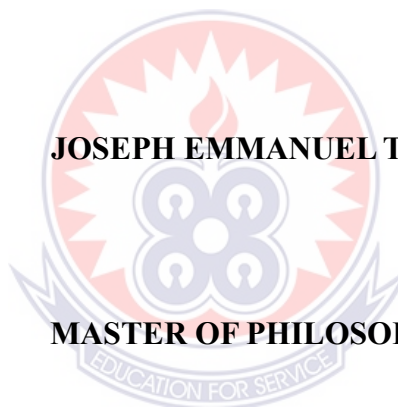


UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**Exploring police corruption and its impact on the human rights of offenders: a
case study of Kasoa Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service**

JOSEPH EMMANUEL TABI

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY



2023

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**EXPLORING POLICE CORRUPTION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE HUMAN
RIGHTS OF OFFENDERS: A CASE STUDY OF KASOA CENTRAL EAST
REGION OF THE GHANA POLICE SERVICE**

JOSEPH EMMANUEL TABI

(220018805)



**A thesis in the Centre for Conflicts Human Rights and Peace Studies,
Faculty of Social Sciences Education, submitted to the School of Graduate
Studies in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Award of Degree
Master of Philosophy
(Conflict, Human Rights, and Peace Studies)
In the University of Education, Winneba.**

SEPTEMBER, 2023

DECLARATION

STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I, Joseph Emmanuel Tabi, declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in public works which have all been identified and duly acknowledged, is entirely my own original work and it has not been submitted, either in part or whole, for another degree elsewhere.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

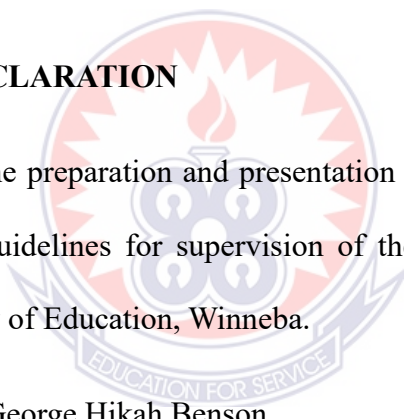
SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis/dissertation/project as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

Supervisor: Professor George Hikah Benson

Signature:

Date:



DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my family



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

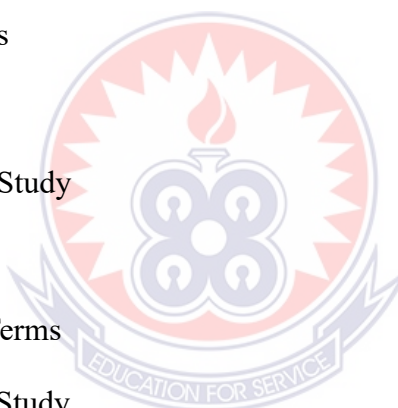
I will always be grateful to the Almighty Father for providing me with the knowledge and strength to finish this work

There are some people without whose inputs, this work could never have materialised. To begin, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Professor George Hikah Benson for his thorough evaluation of this work and especially his insistence on quality and timely completion of this research.

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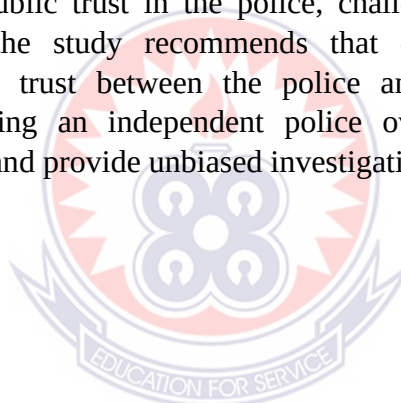
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ABSTRACT

Police corruption is a global issue with various forms like bribery, extortion and abuse of power, affecting professional ethics and legal integrity, public trust and law enforcement efficiency. Despite the broader understanding of this issue, there's a notable gap in research on the relationship between police corruption and human rights violations of offenders in Ghana, necessitating further investigation for informed policymaking and scholarly exploration. A qualitative research approach, supplemented by a case study design, was used in this study to delve into the intricate nature of police corruption and its ensuing effects on offenders' human rights. Rigorous semi-structured interviews with ten participants were interviewed, all of whom were carefully selected using purposeful sampling techniques. Following data gathering, a thematic analysis using coding was carried out to distil the findings and encourage scholarly discussions. The study found that there's a violation of the procedural rights of offenders as well as not being informed about reasons for arrest and ensuring fair trial processes. Again, the study found that the sanctity of the justice system, particularly the right to a fair trial, is being compromised by corrupt practices, leading to potential miscarriages of justice. The study concluded that corruption and breaches in professional ethics have significantly eroded public trust in the police, challenging the core of democratic policing. Therefore, the study recommends that community policing must be strengthened to boost trust between the police and the community. It further recommends establishing an independent police oversight committee to review corruption allegations and provide unbiased investigations.



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Police corruption is a global concern with far-reaching effects on offenders' human rights. Instances of police misconduct in both developed and developing nations have raised concerns about the integrity of law enforcement agencies and the protection of human rights.

Police corruption transcends national boundaries and is influenced by a multitude of socio-political and economic factors throughout the world. In Mexico, for instance, the relationship between governmental corruption and political behavior has been explored, revealing that experiences of police corruption can contribute to increased political mobilization, including protests (Ponce, Somuano, & Velázquez López Velarde, 2021). Such findings highlight the broader societal repercussions of police misconduct, which extend beyond the immediate victims to affect the political dynamics at large.

Corruption manifests in numerous ways, including bribery, extortion, and the abuse of power for personal benefit (Hellman, 2022). These corrupt practices undermine the fundamental purpose of law enforcement, which is to serve and protect. When law enforcement officers engage in corrupt behaviour, they not only violate the public's trust but also endanger the rights of individuals, especially offenders. In the Russian Federation, for example, the state's approach to drug control has been criticized for its reliance on punitive measures that frequently violate human rights. As a significant portion of the incarcerated population is punished for drug-related offences, there is growing concern regarding the treatment of these offenders and the potential violations

of their human rights (Hellman, 2022). The effects of police corruption on offenders' of human rights are multifaceted. Corruption can result in wrongful arrests, fabricated evidence, and unjust imprisonment. These actions violate individuals' rights to a fair trial, protection from torture, and other inhumane or degrading treatment (León Spellman, 2020). The Rio de Janeiro Pacifying Police Unit has been criticized for its violent practices, which have further eroded trust and perpetuated human rights violations (León Spesny, 2020).

Southeast Asia provides a context distinct for comprehending police corruption. The research conducted by Ngich and Cho (2020) on police corruption in the region highlights the importance of governance, public participation, and public management reform. The study highlights the significance of political will, anti-corruption agencies, and institutional reforms in addressing police corruption's challenges. It is essential to comprehend the underlying causes of police corruption to design effective interventions. Malik and Qureshi (2020) investigate the economic, cultural, and political determinants of police corruption in Pakistan. They contend that in Pakistan, police corruption is institutionalized, politicized, and legitimized, and is profoundly rooted in a patron-client social and political culture based on kinship. These insights illuminate the intricate interaction of factors that perpetuate corrupt practices within law enforcement agencies.

Sociopolitical and economic factors impart distinctive characteristics to police misconduct. With its diverse cultures and histories, the continent presents a complex tapestry of policing and human rights challenges. Apartheid has left a legacy of mistrust between the police and the Black population in South Africa, for instance. Allegations

of police malfeasance exacerbate tensions, which include concerns regarding the treatment of Black offenders and potential violations of human rights (Muntingh, 2016). Similarly, the recent ‘#EndSARS’, a twitter campaign and protests in Nigeria brought to light pervasive police corruption and brutality, especially by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). The movement, which garnered international attention, highlighted the urgent need for police reforms and the preservation of human rights, particularly for the disproportionately targeted young Nigerian offenders (Akinlabi, 2020).

Bleakley (2020) offers a novel perspective on police corruption by reframing organized police corruption as a form of cultic recruitment. According to this viewpoint, corrupt officers utilize recruitment and retention techniques similar to those employed by sects. This perspective emphasizes the pervasiveness of corruption in certain law enforcement circles, where corrupt practices have become normalized and rationalized.

While police corruption is a global problem, it manifests differently in various national contexts. In Ghana, a nation with a rich history and diverse cultural background, police corruption has emerged as a pressing issue, undermining public confidence and the overall effectiveness of law enforcement. The historical trajectory of Ghana, especially its colonial past, has had a significant impact on the development of modern policing practices. Addo (2022) examines the historical origins of police corruption in Ghana, tracing it back to the British colonial era. Colonial legacies have left an indelible impression on the nation's law enforcement landscape, according to the findings of this study. At the street level, police corruption in Ghana is characterized by both corrupt practices initiated by the public and police officers' justifications for their participation

in corrupt activities. Addo's exploratory study (2022) demonstrates that a mixture of societal expectations, economic pressure and institutional vulnerabilities influences street-level police corruption in Ghana. The public involvement in instigating corrupt practices, whether through offering bribes or other inducements, underscores the complex interplay of factors that perpetuate corruption within the Ghanaian police force.

When law enforcement officers engage in corrupt behavior, the very basis of justice is undermined. Instead of being regarded impartially and fairly, offenders and criminals may be subjected to prejudice, false accusations, and fabricated evidence. This conduct violates individuals' rights to a fair trial, protection from torture, and freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention. In addition, the probability of extrajudicial punishments, physical abuse, and other forms of maltreatment rises can occur and further violate the human rights of these individuals. In essence, police corruption in Ghana has direct and profound implications for the human rights of offenders and criminals, despite being a reflection of broader societal and historical issues. In addition to restoring public trust, addressing this malfeasance is a fundamental human rights issue that requires immediate attention and action. In light of this, the purpose of this study is to examine police corruption and its effect on the human rights of offenders and criminals using the Regional East of the Ghana Police Service as a case study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The issue of police corruption, which is characterized by its complexity and widespread presence, has been extensively examined by scholars in many global settings. The various forms in which corruption presents itself, such as bribery, extortion and abuse

of power, have significant ramifications for the integrity of legal systems, public confidence and the overall effectiveness of law enforcement. Numerous scholarly investigations have explored the complexities of police corruption across various contexts and perspectives.

Police corruption is a pervasive issue that extends beyond national borders, taking on various manifestations that are shaped by a multitude of socio-political and economic circumstances. Singh (2022) investigated the underlying factors contributing to instances of police corruption within states experiencing conflict, with a particular emphasis on the imperative of implementing preventive measures. In their recent work, Aldana, Larralde, and Aldana (2022) employed a modelling approach to examine the impact of police corruption on the mitigation of organized crime, with a specific focus on the context of Mexico. These studies highlight the wider societal ramifications of police misbehaviour, which reach beyond the direct victims and have an impact on broader political dynamics and organized crime.

Police corruption exhibits distinct issues and dynamics across various regions. Agoff, Fondevila, and Sandberg (2021) conducted a study that explored the cultural stigmatization and prevalence of police corruption in Mexico, with a specific focus on the implications of cannabis legalization. The study conducted by Jovićić and Šetka (2021) primarily examined instances of corruption in non-economic domains, with a particular emphasis on the phenomenon of police corruption. The impact of a nation's historical development on the formation and implementation of present-day policing strategies is of considerable importance. In his study, Addo (2022) conducted an in-depth analysis of the historical underpinnings of police corruption in Ghana, attributing

its inception to the period of British colonial governance. The comprehension of institutional challenges and legacies that lead to modern manifestations of police corruption is contingent upon the inclusion of historical views. Police corruption can take on different manifestations at the street level, which are driven by societal expectations, economic constraints, and institutional inadequacies. The exploratory study conducted by Addo (2022) in Ghana shed light on the intricate nature of street-level police corruption, with particular emphasis on the influence of community expectations and economic pressures. These observations underscore the intricate dynamics that sustain corrupt behaviors inside law enforcement organizations.

The significant effects of police corruption on the human rights of offenders are evident. Corrupt practices have the potential to result in infringements against human rights, including but not limited to instances of wrongful arrests, the fabrication of evidence, and the imposition of unfair imprisonment. The study conducted by Abramson and Bland-Abramson (2021) delved into the topics of racial animus, police corruption, and erroneous convictions, with a particular focus on highlighting the adverse consequences of corruption on the administration of justice. Nonetheless, there exists a significant void in the scholarly literature about the precise correlation between police corruption and the infringement of human rights by offenders within the setting of Ghana.

While substantial research has addressed police corruption globally, there is a marked deficiency in studies specifically examining the correlation between police corruption and offenders' human rights within Ghana. Addressing this knowledge gap is essential to inform policy, enhance institutional reform, and contribute to the broader discourse on justice and human rights. In light of this knowledge gap, it is crucial to investigate

this correlation within the specific context of Ghana to provide insights for policymaking, practical applications, and further scholarly inquiry.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the extent and nature of police corruption within the Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service and to understand its implications on the human rights of criminals and offenders. By focusing on this specific region, the research aims to shed light on the systemic issues that may contribute to corrupt practices and to assess the potential violations of rights that result from such misconduct.

1.4 Research Objectives

The study was guided by the following research objectives:

1. To identify specific types of police corruption activities that are affecting offenders in the Kasoa Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service.
2. To assess the understanding of police personnel on corruption activities and offenders' human rights
3. To examine the ethical implications of police corruption on offenders' human rights

1.5 Research Questions

The following research questions were interrogated by this study:

1. What specific types of police corruption activities are affecting offenders in the Kasoa Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service?
2. How do police personnel in the Kasoa Central East Region understand the relationship between corrupt activities and the human rights of offenders?

3. What are the ethical implications of police corruption activities on the human rights of offenders?

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study serves as a beacon for practitioners within the Ghana Police Service and affiliated law enforcement agencies, illuminating prevalent corrupt practices and their human rights implications. The research provides actionable recommendations that can be incorporated into training programs, seminars, and awareness initiatives, drawing on real-world scenarios and case studies (Goldsmith, 2010). These insights can empower officers to combat corruption proactively, champion ethical behaviour, and prioritize the protection of human rights, even in difficult situations.

This study theoretically contributed to the extant literature on police corruption, human rights, and their intersection (Bowling & Sheptycki, 2012). This research introduced novel theoretical constructs and frameworks by providing a granular analysis of the Central East Region of Ghana. It bridges the theoretical gap between corruption dynamics and human rights discourses, nurturing a deeper comprehension of how systemic corruption can manifest as rights violations. This theoretical development paves the way for future interdisciplinary investigations that intertwine criminology, ethics, and human rights paradigms.

This study is a seminal academic work for academicians, researchers, and students entering the fields of law enforcement, corruption studies, and human rights in an African context (Alemika & Chukwuma, 2004). The localized focus of the study provides a unique lens for global academia to comprehend and analyze corruption and

human rights issues in Ghana and, by extension, Africa. The methodologies, frameworks, and analytical tools used in this study can also serve as a guide for future academic endeavours, promoting methodological rigour and scholarly excellence.

1.7 Scope of the Study

This study focused on the Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service in Kasoa and examined police corruption and its effects on human rights from a regional perspective. The study employed a qualitative methodology, drawing on primary sources such as interviews with law enforcement officials, victims, and key informants.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Police: Law enforcement officers responsible for maintaining public order, enforcing laws, and preventing crime within a community or jurisdiction.

