the Ghana Police Service.

## Relevance to Development Studies

Corruption in public institutions such as the police, hinders economic growth, disrupts governance process, and worsens social inequalities. Syllabus on development studies highlight the importance of transparency, accountability, and effective governance systems as crucial elements for sustainable development. This research enhances the understanding of how persistence corruption in the Ghana Police Service undermines these foundational aspects of development and hampers Ghana's journey toward stability and prosperity. The study, therefore, is directly relevant to development studies as it explores the fundamental topics such as corruption, civic engagement, institutional reform, and social equity, all of which are crucial for establishing efficient governance frameworks and attaining sustainable development. It offers important insights and policy suggestions that can guide development scholars, practitioners, and policymakers in promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen empowerment within governance frameworks.

## Keywords

# Chapter 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

Ghana ranked 70 out of 180 countries included in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index in 2023. The ranking reflects the perceived level of corruption in the public sector among experts and business executives within a given country. On the Sub-Saharan African country indexes, Ghana's performance was rated at 43 and placed 8th out of the 49 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that were captured in the index jointly with Benin (43) and Senegal (43). Ghana, with a score of 43, performed better than 39 other Sub-Saharan African countries, including Burkina Faso (41), South Africa (41), Cote d'Ivoire (40), Tanzania (40), and Lesotho (39). There were seven countries that included Mauritius (51) and Namibia (49) that performed better than Ghana. The top performers were Seychelles, who scored 71, followed by Cape Verde (Transparency International, 2023). With the 70th position, Ghana ranks above the Sub-Saharan African average, but corruption remains a major challenge when it comes to sustainable development in the country (Transparency International, 2023).

"Corruption is generally described as the misuse of public power for private gains" (Rose-Ackerman & Truex, 2012, p. 3). It could encompass various actions such as bribery, influence peddling, and embezzlement. Corruption remains a stumbling block to achieving economic growth, political stability and social development in many countries including Ghana (Transparency International, 2023).

In Ghana, the public officials most frequently receiving bribes are police officers. A report by the United Nations (UN) indicates that the incidence of bribery among police officers is significantly greater than that of other public officials standing at 53.2% (UN Ghana report, 2022). Moreover, a study by the International Growth Centre (IGC) revealed that after salaries were increased in 2015, police officers began to request larger bribes (IGC, 2016).

Research indicates that in developing countries like Ghana, corruption is deeply ingrained within the police force, to the extent that these practices have become normalized and are viewed as an inherent aspect of the job, leading to institutional corruption within the police (Faull 2007; Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, 2007; Tankebe, 2008a; Idowu 2010; Foltz & Opoku-Agyeman, 2015).

Many traffic offenders try to evade penalties by attempting to bribe police officers with money to escape the complete enforcement of legal consequences (Bayley & Perito, 2011). Commercial drivers often find themselves subjected to police inspections and in order not to waste their time, they sometimes offer bribes to police officers to let them off (Beek, 2016). The expectation is that, in exchange for the payoff, the police will serve the interests of commercial drivers. In this case both sets of actors are trapped by street-level bureaucracy entangled in the web of promoting self-interest (Lipsky, 1980).

While there appears to be efforts to improve interactions with law enforcement, street-level bureaucrats, such as police officers, often face significant pressures from resource constraints and bureaucratic inefficiencies, which can lead to discretionary practices that may deviate from formal procedures (Lipsky, 1969, p. 8).

Ghana's democratic institutions and legal frameworks have been under pressure to deal with corrupt practices and numerous efforts have been made by the Ghana Police Service to tackle corruption, which led to the establishment of Police Service Internal Affairs Unit, Police Professional Standards Bureau, and the Ghana Police Service Disciplinary Board (Ghana Police Service, 2020). Other outside entities engaged in anti-corruption efforts include United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC), National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP), and the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP). Whilst the internal structures within the GPS are mandated to checkmate acts of police misconduct such as bribery and other unethical behaviours, CHRAJ has the mandatory responsibility to deal with human rights and administrative injustices including corruption related cases within the public sector (CHRAJ, 1992). The OSP on the other hand, was created to investigate and prosecute suspect cases of corruption involving public officials which include the GPS (OSP, 2017).

Despite the establishment of these anti-corruption bodies and the implementation of policies geared towards curtailing corruption, the persistence of corrupt practices remains high among the citizens which influences public trust in governmental institutions including the police and affect efforts to achieve sustainable development (UN Ghana Report, 2022).

It is against this backdrop coupled with the few literatures readily available pertaining to the Ghanaian settings that the researcher finds it prudent to examine how public perceptions of police corruption influence civic engagements and its impact on the anti-corruption landscape within the Ghana Police Service with prime focus on the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

## 1.2 Research Problem and Context

No matter how hard efforts are made to tackle corruption, its pervasiveness keeps eroding democratic values thus stalling a nation's socio-economic development, i.e., "inhibits economic growth, affects business operations, reduces foreign investments, and government tax revenue and leads to wrongful estimates of GDP" (Saeed et al., 2023, p. 11). The intricate impacts of corruption on development and governance underscores a need for probing public perceptions and citizen participation in Ghana's anti-corruption realm (Damoah et al., 2018).

There are gaps in the body of knowledge production on public attitudes and civic engagement with regards to efforts aimed at curbing corruption (Anderson & Tverdova, 2003, p. 2). Despite institutional anti-corruption measures in place, little research has been done to investigate the effectiveness of grassroots civic engagement in curbing corruption (International Centre on Non-Violent Conflicts, 2016; Appiah & Abdulai, 2017; Transparency International, 2019; Ayee ,1998; Gyimah-Boadi, 2004).

It is often claimed that instances of police corruption erode public trust in law enforcement, as well as their views on procedural fairness and overall effectiveness (Tankebe, 2010). Bayley (1995, pp. 93-109) for instance, posits that 'nothing is more destructive of the standing of the police than corruption.'

Even with the implementation of several institutional anti-corruption initiatives, such as the creation of the Police Service Internal Affairs Unit and the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP), trust in Ghana's police force remains notably low, particularly within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. Research highlights that the public perception of corruption plays a crucial role in predicting civic engagement (Bazurli & Portos, 2021; Anderson & Tverdova, 2003). When negative views of police corruption prevail, they can foster apathy, indifference, and a sense of disillusionment toward governance systems (Singh, 2022; Martin, 2011)). Furthermore, studies indicate that the erosion of trust in institutions significantly reduces the public willingness to participate in anti-corruption initiatives (Poertner & Zhang, 2024; Damoah et al., 2018; World Economic Forum, 2017).

Nonetheless, there are limited studies that directly examine how public experiences with police corruption impact the confidence of the public in law enforcement (Tankebe, 2010). Conducting such tests is essential to determine if public experiences with police corruption led to the various outcomes often attributed to it.

Despite the efforts made by the government of Ghana, local, and international organizations to address corruption within the Ghana Police Service, this issue continues to be widespread especially in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. This persistent corruption undermines public confidence, diminishes civic participation in anti-corruption efforts, and obstructs effective governance (UN Ghana Report, 2022). There is a notable lack of literature concerning the direct effects of public views on corruption on civic engagement. Studies indicate that public trust and views on corruption significantly affect civic engagement, with negative perceptions often resulting in lower involvement in governance activities and anti-corruption efforts (Poertner & Zhang, 2024; WEF, 2017; Melgar, Rossi, & Smith, 2010, p. 3). Additionally, there is limited understanding of the specific elements that either promote or hinder public engagement in anti-corruption initiatives aimed at the police service (Boateng, 2012, p. 9; Afrobarometer, 2019). This study aims to fill this gap by examining how public perceptions of police corruption influence civic participation in anti-corruption initiatives, with the goal of identifying strategies to enhance public trust and involvement in law enforcement.

## 1.3 Purpose of The Study

This research aims to provide a balanced report of the relationship that exists between public perceptions of corruption and citizen engagements in anti-corruption efforts, within the jurisdiction of Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Republic of Ghana. It will:

1. Examine the public perception of corruption within the Ghana Police Service in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

2. Explore the level of civic engagement in anti-corruption activities within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

3. Examine the impact of public perception on civic engagement and the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

## 1.4 Research Questions

**How do residents in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly perceive police corruption and the measure in place to address police corruption?**

The purpose of this question is to find out how residents in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly view corruption generally. It looks at the kinds of corruption, how much of a problem it is acknowledged to be, and how it affects society.

**Sub-Questions**

**1. In what ways does the experience of police corruption affect public participation in anti-corruption initiatives?**

The link between public views of corruption and citizen participation in attempts to fight it is explored in this question. It looks for whether unfavourable views of corruption encourage people especially within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly to take up anti-corruption initiatives or if they cause indifference and disillusionment.

**2. What elements support, or impede, successful civic participation in the fight against corruption?**

The fundamental reasons that either support or obstruct Accra residents' involvement in anti-corruption programs are examined in this question. It investigates the several institutional, cultural, and socioeconomic aspects that affect how well civic engagement activities work to curb corruption.

**1.5 Organization of the Study**

This research will be structured in the following order:

**Chapter One:** Provides the foundation for the entire study. It includes the introduction, research problem and context, purpose of the study, research questions and the general outlook of the research report.

**Chapter Two**: This chapter will review existing literature on corruption, public perceptions and civic engagements with special focus on the Ghana Police Service.

**Chapter Three:** This chapter comprise of details of the research design, data collection methods and analytical techniques as well as ethics, positionality and project limitations.

**Chapter Four:** In this chapter, we would look at presenting and analysing the findings in relations to the research questions.

**Chapter Five:** This chapter summarizes the study, discusses implications of findings and provides possible recommendations for future research and policy.

## Chapter 2 Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

Corruption remains a general challenge in many countries, undermining public trust, economic development, and social cohesion. In Ghana, the police service has faced persistent allegations of corruption, affecting its legitimacy and effectiveness. This section discusses the conceptual and theoretical framework by looking at relevant studies, I discussed the nature of corruption, identify key factors influencing corruption perceptions, strategies for enhancing civic engagement, and the role of communication and transparency in anti-corruption measures.

### 2.1 Understanding Corruption

The concept of corruption has been an issue of much discussion by scholars. In the beginning, corruption was broadly understood as actions that destroyed political virtue in leaders and followers (Philip, 1997). However, by the late 18th century the definition narrowed down to specific corrupt activities like bribery and graft and electoral fraud which jeopardized the integrity of holding public office (Philip, 1997; Myrdal, 1968). British politics significantly influenced this narrow understanding which came at a time when Britain had reached high levels of democratic and economic development (Philip, 1997).

As per Khan (1996, p. 2), corruption refers to the act of straying from established rules of behaviour driven by personal interests such as money or influence. Otite (2000) goes further into this description by defining corruption as a situation where integrity is perverted through bribery, favouritism or moral depravity. It involves actions that change societal structures or processes to produce dishonest or defiled situations.

These involve control over appointments, payments to political parties due to ineffective judicial systems and all other unethical practices. Corruption goes beyond bribery to treasury looting and using the state resources to favour cronies or settle scores with foes (Otite, 2000).

Klitgaard (1998, p. 6) defines corruption as a combination of power monopoly and discretion minus accountability, emphasizing the lack of accountability in corrupt systems.

"Corruption is generally described as the misuse of public power for private gains" (Rose-Ackerman & Truex, 2012, p. 3). Among the typical forms of corruption within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly are bribery, embezzlement, and extortion which are

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particularly prevalent in interactions between the public and law enforcement agencies (Afrobarometer, 2022).

Integrating these viewpoints, I will define corruption in Ghana as a phenomenon that involves an array of behaviours which erode integrity, fairness and the public good. It is a term used to describe various unethical and illegal acts such as bribery, embezzlement, nepotism and favouritism that work against ensuring that public institutions act with integrity, transparency and accountability thereby depriving communities of essential services since the resources are siphoned off to serve personal interests which invariably perpetuate poverty at the expense of economic growths. This abuse typically takes place through misuse or misallocation of national revenues including aid monies or illicit payments under commercial contracts while decisions on resource allocation are made based on political considerations rather than developmental ones; contributions from civil society organizations (CSOs) may not always be utilized due to lack of political will demonstrated by leaders towards fighting graft (Otite, 2000; Von Alemann, 2004; Rose-Ackerman & Truex, 2012, p. 3; Afrobarometer, 2022; Khan, 1996, p. 2; Philip, 1997; Klitgaard, 1998, p. 6; Myrdal, 1968).

**Classification of Corruption**

The conversation surrounding corruption as argued by various scholars provides a detailed perspective on its various forms such as, high-level political corruption to lower-level bureaucratic corruption, as well as from individual to collective forms. Additionally, corruption is framed within the contexts of both public and private sectors emphasizing its ever-changing nature and the effects it has on governance, society, and economic systems.

As per Hellman et al., (2003, p. 3), grand corruption or high-level political corruption involves powerful individuals within the public sector who exploit policy development for their own gain or that of their industries. According to Transparency International (2023, p.36) "grand corruption is the abuse of high-level power that benefits the few at the expense of the many." This type of corruption may manifest as state capture, where companies sway policies related to resource distribution, or as regulatory capture, which pertains to regulations governing industries (Laffont and Tirole, 1991). Conversely, petty corruption or lower-level bureaucratic corruption relates to the enforcement of policies or regulations frequently involving bureaucrats engaging in acts of omission or commission for their own benefit (Kenny, 2006, pp. 5-6). The different between bureaucratic and political corruption is found

in their effects and the specific areas in which they occur within the political system (Amundsen, 1999, p. 12).

According to Mandal and Marjit (2010, p. 2), the facilitation of payments i.e, bribery is perceived as a form of corruption that streamlines transaction processes and addresses bureaucratic inefficiencies. In contrast, Rose-Ackerman and Truex (2012, p. 11) contend that such corruption may worsen inefficiencies by generating incentives for additional bureaucratic complexities.

Additionally, corruption can transition from isolated incidents to a pervasive form of systemic corruption, in which inefficiencies become ingrained and profits are distributed among officials across various levels of government (Kaufmann, 1998). According to Thompson (2013), institutional corruption refers to policies that favour particular interest groups in return for political contributions, resulting in the concentration of corrupt decision-making within institutions.

## 2.2 Theoretical Framework

"Corruption is generally described as the misuse of public power for private gains" (Rose-Ackerman & Truex, 2012, p. 3). There are many shapes that corruption may take including bribery, embezzlement, nepotism and cronyism (Rose-Ackerman, 1999).

There are several frameworks that can be used to investigate public perceptions and civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts within the Ghana Police Service. These theoretical frameworks can guide us to better understand the complex web of public attitudes and their involvement in efforts that aim at curbing corruption in public organizations, which include Ghana Police Service. Corruption can be understood as a multi-dimensional and complex behaviour involving the use of public power for private benefits (Von Alemann, 2004).

### 2.2.1 Institutional Theory

Institutional theory posits that institutions mould actions and consequences by setting norms, rules and expected behaviours (Scott, 2014, pp. 10-20). Therefore, corruption can be part and parcel of the very structure and normative framework of public institutions like the police. Public perceptions of corruption are shaped predominantly by institutional failures, weak legal frameworks and inconsistent enforcement of anti-corruption measures. Indeed, empirical studies have shown that the level of public trust in institutions, particularly law

enforcement is crucial for civic engagement (Tankebe, 2010). Let us take a practical example like the Ghana Police Service. Through Institutional Theory, one can unpack how institutional determinants shape public opinion and citizen participation in efforts against corrupt practices as it has been found through research that trust in institutions is a substantial contributory factor which predicts public satisfaction with public service delivery (Tyler, 2006, p. 6).

In Ghana, public perceptions of the police are framed by institutional determinants typified by weak legal frameworks, ineffective anti-corruption policy enforcement, and sociocultural norms that encourage bribery. For instance, as per Tankebe (2010), the lack of trust in law enforcement is often tied to institutional failures related to allowing corrupt activities to continue without any form of punishment.

Moreover, the institutional theory helps in understanding how public trust in the police can be restored through institutional reforms. Trust in institutions is a principal dimension of institutional performance that governs public satisfaction based upon the delivery of public services (Tyler, 2006, p. 6). In this case, the GPS capacity to reform its internal processes and relate to broader societal expectations could in turn influence how successful anti-corruption efforts are. When institutions such as the GPS become trustworthy and responsible, engagement levels of public in anti-corruption initiatives are likely to increase.

For example, March and Olsen (2010) institutional framework revolves around the role of legal political institutions in controlling civic behaviour. They argued that if ethical standards are rigorously held by institutions, an individual will be prompted and empowered to carry out anti-corruption activities as his involvement will be for the desired change within a trusted system. Similarly, a study by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reinforces the use of institutional theory in curbing corruption, demonstrating that successful civic engagement frequently arises from institutional frameworks that promote participatory governance and maintain anti-corruption policies (UNODC, 2021). This perspective is consistent with the theory's focus on institutional structures as foundational to encouraging an engaged and dedicated citizenry in anti-corruption initiatives.

### 2.2.2 Stakeholder Theory

The stakeholder theory stresses that organizations need to consider the interests and impacts of different stakeholder groups (Freeman, 2010, pp. 5-6). In relation to this study, the primary stakeholders consist of the Ghanaian public, civil society organizations (CSOs), government agencies like the Ghana police service, and international entities engaged in anti-corruption

initiatives. Corruption is not only a top-down approach but necessitates the involvement of all stakeholders to foster accountability and transparency. Research indicates that anti-corruption efforts are more effective when citizens are empowered and actively involved in anti-corruption initiatives (Asomah, 2021; Nichols and Dowden, 2019). Therefore, it is essential to include civil society and local communities in decisions aimed at ensuring accountability in law enforcement (Transparency International, 2019). Taking anti-corruption efforts within the Ghana Police Service as well as the public perception, the Stakeholder Theory can help look at how different stakeholder groups such as citizens, civil society organizations and government agencies interact and influence each other. Citizen engagement and participation are very essential components of successful anti-corruption initiatives (Asomah, 2021).

The research problem underlines public apathy towards the fight against corruption due to the inactivity of most interests' stakeholders. As opined by Asomah (2021), the fight against corruption in Ghana will be successful only if the strategies are made to actively involve the citizens, not just to inform them. For instance, Civil Society Organizations like Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII) and Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) are vital in demanding transparency and accountability in governance, although their efforts go to waste without much public support.

As an example, Nichols and Dowden (2019) look at how stakeholder engagement can help to develop ethical cultures within organizations and, consequently, be extremely effective preventative measures against bribery and corruption by creating an atmosphere in which business and citizens share responsibility for fair conduct. This underlines the setting of norms by stakeholders regulating behaviour that may go past formal rules and regulations and support civic engagement in anti-corruption activities. Similarly, Transparency International report on citizen engagement in anti-corruption mechanisms stresses the inclusion of citizens, civil society organizations (CSOs), and other non-state actors as key stakeholders (Transparency International, 2019). By applying principles that prioritize public involvement, these actions seem to reflect the emphasis of stakeholder theory on involvement for enhanced transparency and accountability in both public and private sectors.

In essence, according to Institutional Theory, the norms and rules that shape public institutions can either mitigate or encourage corrupt practices (Scott, 2014). In the case of AMA, weak enforcement of anti-corruption measures within Ghana Police Service allows corruption to persist as a normative behaviour. Stakeholder Theory, on the other hand, underscores the responsibility of citizens and civil society organizations and government agencies in responding to these institutional failures (Freeman, 2010). This study's findings

indicate that lack of stakeholder engagement in AMA has led to diminished public participation in anti-corruption initiatives.

## 2.3 Demographics and Corruption Perception

The impact of age, gender, education, and occupation on public perceptions and experiences related to corruption, drawing insights from available literature are as follows.

Research by Owusu (2022) in Ghana found that age influences corruption perceptions. Older individuals may have different life experiences, affecting their views. Older citizens might be more sceptical due to historical context or exposure to corruption over time.

Age can also affect personal encounters with corruption. Older individuals may have witnessed or been victims of corrupt practices (Owusu, 2022). Generational differences should be factored when designing anti-corruption measures.

Owusu's study highlights a relationship between gender and corruption perceptions. Gender norms play a role: Women and men perceive corruption differently. Women may emphasize honesty and ethics, influencing their views on corruption (Owusu, 2022).

Gender-based experiences vary. For instance, women may face different forms of corruption (e.g., sexual favours). Policymakers should therefore address gender-specific vulnerabilities when it comes to anti-corruption efforts.

Education levels affect awareness and critical thinking. Educated individuals may recognize corruption more readily and engage in informed discussions. Educated citizens may actively resist corruption or report incidents. Education can be used as a tool for controlling corruption (Melgar et al., 2010, p. 10)

Owusu's study examined how occupation relates to corruption views. Police officers, civil servants, and business professionals may perceive corruption differently. Occupational context shapes attitudes toward bribery, favouritism, and abuse of power (Owusu, 2022).

The above clearly shows that age, gender, education, and occupation intersect to shape corruption perceptions and experiences as such the need for the researcher to factor these demographics into his investigations.

## 2.4 Public Perceptions of Corruption in the Ghana Police Service

Public perception of corruption is typically understood as the assessment or viewpoint regarding the prevalence, severity, and nature of corruption in institutions or society. This

perception mirrors the attitudes and beliefs that citizens maintain about the honesty and openness of public officials and organizations. As per Melgar et.al., (2010, p. 3), public perception of corruption includes not just beliefs related to the existence of corrupt activities but also the level of trust (distrust) that individuals have in institutions shaped by these perceptions. They noted that a high perception of corruption is often linked to a reduced trust in institutions and low civic participation. Similarly, the public view of corruption according to Lambsdorff (2007), is formed from a combination of individual assessments that are shaped by experiences within society, media coverage, and personal interactions with corrupt practices. This collective perception frequently affects overall attitudes toward the quality of governance and plays a role in determining citizens' trust in legal and political institutions thereby influencing their propensity to participate in collective efforts to curb corruption. Furthermore, Transparency International (2018) describes it as the public's awareness of the extent of corruption in a specific sector or government, usually obtained through surveys. This definition highlights that public perception frequently corresponds with personal experiences of corruption, even if it does not consistently represent the true rates of corruption.

Public perception of police corruption is an important determinant of trust and cooperation between the community and law enforcement agencies. In Ghana, few studies have documented widespread public scepticism regarding the integrity of the police service. According to Aning et. al., (2021), public trust in the Ghana Police Service is significantly dwindled due to frequent reports of bribery, extortion, and abuse of power. This distrust is worsened by the perception that the police are often complicit in corruption, either through direct involvement or by failing to hold corrupt officers accountable (Tankebe, 2010).

Moreover, according to the Afrobarometer survey (2019), most Ghanaians view the police service as the most corrupt institution in Ghana. These negative perceptions have far-reaching implications on anti-corruption initiatives.

It is often argued that cases of police corruption diminish public trust in law enforcement, as well as perceptions of procedural justice and overall effectiveness (Tankebe, 2010). For example, Bayley (1995, pp. 93-109) argues that 'nothing is more destructive of the standing of the police than corruption.' Research has indicated that public opinion regarding corruption plays a very vital role in influencing civic engagement in anti-corruption activities (Bazurli & Portos, 2021; Anderson & Tverdova, 2003). Socio-economic factors play a significant role in shaping public perceptions of corruption. Poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to basic services can exacerbate feelings of disillusionment and mistrust towards the police (Transparency International, 2021). When citizens perceive that the police are part of

a broader system of inequality and injustice, their willingness to engage in anti-corruption efforts diminishes.

One of the most overlooked aspects of police corruption, even within political science discussions, is the impact that perceptions of the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives have on public confidence. We lack clarity on how public evaluations of police leadership's actions in addressing officer misconduct influence perceptions regarding the trustworthiness, procedural fairness, and efficiency of the police. It is a well-known fact that eliminating police corruption is unattainable. Nonetheless, given its purported numerous adverse effects, there are ample reasons to strive for the prevention or management of corruption, even if the outcomes of such endeavours may be underwhelming (Holmes, 1993, p. 49; see also Anechiarico & Jacobs, 1996). Another study conducted for Afrobarometer in 2019 indicated that 33% of Ghanaian citizens believe that corruption increased in the previous 12 months (Pring & Vrushi, 2019).

## 2.5 Civic Engagement and Anti-Corruption

As per "Musil, p. 59" cited in Hatcher (2010), Civic Engagement involves "acting on a heightened sense of responsibility to one's communities that encompasses the notions of global citizenship and interdependence, participation in building civil society, and empowering individuals as agents of positive social change to promote social justice locally and globally." According to Transparency International (2018), civic engagement in the fight against corruption involves citizens actively participating in monitoring and reporting corrupt activities, which is essential for fostering a culture of accountability. Thus, civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts maybe refers to the active involvement of citizens in initiatives designed to prevent, uncover, and tackle corruption in public institutions and governance frameworks. The effectiveness of civic engagement initiatives will increase when there is broad access to information and strong avenues for public involvement in governance processes.

Civic engagement plays a contributory role in improving transparency and accountability within law enforcement agencies. In the context of Accra Metropolitan Assembly, various forms of civic engagement have been instituted to fight police corruption. These include community policing initiatives, civil society advocacy, and public reporting mechanisms. Civic participation is essential in any attempts to fight corruption, as it helps the citizenry to ensure that organizations are answerable for their actions (Boateng, 2018).

For instance, Boateng (2018, p. 6) argue that the community policing initiatives in Ghana have resulted in better communication and mutual trust between police and residents because they involve people from the community in making decisions about their own lives and encourages them to report misbehaviour which tends to low corruption cases and build public confidence.

The involvement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is also very important to promote accountability in the Ghana Police Service. CSOs such as the Ghana Integrity Initiative (GII), Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) have spearheaded efforts calling for policy changes, that would create a space for citizens to report about acts of corruption. Hotlines and online platforms should be designed as public corruption reporting mechanisms to make it possible for any citizen to report on cases of police corruption anonymously.

In addition, a solid foundation for the protection of those that unearth corrupt practices is a sure way to ensure citizens' feeling of safety while coming forth with information on corruption (Transparency International, 2021). The authorities need to come up with whistleblower protection systems that work. This includes having the police periodically issue publications about their anti-corruption actions, investigations and results. The police reports should demonstrate transparency and accountability (Transparency International, 2021).

Furthermore, technical and financial support for anti-corruption programs can be provided by international organizations and foreign governments. Collaboration through exchange visits, training programs, and joint investigations can help build the capacity of Ghana Police Service to fight corruption efficiently (Transparency International, 2021).

## 2.6 Challenges and Opportunities

While progress has been made in addressing police corruption, some challenges hinder the effectiveness of civic engagement in the fight against police corruption in Accra Metropolitan Assembly. One major challenge is the distrust of reporting mechanisms. Most people are not reporting corruption because of fears of retaliation or simply not believing in the systems put in place by the government (Afrobarometer, 2021; Keulder, 2021).

There are, however, opportunities to increase civic engagement and improve the image of the Ghana Police Service. Empowering the community policing units, CSOs and law enforcement agencies working hand in hand, and the police been more transparent and accountable will go a long way to achieve this (UN Ghana Report, 2022).

Other way outs are harnessing technology to simplify the processes of reporting and guarantee the anonymity of whistleblowers, which will in turn boost public trust in the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts towards the GPS (Boateng, 2018).

Efforts to curb corruption in the Ghana Police Service is not only for how the public sees it but also how civilians participate in controlling it. It is through recognizing these underlying factors that decision makers can come up with specific measures to build public confidence and curb corruption which then solidifies the legitimacy of law enforcement agencies. However, development cannot be sustained without collaborations between law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, the media and members of the public.

# Chapter 3 Methodology

## 3.1 Introduction

In this chapter, I examine how I conducted the research on public perceptions and civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts within the Ghana Police Service, focusing on the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. I will talk about the research design, data collection methods, sampling techniques, and how I analysed the data.