Corruption: Abuse of power or public office for personal gain, often involving bribery, extortion, or other unethical practices.

Human Rights: Fundamental rights and freedoms inherently entitled to all individuals, including rights to life, liberty, fair treatment, and protection under the law.

Offenders: Individuals who have committed or are accused of committing a crime or legal violation.

Law Enforcement Officials: Law enforcement officials are individuals authorized by the state or local entities to uphold and enforce the law. This includes not only police officers but also other related personnel such as detectives, police, and marshals who have the power of arrest, detention, or investigation.

19 Organization of the Study

In the first chapter, an overview of the research topic is provided. The background, problem statement, research objectives, and significance of the study are elucidated. Key terms relevant to the study are also defined to set the context. In chapter two, there is existing literature on police corruption, its impact on human rights, and the specific context of the Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service reviewed in this chapter. Theoretical frameworks and previous empirical studies are examined to identify gaps and establish the foundation for the current research. The research methods employed in the study are detailed in chapter three. The design, sample selection, data collection techniques, and analytical tools are described. Ethical considerations and the rationale behind methodological choices are also discussed. Data collected during the research process is presented and analyzed in chapter four. Patterns, trends, and key insights are highlighted. The findings are interpreted in light of the existing literature and theoretical frameworks introduced in Chapter two. The final chapter five presents the main findings of the study and concludes. Recommendations for policy, practice, and future research are proposed based on the study. Limitations of the study and potential areas for further exploration are also outlined.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

Police corruption is a pervasive issue that has far-reaching implications, not only for the integrity of law enforcement agencies but also for the human rights of individuals, particularly offenders. This study aims to examine the consequences of police corruption on the human rights of offenders, focusing on the Central East Region as a case study. Understanding the dynamics of police corruption is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, corruption within law enforcement agencies undermines public trust and the credibility of state institutions, which are essential for the functioning of a democratic society (Dammert, Elorrieta & Alda, 2021). Secondly, corruption poses a significant threat to human rights and freedoms. Corruption as a threat to human rights and freedoms highlights on an inversely proportional relationship between the scale of corruption and the ability to realize human rights and freedom ((Tymoshenko & Bondar, 2022).

The violation of rights and freedoms often stems from the activities of corrupt officials, making it imperative to study this issue in depth. The reviewed literature covered various aspects related to police corruption and its impact on human rights.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Abuse of Power Theory

The Abuse of Power Theory posits that corruption occurs when individuals in positions of authority misuse their power for personal or organizational gain. This theory is particularly relevant in the context of law enforcement, where officers have significant discretionary powers. The abuse of such powers can lead to violations of human rights,

such as unlawful detention, torture, and even extrajudicial killings (Klockars et al., 2000). The theory suggests that the abuse of power is often systemic, rooted in the culture and structure of the police organization. This creates an environment where corruption is not only tolerated but sometimes even encouraged. The implications for human rights are severe, as the very institution meant to protect and serve becomes a source of oppression and injustice (Punch, 2009).

The theory is rooted in the idea that individuals in positions of authority are susceptible to misusing their power for personal or organizational gain. The theory suggests that the abuse of power is often systemic, deeply embedded in the culture and structure of the police organization. This systemic nature creates an environment where corruption is not only tolerated but sometimes even encouraged. For example, the "blue wall of silence," an unwritten code among police officers not to report on a colleague's errors or misconduct, perpetuates this culture of abuse (Skolnick, 2002). The implications for human rights are severe. When police officers abuse their power, they can engage in unlawful detention, torture, and even extrajudicial killings. These actions directly violate various human rights, including the right to life, the right to freedom from torture, and the right to a fair trial (Amnesty International, 2019).

The Abuse of Power Theory is closely linked to the Socio-cultural Theory. The socio-cultural theory emphasizes the broader social and cultural context within which police organizations operate. It suggests that corruption in police can be influenced by societal norms, values, and expectations. Factors such as widespread corruption in society, tolerance for unethical behavior, and a culture of bribery can exert pressure on

individual officers to engage in corrupt practices. This theory highlights the influence of social and cultural variables in shaping the behavior and choices of police officers.

2.1.2 Socio-cultural Theory

The socio-cultural theory suggests that corruption in police organizations can be influenced by broader social and cultural variables highlighting the impact of tolerance for corruption, power distance, loyalty and solidarity, and perceptions of corruption. Cultural norms that tolerate or even encourage corruption can have a profound effect on police officers' behavior. In societies where corruption is prevalent and accepted as a means of survival or advancement, police officers may be more susceptible to engaging in corrupt acts. When corruption becomes deeply ingrained in the cultural fabric, it erodes ethical standards and fosters an environment where personal gain takes precedence over the public and scholarly interest.

Cultural norms that prioritize loyalty and solidarity within a group can perpetuate police corruption. The strong sense of loyalty among police officers may lead to a "code of silence" or a "blue wall of silence" that protects misconduct and corrupt practices. This loyalty to colleagues, even in the face of wrongdoing, impedes internal accountability mechanisms and obstructs efforts to eradicate corruption within the police organization. In societies where corruption is perceived as pervasive and goes unpunished, it can rationalize or justify engagement in corrupt acts. The belief that corruption is an inherent part of the job or an accepted practice creates a moral hazard for police officers, leading to a normalization of corrupt behaviors and a reluctance to report or expose misconduct.

Promoting a culture of integrity, accountability, and transparency within the police force and society at large is paramount. This includes initiatives such as promoting anti-corruption values through education and awareness campaigns, fostering professional ethics and responsibility, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and encouraging a culture of trust and cooperation between the police and the community they serve.

One criticism of this theory is that it tends to focus too much on individual actions, often overlooking the systemic factors that contribute to abuse. However, more recent adaptations of the theory have started to incorporate these systemic elements, providing a more holistic view (Punch, 2009).

2.1.3 Social Contract Theory

The Social Contract Theory, often attributed to philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, posits that individuals form societies and establish governments to maintain social order and protect their rights. In this contract, the police serve as agents of the state, entrusted with the power to enforce laws and maintain public order (Hobbes, 1651; Locke, 1689). However, when police officers engage in corrupt practices, they violate this social contract, undermining public trust and the legitimacy of the state. This has a cascading effect on human rights, as a lack of trust in law enforcement can lead to reluctance to report crimes, thereby perpetuating cycles of violence and injustice (Tyler, 2004).

The Social Contract Theory, rooted in philosophical thought, posits that individuals form societies and establish governments to maintain social order and protect their rights. Police, as agents of the state, are thus entrusted with significant powers to enforce laws and maintain public order. When police officers engage in corrupt practices, they violate this social contract, undermining public trust and the legitimacy

of the state. This has a cascading effect on human rights. For instance, a lack of trust in law enforcement can lead to a reluctance in reporting crimes, thereby perpetuating cycles of violence and injustice (Tyler, 2004). The violation of the social contract has direct implications for human rights. When the state's agents are corrupt, they fail in their primary duty to protect the rights and freedoms of individuals. This failure can manifest in various forms, including racial profiling, unlawful detention, and even extrajudicial killings (Human Rights Watch, 2020).

Police corruption poses a significant challenge to the integrity and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies globally. Among the various variables that contribute to police corruption, political interference and patronage systems play a crucial role.

Political interference often seeps into the recruitment and promotion processes within law enforcement agencies. When appointments and promotions are based on political connections, personal favours, or loyalty rather than merit and competence, it erodes the integrity of the police force.

Political interference allows politicians to exert control and manipulate the police force to serve their own interests. Politicians may influence law enforcement decisions, directing investigations, or prioritizing cases that align with their political agenda. This control undermines the independence and impartiality of the police, creating opportunities for corruption to thrive. Officers may be coerced into engaging in corrupt practices to appease political masters or secure their positions within the organization. Officers may feel pressured to engage in corrupt activities to demonstrate loyalty to their political patrons or to gain favour and protect their positions.

Political interference often leads to the diversion of resources intended for law enforcement purposes. Politicians may misfeasance these resources to further their political objectives or for personal gain. The diversion of funds, equipment, or personnel limits the capacity of the police force to effectively combat corruption within their ranks. Insufficient resources hinder investigations, training programs, and the implementation of internal controls, creating an environment conducive to corruption. Critics such as Pateman (1988) argue that the Social Contract Theory is often too idealistic, assuming a level of rationality and altruism that may not exist in real-world settings. Moreover, the theory often overlooks power imbalances within society, which can influence the effectiveness of the social contract (Pateman, 1988).

2.1.3 Broken Windows Theory

The Broken Windows Theory, introduced by social scientists James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling in 1982, suggests that visible signs of disorder and neglect, such as broken windows or graffiti, create an environment that encourages further crime and antisocial behaviour. This theory has been widely adopted in policing strategies, emphasizing the importance of maintaining public order to prevent more serious crimes (Wilson & Kelling, 1982). However, the implementation of this theory has often led to aggressive policing tactics, such as stop-and-frisk, which disproportionately target minority communities. This raises serious human rights concerns, including racial profiling and violations of the right to privacy and freedom from discrimination (Fagan & Davies, 2000).

The Broken Windows Theory suggests that visible signs of disorder and neglect create an environment that encourages further crime and antisocial behavior. This theory has been widely adopted in policing strategies, emphasizing the importance of maintaining

public order to prevent more serious crimes. However, the implementation of this theory has often led to aggressive policing tactics, such as stop-and-frisk, which disproportionately target minority communities. These tactics have been criticized for their human rights implications, including racial profiling and violations of the right to privacy and freedom from discrimination (Fagan & Davies, 2000). The aggressive policing tactics stemming from the Broken Windows Theory can lead to a range of human rights violations. These include the right to freedom from discrimination, the right to privacy, and even the right to life in cases where confrontations escalate to violence (ACLU, 2018). One of the main criticisms of the Broken Windows Theory is that it can perpetuate systemic racism and inequality. By focusing on minor offenses often associated with low-income or minority communities, the theory can contribute to cycles of poverty and discrimination (Harcourt, 2001).

2.1.4 Nuances of the Theoretical Framework

Understanding these theories is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, they provide a conceptual framework for analyzing the complex relationship between police corruption and human rights. For instance, the Abuse of Power Theory helps us understand how systemic issues within law enforcement agencies can lead to widespread human rights violations. It also offers insights into potential solutions, such as organizational reforms and stricter oversight mechanisms.

Secondly, these theories highlight the multi-dimensional nature of the problem. While the Abuse of Power Theory focuses on individual and organizational factors, the Social Contract Theory emphasizes the societal and institutional aspects. This suggests that tackling police corruption and its impact on human rights requires a multi-faceted

approach, involving not just law enforcement agencies but also policymakers, civil society organizations, and the general public.

Lastly, these theories offer a moral and ethical framework for evaluating the actions of police officers and the institutions they represent. The Social Contract Theory, in particular, provides a basis for holding law enforcement agencies accountable for their actions, reinforcing the importance of public trust and legitimacy.

2.2 Models of Policing

The policing models have undergone substantial evolution over time, according to societal transformations and technological progress. The three main policing models described here are community policing, traditional policing, and predictive policing. Every model possesses unique concepts, methodologies, and consequences for the relationship between law enforcement and the community.

Community policing is a strategic approach that emphasizes the establishment of strong connections and close collaboration with people in the community. It prioritizes proactive resolution of issues and collaborations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. Community policing entails the cooperative effort between law enforcement officials and people of the community to identify and resolve issues that affect the community. The concept is rooted in the philosophy of decentralized decision-making, which grants officials greater autonomy in handling local issues (Jiao, 1998). Community policing has been effectively applied in some nations, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and several Nordic countries. Every region customizes the model to suit its local settings and requirements (Maillard & Terpstra, 2021).

Community policing in transitional cultures, such as those in Latin America and Africa, has encountered difficulties stemming from insufficient police professionalism and public scepticism (Davis, Henderson, & Merrick, 2003). Research has demonstrated that the implementation of community policing can have an indirect impact on crime reduction and enhance the overall well-being of communities. According to Xu, Fiedler, and Flaming (2005), there is a correlation between it and reduced fear levels, as well as increased citizen satisfaction with the police. The effectiveness of the community policing concept is highly dependent on the specific socio-cultural and political circumstances of the local area (Lau, 2004). The traditional style of police, also known as the "professional model," is defined by a centralized and bureaucratic method that prioritizes law enforcement and crime control. Traditional policing is based on a hierarchical organization, where there is a clear chain of command, and the main emphasis is on quickly responding to situations. The main objective is to prevent criminal activity by implementing conspicuous patrols and capturing those who have committed offences (Sims, Scarborough, & Ahmad, 2003).

This methodology has faced criticism because of its reactive character, frequently focusing on symptoms rather than the underlying causes of crime. Conventional law enforcement methods can result in a separation between the police and the community, resulting in problems of distrust and a lack of collaboration (Williams, Brower, & Klay, 2016). Comparative studies indicate that although traditional policing can effectively maintain order, it frequently lacks the essential community engagement required for long-term crime prevention (Madero-Hernandez, Lee, Wilcox, & Fisher, 2020). Predictive policing employs data and analytics to anticipate the location and timing of potential criminal activities, enabling law enforcement to allocate their resources more

efficiently. Predictive policing is the combination of different technologies such as crime mapping, data mining, and machine learning algorithms to anticipate areas with high crime rates and potential criminals (Yang, 2019). Tools such as PredPol, HunchLab, and Risk Terrain Modeling are frequently employed to evaluate crime data and provide guidance for patrol decisions (Ferguson, 2019). Predictive policing can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of crime prevention by proactively targeting high-risk regions, which could lead to a decrease in crime rates (Kutnowski, 2017). Nevertheless, this practice gives rise to noteworthy ethical problems, encompassing apprehensions regarding privacy, the precision of data, and the possibility of biases in algorithmic decision-making (Goodson & Hoyer-Leitzel, 2021). Predictive policing presents potential breakthroughs, but its application necessitates meticulous attention to ethical norms and community involvement to prevent the worsening of pre-existing disparities (Ferguson, 2016).

2.3 Policing and Human Rights

Policing is an essential governmental duty that involves upholding public order and safety, enforcing legal regulations, and actively working to prevent, identify, and investigate criminal activities. Nevertheless, the activities of law enforcement must conform to human rights norms to safeguard the rights and dignity of individuals. This section delves into the intricate correlation between law enforcement and human rights, analysing significant matters, obstacles, and the global ramifications of policing methods on human rights. Throughout history, policing regimes have undergone substantial changes, with different levels of commitment to human rights principles. Traditional policing practices in some regions frequently placed greater importance on state security than on individual rights, perhaps leading to infringements on human

rights. In South Africa, both during and after the apartheid era, there were substantial concerns over police violence and the misuse of authority, which have remained pertinent issues in the contemporary setting (Faull, 2011).

There is considerable variation in the extent to which human rights criteria are incorporated into policing practices in different countries. The United Kingdom, as an illustration, has witnessed a transformation in the comprehension and execution of human rights among its law enforcement agencies. Once perceived as limiting, human rights standards are now regarded as guiding instruments that facilitate the equilibrium of perspectives and interests among all stakeholders involved in the criminal justice process (Poolman et al., 2019).