## 3.2 Methodological Framework

Multi-method research design was used in this study. Multi-method has been used for a variety of reasons. The research topic involves examining the dynamics of public perception and civic engagements which require an exploratory approach since corruption is a complex and multi-faceted concept. According to Creswell (2014, p. 21) a multi-method research design involves the collection of diverse type of data that best provide understanding of a research problem within a single study. Also, as per Johnson & Onwuegbuzie (2004, p. 4) multi-methods research can be defined as a research design where the researcher mixes or combines two data collection approaches into a single study.

## 3.3 Research Design

I opted for a multi-method approach thus, using a diverse source of data such as survey questionnaire and interview. This way, I could get a comprehensive view by combining numbers with detailed personal insights (Creswell, 2014, pp. 15-16). By using multi-method, a comprehensive or collaborative summary of the findings can be developed not achievable through a single method (Bryman, 2007, p. 15; Creswell, 2014, pp. 15-16). The use of surveys and interviews enable data triangulation, enhancing the validity and reliability of findings (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017).

One of the key characteristics of the multi-method approach is triangulation in which information from various sources is compared and cross-verified to enhance the robustness of findings (Denzin, 2012, p. 3). Triangulation in this study involved survey data being compared with the interview data. For instance, whereas survey results indicated low levels of civic engagement, interviews provided deeper insights into the reasons behind it like distrust in the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives or fear of retaliation.

The integration of both survey and interview data allows for a more comprehensive analysis. The numerical trends from the surveys are complemented by the information from the interviews helping to balance the limitations of each method and at the same time ensure that findings are statistically and contextually relevant (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2017).

## 3.4 Data Collection Methods

To capture a broad range of experiences, data was collected from various neighbourhoods within the AMA, including central business districts like Makola and Circle, as well as residential areas such as Osu and Adabraka. The data collection process spanned a period of two weeks ensuring sufficient time to gather comprehensive insights (Creswell, 2014). The selection of these areas was based on their regular interactions with the Ghana Police Service particularly concerning cases of traffic-related corruption (Beek, 2016).

For the survey component, an online questionnaire was administered via Google Forms. It was chosen because of its potential to reach a wider audience within a short period, and, for its cost-effectiveness. The researcher designed the survey which featured both closed and open-ended questions to capture a wide range of responses from participants regarding their perceptions of corruption within the Ghana Police Service and level of civic engagement in anti-corruption initiatives. In total, 26 responses were collected, and while this represents a small sample size, it does provide some initial insights into public opinion on the subject matter.

For the interview part, structured interview method was chosen because it creates a controlled environment with the participants by asking the same set of questions of all individuals, hence ensuring that responses are consistent and comparable (Kvale, 2012). In total, 5 people were interviewed. The interviews were aimed to elaborate more on the perceptions of corruption within the police service and understanding the motivators or barriers to civic engagement. Data from these interviews provided the researcher with an opportunity to understand the nuances and complexities of public perception that would not have been captured through the survey alone (Creswell, 2014, p. 22). These interviews provided rich and detailed descriptions, allowing participants to elaborate on experiences and viewpoints, which added depth to the analysis.

The data collection approach ensured that data obtained was quantifiable and easy to analyse for trend and pattern identification in public perception (Bryman, 2016, p. 11).

The interviews were conducted through the help of a research assistant named **Abdul Basit Mohammed.** Mohammed is an independent businessman who owned and operate a mini-mart provision store within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. He was a former secondary school classmate of mine, and he was chosen based on my long-standing relationship with him. Mohammed is not a public official, and he has no connection to the government or associated with anyone in government or the Ghana police service. His role involved asking participants questions and recording their answers using the designed interview guide attached in *Appendix3*. Participation was voluntary and issues of privacy, confidentiality, and data management strategy were discussed with Mohammed, and the participants in both the survey and the interview. All participants were duly informed about the associated risks, and steps were taken to reduce any potential suffering or harm that participants may experience during involvement with the study.

Secondary data were reports sourced mainly from the World Bank, Afrobarometer, United Nations, and Transparency International. The selection of secondary data from these sources was based on their recognized credibility in assessing perceptions of corruption throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. To ensure reliability, these sources were cross verified by comparing results across various editions and validating them with local research findings (World Bank, 2021; Afrobarometer, 2019; 2022; UN Ghana Report, 2022; Transparency International, 2021; 2022; 2023).

### 3.5 Choosing Research Participants

Data can be collected through a method known as "choosing research participants", which serves to achieve a representation of a population. This approach is essential because it is often impractical to reach every member of a population, and not all individuals may be necessary for the research (Saunders & Townsend, 2018). Choosing research participants is significant as it provides a method for selecting members of a population (Saunders, 2012). To ensure a fair representation of the population eligible for the study, a simple random sampling process was utilized. One key benefit of using this method to gather responses is its ability to minimize the errors that can arise from sampled data (Saunders & Townsend, 2018). Furthermore, this technique is noted for providing equal opportunities for individuals within a group, facilitating generalization (Fowler, 2009).

The survey participants were selected through online channels, while those for the interviews were selected based on their closed proximities to areas known for police corruption

activities. This was to ensure that their insights were relevant to the research questions (Bryman, 2016, p. 11).

Twenty-six (26) individuals randomly responded to the online survey whiles five (5) people were also randomly interviewed. The characteristics of participants drawn from the interview were, ***a 28-year-old professional nurse, a 32-year-old graduate, a 35-years-old social justice activist, a 25-years-old taxi driver, and a 40-years-old youth activist.***

### 3.6 Data Analysis

The analysis of survey responses was done by means of descriptive statistics, specifically on frequencies and percentages calculated using Microsoft Excel, to generate visual representation of the findings i.e., bar charts (Field, 2013). This statistical approach offered insights into public views on corruption in the Ghana Police Service and the involvement of citizens in anti-corruption initiatives. For example, 57.7% of participants viewed the extent of corruption within the police service as "very high," aligning with previous research and international measures like Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI).

The responses from the structured interviews were thematically analysed. Thematic analysis involves coding the data into emerging themes. This gives room for easy identification of common patterns and unique insights regarding public perception and civic engagement in anti-corruption initiatives (Braun & Clarke, 2006, p. 7). Thematic analysis is an appropriate measure in revealing the underlying motives and perceptions because it allows for an in-depth exploration by the researcher into the context and meaning underpinning participants responses. The responses were manually coded into recurring themes like public trust and fear of retaliation. The coding procedure followed the steps set out by Braun & Clarke (2006, p. 15), whereby important themes were identified based on their frequency and relevance to the research questions.

Major themes that surfaced from respondents' responses to questions included a lack of trust in law enforcement, the acceptance of bribery as a norm, fear of retaliation, and socio-economic obstacles hindering participation in anti-corruption efforts. Some participants from the interview for example, shared personal encounters with bribery at police checkpoints, which aligns with the survey results indicating that bribery is viewed as the most common type of police corruption. The analysis of these themes further indicated that participants often feel disheartened from taking part in anti-corruption initiatives due to fears of retaliation or doubts regarding the effectiveness of such efforts.

## 3.7 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations refer to the actions taken to reduce the potential impact of research on the sample population. Bryman (2016) thoroughly examined various ethical forms that need to be considered, noting that different studies have distinct requirements. For example, it is recommended that researchers determine if their study might inflict any harm on the participants or intrude upon their privacy, and they are cautioned against misleading their respondents (Bryman, 2016). Such actions are deemed unacceptable as they may result in diminished self-esteem or stress for the participants. Participants were informed about the purpose of the study, and their consent were obtained before data collection. This was done through a note on the cover page of the questionnaire indicating respondents' right to refuse to participate, as well as an oral communication made by the research assistant reiterating the same contents in the cover letter of the questionnaire. Confidentiality was ensured using pseudonyms instead of real names such that respondents' identities could not be made by the public. Steps were also taken to reduce any potential suffering or harm that participants may experience during their involvement with the study.

Another crucial aspect to address is data protection to ensure that the information collected remains undisclosed. According to Bryman (2016), it is essential to safeguard respondents' data in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Additionally, in alignment with the Data Protection Act (Republic of Ghana, 2012), any information obtained from respondents will not be shared on sensitive websites without their permission.

Also, in my capacity as a researcher, it is important for me to note and reflect on my positionality which refers to my background, experiences and biases. These factors may have an influence on the research process and its outcomes. Understanding my positionality helps me see the likely biases that could taint my interpretations or even guide the way I relate with the people involved in the study. I should recognize that there are limits to what I can know from inside my insider perspective as a Ghanaian researcher and use this recognition as an impetus to bring humility and cultural empathy into the study. Even though being an insider has advantages in gaining special insights into the situation at hand, understanding its full complexity calls for active involvement of local stakeholders thus demanding total immersion on my part. Power dynamics within any research work should not escape my attention; efforts ought to be made towards participant empowerment with a view of fostering cooperation where they take up more of a partner role as opposed to just being subjects. This creates an atmosphere where their contribution is highly valued.

Consequently, ethical considerations take precedence, particularly as an increasing number of researchers are starting to utilize the internet and various web-based platforms for their studies.

## 3.8 Limitations of The Study

The study faced several challenges, including potential response bias and the challenge of accessing certain populations. Corruption is a sensitive topic, and it is difficult getting valid answers.

First, after choosing a multi-method approach, it was decided that sampling had to be larger for the purpose of obtaining valid, generalizable and accurate results. The sample size selected, however, was not representative of the entire population under study location because it was too small.

Time is intricately connected to the first limitation and serves as a crucial yet limited resource, especially when occupied with multiple tasks. A significant challenge arose from time constraints during both the review of literature and data collection. In terms of literature, time was vital because the study needed restructuring to refine its relevance and scope, as the original aim was too broad. Consequently, new information sources were sought to align with the current focus, which proved to be time intensive. Additionally, the time limitations affected the sample size that was ultimately established for data collection.

A significant limitation of this study lies in the possible selection bias arising from the dependence on online surveys, which might have inadvertently excluded individuals with limited internet access. Furthermore, the limited number of participants may restrict the applicability of the findings, especially in a diverse urban setting like the AMA, where socio-economic disparities may influence perceptions of corruption (Saunders & Townsend, 2018).

Although, a size of 31 participants may seem limited, it does adhere to the methodological criteria for qualitative research, which emphasizes the importance of detailed insights rather than extensive generalization (Creswell, 2014). Also, as per Marshall (1996) a small sample size can be informative especially when the population under study is highly specific.

## 3.9 Data Validity and Reliability

Validity refers to how well the research tools assess what they are designed to evaluate (Creswell, 2014). Ensuring the validity and reliability of research indicates that the researcher has made considerable efforts concerning the research methodology and instrumentation to

minimize errors and guarantee consistency. This also involves posing clear questions. Nevertheless, Bryman (2016) suggests that this idea has received diverse interpretations from researchers and should be examined in depth during discussions, providing multiple perspectives on these terms within social science research. The researcher took measures to confirm that the study could be replicated in different contexts. Replication requires that the study conducted aligns with other existing studies.

Reliability refers to the consistency of the research instruments and the stability of the results over time (Field, 2013).

To enhance the validity and reliability of the findings, multiple data collection methods were employed. For instance, survey data were cross-checked with the help of qualitative interviews to confirm emerging patterns and the coding process for thematic analysis followed the steps outlined by Braun & Clarke (2006, p. 15). Secondary data sources were cross verified by comparing results across various editions and validating them with local research findings.

By implementing these measures, I aimed to produce valid and reliable findings that accurately reflect public perceptions and civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts within the Ghana Police Service.

# Chapter 4 Presentation and Analysis of Findings

## 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study. The results are presented using tables, figures and thematic analyses to illustrate the dynamics of public perception and civic engagement. The results are based on data collected through an online survey and face-to-face interviews.

The number of participants in the research were thirty-one (31). Twenty-six (26) from the online survey and five (5) from the interviews. I also discuss the analysis and interpretation of my study's findings related to police corruption perceptions by the public, their impact on civic engagement, and the factors influencing participation in anti-corruption initiatives within the Ghana Police Service (GPS) in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA).

## 4.2 Demographic Insights

According to research by Torgler & Valev (2004, p. 2), using the World Values Survey Wave for the period (1981–1984; 1990–1991; 1999–2000), citizens of different age groups do in fact have different perceptions of corruption. For instance, Mocan (2004, p. 17) used micro data to show that individuals between 20 and 39 years are more likely to be asked for a bribe as compared to the group of people younger than 20.

An analysis conducted by Goetz (2008, pp. 27-44) for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in 2008 revealed a statistically significant disparity in how women and men perceive corruption, based on data from TI. The most recognized and globally accepted tools for measuring corruption typically overlook gender as a pertinent factor. Nevertheless, research from UNIFEM has demonstrated that to accurately capture the gender dimensions of corruption, it is essential to include respondents' sex and economic status, which helps identify different perceptions of corruption and its impact on women (Goetz, 2008, pp. 27-44). The purpose of this review was to synthesize empirical evidence over the last two decades on gender and corruption.

According to Gioia (2002, p. 142-144), individuals lacking education, particularly in ethical studies within educational institutions, are more susceptible to engaging in corrupt behaviours and criminal activities. Glaeser et al., (2005, pp. 331-369) determined that as individuals advance in both educational attainment and income, the prevalence of corruption diminishes. Additionally, Melgar et al., (2010, p. 10) discovered that people with greater

access to information, superior academic qualifications, and enhanced financial means tend to perceive lower levels of corruption.

### 4.2.1 Age Distribution

The study collected responses from 26 participants within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) through the online survey. Majority of the respondent were in the age group of 26-35 years representing (57.7%), 3 respondents (11.5%) were in the age group 18-25 years, 7 respondents (26.9%) were in the age group 36-45 and 1 respondent (3.8%) in the age category of 56 years and above. There was no response from the age category of 46-55 years. This is illustrated in Table 1 below. The characteristics of participants drawn from the interview were a 28-year-old professional nurse, a 32-year-old graduate, a 35-year-old social justice activist, a 25-year-old taxi driver, and a 40-year-old youth activist.

### 4.2.2 Gender Representation

Majority of the respondents from the online survey, 23 respondents (88.5%) were male whiles 3 respondents (11.5%) were female. This is shown in Table 1.