Policing in other regions of the globe is frequently linked to infringements upon human rights. This is especially apparent in areas where law enforcement authorities have a long-standing history of engaging in behaviours that infringe upon fundamental human rights, such as the disproportionate use of force, illegal detentions, and torture. These practices require the reformation of the police and the establishment of official human rights regulations inside police systems (Eijkman, 2007). Efforts to incorporate human rights into policing operations have yielded mixed results. Although there has been an increase in global awareness and the establishment of police units that monitor human rights, achieving long-lasting and significant reform at the national level continues to be difficult. Several areas continue to face inadequate policing methods, characterized by systemic problems that impede the safeguarding of human rights (Bayley, 2015). Multiple obstacles prevent the complete achievement of human rights in policing. These factors encompass cultural and historical backgrounds, opposition originating

from within police organizations, and the intricate characteristics of law enforcement. In Northern Ireland, the perception and implementation of policing are influenced by past conflicts and conflicting narratives regarding human rights (Martin, 2021).

International human rights law is essential in influencing policing practices. The European Court of Human Rights and other international entities have set down criteria and principles for the examination of police wrongdoing and the safeguarding of human rights. The principles serve as a framework for guiding national changes and ensuring that individuals or organizations are held responsible for their actions (Smith et al., 2015). The implementation of human rights training and the creation of independent oversight bodies in policing have demonstrated the potential to advance policing practices that align with human rights standards. To ensure the future of policing, it is crucial to persistently incorporate human rights into routine police procedures and to tackle the underlying factors that lead to human rights abuses (Martin, 2021).

2.4 Evolution of Police Corruption: A Historical Perspective

The issue of police corruption is not a new phenomenon; it has historical roots that can be traced back to the early days of policing. Over the years, the nature and scope of police corruption have evolved, adapting to new forms of governance, societal norms, and public expectations. This section aims to provide a comprehensive review of the historical context of police corruption, focusing on its evolution, types, global perspectives, and its impact on human rights.

Understanding the evolution of police corruption requires a nuanced approach that encompasses its historical, social, and institutional dimensions. The roots of police corruption can be traced back to the foundational elements of policing systems. Initially

established to maintain public order and enforce laws, the police were endowed with significant authority. However, this power often led to the misuse of their roles. According to Kim and Kim (2019), the expansive scope of police duties, coupled with a lack of proper accountability, has been a significant factor contributing to corruption. They found that the absence of stringent oversight mechanisms allowed for a culture of corruption to flourish within the police force.

In the 20th century, particularly the Prohibition era in the United States, marked a significant turning point for police corruption. The emergence of organized crime created an environment ripe for corruption, as law enforcement agencies often found themselves entangled in illegal activities. Porter and Warburton (2020) noted that officers in specialized units are particularly susceptible to corruption due to the covert nature of their operations and the necessity to build relationships with criminal elements. Their findings revealed that the low visibility of the work of these specialized units often led to a lack of accountability, thereby fostering corruption.

With the advent of globalization and technology, new forms of corruption have emerged, such as cybercrime and international drug trafficking. These developments have necessitated a reevaluation of traditional anti-corruption strategies. Prenzler and Ransley (2011) discuss how there has been a general convergence in the increased powers and enlarged range of anti-corruption tactics in recent years. They found that modern oversight mechanisms have evolved to include a broader range of tactics, including the use of technology for surveillance and data analysis, to combat new forms of corruption.

It is crucial to understand that corruption is not merely an individual act but is often deeply embedded within the social and institutional fabric of society. A study by Khan, Shah, and Khan (2021) identifies low salaries, a lack of accountability, and political patronage as significant contributing factors to police corruption. Their findings suggest that these systemic issues create an environment where corruption is not only tolerated but sometimes even encouraged, thereby making it a challenging problem to eradicate. In Australia, Prenzler (2011) examines the developments in police oversight over the last decade, highlighting a trend towards replacing the ombudsman model with a public sector-wide commission model. This shift is driven by ongoing revelations of misconduct and concerns about potential misconduct by police, public servants, and politicians. Prenzler argues that despite improvements, there is considerable room for better practice, particularly in enlarging the scope of independent investigations and adjudication by integrity commissions. This evolution in oversight mechanisms reflects a broader global trend towards increased accountability and transparency in policing. Marona and Kerche (2021) analyze the development of a new anti-corruption institutional framework in Brazil, focusing on judicial tools and the legal system. The study finds that this new institutionality, exemplified by Operation Car Wash, was initially coordinated by the Federal government but later taken over by the Public Prosecution's Office and the Judiciary. This evolution signifies a shift towards a more judicially driven approach to combating corruption, emphasizing the role of legal institutions in curbing corrupt practices within the police force.

The evolution of police corruption is a complex and multifaceted issue, influenced by a range of historical, social, and institutional factors. The findings of various scholars indicate that while efforts have been made to curb this menace, the dynamic nature of corruption requires ongoing research and policy interventions.

2.4.1 Historical Milestones in Police Corruption

The history of police corruption is inextricably linked with the evolution of oversight mechanisms. In Australia, for instance, there has been a significant transformation in the structure and responsibilities of oversight agencies over the past decade. According to Colvin (2011), there is an ongoing trend towards replacing the ombudsman model with a public sector-wide commission model. This shift has been catalyzed by continuous revelations of misconduct or concerns about potential misconduct involving police officers, public servants, and politicians. Colvin's study posits that the evolution of police corruption is closely tied to the continual refinement of oversight mechanisms, which are updated in response to emerging forms of corruption. This suggests that as societies evolve, so do the mechanisms designed to curb corruption, thereby reflecting the complex and dynamic nature of the issue.

The colonial era in Africa serves as a significant milestone in the history of police corruption. During this period, the police force was often utilized as an instrument of oppression and control, serving the interests of colonial powers rather than the indigenous populace. This created a fertile ground for corruption, as police officers were incentivized to engage in corrupt practices for personal gains and to maintain the colonial order. Douek (2013) elucidated how apartheid counterinsurgency programs have had lasting impacts on the state and its security sector, perpetuating institutional

illegitimacy and corruption. The study contends that counterinsurgency compromised South Africa's process of security sector reform, thereby undermining democratic consolidation.

Following independence, many African nations inherited a corrupt and inefficient police system. The post-independence era witnessed the institutionalization of corruption within the police force, exacerbated by a lack of accountability and oversight mechanisms. Bell and Ntsebeza (2004) discussed how many of apartheid's most senior agents within the police and army remain in place, contributing to the erosion of trust between civil society and the state, thereby perpetuating corruption. The study further emphasizes that corruption is deeply embedded within the social and institutional fabric of society, making it a challenging problem to eradicate.

The advent of globalization and technological advancements has introduced new forms of corruption, such as cybercrime. These developments have necessitated a reevaluation of traditional anti-corruption strategies. However, the lack of technological infrastructure and expertise in many African countries has made it challenging to combat these new forms of corruption effectively. This gap in technological capabilities serves as a modern milestone in the history of police corruption, highlighting the need for a multi-faceted approach that incorporates technological solutions. Kinnes (2022) underscored the role of social and political dynamics in shaping police corruption in South Africa. The study identifies systemic issues, such as low salaries and inadequate training, as contributing factors to corruption within the police force. These systemic issues create an environment where corruption is not only tolerated but sometimes even encouraged.

The colonial legacy, post-independence institutionalization of corruption, modern challenges posed by globalization and technology, and various social and political factors have all played a role in shaping the landscape of police corruption in Africa. Understanding these historical milestones is crucial for the development of effective, context-specific anti-corruption strategies that take into account the unique challenges faced by different countries.

2.4.2 Global Perspective on Police Corruption

Understanding police corruption necessitates a multifaceted approach that integrates various theoretical frameworks while acknowledging the unique socio-cultural and political landscapes in different countries. There are three primary theoretical lenses namely Principal-Agent Theory, Institutional Theory, and Cultural Theory which are relied upon to provide a comprehensive understanding of the underlying factors contributing to police corruption.

Principal-Agent Theory, as articulated by Klitgaard (1988), posits that corruption is likely to occur when the benefits outweigh the risks from the perspective of the police, who act as agents for the public or the state. This theory emphasizes the importance of aligning the interests of the principal and the agent through effective oversight and punitive measures.

Institutional Theory, rooted in the work of North (1990), argues that weak institutions create an environment conducive to corruption. This perspective suggests that strengthening institutional mechanisms, such as accountability and oversight, can serve as effective anti-corruption strategies.

Cultural Theory, based on Harrison's work (2006), adds another layer of complexity by highlighting how societal norms and values can influence the prevalence of corruption. In cultures where corrupt practices are socially tolerated, efforts to combat police corruption face additional challenges.

While these theoretical frameworks offer valuable insights, the case study on South Korea by Kim and Lee (2019) underscores the importance of context-specific considerations. The study identified unique factors contributing to police corruption in South Korea, such as the expansive scope of police duties without proper accountability and a prevailing code of silence within police organizations. These findings indicate that the root causes of police corruption can vary significantly across different cultural, social, and political contexts. Therefore, the implication for anti-corruption strategies is clear: a one-size-fits-all approach is insufficient. Strategies must be tailored to address both the universal factors identified by the theoretical frameworks and the unique challenges and opportunities present in each country. This integrated approach is crucial for the development of effective, context-specific anti-corruption measures. In summary, an integrated understanding of police corruption requires both a theoretical foundation and a sensitivity to context-specific nuances. Future research should aim at empirically test these theoretical frameworks in various cultural and national settings to further refine and develop effective anti-corruption strategies.

2.4.3 The Interplay between Legislation and Human Rights

A study by Bielova, Danko, and Dankó (2022) explores the expansion of human rights within Ukrainian legislation. The paper emphasizes the role of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine in establishing and affirming the rule of law, especially in the context of human rights (Bielova et al., 2022). This underscores the importance of national courts

in shaping legislative milestones related to human rights, which is a theme that resonates across different jurisdictions. Again, the role of law enforcement agencies in either upholding or violating human rights is another critical area of discussion. Muhit and Supriyanto (2022) focus on the provision of legal aid in Indonesia as a form of law enforcement that also serves as an interpretation and implication of human rights principles. The authors argue that legal aid is essential for achieving equitable access to justice and upholding the values of truth and justice (Muhit & Supriyanto, 2022). This suggests that law enforcement can indeed be a facilitator in the realization of human rights, provided that the legislative frameworks and operational guidelines are robust and human-centric. The role of international bodies, such as the United Nations, in influencing legislative milestones related to human rights is also noteworthy. Nartey (2022) critically analyzes the United Nations Security Council's effectiveness in dealing with the Rohingya crisis. The paper argues that the Council's failure to act was due to political ties, thereby paralyzing the principle of ethics and integrity in international law and human rights (Nartey, 2022). This highlights the limitations of international bodies in enforcing human rights, raising questions about the effectiveness of current international legislative milestones.

2.5 Police Corruption: Bribery, Extortion, and Abuse of Authority

Police corruption is a pervasive and deeply rooted issue that undermines the integrity of law enforcement agencies, erodes public trust, and poses a significant challenge to the rule of law. While corruption manifests in various forms, this discussion focuses on three primary types: bribery, extortion, and abuse of authority. Drawing on academic literature, this article aims to provide nuanced insights into these forms of corruption, their implications, and the challenges in mitigating them.

Bribery involves the exchange of money, gifts, or favors between a police officer and a civilian, often to overlook illegal activities or to expedite services. Sukhodolov et al. (2018) in their study on "Street-Level Corruption in Russia" highlighted how bribery has become habitualized, especially among police officers. The paper introduced new criminological trends, including the growing number of corruption crimes committed by the police, specifically related to bribery (Sukhodolov et al., 2018). This habitualization suggests that bribery is not just an isolated act but a systemic issue that requires comprehensive policy interventions.

The transactional nature of bribery often creates a vicious cycle where both the giver and the receiver become complicit in perpetuating corruption. This cycle not only undermines the integrity of law enforcement but also erodes public trust in these institutions. The habitualization of bribery, as noted by Sukhodolov et al. (2018), indicates that this form of corruption has become normalized, making it even more challenging to eradicate.

Extortion is another form of corruption where police officers force individuals to give money, goods, or services under the threat of physical harm or legal repercussions. Gaillard's (2019) paper on "The emergence of transnational responses to corruption in international arbitration" discusses how extortion is often a transnational issue. While the paper does not focus solely on police corruption, it provides a framework for understanding how extortion can cross borders and become a global challenge (Gaillard, 2019). This transnational aspect complicates the efforts to combat extortion, as it requires international cooperation and legal frameworks. The coercive nature of extortion makes it a particularly insidious form of corruption. Unlike bribery, where

both parties may willingly participate, extortion involves the abuse of power to force compliance. This form of corruption not only undermines the rule of law but also has a chilling effect on the community, as it instills fear and mistrust in law enforcement agencies.

Abuse of authority can range from unjust arrests to the use of excessive force and misuse of police resources. Stinson's paper on "Police crime: The Criminal Behavior of Sworn Law Enforcement Officers" categorizes abuse of authority under violence-related police crimes (Stinson, 2015). The paper emphasized the lack of comprehensive data on such abuses, which hampers the development of effective policies (Stinson, 2015). This lack of data is a significant challenge in understanding the full scope of abuse of authority and developing strategies to mitigate it.

The abuse of authority often stems from a culture of impunity within law enforcement agencies. This culture not only enables corrupt practices but also discourages whistleblowing and accountability. The absence of comprehensive data, as highlighted by Stinson (2015), further exacerbates this issue, as it hampers the development of targeted interventions and policies.

Addressing these forms of corruption necessitates not only stringent policies but also a cultural shift within law enforcement agencies and the broader community. The normalization of bribery, the transnational nature of extortion, and the culture of impunity in abuse of authority are nuances that make these forms of corruption particularly challenging to combat. Therefore, a multi-disciplinary approach that includes policy reform, international cooperation and cultural change is essential for mitigating the impact of these corrupt practices.

2.5.1 Police Corruption: Prevalence and Statistics

Police corruption is a pervasive issue that undermines the very fabric of trust and accountability within law enforcement agencies. While corruption is a global phenomenon, its prevalence and statistical representation vary significantly across different countries, states, and even local jurisdictions.

One of the most significant challenges in understanding the prevalence of police corruption is the lack of comprehensive and reliable data. Corruption often occurs in the shadows, making it difficult to quantify accurately. While some countries have established mechanisms for reporting and tracking corruption, these systems are often plagued by underreporting and lack of public trust (Punch, 2009). Moreover, the definition of what constitutes "corruption" can vary, further complicating efforts to gather consistent data (Newburn, 1999).

While it is challenging to provide a global estimate of police corruption, regional trends offer some insights. For example, countries with a history of political instability or authoritarian regimes often report higher levels of corruption (Bayley & Perito, 2011). In contrast, nations with robust democratic institutions and strong oversight mechanisms tend to have lower reported levels of police corruption (Transparency International, 2019). However, these trends are not universally applicable, as corruption can be deeply ingrained in the culture of specific law enforcement agencies, irrespective of the broader political context (Klockars et al., 2000).