### 4.2.3 Educational Level

From the online survey, majority of the respondents 25 (96.2%) had tertiary education, whiles 1 respondent (3.8%) said they were pursuing postgraduate studies. This is shown in Table 1

### 4.2.4 Occupation

Majority of the respondents from the online survey, 14 respondents (53.8%) were employed in the government sector, 5 respondents (19.2%) were self-employed, 5 respondents (19.2%) were students, 1 respondent was unemployed (3.8%) and another 1 respondent (3.8%) was retired. This is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Sociodemographic Characteristics of Respondents**

| Age group | Frequency | Percentage |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 18 – 25 | 3 | 11.5% |
| 26 – 35 | 15 | 57.7% |
| 36 – 45 | 7 | 26.9% |
| 46 – 55 | 0 | 0% |
| 56 and above | 1 | 3.8% |
| **Total** | **26** | **100%** |
| **Educational level** | | |
| No formal education | 0 | 0% |
| Primary | 0 | 0% |
| Secondary education | 0 | 0% |
| Tertiary education | 25 | 96.2% |
| Other | 1 | 3.8% |
| **Total** | **26** | **100%** |
| **Occupation** | | |
| Student | 5 | 19.2% |
| Employed | 14 | 53.8% |
| Self-employed | 5 | 19.2% |
| Unemployed | 1 | 3.8% |
| Retired | 1 | 3.8% |
| Others | 0 | 0% |
| **Total** | **26** | **100%** |

*Source: Online Survey, 2024*

## 4.3 Public Perceptions of Corruption

Studies regarding public confidence in law enforcement have revealed that Ghanaians' trust in the police is affected by vicarious encounters with negative aspects of police behaviour such as corruption (Boateng, 2012, p. 21). The findings indicate that individuals in Ghana who have observed police officers accepting bribes from others or neglecting to investigate,

arrest, or prosecute due to personal connections or familial relationships are less inclined to place their trust in the police.

Boateng (2012, p. 18) conducted a study on the determinants of trust in the police among Ghanaians and found that both fear of crime and satisfaction with police performance are significant influence factors. Trust was negatively correlated with fear of crime, implying that the higher the fear, the lower the trust in the police. Ghanaians very often base their decisions on life locations regarding their sense of safety (Boateng, 2012, p. 20). For instance, the people who fear likely attacks or victimization in their neighbourhood or town perceived the police as ineffective, and so have very low trust in the police service. Furthermore, those who indicate satisfaction with what the police do in their localities, according to Boateng (2012, p. 17-18), exhibit more trust in law enforcement compared with those displeased, a recurrence apparent in various social settings (Reynolds, Semukhina, & Demidov, 2008; Wu & Sun, 2009).

Any discussion on the determinants of trust in the police among Ghanaians is likely to be inconclusive if it does not incorporate the perception of corruption in other government institutions. This variable was found to impact public trust in the Ghanaian police negatively (Boateng, 2012, p. 22). Ghanaians who feel other government officials are corrupt not necessarily the police tend to have low levels of trust in the police (Boateng, 2012, p. 22).

To ascertain participants' views on corruption, respondents were asked, "How would you describe the level of corruption in the Ghana Police Service within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly?" with response options "Very High," "High," and "Moderate".

### 4.3.1 Perception Level of Corruption

Respondents from the online survey were asked to select a single response from a list of multiple-choice questions on how they will describe the level of corruption within the Ghana Police Service in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly? Out of 26 respondents, 15 respondents (57.7%) perceived the level of corruption to be Very high, 9 respondents (34.6%) said it was High, and 2 respondents (7.7%) said it was Moderate. This is illustrated in Figure 1.

One of the respondents, **_a 28-year-old professional nurse_** from the interview conducted had this to say when asked about the level of corruption within the Ghana Police Service in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly:

*"Well, with the issue of corruption within the Ghana Police Service in the Accra metropolis, I will say it is something that is not good. Day in day out, we hear police engaging themselves in corrupt activities within the metropolis so I will say fairly that corruption within the GPS is very bad, and it must be looked at."*

These findings align with existing concerns about corruption in law enforcement agencies globally. This negative perception is also contributed to by the high prevalence of bribery and abuse of power. Describing it as very bad, an interviewee noted that reports about corrupt police are frequent. The situation he added is in very bad need of attention. This insight supplements the survey data, giving a more meaningful understanding of public sentiment and the lived experiences of individuals within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

The Corruption Perceptions Index notes that many countries have alarmingly high perceived levels of corruption, with Sub-Saharan African countries taking the lead. Ghana's mid-range scores on the CPI indicate moderate-to -high levels of perceived corruption, aligning with the findings of this survey (Transparency International, 2023).

Afrobarometer surveys across various African countries, including Ghana, often reveal that the police are perceived as one of the most corrupt institutions. A considerable percentage of Ghanaians respondents have expressly stated that they lack trust in the police because of corrupt acts (Afrobarometer, 2022). This supports the results of the survey where most respondents perceive high levels of corruption within the Ghana Police Service. World Bank studies have also shown that high levels of corruption within law enforcement agencies can undermine governance and public trust. In countries with high perceived corruption, public cooperation with law enforcement tends to decline, leading to lower overall civic engagement (World Bank, 2021). According to the survey results, public trust and cooperation are low when there are high levels of perceived corruption.

In many countries worldwide, there is a palpable risk of corruption becoming normal and a decrease in public criticism towards corrupt acts. Paradoxically, some may see corruption as a necessary evil or even as a shortcut to getting what is right. At such points, citizen's attitude towards corruption is less of a concern. In these situations, citizens' critical perspectives on corruption are either significantly diminished or completely eradicated. Additionally, elevated levels of corruption, coupled with citizen discontent regarding public sector misconduct and inadequate governance which often aligns with high corruption rates can result in apathy among the populace, a decline in civic participation, and a loss of faith in the political and democratic processes. This apathy and indifference pose significant risks, as the failure of citizens to hold public officials accountable allows corruption to proliferate further, along with a sense of impunity for corrupt actions (Olsson, 2014).

The negative public perception of the GPS, particularly in relation to bribery, highlights the police service's inability to ensure accountability. According to Institutional Theory, a lack of adherence to integrity norms within institutions creates a climate where corrupt practices are accepted as the norm (Scott, 2014). This provides insight into the low levels of trust respondents have in the GPS and their belief that bribery is prevalent. Consequently, the theory elucidates how the erosion of public trust occurs as institutions fall short of ethical expectations.
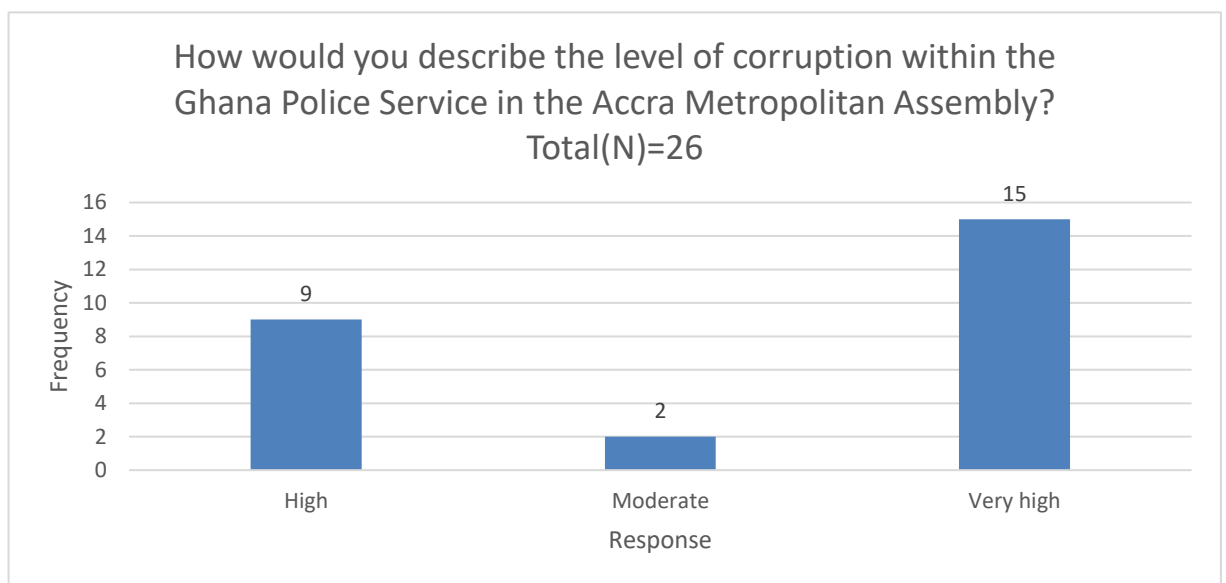


*Figure 1: Respondents Perception of the level of corruption within the Ghana Police Service in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly.*

### 4.3.2 Types of Corruption

Participants from the online survey were given the option to select multiple responses from a list of multiple-choice questions regarding the type of corruption that was most prevalent. Out of 26 respondents, the responses were Bribery 25 respondents (52%), Embezzlement 4 respondents (8%), Fraud 7 respondents (15%), Nepotism 11 respondents (23%), Extortion 1 respondent (2%). Bribery emerges as the most prevalent form of corruption. The results are found in Figure 2 below.

This is a response from one respondent from the interview conducted, **a 25-year-old taxi driver** who shared a personal experience of corruption, this is what the respondent had to say:

*"Yes, what I will share is that, especially on our roads, you will be in a public transport and then when you're stopped at a checkpoint, so instead of the police officers usually to carry out their activities and inspect all the required documents, you would see them moving to the back of vehicles and then drivers also stretching out their hands. They do it in broad day light".*

Bribery was the main indicator of police corruption, aligning with earlier studies on the subject (see Sherman, 1978; Newburn & Webb, 1999; Tankebe 2010; Hope, 2015).

The very high proportion of bribery is an indication that it is a general matter and has great influence on public dealings with the police. The survey data were further supported by data from the interviews. For instance, an interviewee explained an instance case where policemen at checkpoints normally expect to be given money and often turn to drivers during broad daylight instead of carrying out proper inspections as a system. This shows that public perception frequently overlaps with personal experience of daily interactions with the police regarding situations related to bribery.

Bribery is frequently singled out by the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) as among the most common form of corruptions in many countries, especially within the law enforcement sectors. The incidence of bribery within the police force in Ghana is in line with reports from the GCB, drawing attention to the same issues in other Sub-Saharan African countries (Transparency International, 2021).

Surveys conducted by Afrobarometer indicate that interactions with public officials, including law enforcement agencies, often involve bribery, which is commonly recognized as a form of corruption. A notable portion of respondents in Ghana has reported having paid bribes to police officers, corroborating the survey findings that highlight the widespread occurrence of bribery (Afrobarometer, 2019).

Also, studies conducted by the World Bank highlight that corruption in the form of bribery within law enforcement can significantly erode public trust and the integrity of the legal system. The survey's high rates of reported bribery align with wider research that underscores the harmful effects of this type of corruption on governance and the public's faith in police forces (World Bank, 2021).

My research findings align with those of other studies, which found that police corruption can involve a broad range of actions, such as the unethical acceptance of payments for performing official duties, as well as misconduct like bribery, violence, extortion, evidence tampering, racism, favouritism, excessive use of force, and nepotism (Douvlis & South, 2003; Gerber & Mandelson, 2008).
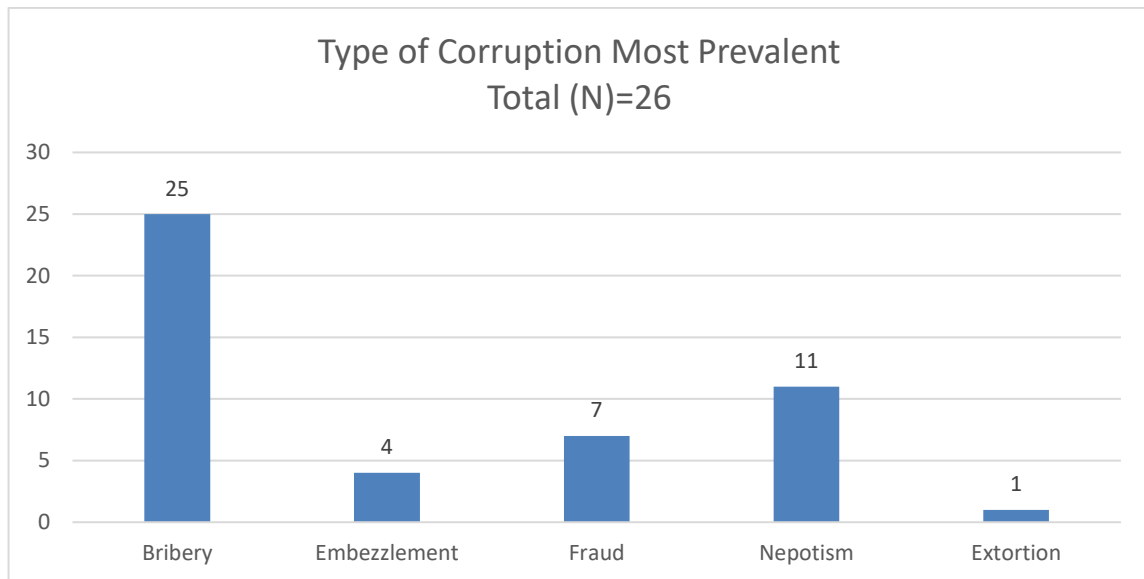
*Figure 2: Respondents views on the Types of Corruption most prevalent within the Ghana Police Service in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly.*

### 4.3.3 Societal Impact of Corruption

Respondents from the online survey were given the option to select multiple responses from a list of multiple-choice questions regarding how corruption within the Ghana Police Service affect society? Respondents' responses show corruption affects society negatively in various ways such as Economic development 18 (26%), Public trust 22 (31%), Quality of public services 17 (24%), Social inequality 13 (19%). The results are found in Figure 3 below.

This is what another respondent, **a 32-year-old graduate** from the interview conducted had to say: *"Public perceptions play a role in part of our lives and decisions we take, people we vote for, things we buy, things we believe or not. So, if the public have a negative perception with regards to corruption in the GPS there is a high possibility that I will have the same perception about the service just on the mere ground that a lot of people share the same perceptions."* This goes to highlight the issues of public trust when it comes to the negative effects of corruption

One of the respondents had this to say: *"We sometimes realize that when something happens around a rich person, the police try to play games around it, like they try to play mild on the person as compared to someone who is not rich."* This opinion clearly shows social inequality at play here. This indicates that corruption is believed to impede the progress and attainment of equity within the society.

The results of the survey reveal that public trust is significantly undermined by police corruption which also plays a role in increasing social inequality. This decline in trust has a

direct effect on civic participation, as citizens who perceived the police as corrupt are less inclined to take part in anti-corruption initiatives. These findings align with the hypothesis that negative views of law enforcement institutions pose a significant obstacle to meaningful civic engagement in Ghana.

The data from the interviews further supported these findings. One of the respondents laid more emphasis on public perceptions that they shape societal attitudes and behaviours noting that general negative perception regarding corruption can affect beliefs and actions at the individual level. This therefore brings to the critical issue at hand, that if there are negative perceptions of corruption within the police service, it erodes public confidence in law enforcement and governance (Singh, 2022).

Another participant gave an example of social inequality, stressing how police can be more kind to rich people than poor people. An anecdote of this kind underlines corruption as a feeder of social inequalities in terms of fairness and justice to all citizens.

Broader societal impacts of corruption are typical highlights on the Global Corruption Barometer. It contributes significantly to the impeding of economic development, public trust, and social equality. In many countries, including Ghana, the implication of corruption within law enforcement is viewed as a significant barrier to development and equity. (Transparency International, 2023). Corruption in public institutions including the police, as revealed by Afrobarometer surveys, is seen to have effects on different dimensions of society in a most negative way. In Ghana, corruption is the most common thing cited by respondents as being responsible for the lack of public trust and social disparities (Afrobarometer, 2022).
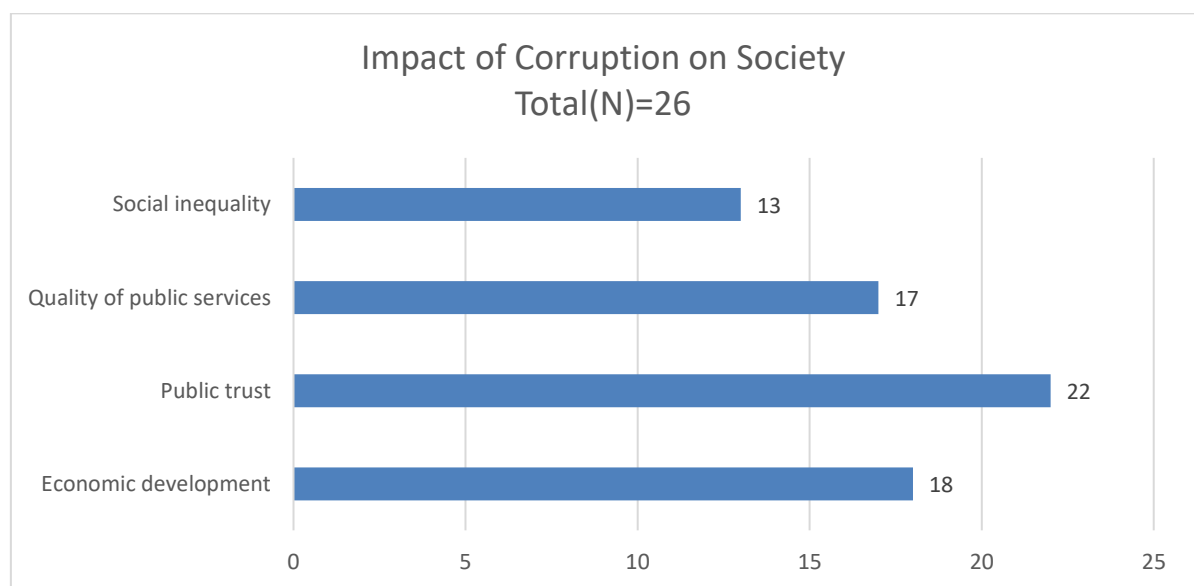


*Figure 3: Respondents views on the impact of corruption on society*

### 4.4 Civic Engagement

Civic engagement is acknowledged as a fundamental responsibility of citizens within a democratic society, yet it has been described in various ways. Nevertheless, most definitions encompass a sense of duty among individuals aimed at fostering positive change in their local or global communities, with the goal of advancing social justice and enhancing the quality of life for individuals through both political and non-political activities (Hatcher, 2010). In essence, civic engagement involves a collaborative process where individuals unite to address common issues. It has been noted that corruption impacts three key dimensions of education: access, equity, and quality (Heyneman, 2004, 2008, 2009).

### 4.4.1 Awareness of Anti-Corruption Initiatives

Respondents from the online survey were asked if they are aware of any anti-corruption activities or initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service? The results show that 8 respondents (30.8%) were aware whiles 18 respondents (69.2%) said they were not aware of any anti-corruption activities or initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service. The results are found in Figure 4 below.

From the interviews conducted one respondent had this to say: *"I am not aware of anti-corruption activities, as well as I have never participated in anti-corruption activities."*

The findings are further supported by the data obtained from interviews. One participant specifically pointed out his unawareness and absence of involvement in anti-corruption efforts. Such unawareness can impede the success of anti-corruption measures, as public support and engagement are essential for their effectiveness. Both the survey results and interview in-sights reflect a low level of awareness concerning anti-corruption initiatives aimed at the Ghana Police Service within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. This lack of awareness can obstruct the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts, emphasizing the importance of public involvement and backing for their success.

The Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) is a regular reminder that public awareness and participation remains a top-notch when it comes to pushing the anti-corruption agenda. Research has indicated that higher levels of public awareness are related to higher levels of civic engagement and support for anti-corruption initiatives (Transparency International, 2023).

Most African countries including Ghana, tend to have low public awareness about anti-corruption initiatives. Lack of public awareness is likely a major impediment to effective civic engagement and the success of anti-corruption efforts (Afrobarometer, 2022).

Another finding from the studies conducted by the World Bank underscores that public involvement and awareness serve to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives. Community involvement and awareness campaigns are channels through which the public can derive robust and sustainable anti-corruption efforts (World Bank, 2021).
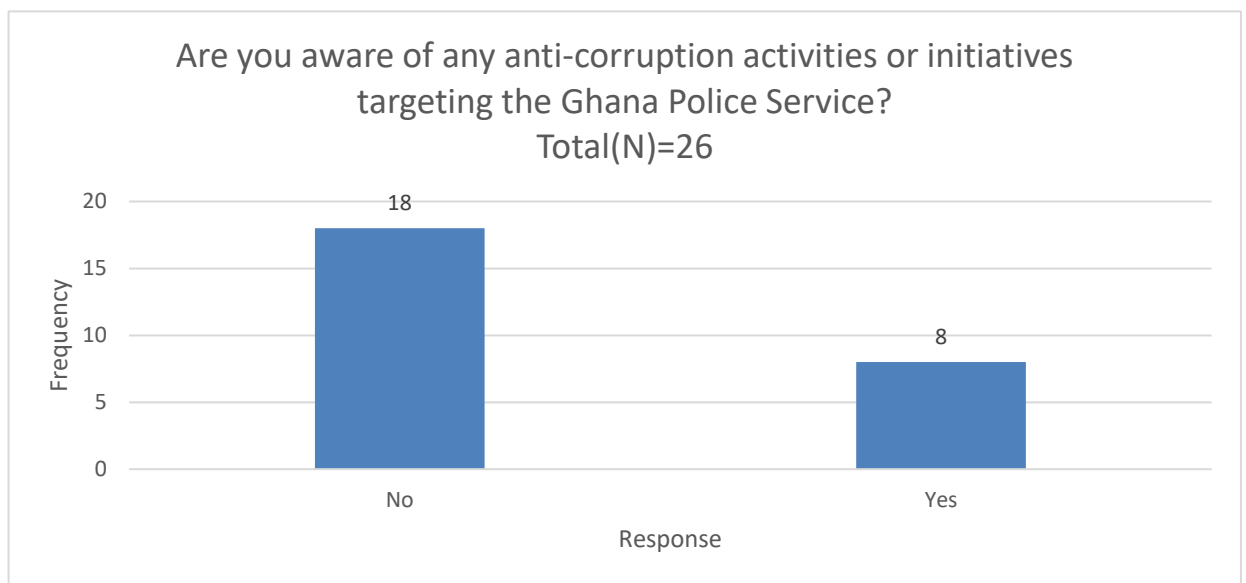


*Figure 4: Respondents awareness of anti-corruption activities or initiatives*

### 4.4.2 Participation in Anti-Corruption Activities

Participants from the online survey were asked if they have participated in anti-corruption activities before. The result from the response shows that 4 respondents (15.4%) have participated in some form of anti-corruption activities whiles 22 respondents (84.6%) said they have not participated. This is illustrated in Figure 5.

During the interviews one respondent when asked whether they had participated in anti-corruption activities had this to say: *"No, I have not participated, but if there is an initiative I am sure I will participate."*

The findings from the survey reveal that participation in anti-corruption activities is notably low among respondents within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. Additionally, the data gathered from interviews reinforces these results. One individual noted the lack of participation in anti-corruption activities but conveyed a readiness to do so if presented with the

chance. This highlights a potential for increased participation if awareness and opportunities for engagement are improved.

Studies have shown that higher levels of public engagement are associated with more effective anti-corruption measures (Transparency International, 2023).

Afrobarometer surveys reveal that in many African countries, including Ghana, there is often a low level of public participation in anti-corruption activities. This lack of engagement can be a significant barrier to the success of anti-corruption efforts (Afrobarometer, 2022).

The significance of accommodating all pertinent stakeholders in decision-making processes is emphasized by Stakeholder Theory (Freeman, 2010). Nevertheless, the finding indicates that the Ghana Police Service has not adequately involved citizens or civil society organizations (CSOs), as evidenced by the low participation rates in anti-corruption efforts. This lack of engagement, along with insufficient safeguards for whistleblowers diminishes the effectiveness of these initiatives.
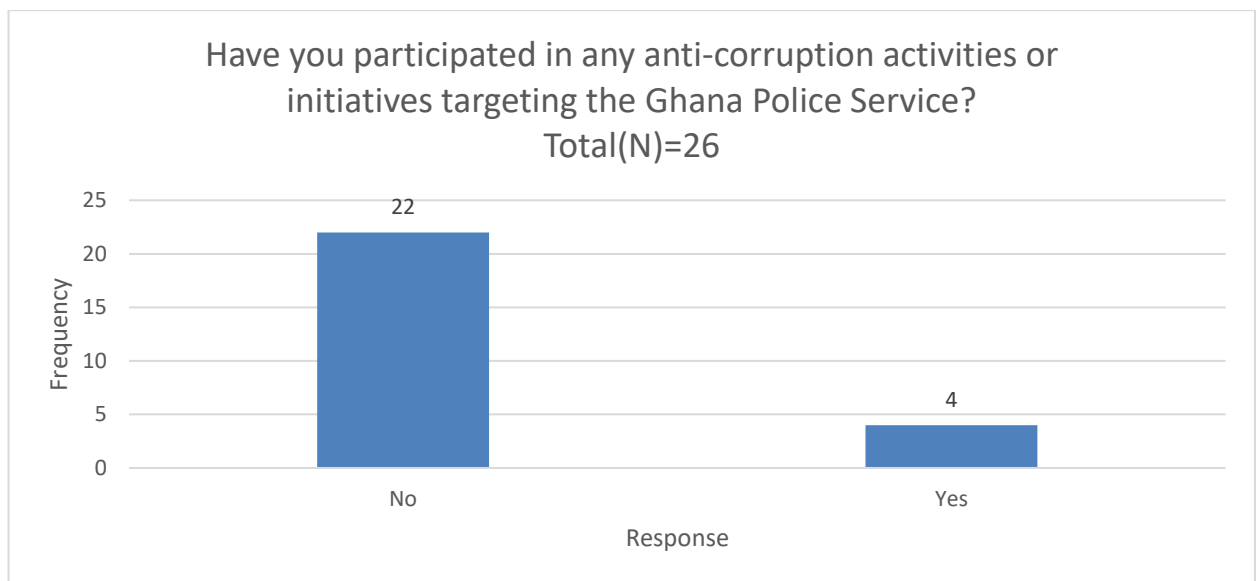


*Figure 5: Participation of respondents in anti-corruption activities or initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service.*

### 4.4.3 Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Initiatives

Respondents from the online survey were asked how effective anti-corruption activities or initiatives are? The results show that 3 respondents (12%) said they were very effective, 1 respondent (4%) said it is effective, 4 respondents (16%) remained neutral, 13 respondents (52%) said it was ineffective, 4 respondents (16%) said it is very ineffective. This is illustrated in Figure 6.

This is what one of the respondents from the interview had to say on the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives: *"If there are any anti-corruption initiatives, I don't think they have any positive impact."*

The survey results indicate a generally negative perception of the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. The data from interviews further supports these findings. One respondent expressed scepticism about the impact of anti-corruption initiatives, stating, *"If there are any anti-corruption initiatives, I don't think they have any positive impact."* This viewpoint underscores a deficiency in trust regarding the effectiveness of these initiatives, potentially weakening public backing and involvement in efforts against corruption.

In some instances, the absence of noticeable actions may result in public disillusionment and reduced backing for anti-corruption initiatives (Transparency International, 2019).