Police corruption manifests in various forms, including bribery, extortion, and abuse of authority. Bribery is perhaps the most commonly reported form of corruption, often involving traffic police or officers responsible for issuing permits (Sherman, 1978). Extortion, while less common, is more insidious and involves the use of threats or

violence to obtain money or favors (Skolnick, 2002). Abuse of authority, which can include physical abuse, illegal searches, and false arrests, is often the most difficult to quantify due to the power dynamics involved and the lack of reporting mechanisms (Goldstein, 1975). The prevalence of police corruption is further obscured by the culture of silence that often exists within law enforcement agencies. Officers are reluctant to report corrupt behavior among their colleagues, fearing retaliation or ostracization (Westmarland, 2005). This "code of silence" contributes to the underreporting of corruption and makes it challenging to understand its true extent (Ivković, 2005). Advancements in technology offer new avenues for gathering data on police corruption. Body cameras, for instance, provide an objective record of police interactions, although their effectiveness in reducing corruption is still a subject of debate (Ariel et al., 2016). Social media platforms also serve as informal channels where citizens can report and discuss instances of police corruption, although these platforms come with their own set of challenges, including the verification of information (Brunson & Wade, 2019).

2.6 Factors Contributing to Police Corruption

2.6.1 Institutional Factors

Institutional factors play a critical role in shaping the prevalence and nature of police corruption. The structure and governance of law enforcement agencies, the level of oversight, and the mechanisms for accountability are all institutional elements that can either mitigate or exacerbate corruption. For instance, a study conducted in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, found that lack of accountability, recruitment through bribes, and political patronage were major institutional causes of police corruption (Hussain et al., 2021). Similarly, the quality of governmental regulations and

political stability have been shown to impact corruption levels within institutions, including the police force (Zhang, Ozturk, & Ullah, 2022).

The organizational structure of a police department can either facilitate or hinder corruption. Hierarchical structures with centralized decision-making may lack the checks and balances necessary to curb corruption effectively. In such settings, the abuse of power can go unchecked, especially if the leadership is also corrupt. Hussain et al. (2021) highlighted that corruption among senior officers was a significant contributing factor to overall police corruption. The presence or absence of robust accountability mechanisms is a critical institutional factor. Systems that lack transparent procedures for reporting and investigating corruption are more likely to have endemic corruption issues. The same Hussain et al. (2021) found that a lack of strict and unbiased accountability was a major cause of police corruption.

Political interference in law enforcement can significantly contribute to corruption. When politicians have the power to appoint or dismiss police officers, it creates an environment where law enforcement may feel obligated to return favors, leading to corrupt practices. This form of political patronage was also identified as a major cause of police corruption in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan (Hussain, 2021).

How police officers are recruited can also be an institutional factor contributing to corruption. When recruitment is based on nepotism, bribery, or other corrupt practices, it sets the stage for a culture of corruption within the force. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa study found that recruitment through bribes was a significant factor contributing to corruption within the department (Hussain, 2021).

2.6.2 Socio-cultural Factors

Sociocultural factors, such as societal norms, public attitudes towards corruption, and the level of community engagement, also contribute to the prevalence of police corruption. In some societies, corruption is deeply ingrained in the culture and is considered a norm rather than an exception. This cultural acceptance makes it difficult for anti-corruption measures to take root. An exploratory study on police corruption in Ghana highlighted the existence of corruption and questioned why it persists, pointing towards sociocultural acceptance as a possible reason (Addo, 2022).

In some societies, corruption is deeply ingrained in the culture and is considered a norm rather than an exception. This cultural acceptance makes it difficult for anti-corruption measures to take root. An exploratory study on police corruption in Ghana highlighted the existence of corruption and questioned why it persists, pointing towards sociocultural acceptance as a possible reason (Addo, 2022). When corruption is normalized, it becomes part of the social fabric, making it challenging to eradicate.

Public attitudes towards corruption can either facilitate or hinder corrupt practices. In societies where corruption is frowned upon and reported, there is a natural deterrent against such behavior. However, in environments where the public is apathetic or even complicit in corruption, law enforcement officers are more likely to engage in corrupt activities. Addo (2022) touched upon this, suggesting that public attitudes could be a contributing factor to the persistence of corruption.

The level of community engagement and social capital can also influence the prevalence of police corruption. In communities where there is a high level of engagement and trust, there is often less room for corruption to thrive. On the other

hand, in communities characterized by social fragmentation and low levels of trust, corruption can become rampant. The role of community engagement in combating corruption has been highlighted in various studies, emphasizing the need for community policing and public participation in governance as strategies to reduce corruption (Schreurs et al., 2018; Bullock & Sindall, 2014).

Certain cultural practices and traditions can either encourage or discourage corruption. For example, in some cultures, gift-giving is a common practice and is not considered corrupt, even when it involves public officials. However, this can create a slippery slope that leads to more overt forms of corruption. Society is structured that people do not question authority or persons in position in the course of work. In Ghanaian society, gift-giving is deeply embedded in the cultural fabric and is often viewed as a means to strengthen social bonds. Rejecting a gift is considered not just a breach of social etiquette but also an act that could be perceived as hostile, immoral, or even offensive. However, this cultural practice becomes problematic when it intersects with public services, particularly the police force. According to Graycar and Jancsics (2017), the act of gift-giving becomes a potential facilitator of corruption when there is an expectation of reciprocity or favor in return. Similarly, Human Rights Watch (2017) posits that gift-giving within the police force can shift the focus from collective and social service to serving individual interests, thereby promoting non-discretionary trust in the police. This shift can be detrimental to the integrity of public services and can foster an environment conducive to corruption.

Marche (2009) suggests that the practice of giving gifts to the police in appreciation for work done may inadvertently promote corrupt practices. This is further supported by Mills (2012) and Hope (2015), who argue that police corruption in Ghana may be reflective of a broader cultural context. Specifically, they contend that in societies where gift-giving is less contractual and more rooted in traditional practices, the likelihood of corruption within public services, including the police force, is higher.

Studies have shown that naturally men tend to be more corrupt as compared to women. This situation however can be the reverse. Dollar et al. (2001) studied the impact of gender on corruption using the International Country Risk Guide's corruption index to empirically analyze the relationship between gender and corruption. They concluded that the larger the number of women as government officials, the lower the degree of corruption. Sung (2003) believed that when women are given opportunities in male-dominated social networks, corruption will decrease.

Wängnerud and Svensson (2014) studied the relationship between different gender and corruption in institutional logic. They found that the difference between men and women is derived from the asymmetry experience between men and women, not their basic properties. Compared to the bureaucracy, women in the electoral system play a more significant role in curbing corruption. Corruption feeds on ignorance. It would be agreed that low level of education can contribute to corruption where people see the practice as widespread and normal and therefore also engage in it. Investing in education and skills development programs equips the workforce with the necessary abilities to compete in the job market. Skilled workers are less vulnerable to corruption, and a skilled labour force attracts investment and promotes economic growth. When

people are educated, they feel reluctant to allow themselves to be corrupted or even pay bribes.

2.6.3 Economic Factors

Economic factors, such as the level of salaries and benefits provided to law enforcement officers, can also influence the likelihood of corruption. Low salaries and lack of financial incentives can make officers more susceptible to bribery and other forms of corruption. The study in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa also identified low salaries as a significant contributing factor to police corruption (Hussain et al., 2021). Moreover, the broader economic context, including levels of poverty and inequality, can create an environment where corruption is more likely to flourish. Mauro (1995) conducted a comprehensive study on corruption data from several countries and concluded that corruption adversely affects the level of investment, thereby impeding economic growth. This finding suggests that corruption is not merely a social or political issue but has significant economic ramifications. Bardhan (2017) posited that while corruption generally has a negative impact on economic development, it could also have some positive effects in specific contexts. This nuanced view indicates that the relationship between economic factors and corruption is complex and may vary depending on various conditions. Treisman (2000) explored the causal linkage between economic development and corruption by studying the per capita GDP. His findings corroborate the general observation that corruption is less prevalent in economically developed countries compared to poorer nations. Gupta and Davoodi et al. (1998) highlighted that corruption exacerbates income inequality and increases poverty levels. This is particularly relevant for developing countries where corruption can perpetuate economic disparities. Farooq and Shahbaz et al. (2013) further substantiated this claim

by constructing a time-series model to demonstrate the relationship between income inequality and corruption, thereby identifying corruption as a significant challenge to economic development. One of the most cited reasons for police corruption is inadequate salaries. Officers who are not well-compensated may resort to corrupt practices as a means to supplement their income. This is particularly prevalent in developing countries where police salaries are often below the living wage. A study conducted in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, found that low salaries were one of the major causes of police corruption, leading officers to engage in bribery and extortion (Hussain et al., 2021). Similarly, another study emphasized the need for an increase in wages as a measure contributing to the reduction of corruption risk in the professional activities of traffic police officers (Borisova, 2022).

The structure of economic incentives in the policing system can also contribute to corruption. For instance, officers may receive bonuses or promotions based on the number of arrests or citations, creating an incentive to falsify reports or engage in other corrupt practices. In some cases, police departments may rely on revenue generated from fines and asset forfeitures, creating a perverse incentive for officers to target individuals for economic gain rather than public safety. Beyond individual and departmental factors, broader economic conditions can also contribute to police corruption. In times of economic downturn, budget cuts often affect public services, including law enforcement. Reduced funding can exacerbate the challenges of inadequate salaries and lack of resources, creating a vicious cycle that promotes corruption as a survival strategy for underfunded departments and underpaid officers. In Pakistan, a study by Hussain et al. (2021) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province reveals that low salaries are a primary economic factor driving police corruption. The

inadequacy of financial compensation leads to a vulnerability where police personnel may engage in corrupt practices as a means of supplementing their income. This finding is consistent with the broader literature on corruption, which often cites poor remuneration as a catalyst for unethical behavior in law enforcement (Transparency International, 2020).

Moreover, the study highlights the lack of resources as another significant economic factor. Insufficient funding results in inadequate training, equipment, and facilities, contributing to an environment where corruption can flourish. This aspect is echoed in Jenkins' research on Guatemala, where police face similar challenges of resource scarcity, compounded by high crime rates and external pressures from drug trafficking (Jenkins, 2021). The Guatemalan context illustrates how economic constraints, coupled with external criminal influences, exacerbate the propensity for corruption within police forces.

In Venezuela, Marek (2014) emphasizes the role of public perception in understanding police corruption. The study suggests that the public's perception of police corruption is strongly influenced by broader economic conditions, including regime stability and quality of life. This interplay between economic factors and public trust is crucial, as it highlights how economic instability can erode confidence in law enforcement, further entrenching corrupt practices. The research by Břeň and Urban (2021) in the Czech Republic, while primarily focused on terrorism, indirectly sheds light on the economic dimensions of police corruption. The study identifies unemployment and inflation as key economic factors that can create a fertile ground for corruption. High unemployment rates, particularly among youth, can lead to increased criminal activity,

placing additional strain on law enforcement and potentially leading to corrupt practices as a coping mechanism. Collectively, these studies underscore the multifaceted nature of economic factors contributing to police corruption. Low salaries and resource constraints directly impact the integrity and effectiveness of police forces. Economic instability and external criminal influences, such as drug trafficking, further exacerbate these challenges. These factors create a complex web of incentives and pressures that can lead to corrupt behaviour among law enforcement personnel.

2.6.4 Values and Other Factors

It can be said that culture is always seen in our routine life where people have respect for authority and will not want to question certain actions of persons in authority even when they feel that things are not right. Also, our cultural setting sees such actions as disobedience. There is the notion that even if your brother or sister is corrupt, he or she is your relation and for that matter, the Ghanaian will always come to the defence of the corrupt behaviours of a person when they are caught. Our society is built on a relationship that corruption finds a way to operate in it. It therefore becomes very difficult to prevent corruption in the Ghanaian context. Kobozev's (2022) study on the core values of former police officers convicted of corruption crimes in Russia provides a psychological perspective on this issue. The research reveals that individuals who engaged in corrupt practices tended to prioritize material values, personal and family values, and a desire for independence and recognition. This finding suggests that a value system oriented towards personal gain and status can predispose individuals to corrupt behavior. The emphasis on material and personal values over communal or ethical values creates a vulnerability where corruption is seen as a viable means to achieve personal goals. Pfister's (2019) investigation into the influence of public corruption and

human values on trust in police forces in European countries provides a broader perspective. The study confirms that perceived public-sector corruption erodes trust in police forces, while human values play a secondary role. This finding highlights the societal impact of corruption in law enforcement, where the erosion of public trust is a direct consequence of corrupt practices fueled by compromised values within the police force.

2.7 Corruption in the Ghana Police Service

Police officials have the power to search, arrest, seize and detain. These duties are mostly carried out on the will or freedom to decide in a particular situation within the required laws mostly not under supervision. Brown (1988) argues that discretion allows a police officer to act outside the purview of their supervisors. Some officers after arrest fail to report for investigations but rather resort to other forms of settlement with the offenders. Bronitt and Stenning (2011) explains that the limit of the use of legitimate discretion by the Police for instance when and how to temper enforcement laws solely for operational purposes can influence corruption. Most acts of corruption go undetected by authorities. Several studies have shown that the lack of effective accountability also have implications on police corruption (Punch, 2000 and Chan, 1999). They argue that corruption will thrive in the Police when the superiors or authority pretend or are seen to support such conduct by turning a blind eye to the practice.

Miller (2003); and Pakes and Johnson (2009) argue that the unavailability of effective accounting processes by police officers is a contributing factor to police corruption. The police is a structured institution that works within a chain of commands. This sometimes makes the work of the police bureaucratic and breeds corrupt practices in an

attempt to fasten or avoid undue delays. Sometimes officers fail to report arrested cases. Also when corrupt officers are reported by the public the superiors seem to cover up for the said officer and most at times the officers go not reprimanded or unpunished. This situation will certainly encourage corruption (Oleinik, 2016). This is a challenge that cut across most state agencies. The police are not well paid and therefore easily corrupted. The officers are most at times handicap in the performance of their duties and over burden with financial stress so they will find means to satisfy their basic needs such as food, shelter, health etc, by indulging in corrupt practices such as extortion, bribery etc. Quah (2015) explained that low salaries of officers, lack of accountability and systematic corruption have made corruption to be seen as a norm in the Police.

Bratsis (2003) argued police corruption on three main variables. The first being the institutionalization of corruption where the corrupt practices of officers are seen as a routine activity. Secondly rationalization of corrupt practices where officers attempt to find a reason for their action and lastly corruption as socialization where a newly recruited officer has to conform to the corrupt practice. The public also tend to influence the police in taking bribes by making offers to them in short change for offences committed. At time it may come in the form of interference from a respectable person or even a higher authority and because of relationships or the position of the person, the police find it difficult to turn them down. Society also see corruption as a norm and therefore not willing in reporting such behaviours. Barry (1999) and Newburn (2000) are of the view that when the public seem to tolerate or has a passive reaction to corruption, it will have an influence on the officer to engage in corrupt behavior. Police corruption can be influenced by societal politics as well as the cultural norm of the people or the society within which they operate (Newburn 1999; Domoro and Agil,

(2012). The Police per their mandate is to protect lives and properties, maintain law and order and prevent the commission of crime that the public expect them to be morally upright. This point was emphasized by Raines (2006) and Prenzler (2009). In the views of Pollock, (2012); Potter, webb, Prenzler and Gill (2015) ethics is very vital in the discharge of police duties as the Police are to take decisions on matter of law and sometimes morality. The Police seems to lack the adequate training in ethical standards. Crank (2014) observed that some officers have different ethics which seeks their interest against that of the organization. Additionally, it has been observed that the police are mostly influenced to engage in corruption internally. An officer who joins the police would be morally upright but the system mostly changes them as they have to conform to the negative practices which they find themselves in.

2.8 Impact of Police Corruption on Human Rights

Corruption is a human rights issue in that it denies the poor and vulnerable in society their rights to enjoy certain basic human needs such as food, shelter, clothing health, education etc. As indicated above corruption slow down development that its effect includes making people poorer which may lead to the even loss of lives. Corrupt officials may divert the resources of the community into the hands of a few resourced persons against the interest of the whole community. According to Transparency International “Corruption destroys the basic rights of people across the world, its effects can be seen on the services provided by public institutions and it can also affect the life for future generations”. Corruption leads to pollution which affects the health of people and thus violates the collective right to a clean environment. Large amounts of funds are needed to maintain the judicial, law enforcement and prison systems and to ensure free and fair elections.

The realization of civil and political rights can, therefore, also suffer greatly as a result of corruption that is the malfeasance or misallocation of public funds.

Rights to equality and non-discrimination (civil and political rights). The right to equality is referred to in all major human rights treaties (e.g. ICCPR art. 2(1)). Every individual has the right to be treated equally and without discrimination by the State. The Human Rights Committee, which monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, defines the term discrimination as: Any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference which is based on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by all persons, on an equal footing, of all rights and freedoms (Human Rights Committee General Comment No. 18, para. 7). The right to be treated equally is violated, for example, when someone is requested to pay a bribe to obtain a public service. In this situation, those who were not asked for a bribe received better treatment, and the right to equality of the person who was asked to pay a bribe has been violated. The harm from such a violation is particularly grave when the targeted person comes from a vulnerable or marginalized group, such as social minorities, indigenous groups, irregular migrants, sexual minorities, etc. These individuals suffer disproportionately from this type of human rights violation because their position in society makes them easy targets for corruption, and they are often unable to afford the cost of the bribe (Figueiredo, 2017; ICHRP, 2009).

Corruption within the police force can severely compromise the right to a fair trial. The right to a fair trial is a fundamental human right which is essential for safeguarding the rule of law (ICCPR arts. 14-15). It incorporates the principle of equality, which

underpins the administration of justice. The right to a fair trial encompasses an extensive series of procedural rights, including an independent and impartial tribunal, equality of arms, access to a court, and the presumption of innocence. The right to a fair trial is closely related to the right to an effective remedy, because no remedy is effective without equality before the law and fair judicial procedures (ICCPR art. 3). Corruption in the judicial sector damages the right to a fair trial, as corruption erodes the independence, impartiality, and integrity of the judiciary. The lack of independence of judges, prosecutors and lawyers directly harms the right to a fair trial. It limits the effective and efficient administration of justice as well as the credibility of the entire justice system. In a study conducted in Kenya, it was found that the criminal justice system faces significant challenges, particularly in the area of witness protection (Omboto, 2015). This lack of witness protection not only hampers the prosecution of corruption cases but also impacts the human rights of individuals who are unable to receive a fair trial (Omboto, 2015).

When corruption interferes with the appointment of judges and in court proceedings, for example, it violates the impartiality of the judiciary and the fair trial rights of defendants (ICHRP, 2009, pp. 37–38). Individuals are also deprived of equal access to justice when public officials demand bribes as a condition for accessing the judicial system or to speed up a court service (Boersma, 2012, p. 208). One of the core functions of the justice system is to promote and protect the human rights of all individuals in society. If human rights have been violated, the justice system can play a critical role in identifying those violations and protecting individuals' human rights. However, this can only be accomplished when the justice system functions properly and is transparent, accountable and free of corruption. In societies that have high levels of corruption, a

justice system that upholds the right to a fair trial may be critical for safeguarding the host of human rights that are adversely affected by corruption in society.

Rights to an adequate standard of living, food, housing and health (economic, social and cultural rights). Article 11 of the ICESCR provides for the right to an adequate standard of living, which includes the rights to “adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions”. Article 12 provides for the right to “the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”. In addition, article 27 of the CRC includes the rights to food, housing and health. There is ample evidence about the impact of corruption on the right to food. The 2001 report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food identifies seven essential obstacles that limit or prevent the realization of the right to food, which included corruption. The Rome Declaration on World Food Security also recognized that corruption contributes significantly to food insecurity. Corruption can violate the right to food by diverting funds from social spending (ICHRP, 2009). The embezzlement of funds that are intended for food aid, for example, is a violation of the State’s obligation to provide food for those who do not have access via their own means. The right to food security is also threatened when food products of inadequate quality are on the market because of corrupt practices, such as where a government official ignores a requirement to obtain a license to produce a food product or to carry out inspection procedures, in exchange for the receipt of a bribe (ICHRP, 2009, 44).

Corruption can also violate several aspects of the right to health such as the “management of financial resources”, the “distribution of medical supplies”, and the “relationship of health workers with patients” (ICHRP, 2009, 53). As with other

economic, social and cultural rights, the embezzlement of funds intended for the health sector violates the right to health of the entire society (Boersma, 2012). Corruption associated with public contracts can violate the right to health by threatening the quality of the construction of health facilities or the supply of health goods (ICHRP, 2009). The right to health and its accessibility is violated when someone has to pay bribes to have access to health-care services, such as medicines, medical treatment, and anaesthesia. Corrupt practices can cause widespread violations of the right to health, such as when the pharmaceutical industry sells unsafe medicines. Corruption may also impact the right to health when public officials allow companies to pollute the environment (Boersma, 2012). The violation of the right to health is related to the violation of environmental rights, because violations of environmental rights, which cause unhealthy, harmful environments – can stand in the way of the right to health. Police corruption can lead to human rights abuses, including the lack of dignity and humane treatment. A study on migration policing in South Africa revealed that corruption within the police and army has contributed to numerous human rights abuses against undocumented migrants (Landau, 2001). The corruption enables a system where migrants are treated as less than human, thereby violating their right to dignity and humane treatment.

Right to education (economic, social and cultural rights). The right to life and personal security is also compromised due to police corruption. A study focusing on bribery networks emphasized that the probability of detecting bribery incidents is crucial for controlling corruption and, by extension, safeguarding human rights (Pramanik, 2022). When corruption is rampant, the likelihood of violent incidents and extrajudicial killings increases, putting the right to life and personal security at risk. The right to

education is an essential “human right in itself and an indispensable means of realizing other human rights”. Education is crucial for a person’s self-fulfilment and the development of society as a whole (Coomans, 2010), since it is a vehicle for empowering the disadvantaged and improving social and economic standards. The right to education is contained in several human rights treaties and incorporates the right to receive an education (social dimension) and the right to choose educational institutions that reflect the individual's personal beliefs (freedom dimension) (ICESCR art. 13). Individuals should have access to education that is non-discriminatory, free, and compulsory in the case of primary education (Coomans, 2010, 284–288). Additionally, education must have a holistic approach that promotes human rights values and the preservation of multicultural diversity (see, e.g., the 2014 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education). According to the CESCR General Comment No. 13, States are under an obligation to provide education that is (i) available and has functioning educational institutions in sufficient numbers; (ii) physically and economically accessible to everyone; (iii) of good quality and culturally acceptable; and (iv) adaptable to cultural and social contexts. Corrupt practices can, in particular, undermine access to education and the quality of educational services, limit the social and economic development of society as a whole, and especially of vulnerable and marginalized groups (ICHRP, 2009, 57). Corrupt practices can, for example, endanger the right to equal and free access to primary and secondary education when the payment of a bribe is required as a condition of admission or to receive books that are supposed to be free of charge (Boersma, 2012).

In addition, sexual corruption is widespread in the educational sector in some countries – for example, when teachers ask for sexual favours in exchange for better grades (see

related discussions in Module 8 and Module 9 of the E4J University Module Series on Anti-Corruption). Due to the long-term consequences on all societal levels, corruption in the educational sector is particularly serious (Figueiredo, 2017). For a more detailed discussion on corruption in education, see Module 9 of the E4J University Module Series on Anti-Corruption.

Corrupt officials mostly inflate the cost of public projects and make these projects very expensive. Some officials also divert resources meant for the public into private hands increasing the cost of public works. Other official demand from contractors what is termed as “kick-backs” before contracts are awarded and this practice push up cost of public works. There are some instances where contracts are awarded to persons without the needed or required expertise and therefore executing under quality works which does not stand the test of time. This usually occur under the road construction sector. Smarzynska and Wei (2000) came to similar conclusions regarding the effects of corruption on the size and composition of investments. Corrupt countries are not attractive to investors. However, most investors will attempt a local context in a joint venture where the local counterparts will lead in the documentations including licenses and permits to operate. As indicated in earlier discussions on the causes of corruption it would be agreed that corruption affect or reduce economic growth and development. The United Nations General Assembly on 25th September, 2015 adopted The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, acknowledges that corruption is a key obstacle to sustainable development. Sustainable Development Goal 16, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and NACAP obligate Ghana to conduct studies on corruption and to make them a regular, scientifically based measurement of its occurrence.

Brazil's "Car Wash Operation" serves as a case example of how corruption can affect the justice system and, consequently, human rights. A model-based assessment of criminality in this operation highlighted the role of corruption in affecting the justice system (Yang & Raimundo, 2022). The study found that corruption skews the cost-benefit analysis for individuals contemplating criminal activities, thereby affecting the overall efficacy of the justice system. In the United States, a study aimed at identifying civilians killed by police underscores the impact of corruption on the right to life (Keith et al., 2017). The study suggests that corruption within the police force can lead to unnecessary use of force, thereby violating the right to life and personal security.

A machine learning model was developed to identify corruption in Mexico's public procurement contracts, providing quantitative data on the extent of corruption (Aldana et al., 2022). This study is crucial as it offers empirical evidence of the prevalence of corruption, which can be linked to human rights violations. A study on the emergence of civil society through corruption provides qualitative insights into how corruption drives the formation of civil society and impacts human rights (Abdallah et al., 2013). The study argues that corruption undermines centralized institutions, making it difficult for these entities to protect human rights effectively. Police corruption has a significant and detrimental impact on various categories of human rights. The right to a fair trial, dignity, and life are all compromised when corruption infiltrates law enforcement agencies. Both quantitative and qualitative studies provide valuable insights into the extent and nature of this impact.

2.9 Countermeasures and Policy

Ghana has a strong legal anti-corruption framework in place but still faces implementation challenges in practice. This implementation gap is reflected by the country scoring very well in terms of the quality of its anti-corruption law but very poorly in terms of law enforcement in Global Integrity 2009's scorecard. The Ghanaian criminal code criminalizes active and passive bribery, extortion, wilful exploitation of public office and the use of public office for private gain, irrespective of the nationality of the bribe payer/taker. Direct and indirect corruption is illegal, as well as attempting, preparing or conspiring to bribe and both agent and principal are liable. The Anti-Money Laundering Act 2008 also criminalizes money laundering-related offences. Ghana has been praised by the World Bank for strengthening its public procurement system with the Public Procurement Act 2003, making it one of the most comprehensive in the developing world (World Bank, 2006). The law requires contract awarding to be tendered and conducted by tendering award committees. Suppliers and consultants attempting to exert undue influence on procurement processes are subject to sanctions, including debarment from government contracts for five years. However, according to Global Integrity, the legal framework prohibiting companies proven to have bribed in the procurement process is not enforced in practice (Global Integrity, 2000). The Public Office Holders Act requires some government officials to file asset disclosures, but there is no effective mechanism in place to monitor assets, incomes and lifestyles.

The lack of effective conflict of interest regulations also opens the door to potential abuse of power and regulations governing gifts and hospitality are mere "guidelines" that lack adequate enforcement mechanisms. The Whistleblowers Act 2006, (Act 720)

provides for the protection of witnesses and informants from prosecution and victimization. It is rated as very weak on Global Integrity 2009 scorecard, due to a low level of enforcement in practice, but there haven't been any reviews of the implementation of the act to date. In addition, as a relatively recent piece of legislation, citizens appear to need to gain confidence in anti-corruption implementing agencies in order to overcome their fear of victimization when reporting corrupt acts (Transparency International, 2009). The cabinet recently approved a Right to Information Bill to promote greater government transparency that has not yet been passed by parliament as of 4 February 2011. As an EITI pilot country, Ghana committed as early as 2003 to full disclosure of oil, gas and mining revenues under the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative and achieved full compliant status in October 2010. Ghana has signed and ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the African Union Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption. Ghana entered and supported the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and was one of the first countries in the region to participate in the peer review mechanisms. In apparent recognition of its anticorruption record, Ghana has been elected at the beginning of 2011 to serve on the African Union Advisory Board on Fighting Corruption.

At the national level, anti-corruption policies have also focused on establishing an adequate institutional framework against corruption, through the establishment and strengthening of several anticorruption bodies and committees such as the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), the Serious Fraud Office which recently became the Economic and Organized Crime Office, the now disbanded Office of Accountability, the Auditor General, etc. The Commission on Human Right and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) CHRAJ is charged with investigating alleged

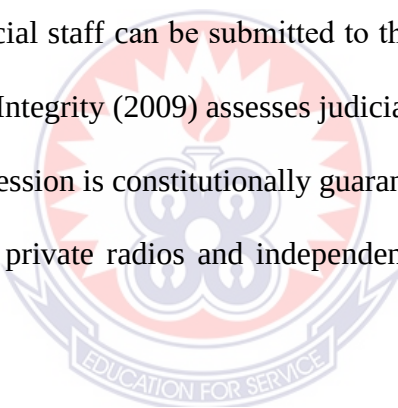
violations of human rights, including corruption of public officials, and taking action to remedy proven violations. The Commission has three mandates - relating to (i) human rights (ii) the role of the ombudsman, and (iii) anti-corruption - and its independence is guaranteed by the constitution.

The CHRAJ cannot prosecute offenders and must refer investigations to the Attorney General for prosecution. CHRAJ has been investigating allegations made against former President Kufuor for malfeasance of state resources for private gain. There are currently investigations examining corruption allegations against several former National Patriotic Party officials, including Kufuor's chief of staff, the health and information ministers, and the foreign minister. While many Ghanaians supported these initial investigations, there have been few real successes and prosecutions leading to convictions. According to a 2005 report, civil society usually considers the CHRAJ to be strong on human right preoccupations and relatively weak on corruption, possibly due to due to the institution's lack of economic independence from government (Doig, A., 2005). Until recently, the Serious Fraud Unit was the second main anti-corruption body in Ghana. It was established in 1993 as an independent government body in charge of monitoring, investigating and, on the authority of the Attorney general, prosecuting corruption resulting in "serious financial or economic loss to the state". The mandate of the SFO did not include investigations and prosecutions of offences relating to advance fraud schemes, drug trafficking, money laundering and organized crime. Like the CHRAJ, the SFO has been criticized for lacking independence and being subject to political pressure, as its director and much of its board are appointed by the executive (Freedom House, 2010). The SFO has recently been replaced by the EOCO in an attempt to address some of these preoccupations. In August 2010, parliament passed

the Organized Crime Bill which seeks to establish a comprehensive legal framework to monitor, investigate and facilitate the prosecution of organised crime, including through the creation of the EOCO. Among other things, EOCO is also mandated to recover the proceeds of crime; monitor the activities connected with the offences to detect correlative crimes; take the Auditor General; The Ghana Audit Service is established on a legal basis as the supreme audit institution and is accountable for reviewing public sector accounts. The independence of the auditor-general is guaranteed by the 1992 constitution. The activities of the institution are hampered by inadequate staffing and insufficient funding leading to delays in audits and a backlog covering more than two years. Reports are produced regularly and made public, but there are also delays and a backlog of audit reports. According to Global Integrity (2009), the government does not act on recommendations satisfactorily, especially if it involves political figures and party supporters. Delays and backlogs also make it difficult to track past public officials who have been found to have engaged in fraud and embezzlement of public funds.