Surveys conducted by Afrobarometer indicate that in several African nations, such as Ghana, there is frequently a belief that anti-corruption measures do not yield results. This belief can pose a considerable obstacle to the effectiveness of these initiatives, as genuine change relies heavily on public trust and participation (Afrobarometer, 2022).
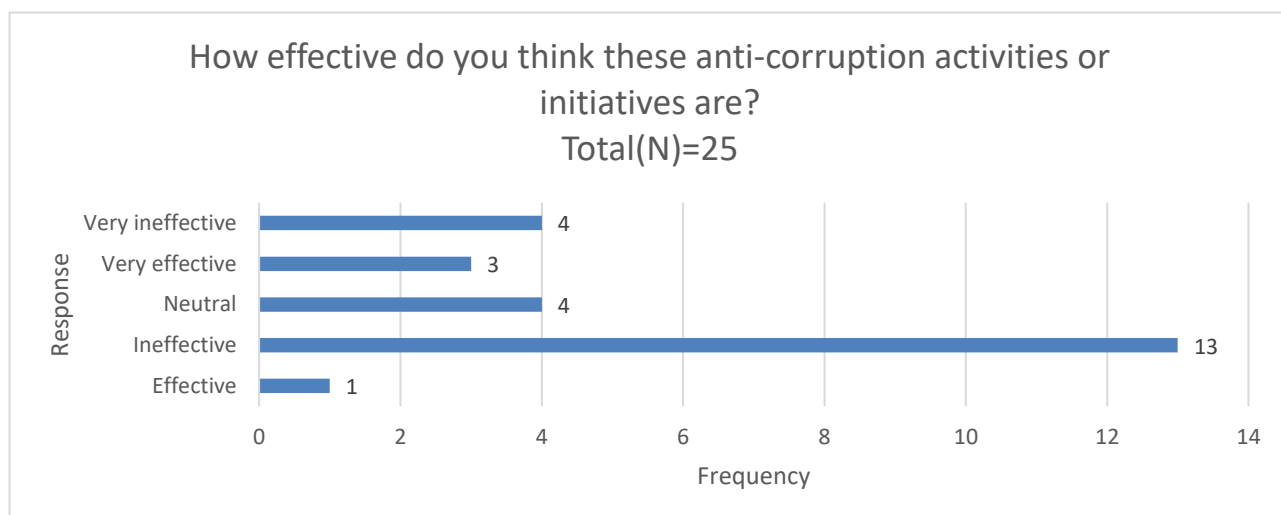


*Figure 6: Respondents response on the effectiveness of anti-corruption activities or initiatives*

## 4.5 Motivations for Participation

Participants from the online survey were asked what motivated them either to participate or not participate in anti-corruption initiatives and activities. Participants' motivations include

civic responsibility, trust, and the desire for positive change. Some expressed scepticism due to perceived futility or fear of repercussions.

This is what one of the respondents from the interviews conducted had to say: *"What would motivate me to participate is because I want the right things to be done especially on our roads and for them to maintain the standard of their profession. Because you can't be trained as a police man and then you will be carrying out such activities on our road, it is not the best."*

The findings from the survey reveal that a sense of civic duty, trust, and an aspiration for positive change propel participants to take part in anti-corruption efforts. Nonetheless, considerable obstacles to involvement exist, such as doubts regarding the effectiveness of these initiatives and concerns about potential repercussions. Insights from the interview data offer a more profound understanding of these motivations. One interviewee articulated a strong wish for the police to maintain professional standards, especially on the roads, which serves as a primary motivator for their engagement in anti-corruption actions. This underscores a prevalent theme of desiring visible enhancements and accountability within the police service.

Some respondents, on the other hand, expressed scepticism toward the impact of anti-corruption initiatives, feeling that their efforts might be futile. Others mentioned fear of retaliation acting as a deterrence force to participation, indicating the issue of potential negative consequence for speaking out or getting involved in efforts to control corruption.

The Global Corruption Barometer underscores the role of civic engagement and trust in inspiring members of the public to partake in anti-corruption drives. It does specify, however, that doubt, and fear of reprisals can really impede this engagement significantly (Transparency International, 2023).

Surveys conducted by Afrobarometer indicate that various African nations share comparable motivations and obstacles. A common drive for positive change and civic duty acts as a motivator, whereas significant barriers to participation include perceived futility and fear of consequences (Afrobarometer, 2019).

Moreover, studies conducted by the World Bank emphasize the importance of establishing a secure and encouraging atmosphere for public involvement in anti-corruption efforts. By alleviating concerns about potential consequences and showcasing the success of these initiatives, public participation can be significantly increased (World Bank, 2023).

**4.5.1 Influence of Perceptions on Willingness to Engage in Anti-Corruption Activities**

Public perceptions significantly affect people's willingness to participate in anti-corruption activities. Negative perceptions may discourage engagement. The finding from the survey shows that 18 respondents (69.2%) Strongly agree, 6 respondents (23.1%) Agree and 2 respondents (7.7%) Neutral. This is illustrated in Figure 7.

When asked if public perceptions of corruption within the Ghana Police Service affect people's willingness to engage in anti-corruption activities, this is what one **respondent a 35 years old social justice activist** had to say: *"I will say my answer to that is yes, you know because of the information we have on social media, and friends reporting to us, you do have the perception that at times people will come out willingly to participate in these initiatives but in the end you find that the bad ones are rather influencing the good ones that are out to champion those initiatives."*

The findings from the survey reveal that, the willingness of individuals to participate in anti-corruption initiatives is significantly shaped by public perceptions of corruption in the Ghana Police Service. This indicates that adverse views on corruption may serve as a substantial barrier to civic involvement in anti-corruption initiatives.

The findings are further supported by data gathered from the interview. One interviewee pointed out how social media and peer reports influence public perceptions, mentioning that negative information can deter individuals from engaging in anti-corruption efforts. This perspective emphasizes the necessity of tackling negative public perceptions to encourage civic involvement.

Discouragement and reduced involvement in anti-corruption initiatives can stem from negative views on corruption (Transparency International, 2023). According to Afrobarometer surveys, the readiness to participate in anti-corruption efforts is greatly influenced by public perceptions of corruption in several African countries including Ghana. Such negative perceptions can foster a feeling of hopelessness and diminish civic engagement (Afrobarometer, 2022).
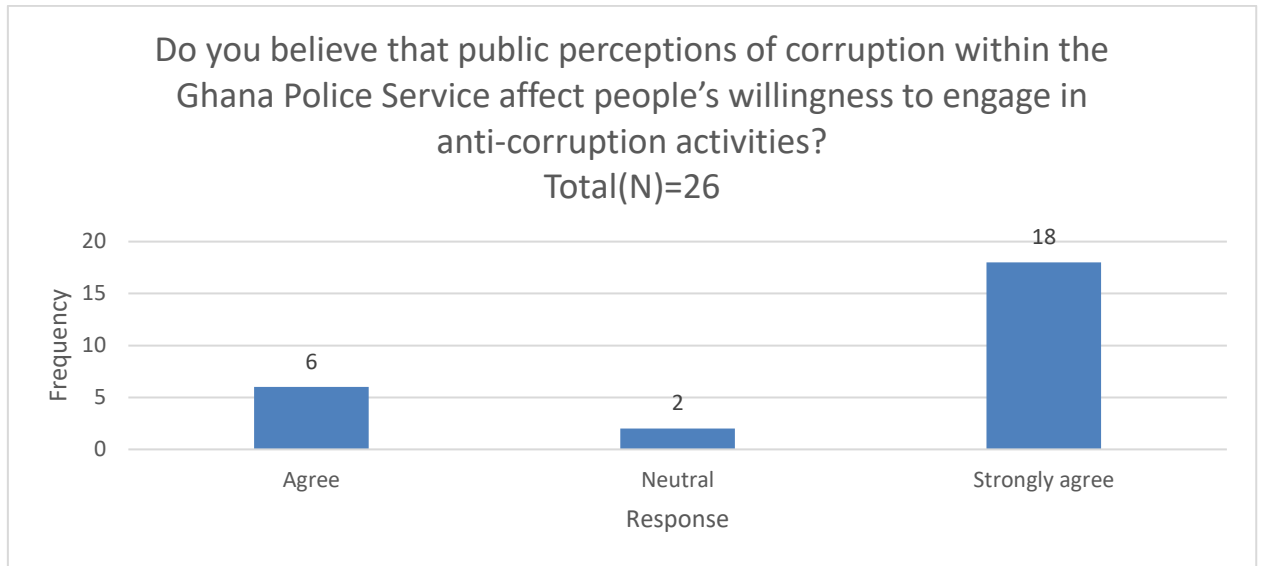
*Figure 7: Response on whether public perceptions affect people's willingness to engage in anti-corruption activities*

## 4.5.2 Influence of Negative Perceptions

Respondents from the online survey were asked about the influence negative perception of corruption within the police service have on anti-corruption activities. The results from the survey show that 5 respondents (19.2%) said it encourage participation, 2 respondents (7.7%) said it cause unimportance, 19 respondents (73.1%) said it leads to discouragement of citizens in participating in such activities. This is shown in Figure 8.

The response from the interviews showed similar pattern, one respondent from the interviews said this: *"Some people also feel that once I participate nothing would even come out of it."* This clearly show an instance of a discouraged person because they believe nothing positive is going to come out of participating in anti-corruption efforts.

Another respondent had this to say: *"Why participate in an activity that the impact is minimal?"* This response highlights that the respondent does not see the importance of participating in anti-corruption activities.

The findings from the survey reveal that public involvement in anti-corruption initiatives is greatly affected by negative views of corruption in the Ghana Police Service. This indicates that such negative perceptions represent a significant obstacle to civic engagement in efforts against corruption.

The data from interviews further supports these findings. One respondent expressed a sense of futility, stating, *"Some people also feel that once I participate nothing would even come out of it."*

This sentiment reflects a common feeling of discouragement due to the belief that anti-corruption efforts will not yield positive results.

Another respondent questioned the importance of participating in anti-corruption activities, saying, *"Why participate in an activity that the impact is minimal?"* This response highlights the perception that anti-corruption initiatives are ineffective, which can further discourage public participation.

When people believe anti-corruption efforts are ineffective, they are less likely to engage in these initiatives (Transparency International, 2023). Research from the World Bank highlights the necessity of tackling negative perceptions to improve public involvement in anti-corruption initiatives. To foster civic engagement, it is essential to showcase the success of these efforts and build public trust (World Bank, 2023).

According to Institutional Theory, institutions play a crucial role in shaping behaviours and influencing civic participation through the cultivation of trust. When individuals perceive an institution, such as the police, as corrupt, their confidence in its capacity to bring about change diminishes. Consequently, this leads to disengagement from anti-corruption initiatives. Thus, the inability of the GPS to uphold integrity has entrenched public scepticism, hindering citizens from engaging in these efforts.
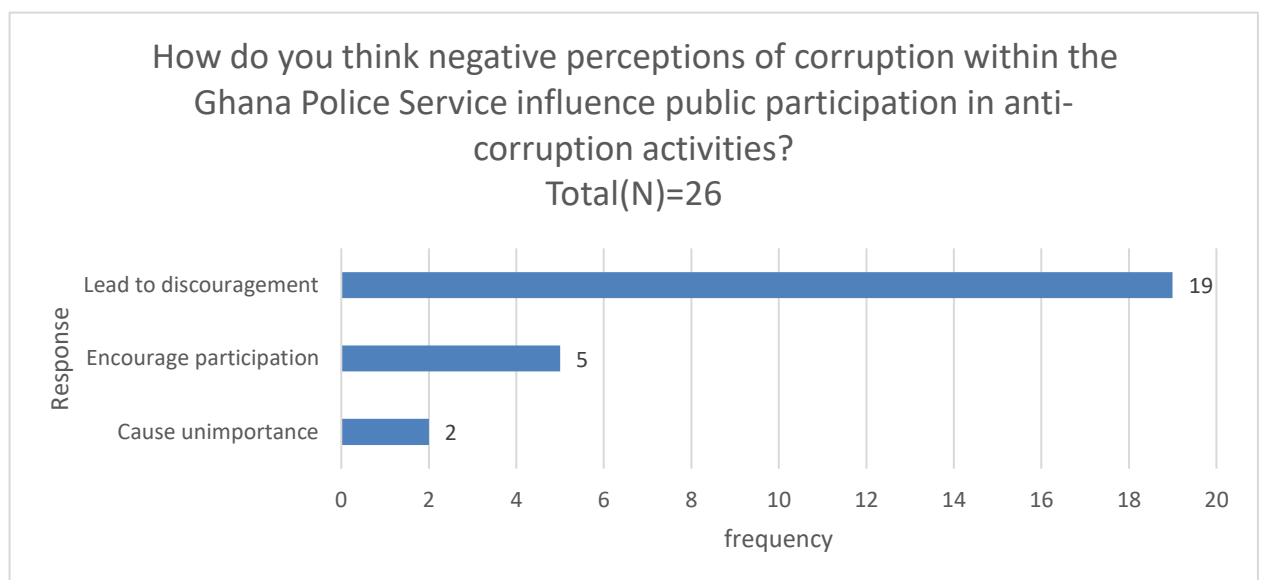


*Figure 8: Respondents response on influence of negative perception on participation in anti-corruption activities*

## 4.6 Factors Affecting Civic Participation

Citizen participation has been described by Cogan & Sharpe (1986, p. 283) as "a process that provides private individuals an opportunity to influence public decisions and has long been a component of the democratic decision-making process." Citizen participation is divided into direct or indirect. Roberts (2015, p.5) defined direct citizen participation as the process of "sharing power by members of a society with public officials in making substantive decisions that concern the community."

Engaged citizens play a crucial role in fostering anti-corruption practices within the ruling elite. This creates a self-reinforcing system that compels public officials to act ethically and provide a transparent government, which citizens perceive as their rightful entitlement (Collier 2002; Mungiu-Pippidi, 2015). According to Adserá, Boix, & Payne (2003, p. 445): "how well any government functions hinges on how good citizens are at making their politicians accountable for their actions."

According to Holmberg & Rothstein (2015, p. 14), "Leaders must be kept on a leash by citizens – not necessarily a tight one, but certain constitutional and democratic limitations, alongside rigorous accountability measures, are essential." Effectively addressing corruption requires that citizen involvement not only improves social accountability but also fosters social empowerment. Thus, empowering civil society organizations and fostering collective action can help address systemic corruption (Mungiu-Pippidi, 2015).

The ways in which citizens engage in participation differ significantly among societies, influenced by the local political and legal frameworks that either promote or obstruct such involvement. Consequently, varying degrees of social empowerment and accountability exist across different communities.