The Judiciary; Ghanaian courts have acted with increased autonomy in the past two decades but corruption remains widespread, with 79 % of Ghanaians perceiving the judiciary as corrupt (Afro Barometer, 2008). Ghana Integrity Initiative's Judicial Watch Project report (2007) revealed that corruption was rife in the judiciary. According to Freedom House (2009), low salaries and scarce resources provide judges with incentives for corruption and rent-seeking behaviour. Although the level of judicial competence has improved in recent years, with the provision of regular legal education and training, courts are usually slow in delivering justice and face the challenge of enforcing decisions (Business Anti-Corruption portal, 2010). According to the Bertelsmann Foundation, the judiciary is relatively independent and there is no apparent

evidence of government interference in judicial procedures (Bertelsmann Foundation, 2010). However, the president is influential in the appointment of all superior court judges, including the chief justice. In addition, the fact that the attorney general is both the head of the prosecution services and legal advisor to the president raises questions about the independence of prosecutions and the government is often criticised by the opposition for exerting “selective justice” (Freedom House, 2010). The attorney general has the power to launch or end a prosecution without explanation. High-ranking officials and politicians continue to enjoy high-level protection from prosecution and the Ghanaian President is immune from prosecution (Global Integrity, 2009). A comprehensive code of conduct for judges was developed in 2005 and complaints against judges and judicial staff can be submitted to the Judicial Service’s Complaint Unit. However, Global Integrity (2009) assesses judicial accountability as very weak. Media Freedom of expression is constitutionally guaranteed and generally respected in Ghana, with numerous private radios and independent newspapers published in the capital city.



According to the Bertelsmann Foundation (2010), there is no organized repression. Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Ghana [www.U4.no](http://www.u4.no) 8 against the media, although critical journalists have reportedly experienced forms of harassment targeting their economic well-being. The state-owned media, although less critical of the government, has developed some degree of autonomy. Internet access is unrestricted and plays an escalating role. Reporters Without Borders have ranked Ghana first in its 2009 press freedom index on the African continent and 27th in the world.

Civil society; According to the Bertelsmann Foundation 2010, political and civil society organizations can develop, meet and campaign for their issues freely and without major political interference. Permits are not required for meetings or demonstrations. NGOs have played a major role in drafting important anti-corruption-related pieces of legislation such as the Whistleblowers Act. There are many opportunities for civil society to engage in anti-corruption initiatives. The Ghana Integrity Initiative functions as Transparency International's local chapter and has established an Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre that provides legal assistance for victims and witnesses of corruption. The Ghana Centre for Democratic Development works to promote democracy, good governance and the development of a liberal political and economic environment in Ghana. The Private Enterprise Foundation (PEF) has been founded by four major business associations to promote the creation of an enabling business environment for the private sector. The PEF is a member of the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition (GACC) which operates as a coalition of public, private and civil society organizations against corruption. Among other things, the local chapter of the African Parliamentarian Network against Corruption (which is headquartered in Ghana) is active in capacity building, information campaigns, and the promotion of anti-corruption legislation.

The international community; the international community is also playing an important role in supporting local anti-corruption efforts. Many interventions have focused on promoting civil society participation and strengthening citizens' demand for good governance. For example, donors have supported anti-corruption coalition building such as the Ghana Anti-Corruption Coalition which is often referred to as a success in the literature. DFID also supports several anti-corruptions-related programmes through

its Governance and Transparency Fund, including promoting transparency in the forestry, water and education sectors, as well as in budget processes. USAID puts special emphasis on improving local governance, supporting activities aimed at increasing citizen participation – including women - in democratic processes and strengthening parliamentary and citizen oversight of the executive and local government respectively to ensure that national and local governments are responsive to the interests of their citizens, especially in the health and education sectors. Multilateral organizations are also active in governance and anti-corruption programmes.

The World Bank also supports oil management through its Oil and Gas Capacity Building Project. According to the Bertelsmann Foundation (2010), the government of Ghana has proven to be a cooperative, constructive, reliable and dynamic partner in the international arena. Ghana has become a regional centre for international conferences, training and meetings. It has developed mostly positive relations with its neighboring countries and has shown a persistent commitment to the objectives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The problems of administrators taking a strong stance against corruption include acquiring evidence, maintaining morale, and assessing the integrity of supervisory personnel. Legitimizing police discretion regarding unenforceable laws, public education, tenure for administrators, recruit training, internal and external investigation units, prosecution of corrupt officers, and rewards for honest officers are listed as remedial measures.

2.10 Kasoa Central East Region: A Case Study

2.10.1 Overview of the Kasoa Central East Region of the GPS

The Police Service is a nationally organized unit with a unified command structure, led by the Inspector General of Police (IGP). The IGP, under the guidance of the Police Council, is responsible for the day-to-day supervision and control over the administration and operation of the Police Service. The service aims to be compact yet flexible in its organization to fulfil its mission effectively. In 2021, the Central East Region was carved out from the Greater Accra and Central regions to address specific challenges related to crime and community policing, particularly in the Kasoa enclave. The Central East Region Police Command is headed by DCOP Mr. David Senanu Eklun, with ACP Mr. Joseph Owusu-Bempah serving as his deputy. The regional headquarters is situated at Millennium City and comprises two police divisions, ten districts, and twenty police stations and posts. This structure aims to facilitate effective and efficient policing in the region.

The primary function is to safeguard citizens and their belongings from harm or theft. The police are responsible for proactively identifying and stopping criminal activities before they occur, as well as investigating crimes that have been committed. After identifying criminals, the police are responsible for capturing and bringing them to justice. Maintaining a peaceful environment is crucial for the well-being of the community. The police enforce all relevant laws, acts, decrees, and other regulations with which they are directly charged.

The Central East Region was established in 2021 to address the increasing crime rates in the Kasoa enclave. The area had been noted for a series of pockets of crime-related

activities, and the creation of a separate police region was seen as a necessary step to expedite effective community policing. Challenges and Concerns Despite the noble intentions behind its creation, the Central East Region Police Command has faced significant challenges, including pervasive corruption. This corruption manifests in various forms such as bribery for bail, unlawful detention, and unauthorized roadblocks, which have far-reaching implications on the community's trust and the fundamental rights of its citizens.

2.10.2 Instances of Police Corruption and Impacts

The issue of police corruption within the Central East Region Police Command has become a matter of significant concern. Corruption manifests in various forms, including the collection of bribes for bail, induced or unlawful detention, and unauthorized roadblocks and checks. These corrupt practices have far-reaching implications, affecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of the citizens in the region. One of the most common forms of corruption is the practice of collecting money before admitting suspects to bail. This undermines the legal system and denies justice to those who cannot afford to pay. Officers may detain individuals without proper cause, often to exert pressure for bribes or other favours. This is a blatant violation of the law and an abuse of power. Police officers set up unlawful barriers and road checks to extort money from motorists. These unauthorized activities disrupt the flow of traffic and create unnecessary tension within the community.

Unlawful detention restricts an individual's right to freedom of movement. This can have a cascading effect on other aspects of life, such as employment and family obligations. In extreme cases, unlawful detention can escalate into situations where lives are lost, either through police brutality or neglect. This is a severe violation of the

most fundamental human right—the right to life. The corruption within the Central East Region Police Command does not only affect the individuals directly involved but also erodes public trust in law enforcement agencies. This lack of trust can lead to a breakdown in community-police relations, making it more difficult to maintain law and order effectively.

2.11 Conceptual Framework

Understanding the multifaceted issue of police corruption requires a comprehensive framework that not only identifies the types of corrupt activities but also examines their impacts on human rights, especially those of offenders. This conceptual framework delineates four key components: Police Corruption Activities, Impacts on Offenders' Human Rights, Understanding of Police Personnel, and Legal and Ethical Implications. This component serves as the starting point of the framework, focusing on activities such as extortion, bribery, and abuse of power. Research has shown that corruption within law enforcement agencies can severely undermine the justice system (Newburn, 1999; Punch, 2000). Serving as a moderating variable, the understanding of police personnel about corruption and human rights can influence both corrupt activities and their impacts. Lack of training and awareness among police personnel can exacerbate the issue (Goldsmith, 1990; Klockars et al., 2000). The next component is concerned with the legal and ethical ramifications of police corruption on human rights. Existing laws, regulations, and ethical considerations form the basis for assessing these implications (Bayley, 1989; Ivković, 2003). Directly linked to Police Corruption Activities, is how corruption affects offenders' human rights, including the freedom of movement, the right to life, dignity, and health. According to studies in human rights

law, corrupt practices within law enforcement can lead to widespread human rights violations (Skolnick & Fyfe, 1993; Stinson et al., 2013).

The first objective directly aligns with the Police Corruption Activities component, aiming to catalog various forms of corruption. The second objective linked the first and second components, seeking to understand the relationship between corruption activities and their human rights impact. The third objective focused on the moderating variable, the Understanding of Police Personnel, to evaluate its influence on corruption and its impacts. The last objective is directed at the Legal and Ethical Implications component, to understand the outcomes of the interaction between corruption and human rights.

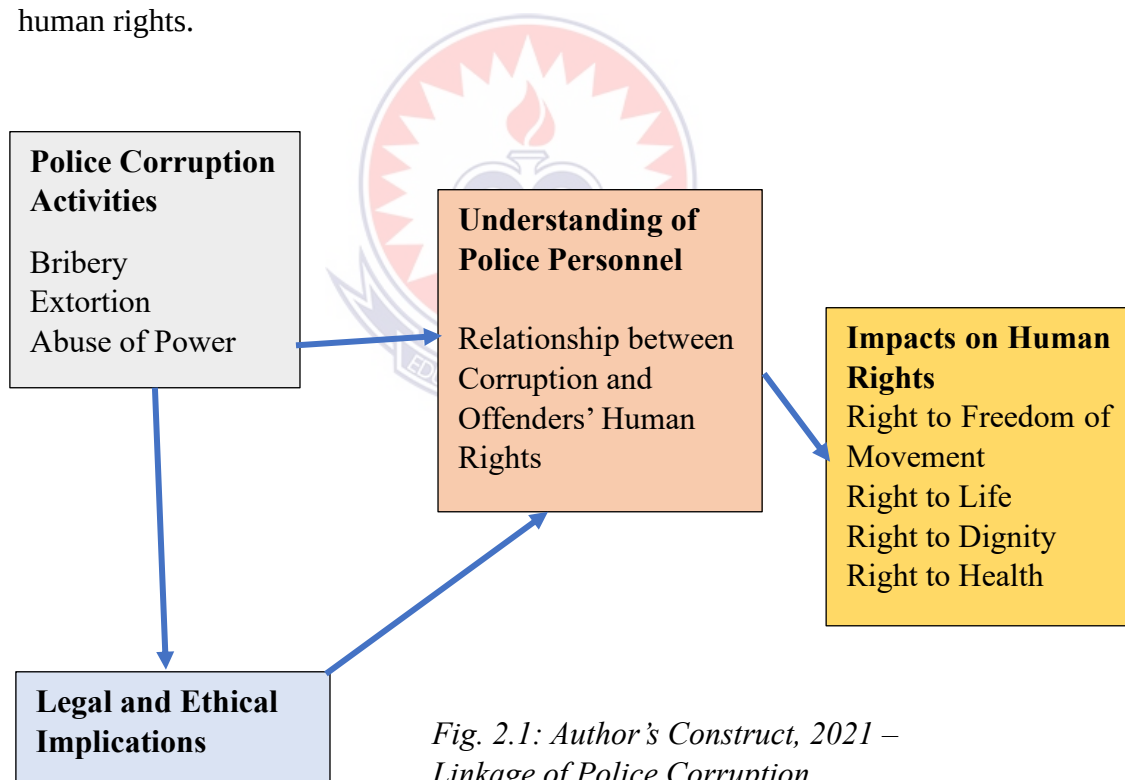


Fig. 2.1: Author's Construct, 2021 – Linkage of Police Corruption, Understanding Legal and Ethical Implication and Human Rights Impact

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Research Philosophy

The research is led by a philosophical foundation and paradigm that have a substantial impact on the study approach and methodologies used. This study's conceptual foundation is based on the understanding that knowledge and reality are socially produced and subjectively evaluated. It recognizes the need to study diverse perspectives, meanings, and experiences to acquire a full understanding of police misconduct and its implications for criminals' and offenders' human rights. This philosophical foundation is consistent with the interpretive paradigm, which emphasizes the relevance of understanding social processes through individuals' subjective interpretations and meanings ascribed to their experiences (Scotland, 2012). In terms of epistemology, this research takes a constructivist approach, recognizing that knowledge is co-constructed through interactions, interpretations, and social settings. It is accepted that numerous truths and understandings exist, and it is hoped that the diverse viewpoints and experiences of various stakeholders participating in the Ghana Police Service's Central East Region will be captured. The interpretive paradigm, which tries to uncover the subjective meanings and interpretations provided by individuals to their experiences, is associated with constructivist epistemology (Kaplan & Maxwell, 2005).

In terms of ontology, this study takes a social constructionist approach, regarding reality as socially formed through the interactions, discourses, and power dynamics of individuals and groups in the context of police corruption and its impact on human rights. These challenges are acknowledged as complex social phenomena impacted by

historical, cultural, and political circumstances. The social constructionist ontology is compatible with the interpretive paradigm, which aims to comprehend social reality through the meanings and interpretations ascribed to experiences by individuals and communities (Scotland, 2012). Using this research philosophy, the study on police corruption and its impact on human rights in the Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service seeks a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of these critical issues, taking into account the diverse perspectives and subjective interpretations of those involved.

3.1 Research Approach

The qualitative research approach was used in this study to get insights into the various dynamics and nuances surrounding police corruption and its consequences for criminals' and offenders' human rights. This method is consistent with the nature of the study problem and the need to understand the subjective interpretations that individuals and groups place on the phenomenon under examination.

According to Teherani et al. (2015), qualitative research comprises the examination and comprehension of the subjective meanings that individuals or groups attach to a social or human problem. It is a flexible strategy that promotes the formation of research topics and processes, data collecting in the participants' natural setting, and an inductive data analysis process that leads to the identification of general themes and the interpretation of their meaning.

Creswell et al. (2007) provide recommendations on the selection and implementation of qualitative research designs, which support the use of a qualitative research technique. The study recommends phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, and case studies as qualitative methodologies for investigating police corruption and its

impact on human rights in the context of the Ghana Police Service. Furthermore, Vishnevsky and Beanlands (2004) emphasize the need of qualitative investigation in getting a thorough understanding of complex social phenomena. They argue for the use of qualitative research to investigate the complex links between police corruption and human rights. Pathak et al. (2013) go on to discuss the use of qualitative research in therapeutic settings, emphasizing the importance of qualitative methodologies in understanding human experiences and viewpoints. This viewpoint is important for understanding the subjective experiences and reasons that underpin police corruption, as well as the ramifications for human rights.

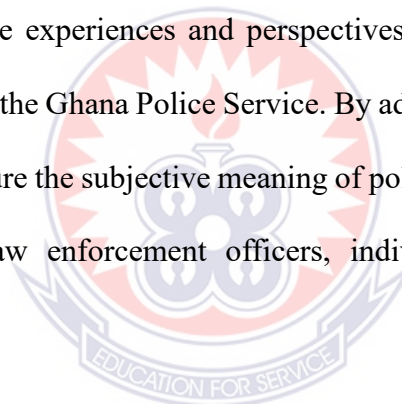
Thus, using a qualitative research approach, this study intended to capture the lived experiences, views, and narratives of individuals and groups involved in the Ghana Police Service's Central East Region. Its goal was to provide a complete understanding of the background, causes, and consequences of police corruption, as well as to contribute to the larger conversation on human rights in Ghana's criminal justice system.

3.2 Research Design

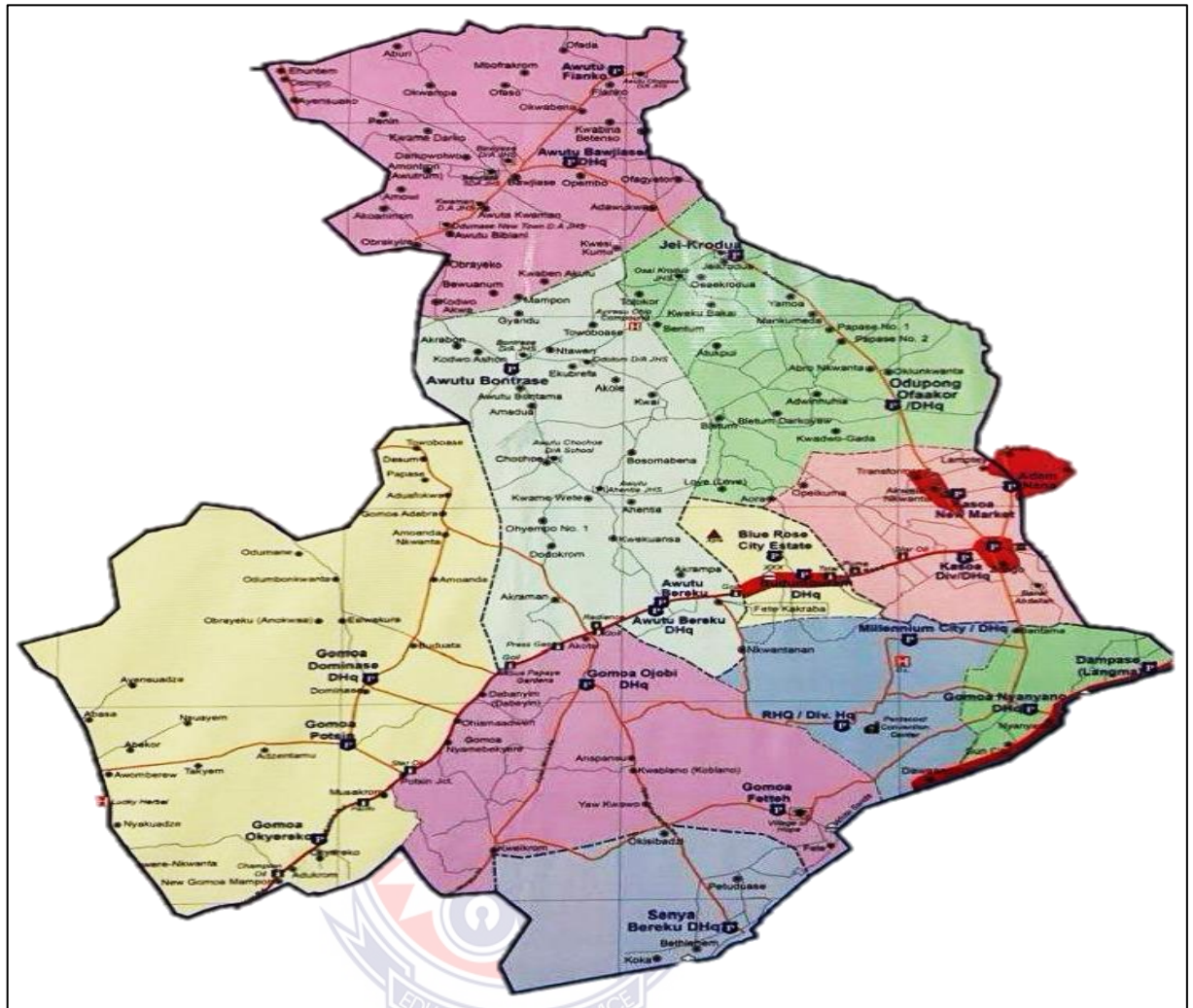
The research design guiding this study was the case study design, which was employed to investigate the specific context and dynamics of police corruption in the Kasoa Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service. The case study design is considered an appropriate choice for this study due to its capacity to offer an in-depth understanding of a particular case or event within its natural real-life context (Crowe et al., 2011).

The case study design is well-suited to facilitate a comprehensive exploration of the Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service, allowing the researcher to delve into the specific incidents, causes, and consequences of police corruption. This design enables a deep understanding of the complexities and dynamics of police corruption within the Ghanaian context. Additionally, by focusing on the specific case of the Central East Region, the case study design ensures that the research remains closely tied to the real-life context of policing and law enforcement in Ghana (Yin, 2012; Creswell & Creswell, 2018). This approach provides valuable insights into the unique factors and dynamics contributing to police corruption in this particular region.

Furthermore, the case study approach aligns with an interpretivist perspective, as it seeks to understand the experiences and perspectives of individuals involved in the Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service. By adopting an interpretivist lens, the research aimed to capture the subjective meaning of police corruption for those directly involved, including law enforcement officers, individuals in custody, and other stakeholders.



3.3 Study Area



The map delineates a strategic area within Ghana's Central East Region, specifically highlighting zones identified by the Ghana Police Service. This region, bordered by the Eastern and Greater Accra Regions, is segmented into distinct districts with clear demarcations. Each district, defined by colour-coded boundaries, plays a role in the overall regional structure and security landscape. The primary purpose of this delineation is to aid in monitoring, rapid response, and coordinated action by police units, especially in areas of heightened risk. The Central East Region encompasses a diverse range of districts, including both urban centres and peri-urban zones that exhibit varying levels of infrastructure and population density. These districts are bordered by

a network of roads, with major highways and local access routes facilitating movement throughout the region. Major towns and areas of interest, such as Kasoa, Budumburam, and Millennium City, are prominently marked, underscoring their significance as hubs within this region.

Each district is colour-coded to assist in rapid identification and to facilitate targeted planning and response efforts: Kasoa Central District (Light Blue): A bustling area, Kasoa Central serves as a major urban hub within the region. It includes the Central Business District (CBD) and other densely populated areas that are considered potential flashpoints due to high activity and commercial importance. Millennium City / Pentecost District (Purple): Located adjacent to Kasoa, this area has been flagged for its residential developments and rapid urbanization, which bring unique challenges related to crowd management and public safety. Gomoa Ojobi (Teal) and Budumburam (Orange): These neighbouring districts contain residential areas that contribute to the region's overall diversity. Budumburam is notable for housing a long-standing refugee settlement, making it an area of particular social and demographic significance. Senya Bereku (Lavender) and Awutu Bawjiase (Pink): Both districts are characterized by a mix of rural and peri-urban communities. Senya Bereku, with its coastal proximity, and Awutu Bawjiase are relatively less urbanized but still significant in regional planning due to their strategic locations. Gomoa Nyanyano (Dark Pink), Awutu Bereku (Green), and Gomoa Dominase (Yellow): These districts encompass a combination of residential and rural landscapes. Awutu Bereku, in particular, is noted for its historical significance and traditional community structure, while Gomoa Dominase serves as an area with agricultural potential.

To coordinate efforts across these diverse areas, the Ghana Police Service has assigned specific call signs to each district, reflecting a structured communication hierarchy. This system includes regional command call signs, such as Zebra 1 for the Regional Commander, and district-specific designations like Zebra 3 for Kasoa Central and Zebra 5 for Awutu Bereku. This structured approach enables streamlined coordination and swift response times across multiple jurisdictions within the Central East Region.

3.4 Study Population

The study population was carefully defined to capture the many viewpoints and experiences pertinent to the research aims. The study was carried out inside Ghana's Central East Regional Police Command, which includes the districts of Gomaa East, Awutu Senya East, and sections of Awutu Senya West in the Central Region.

The target population for this study was as follows:

Officers of the law: The study included police officers from the Central East Regional Police Command's ten districts and two divisional quarters. The target population included both senior-rank and junior-rank officers. Senior officers were chosen for their involvement in instances involving offenders and investigations, making them crucial in understanding the dynamics of police corruption and its impact on human rights. Junior officers were also included since they are on the front lines of enforcing police policies and interacting with the public and thus bore the brunt of instances involving corruption and malpractice. Their perspectives were critical in understanding the operational aspects of police corruption inside the regional command.

Direct Opinion Leaders: The study sought to involve direct opinion leaders who could offer valuable perspectives on regional police actions. Their perspectives and ideas

were sought in order to get a comprehensive knowledge of the regional command's policing dynamics and the human rights implications of police misconduct.

Offenders and Victims: Offenders and victims within the Central East Regional Police Command were also targeted in the study. The purpose was to learn about their interactions with police and any instances of rights violations as a result of police acts or inactions. The research aims to shed light on the impact of police corruption on the human rights of those participating in criminal activities and others affected by them by incorporating this group in the study.

The research aims to collect varied opinions and experiences linked to police corruption and its impact on human rights within the specific context of the Ghana Police Service's Central East Region by carefully selecting these segments of the public. This broad approach to the study population was required for a thorough investigation of the research issue.

3.5 Sampling and Sampling Size

Purposive sampling was used in the study. Purposive sampling is a non-probability method that allows the researcher to choose participants based on their knowledge and experience. Due to the specific nature of the research focus on the Central East Command of the Police Command and its attention on police corruption and its influence on human rights abuses, this sampling approach was deemed appropriate for this study.

Purposive sampling was chosen to match the study's aims since it made it easier to pick participants with direct engagement or knowledge in the Central East Regional Police Command. This method ensured that the study included people who may offer useful

insights and opinions on the subject. Purposive sampling and sample size determination followed recognized research techniques, especially in qualitative research where the focus is on specific situations or persons with relevant knowledge and experiences (Hennink, Hutter, & Bailey, 2020).

This study's sample size was ten (10) participants divided into four unique groups:

Community Members/Opinion Leaders (2 participants): These people presented community perspectives and served as opinion leaders, providing insights into the local context and popular mood surrounding police activity.

Victims/Offenders (2 participants): These participants have firsthand knowledge of various types of police arrests. Their firsthand knowledge was critical in understanding the impact of police actions on the rights of those involved in criminal activity.

Junior-Ranked Police Officers (4 participants): These officers were in direct contact with victims, offenders, and members of the general public. Their perspectives were critical in understanding the operational aspects of police corruption and the implications for human rights.

Senior-Ranked Police Officers (2 participants): These senior officers oversaw junior-ranking officers and were critical in managing police operations under the Central East Regional Police Command. The precise objectives of the research drove the selection of this sample size. The sample size of ten participants was deemed appropriate for the research aims of the study, allowing for an in-depth exploration and analysis of the participants' experiences, opinions, and insights. It allowed for a manageable number of participants for data collection and analysis while also assuring a diverse range of perspectives. In qualitative research, the decision to base sample size on study

objectives and examine data saturation principles was compatible with the notion of data saturation (Guest, Bunce, & Johnson, 2006). The study was subjected to data saturation, with the understanding that more data collecting or participants would no longer generate new or meaningful information.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

In-depth interviews with a semi-structured approach were chosen as the data-gathering method for this study. This method was chosen to examine the implications of police corruption and its effects on offenders' human rights and to gather complete and different opinions from the study's numerous stakeholders (Kallio et al., 2016).

In-depth interviews were performed in English to acquire specific and individual perspectives on police corruption and its consequences. The interviews were organized around specific themes and were administered to all participants to keep the focus on the major research objectives. An interview guide was created, which addressed themes such as the participants' impressions of police corruption, their experiences with human rights breaches, and recommendations for dealing with these concerns. All participants provided prior informed consent, and the interviews were audio-recorded to guarantee proper data capture. Following that, the recorded interviews were transcribed and translated as needed to aid analysis. During the interviews, handwritten notes were also made to supplement the information gathered from the audio recordings.

3.7 Data Analysis

The data analysis followed a structured four-step procedure to thoroughly examine the material obtained through semi-structured interviews, ensuring a rigorous exploration of the research objectives. This approach aimed to establish a clear understanding of the issues surrounding police corruption and its implications on human rights within

the Ghana Police Service's Central East region. The procedure encompassed data segmentation, systematic coding, thematic categorization, and comparative validation with existing literature. The initial step involved segmenting the raw data into manageable and analytically meaningful chunks. This entailed systematically organizing the interview transcripts by identifying and categorizing sections based on their content or thematic relevance. This segmentation process enabled the researcher to isolate specific areas of focus, thereby setting the foundation for effective coding. By breaking down the data into segments, the analysis became more organized, facilitating targeted examination of the content of the research objectives. In the coding phase, the researcher applied qualitative coding techniques rooted in the approaches of Strauss and Corbin (1998), utilizing open, axial, and selective coding to ensure a comprehensive and layered analysis. During *open coding*, preliminary codes were assigned to various data segments based on their content, capturing significant concepts and ideas. *Axial coding* followed, grouping these open codes into broader categories by examining their relationships and identifying patterns.

Finally, in *selective coding*, core themes were identified, and their interconnections established, thus refining the analysis to focus on the most critical aspects of the data. This multi-level coding structure enabled a detailed exploration of emerging patterns and themes, ensuring that essential insights were accurately captured. After coding, the researcher categorized the coded data into larger concepts and overarching patterns. Guided by theoretical frameworks and established coding methodologies, this step required an in-depth analysis of underlying meanings and connections among various codes, categories, and concepts. Through this thorough categorization process, recurring themes surfaced, highlighting the main findings and trends in the data. By

adhering to rigorous and established coding techniques, the researcher ensured the reliability and validity of the detected themes, thereby creating a solid foundation for the research conclusions (Saldana, 2016). In the final step, the researcher validated and triangulated the findings by comparing them to existing scholarly literature. This comparative analysis involved a systematic review of relevant studies to identify congruences and discrepancies between the findings and prior research. Such a process was vital for establishing the credibility and robustness of the conclusions drawn from the data. The researcher used this literature review to reinforce the reliability of the themes identified, integrating insights from previous studies to contextualize the findings within the broader field (Flick, 2018). By doing so, the researcher not only validated the themes but also enriched the interpretation by situating the research within the established knowledge on police corruption and human rights (Bryman, 2016).

Through this meticulous four-step data analysis procedure—segmentation, coding, thematic categorization, and triangulated validation with existing literature—the study provided a comprehensive exploration of the collected data, yielding robust and credible insights. This structured approach contributed to a nuanced understanding of police corruption and its impact on human rights within the Ghana Police Service's Central East region.