### 4.6.1 Supporting Factors

Respondents from the online survey were asked about the factors they think support successful civic participation in anti-corruption initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service with option to select multiple responses from a list of given questions. The results from the survey show that 22 respondents (29%) said Strong leadership, 20 respondents (26%) said public awareness campaigns, 16 respondents (21%) said Legal and institutional frameworks, 18 respondents (23%) said Community involvement and 1 respondent (1%) said Rewards and protection for whistleblowers. These factors enhance successful civic engagement in anti-corruption initiatives. This is illustrated in Figure 9.

This is what one of the respondents of the interview had to say: *"We need more transparency with regards to arrest and criminal proceeding, things should not be in the dark. The police should engage the citizenry more."* Another respondent had this to say: *"Civic education; by taking advantage of the schools. I think there might be a lot of positive things the police are doing but the populace might not be aware."*

Another had this to say*: "Mass media can be engaged using especially radio station in the local dialect to educate the people"* also *"Making anti-corruption posters to be given to drivers and pasted at vantage locations."*

The results of the survey highlight various essential elements that contribute to effective civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts aimed at the Ghana Police Service. Respondents pinpointed the most critical factors as follows:

1. Strong leadership: 29% (22 respondents)

2. Public awareness campaigns: 26% (20 respondents)

3. Community involvement: 23% (18 respondents)

4. Legal and institutional frameworks: 21% (16 respondents)

5. Rewards and protection for whistleblowers: 1% (1 respondent)

Crucial in boosting civic engagement and guaranteeing the success of anti-corruption initiatives are these factors. Insights into these supportive elements are further illuminated by data gathered from interviews. One interviewee stressed the necessity for transparency regarding arrests and criminal proceedings, proposing that increased interaction with the public could cultivate trust and encourage participation. Another participant pointed out the significance of civic education in schools to enhance awareness of the police's positive actions. Furthermore, it was suggested that mass media, particularly local radio stations, along with anti-corruption posters, serve as effective tools for educating and engaging the community.

Strong leadership, community involvement, and public awareness campaigns play a crucial role in mobilizing more individuals to join the battle against corruption. These elements are repeatedly recognized as vital for promoting civic engagement and enhancing the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives (Transparency International, 2023).

Surveys conducted by Afrobarometer indicate that public awareness campaigns, in conjunction with legal and institutional frameworks, play a crucial role in bolstering civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts. These frameworks are vital as they offer the essential structure and backing for effective measures against corruption (Afrobarometer, 2021).

Studies conducted by the World Bank highlight how crucial rewards and safeguards for whistleblowers are in promoting public involvement in anti-corruption initiatives. By offering incentives and ensuring the protection of individuals who expose corruption, civic engagement can be greatly improved (World Bank, 2021).

Stakeholder Theory posits that effective institutions should involve a range of stakeholders, such as the public and civil society organizations (CSOs), to maintain accountability. An environment conducive to civic participation is established through strong leadership that promotes cooperation between institutions and citizens, along with solid legal frameworks. The research findings indicate that these components are essential for successful engagement. As Freeman (2010) contends, organizations need to work alongside stakeholders, including citizens and CSOs, to improve transparency and accountability. The existence of these supportive factors will help fosters increased public involvement in anti-corruption initiatives.
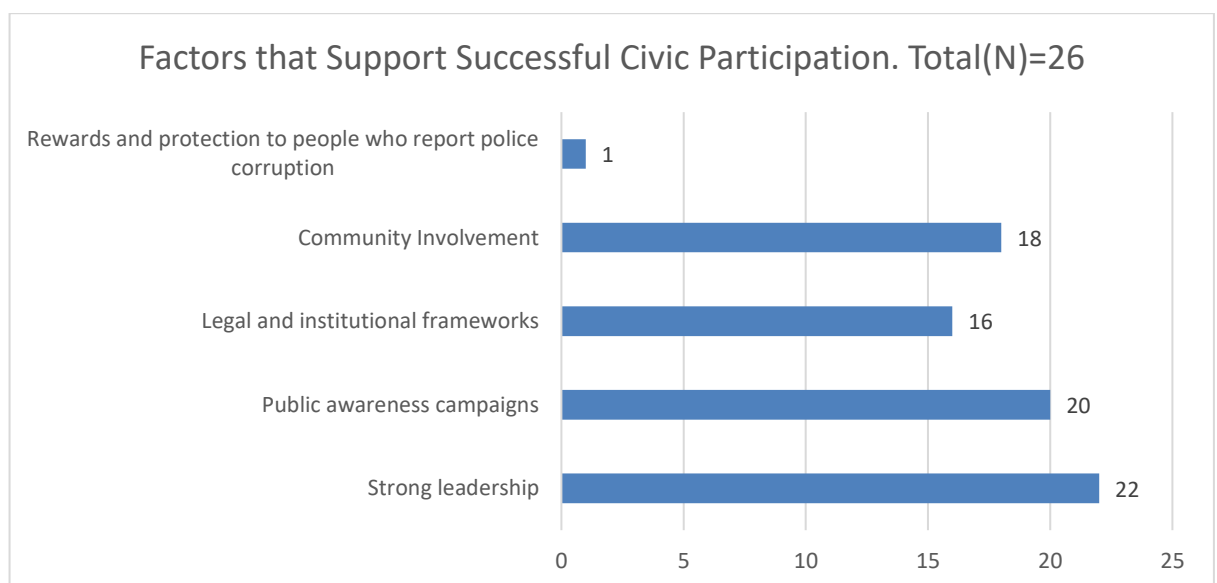


*Figure 9: Respondents views on factors that support successful civic participation in anti-corruption initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service.*

### 4.6.2 Impeding Factors

Respondents from the online survey were asked to state the factors that impeded the participation of citizens in anti-corruption activities targeting the Ghana Police Service with option to select multiple answers from a list of given questions. The results show that 25 respondents (33%) said the Lack of trust in authorities, 17 respondents (22%) said the Fear of

retaliation, 19 respondents (25%) attributed it to Lack of awareness, 15 respondents (20%) said Socio-Economic barriers. This is illustrated in Figure 10.

When asked about things that impede the participation of citizens in anti-corruption activities, respondent from the interviews conducted, **a 40-year-old youth activist** had this to say: *"Sometimes in our communities, the police would make an arrest, and before you know it people go backdoor, and money exchanged, and the case thrown out."* This person would feel it is not necessary to participate in anti-corruption activities or initiatives.

The results of the survey reveal multiple critical factors that hinder citizen involvement in anti-corruption efforts aimed at the Ghana Police Service. Respondents highlighted the most prominent obstacles as follows:

1. Lack of trust in authorities: 33% (25 respondents)

2. Fear of retaliation: 22% (17 respondents)

3. Lack of awareness: 25% (19 respondents)

4. Socioeconomic barriers: 20% (15 respondents)

These elements underscore important obstacles that must be tackled to improve public participation in anti-corruption initiatives.

Data from the interviews further expound on these impediments. For example, one of the respondents described how police corruption through deals behind the scenes and dismissing cases can undermine trust in the authorities. This lack of trust may act as a disincentive for individuals to take part in anti-corruption activities, with a feeling that their efforts will be futile.

One respondent highlighted the anxiety surrounding retaliation, suggesting that worries about possible adverse outcomes can inhibit individuals from taking part in anti-corruption efforts. This apprehension can serve as a major obstacle to involvement, particularly in areas where corruption is viewed as widespread and unchecked.

Significant obstacles to civic participation include a distrust of authorities and concerns about potential repercussions (Transparency International, 2023). Also, Afrobarometer surveys showed that citizens in most African countries including Ghana, are not reporting corruption due to fear of retaliation and its accompanying consequences (Afrobarometer, 2021).

Furthermore, research conducted by the World Bank highlights the necessity of addressing issues related to trust, fear of retaliation, and socioeconomic obstacles to improve public engagement in anti-corruption efforts. By implementing effective communication strategies and protective measures, these challenges can be mitigated (World Bank, 2021).

According to Institutional Theory, environments that allow corruption to flourish and stifled civic participation are a result of weak institutions (Scott, 2014). A lack of protective measures within these institutions are highlighted by the fear of retaliation faced by those who report corruption, which in turn diminishes public trust and hampers engagement. The Ghana Police Service's inability to ensure sufficient protection for whistleblowers continues to fuel public apprehension about retaliation, thereby further deterring civic involvement.



**Factors that Impede Successful Civic Participation.**
**Total(N)=26**

| Factor | Value |
|---|---|
| Socioeconomic barriers | 15 |
| Lack of awareness | 19 |
| Fear of retaliation | 17 |
| Lack of trust in authorities | 25 |
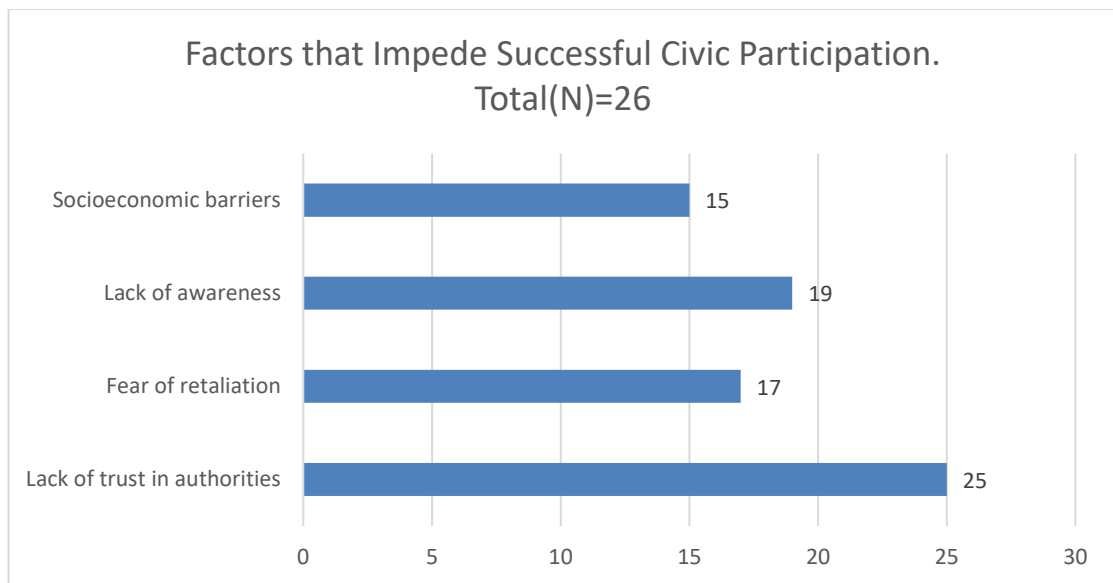
*Figure 10: Respondents views on factors that impede successful civic participation in anti-corruption initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service.*

## 4.7 Additional Comments

This was an open question on the online survey to elicit the views of respondents on how effectiveness can be ensured in anti-corruption efforts. Participants shared valuable insights on how to make anti-corruption efforts effective and this is what the respondents shared from the survey:

1. Political will is crucial for effective anti-corruption efforts.

2. Scientific and measurable approaches are essential.

3. Partisan interests impact effectiveness.

4. Leadership and government accountability matter.

5. Civic responsibility is a shared endeavour.

6. Personal interest in understanding police operations motivates participation.

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## Chapter 5 Summary, Implications, Recommendations and Conclusion.

This research has sought to examine the dynamics of public perceptions and civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts within the Ghana Police Service with focus on the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. In doing so, the researcher examined public experiences of police corruption, the level of civic engagements, the impact of public perception on civic engagements as well as how effective anti-corruption initiatives and efforts were with respect to the Ghana Police Service within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

This was achieved by administering two data collection instruments through an online survey and in-person interview. These instruments were central to the research process and contributed significantly to the data collected, underpinning the findings and conclusion of the study. Respondents to the survey were 26, while those interviewed were 5. Even though, the number of participants were small, valuable insights were shared on the subject matter which is worth acknowledging.

The study then applied theoretical framework on institutional as well as stakeholder theories to explain the findings. According to Institutional Theory, the norms and rules that shape public institutions can either mitigate or encourage corrupt practices (Scott, 2014). In the case of AMA, weak enforcement of anti-corruption measures within Ghana Police Service allows corruption to persist as a normative behaviour. Stakeholder Theory, on the other hand, underscores the responsibility of citizens, civil society organizations, and government agencies in responding to these institutional failures (Freeman, 2010). This study's findings indicate that lack of stakeholder engagement within the GPS in the AMA has led to diminished public participation in anti-corruption initiatives.

It emerged from the study that majority of the participants who took part in the study perceived the police as being corrupt. This was arrived at, as respondents to the online survey responded to question on the general view of corruption within the GPS in the Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

It further emerged from the research findings that the most common type of police corruption was bribery, especially at the street level. The study also went on to ask the participants how much of a problem corruption was within the AMA? The responses gathered show that corruption is a serious issue to residents within the metropolis. Participants were again solicited on how corruption affects society, and the response showed that it was seen

to have negative implications on different sectors of society especially as it related to economic growth as well as public trust and social justice.

The negative impact of public perception regarding corruption in the GPS affects civic engagement adversely. The research indicates that when the public views corruption levels as high, particularly in relation to bribery, trust in the police diminishes. This decline in trust reduces individuals' willingness to partake in anti-corruption initiatives. For example, finding from the data indicates that negative views on corruption dissuaded people from getting involved in such efforts. This imply that negative perceptions and experiences related to police corruption hinder civic participation in anti-corruption activities.

Civic participation in anti-corruption initiatives is supported by several factors. The research found that 29% of the respondents considered strong leadership as one of the most important facilitators for successful civic engagement. Responding to the questions, participants identified strong leadership, public awareness campaigns, legal frameworks, community involvement and protection for whistleblowers as enablers that enhance successful civic engagement. On the contrary, lack of trust in authorities, fear of retaliation, lack of awareness, and socioeconomic barriers are the factors that impede active participation of citizens in anti-corruption activities. For instance, 33% of the respondents regarded the absence of trust as a major impeding factor to participate in activities aimed at controlling corruption within the GPS.

The research recognizes various limitations such as, a limited sample size and difficulties in gathering information on delicate issues like corruption. Also, challenges in accessing specific populations may have affected the applicability of the findings. Nevertheless, the study highlights potential avenues for strengthening anti-corruption initiatives through improved public education and greater transparency within the GPS.

## 5.2 Implications
The implications of the findings of the research can be expressed in the following ways:

### 5.2.1 Policy and Practice

**Institutional Reforms:** Because the Ghana Police Service is perceived as one of the most corrupt institutions, it implies that policy reforms should target internal accountability mechanisms. This can be done by strengthening institutions like the Police Internal Affairs

Unit and introducing independent oversight bodies to deter corruption through enhancing transparency within the GPS.

**Enhanced Public Awareness Campaign:** The findings bring to the fore an existing challenge regarding a lack of awareness of anti-corruption initiatives. It would be prudent to conduct public education campaigns that stress the value of reporting corruption, and which demystify the role of oversight as a means of cutting through apathy and creating a participatory culture around anti-corruption initiatives.

**Protection for Whistleblowers:** The fear of retaliation is one of the most significant barriers to civic engagement. Reporters of corruption should be provided with stronger protection perhaps, through anonymous reporting channels and whistleblower protection laws.

**Community Engagement and Partnership:** The research indicates that civic engagement is obstructed by socio-economic issues and a lack of trust. Implementing policies that promote cooperation between law enforcement and community organizations, especially those offering socio-economic assistance, has the potential to enhance trust and foster community-driven oversight.

**Transparency in Law Enforcement:** To address the widespread negative perception of corruption within the GPS, it is essential to implement policies that require public disclosure of police disciplinary actions, the results of corruption investigations, and routine audits. By making these actions known, accountability will be demonstrated, helping to rebuild public trust over time.

## 5.3 Further Research

More extensive investigation is required to delve into the socio-cultural elements that shape views on corruption and civic involvement. Moreover, research concentrating on the effects of specific anti-corruption strategies, including community policing and whistleblower protection, may yield important insights for enhancing public trust and engagement in anti-corruption initiatives.

Future research could also investigate changes in public perceptions and civic engagement over time by responding to new anti-corruption initiatives or changes in governance.

A comparative analysis of the dynamics of public perceptions and civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts aimed at the police may be extended to other districts within the Greater Accra Region, to determine whether the findings obtained from AMA are generalizable across different urban areas.

Since we know that social media and digital platforms influence how people see us, research might be more focused on exploring how such tools could be used to increase sensitization and involvement in anti-corruption drives.

## 5.4 Recommendations

**Data Collection and Research:** It is essential to institutionalize ongoing data collection and analysis regarding public views and experiences related to police corruption. The results can assist the government in understanding the underlying factors contributing to corruption and evaluating the long-term effectiveness of policy initiatives.

**Anti-Corruption Training for Police Officers:** Training initiatives for officers that focus on ethical behaviour, interaction with the community, and the consequences of corruption can help reduce bribery in GPS. Additionally, including inputs from community members in the training materials will give officers a better understanding of how corruption affects public trust.

**Strengthening Community Engagement:** In line with stakeholder theory, there is need for regular engagement with civil society organizations, community leaders and religious groups as stakeholders in anti-corruption efforts. Their participation can create a connection between the public and the police, promoting a united stance against corruption.

**Technology Solutions:** Implementing digital platforms for reporting and payments and sharing information will enhance transparency by reducing the need for face-to-face interactions that might contribute to corrupt activities.

**Educational Initiatives:** Incorporate anti-corruption education into schools and community workshops. This initiative can foster a culture that perceives corruption as intolerable, and help empowers people to participate in anti-corruption activities from an early age.

## 5.5 Conclusion

In answering the research questions.

The findings indicate that the public views corruption in the GPS as widespread, with the police often regarded as one of the most corrupt entities in Ghana. Bribery stands out as the most common type of corruption encountered in dealings with the police. A significant number of respondents expressed a lack of trust in the police due to these perceived corrupt activities, which has greatly eroded public trust in law enforcement. Furthermore, the public

largely considers institutional anti-corruption initiatives within the GPS, such as internal oversight bodies to be ineffective, implying that these measures have not yet gained the trust of the communities they are meant to serve.

The research indicates that the public willingness to participate in anti-corruption efforts is directly affected by negative views on corruption. Significant obstacles to civic engagement include fear of retaliation, a lack of trust in reporting systems, and widespread apathy due to a belief that reporting police misconduct is futile. When participants expressed that they perceive corruption as deeply rooted and resistant to change, their likelihood of taking proactive measures against it diminishes. Therefore, the persistence of these negative perceptions poses a substantial challenge to encouraging genuine public participation in anti-corruption initiatives.

Several factors were identified as either supporting or impeding civic engagement. These included strong leadership, public awareness campaigns, and effective legal and institutional systems were perceived as crucial to the promotion of civic participation. However, the lack of public awareness about existing anti-corruption initiatives emerged as a major impediment. Most respondents did not know of any specific anti-corruption campaigns aimed at the GPS and this unawareness contributed to low civic engagement in anti-corruption initiatives. Moreover, it was established that socio-economic factors including poverty and resource constraints, as well as social and cultural norms that inadvertently normalize corruption through bribery further hinder public involvement.

The study concludes by suggesting for a comprehensive strategy to be developed to successfully tackle the menace of police corruption within the Accra Metropolitan Assembly. Essential measures include enhancing transparency to address public perceptions, improving internal police accountability systems, and promoting community-oriented policing approaches to restore trust. Furthermore, it is crucial to strengthen civic awareness initiatives and provide strong protections for whistleblowers to stimulate public involvement. If these reforms are not implemented, the existing distrust in the police and negative views regarding institutional corruption are expected to continue, hindering any advancements in anti-corruption initiatives.

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# Appendices

**Appendix 1**

<span style="color:green">C1 Consent form</span>

<span style="color:green">Information and consent form (ethics and privacy)</span>

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Date: 20/07/2024

Classification: Public

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## CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH STUDY

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**Title of Study:** Examining the Dynamics of Public Perceptions and Civic Engagement in Anti-Corruption Efforts within the Ghana Police Service: A Study of the Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

**Researcher's Name:** Nurudeen Mohammed Abubakari

**Institution:** Erasmus University Rotterdam

**Contact Information:** 657196na@eur.nl

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**Introduction:** My name is Nurudeen Mohammed Abubakari. I am currently pursuing MA Development Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam. I would like to welcome you to participate in a research investigation that seeks to understand the relationship between public perception and civic involvement in efforts to curb corruption within the Ghana Police Service, particularly in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly. Your involvement in this study is very important, as it will help me learn more about how members of the public view anti-corruption initiatives undertaken by the Ghana Police Service.

**Purpose of the Study:** This research seeks to offer an assessment of the connection between public corruption perception and civil society engagement in anti-corruption activities within the Ghana Police Service, specifically in Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly.

**Data Collection:** Data collection will involve surveys and interviews. Your participation would mean completing a survey or being part of an interview. The survey is expected to be conducted online through Google forms and would approximately take 20 minutes of your time to complete. The interview would be face-to-face and would last for about 45 minutes.

**Consent for Recording:** The interview might be audio-recorded to increase accuracy of information and aid data interpretation. If you do not wish to be recorded, please inform me.

**Data Storage:** Data obtained will be stored electronically with an external hard disk (Google Drive). The information will be retained for a duration of five years.

**Methods of Storage:** The information shall be kept in a hard disk that will have password encryption and in the Google drive, protected by password of the researcher.

**Confidentiality:** The data and information collected through the entire study will remain confidential. This is an assurance that your name or any other piece of information that can directly lead to your identification will not be connected to your responses.

**Benefits of the Study:** The research holds promise as it can add to the current knowledge base about anti-corruption actions and civic engagement, and thus there are benefits to be derived from it. Your involvement will help us enhance our efforts in curbing corruption within the Ghana Police Service.

**Risks:** Steps will be taken to reduce any potential suffering or harm that participants may experience during involvement with the study.

**Questions and Ethics**

In case of any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at.

Nurudeen Mohammed Abubakari (657196na@eur.nl).

Also, for questions regarding your rights as a research participant, you may contact the internal Ethics Committee of the Erasmus University Rotterdam at researchethics@iss.nl

**Consent**

By signing this consent form:

You indicate that you have read and understood the above information (YES/NO)

You are 18-years and above (YES/NO)

You agree to participate willingly (YES/NO)

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Researcher's Signature: _____

Date: _____

**Appendix 2**

<u>**Survey Questionnaire**</u>

**Introduction:** My name is Nurudeen Mohammed Abubakari. I am currently pursuing MA Development Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam. I would like to welcome you to participate in a research investigation that seeks to understand the relationship between public perception and civic involvement in efforts to curb corruption within the Ghana Police Service, particularly in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly. Your honest involvement in this study is very important, as it will help us learn more about how members of the public view anti-corruption initiatives undertaken by the Ghana Police Service.

**Section A: Demographic Information**

1. **Age:**

    (a) 18-25

    (b) 26-35

    (c) 36-45

    (d) 46-55

    (e) 56 and above

2. **Gender:**

    (a) Male

    (b) Female

    (c) Other

3. **Educational Level:**

    (a) No formal education

    (b) Primary education

(c) Secondary education

(d) Tertiary education

(e)                  Other               (please                 specify)

……………………………………………………………………

4. **Occupation:**

(a) Student

(b) Employed

(c) Self-employed

(d) Unemployed

(e) Retired

(f)                  Other               (please                 specify):

………………………………………………………….

**Section B: Public Perceptions of Corruption within the Ghana Police Service**

5. How would you describe the level of corruption within the Ghana Police Service in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly?

(a) Very high

(b) High

(c) Moderate

(d) Low

(e) Very low

6. What types of corruption do you believe are most prevalent within the Ghana Police Service? (Select all that apply)

(a) Bribery

(b) Embezzlement

(c) Fraud

(d) Nepotism

(e)            Other          (please          specify)
…………………………………………………………….

7. How significant do you think the problem of corruption is within the Ghana Police Service?

(a) Very significant

(b) Significant

(c) Neutral

(d) Insignificant

(e) Very insignificant

8. In your opinion, how does corruption within the Ghana Police Service affect society? (Select all that apply)

(a) Economic development

(b) Public trust

(c) Quality of public services

(d) Social inequality

(e)            Other          (please          specify)
…………………………………………………………….

**Section C: Civic Engagement in Anti-Corruption Efforts**

9. Are you aware of any anti-corruption activities or initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service?

       (a) Yes

       (b) No

10. Have you participated in any anti-corruption activities or initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service? If so, can you describe your involvement?

       (a) Yes

       (b) No

11. How effective do you think these anti-corruption activities or initiatives are?

       (a) Very effective

       (b) Effective

       (c) Neutral

       (d) Ineffective

       (e) Very ineffective

12. What motivates you to participate or not participate in anti-corruption activities targeting the Ghana Police Service?................................................................................................

**Section D: Impact of Public Perceptions on Civic Engagement**

13. Do you believe that public perceptions of corruption within the Ghana Police Service affect people's willingness to engage in anti-corruption activities?

       (a) Strongly agree

(b) Agree

(c) Neutral

(d) Disagree

(e) Strongly disagree

14. How do you think negative perceptions of corruption within the Ghana Police Service influence public participation in anti-corruption activities?

(a) Encourage participation

(b) Cause unimportance

(c) Lead to discouragement

(e)            Other            (please            specify)
……………………………………………………...

**Section E: Factors Affecting Civic Participation**

15. What factors do you think support successful civic participation in anti-corruption initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service? (Select all that apply)

(a) Strong leadership

(b) Public awareness campaigns

(c) Legal and institutional frameworks

(d) Community involvement

(e)            Other            (please            specify)
……………………………………………………...

16. What factors do you think impede successful civic participation in anti-corruption initiatives targeting the Ghana Police Service? (Select all that apply)

(a) Lack of trust in authorities

(b) Fear of retaliation

(c) Lack of awareness

(d) Socioeconomic barriers

(e) Other (please specify)
…………………………………………………………...

## Section F: Additional Comments

17. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding anti-corruption efforts within the Ghana Police Service in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly?

…………………………………………………………………………
………………

## Conclusion:

Thank you for your time and valuable insights. Your responses will contribute significantly to our research on public perceptions and civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts within the Ghana Police Service

**Appendix 3**

<div align="center">

**General Interview Guide**

</div>

**Introduction:** My name is Nurudeen Mohammed Abubakari. I am currently pursuing MA Development Studies at Erasmus University Rotterdam. I would like to welcome you to participate in a research investigation that seeks to understand the relationship between public perception and civic involvement in efforts to curb corruption within the Ghana Police Service, particularly in the Greater Accra Metropolitan Assembly. Your honest involvement in this study is very important, as it will help us learn more about how members of the public view anti-corruption initiatives undertaken by the Ghana Police Service.

**Section A: Demographic Information**

1. Can you please tell me your age?
2. What is your gender?
3. What is your highest level of education?
4. What is your current occupation?

**Section B: Public Perceptions of Corruption within the Ghana Police Service**

5. How would you describe the level of corruption within the Ghana Police Service in the Greater Accra Metropolis?
6. Can you share any personal experiences or observations of corruption involving the Ghana Police Service?
7. How frequently do you hear about corruption cases involving the Ghana Police Service in the media?
8. In your opinion, what are the main factors contributing to corruption within the Ghana Police Service?

**Section C: Civic Engagement in Anti-Corruption Activities**

9. Are you aware of any anti-corruption activities or initiatives in the Greater Accra Metropolis?
10. Have you participated in any anti-corruption activities or initiatives? If so, can you describe your involvement?
11. How effective do you think these anti-corruption activities or initiatives are?

12. What motivates you to participate or not participate in anti-corruption activities?

## Section D: Impact of Public Perception on Civic Engagement

13. Do you believe that public perception of corruption affects people's willingness to engage in anti-corruption activities? How so?
14. In your view, what impact does public perception of corruption have on the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts?
15. What changes do you think are necessary to improve public perception and increase civic engagement in anti-corruption activities?

## Section E: Additional Comments

16. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding anti-corruption efforts in the Greater Accra Metropolis?
17. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences or views on corruption and civic engagement?

## Conclusion:

Thank you for your time and valuable insights. Your responses will contribute significantly to our research on public perceptions and civic engagement in anti-corruption efforts within the Ghana Police Service.