3.8 Trustworthiness

The reliability and credibility of the research findings are dependent on the integrity of this study. Trustworthiness encompasses the truth value and transparency of the research process (Cope, 2014) and is required for building confidence in the study's data, interpretation, and techniques (Connelly, 2016). The study followed numerous

criteria and processes to establish trustworthiness, including credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability.

Polit and Beck (2012) define credibility as the truthfulness of the facts, the viewpoints of the participants, and the researcher's interpretation and depiction of them. Credibility was attained in this study through extensive involvement with study participants using appropriate research methods. The researcher made steps to ensure that the data accurately reflected the experiences and perspectives of the participants, thereby minimizing any biases. The consistency of the data under similar settings is referred to as dependability. In this study, dependability was accomplished by applying dependable research methodologies that were carefully chosen for the assessment of police corruption and its impact on human rights in the Ghana Police Service's Central East Region. The research methodologies were consistently used to assure the trustworthiness of the data, allowing the study to be replicated under identical conditions.

Confirmability is concerned with ensuring that the statistics primarily represent the replies of the participants rather than the researcher's prejudices or assumptions. To build credibility, the researcher used rich excerpts from individuals to exemplify each emergent idea. This method fostered transparency and allowed data to be traced back to participants, ensuring that their viewpoints were appropriately reflected.

Another important feature of trustworthiness is transferability, which refers to the extent to which the study's findings can be applied to different situations or people (Houghton et al., 2013). Transferability was addressed in this study by providing clear and detailed descriptions of the research context, methods, and outcomes. The thorough information

allowed readers to examine the findings' application to their own circumstances and think about how they might be applicable beyond the immediate study participants.

The researcher increased the trustworthiness of this study by assuring credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability. These considerations contribute to the findings' validity and reliability, building trust in the assessment of police corruption and its impact on human rights in the Ghana Police Service's Central East Region.

3.9 Ethical Consideration

Ethical issues are critical in research because they protect the rights and well-being of research participants, ensure research validity, and preserve scientific integrity (Bhandari, 2020). Failure to follow ethical guidelines can seriously damage the credibility and reliability of research findings. Key ethical issues were meticulously followed in the context of this investigation to guarantee that ethical standards were observed. To begin the project, the University of Education Ethics Committee, specifically the Center for Human Rights, Conflict, and Peace Studies (CHRAPS), granted ethical approval. This approval was required to guarantee that the research was carried out in conformity with established norms and regulations.

Another crucial ethical aspect of this investigation was informed consent. Participants were given detailed information about the research's goal, potential benefits, and dangers of participation, as well as institutional approval. They were given the option to voluntarily consent or deny participation, protecting their autonomy and informed decision-making.

3.10 Confidentiality

As a basic ethical consideration, confidentiality was strictly preserved. Participants' identities and other personally identifiable information were strictly secured. To safeguard the security and privacy of participants' information, strict confidentiality procedures were put in place. To prevent unwanted access and ensure participant confidentiality, all identifying information was deleted from the final data report.

This study prioritized the rights and welfare of the research participants by strictly following ethical principles such as getting informed consent and protecting confidentiality. These ethical procedures also contributed to the study process's integrity and the validity and trustworthiness of the findings.

3.11 Positionality

To maintain impartiality and reduce bias in the research process, the researcher's positionality was carefully considered. Reflexivity was important in this study because it required the researcher to acknowledge and critically reflect on his or her own opinions, experiences, and potential influence on the research process. This technique was necessary to ensure impartiality in conveying the participants' opinions and to mitigate any potential prejudice.

The researcher took an interpretivism approach, respecting individuals' subjectivity and emphasizing the necessity of knowing their lived experiences and perceptions. This philosophical perspective enabled the researcher to capture the participants' varied points of view and provide a comprehensive picture of the success of Compassion International Ghana's programmes in avoiding teenage pregnancy. It is worth noting that the researcher has a personal relationship with the Central East Regional Police

Command, which could introduce some subjectivity or bias. The researcher openly admits to having a vested interest in furthering his career and research competence, while also noting the possible influence on his perspective. However, precautions were taken to reduce any potential bias. These measures included maintaining transparency throughout the research process, rigorous data analysis, and actively seeking multiple perspectives to ensure a comprehensive and balanced assessment of police corruption and its impact on human rights in the Ghana Police Service's Central East Region.



CHAPTER FOUR

FINDING AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.0 Introduction

The essence of qualitative research can be found in the complexities of human experiences, perceptions, and behaviours. The findings of a qualitative investigation into police corruption and its impact on the human rights of offenders and victims are provided in this chapter. The phenomenon of police corruption, which is not limited to any one place or age, has far-reaching ramifications for the legal system and the larger society fabric. The data presented in this chapter was derived from in-depth interviews, offering a full understanding of the experiences of persons affected by police misconduct. This chapter intended to shed light on the multiple facets of police corruption and its consequences for human rights by combining raw participant experiences with a rigorous analytical approach.

4.1 Findings

In this study, answers to the following research questions were sought:

1. What specific types of police corruption activities affect offenders in the Kasoa Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service?
2. What is the relationship between the corrupt activities of police and the human rights of offenders and how it is understood by police personnel in the Kasoa Central East Region Command?
3. What legal and ethical implications do corruption activities of police have on the human rights of offenders?

To delve into the nuances of these answers or findings, the experiences and views of 10 participants were utilized. These participants, comprising opinion leaders/community members, as well as junior and senior police officers, were chosen to provide real-life perspectives on the subjects. To ensure the ethical protection of their identities, pseudonyms were used to represent the participants. These pseudonyms were crafted as combinations of alphabets with OM (Community Member), JO (Junior Police Officer), and SO (Senior Police Officer) to denote their roles. In alignment with the research questions provided, the findings and the subsequent discussions, juxtaposed with relevant literature, are presented.

4.2 Types of Corruption in the Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service

4.2.1 Bribery and Police Corruption

Bribery, as a form of corruption, has been a longstanding issue in many police departments worldwide. The Central East Regional Police Command is no exception, with participants openly admitting to the prevalence of bribery, especially in traffic situations. This form of corruption is not just a mere violation of ethical standards but also a significant impediment to the rule of law and the establishment of public trust. Traffic situations present a unique context where bribery is rampant. Officers, particularly those in traffic units, are vested with significant authority over drivers. This authority, if misused, can lead to situations where officers solicit bribes in exchange for overlooking traffic violations. One opinion leader poignantly captured this sentiment, stating that:

"They end up taking bribes when a driver flag some of the laws which they know is a form of extortion and they know it is a serious crime in the service." [OM, Field Interview, 2023].

This statement underscores the gravity of the situation, highlighting how officers exploit their positions for personal gain.

Furthermore, the practice of barrier duties, where police officers block routes to screen for criminals, has been identified as another context contributing to the normalization of bribery. An opinion leader described this practice, as:

"Barrier duties, this is where the police block the route to look out for criminals. However, they use their duties to extort money from offenders. These include motor vehicle checks by the MTD." [OM, Field Interview, 2023].

This practice, intended to enhance security, ironically becomes a platform for corruption, further eroding public trust.

The overt manifestation of police corruption, especially on the roads, is a significant concern. The discretionary power vested in traffic officers often becomes a tool for exploitation. As one opinion leader remarked:

"They go to the route... They end up taking bribes when the drivers flag some of the laws which they know is a form of extortion..." [OM, Field Interview, 2023]

This dynamic, where power is misused for personal gain, has far-reaching implications. Bowling (2016) argues that such practices erode public trust and weaken the rule of law. When violations are either unpunished or settled informally, it bypass the legal system, undermining its very foundation.

4.2.2 Extortion and Police Corruption

Extortion, especially within the realm of law enforcement, remains a critical issue, as highlighted by the participants in this study. This form of corruption, which involves the unlawful extraction of money or favours, not only breaches ethical standards but also poses a significant threat to the rule of law and the establishment of public trust. The ripple effects of such practices are extensive, influencing not only the direct victims but also the broader community's perception of the police force.

Within the enclave, participants reported covert extortion activities by police officers. These illicit activities are often shrouded in secrecy, making them difficult to trace or substantiate. One victim aptly expressed this as saying:

"If you are an offender in a case the police are investigating and because the police have been given something behind the scenes, the officer ends up pushing everything on the offender." [OV, Field Interview, 2023].

This sentiment underscores the severity of the issue, emphasizing how officers misuse their authority for personal benefits, often compromising the very individuals they pledge to safeguard.

In line with these findings, the research by Nikolas Bagas Yudhi on the Police Strategy in Establishing Anti-Corruption Attitudes highlights the establishment of the Saber Extortion Task Force in East Java as a response to such corrupt practices. The study underscored the challenges faced by the police force in shaping anti-corruption behaviour, especially in the face of covert extortion activities (Yudhi, 2022). Bayley & Perito (2011) have long identified monetary extortion by law enforcement officers as a blatant form of police corruption. Such malpractices can drastically erode public trust,

resulting in diminished confidence in the police force. When individuals anticipate potential extortion, their willingness to collaborate with law enforcement diminishes, obstructing the effective administration of justice.

Moreover, participants also highlighted the imposition of unofficial and unlawful fees by police officers. Such fees, often masked under seemingly legitimate titles like "arresting fee", blur the distinction between official duties and corrupt behaviours. Transparency International (2013) has pinpointed the imposition of these unofficial fees as a subtle yet harmful form of corruption. A victim remarked that:

"And they said something. Arresting fee!" [OV, Field Interview, 2023]

The mere acknowledgement of an "arresting fee" with no legal foundation is concerning. It not only demonstrates the level to which corrupt acts have become acceptable, but it also raises concerns about how such behaviours can discourage people from seeking justice or cooperating with the authorities. Sam's (2022) study on how successful police road presence and enforcement in a developing nation context are, confirms these findings. According to the study, drivers use a variety of strategies to avoid traffic cops, which leads to police extortion and driver bribes. Such actions undercut the deterrent effect of police presence and enforcement, reducing public trust even more (Sam, 2022). The normalization of extortion among the police force has far-reaching societal consequences. According to Skolnick and Fyfe (1993), when police officers engage in corrupt actions, it undermines the basic foundation of the rule of law. The police, entrusted with maintaining the law, become a source of fear and suspicion. This trend can potentially deteriorate community-police ties, impeding effective policing and community participation.

Extortion and corruption within the police force remain significant issues that must be addressed immediately. The findings of numerous research and the experiences of victims highlight the necessity for extensive changes and efforts to rebuild public trust and ensure effective justice administration.

Extortion and corruption, particularly within law enforcement, are significant concerns. The understanding of police personnel regarding these issues is crucial in addressing them effectively. The study by Shopina (2022) emphasizes the importance of public control and supervision as elements of democratic civil control. This form of control ensures that law enforcement agencies are held accountable for their actions, especially when it comes to corruption and the violation of offenders' human rights. The growth of social responsibility and the development of mechanisms for ensuring human and civil rights are essential in this context. The article suggests that a clear understanding and definition of the object of public control can help address corruption more effectively (Shopina, 2022). Furthermore, the paper by Ibraj (2016) discusses the challenges posed by transnational organized criminal activities in Albania and Kosovo. It underscores the importance of international cooperation in addressing these challenges. The paper suggests that strengthening the rule of law and ensuring cooperation between countries can help in combating transnational organized crime, which often involves corruption activities by law enforcement agencies. The agreements and protocols signed between countries can serve as a framework for such cooperation, ensuring that police personnel are well-equipped and well-informed to address corruption and uphold offenders' human rights (Ibraj, 2016).

4.2.3 Misuse of Power

This form of corruption, which involves the manipulation of facts, false convictions, and unjust releases, is not only a violation of ethical standards but also a significant impediment to the rule of law and the establishment of public trust.

Participants reported instances where officers adjust the facts of a case based on bribes or other incentives they receive. Such practices can lead to a myriad of unjust outcomes, including false convictions or the release of guilty parties. One victim poignantly captured this sentiment, stating that:

"If the offender can pay something that you demanded, something like money. You put the person before the court and even at the court, a lot of things go on over there. You can easily influence the outcome of the case to his or her favour" [OV, Field Interview, 2023]

This statement underscores the gravity of the situation, highlighting how officers exploit their positions for personal gain, often at the expense of justice.

Furthermore, participants also reported the abuse of detention powers by officers. The ability to detain individuals provides officers with significant leverage, which, if corrupted, can lead to situations where detention becomes a tool of coercion, especially to extract bribes. An opinion leader expressed his frustrations as follows:

"Somebody is arrested... end up being incarcerated in the cell for more than the 48 hours which the loss of the country stability." [OM, 2023]

Detaining individuals beyond the legally permitted 48-hour period is a clear violation of both national laws and international human rights standards, such as the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights (Article 9). Human Rights Watch (2010) has identified the use of prolonged detention as a coercive method to extract bribes as a compound violation, intertwining corrupt motives with human rights abuses.

Moreover, targeting specific groups, such as foreigners, for extortion is a discriminatory practice that goes beyond mere corruption. An opinion leader highlighted this issue, stating that:

"And also, the patrol team instead of patrolling the town to reduce the crime rate, we rather be chasing the foreigners. And collecting their belongings and also money from them." [OM, Field Interview, 2023].

Such practices accentuate societal divides and can lead to the further alienation of marginalized communities. The findings agree with Newburn (1999) who argued that the misuse of power often stems from a combination of opportunity, discretion, and low accountability. When officers wield their authority for personal gain, it erodes the very foundation of justice. The integrity of the police force and the broader justice system is compromised when officers engage in corrupt practices, from bribery in traffic situations to overt and covert extortion.

The issue of the misuse of power within the Central East Regional Command of the Ghana Police Service is a pressing concern that demands immediate attention. The manipulation of facts, abuse of detention powers, and targeting of specific groups for extortion are all manifestations of a deeper systemic problem. Addressing these issues will require comprehensive reforms, stringent oversight mechanisms, and a shift in organizational culture to prioritize integrity and fairness. Only through such measures can public trust be restored and the rule of law upheld.

The findings from researchers reinforce these concerns. For instance, Mocarska (2019) delved into the crime of abuse of function, which involves the exceeding of powers or failure of a public officer to perform his duties. This aligns with the participants' reports of officers adjusting the facts of a case based on bribes or other incentives. Such manipulations can lead to unjust outcomes, including false convictions or the release of guilty parties. The paper's emphasis on the ethical demands of the police profession and the challenges posed by the potential for power misuse resonates with the sentiments expressed by the victim in the write-up, highlighting the gravity of the situation.

Furthermore, the study by Jauregui (2021) underscored the experiences of subordinate police personnel who misuse their authority, further emphasizing the global nature of this issue. The intertwining of official police rank hierarchies with broader forms of social inequality can exacerbate the misuse of power, leading to discriminatory practices, such as targeting specific groups like foreigners for extortion, as highlighted in the write-up.

Again, Meadows & Trostle (1988) examined the conditions accompanying alleged incidents of police misconduct. The findings from this study further emphasize the need for stringent oversight mechanisms. Detaining individuals beyond the legally permitted 48-hour period, as mentioned by participants is a clear violation of both national laws and international human rights standards. Their findings on the conditions associated with lawsuits against law enforcement agencies further underscore the gravity of the situation and the need for comprehensive reforms.

Moreover, Vawda & Mtshali (2013) investigating misconduct in the South African Police Service shed light on the pressing concern of the misuse of power within police

services. Their findings align with Newburn (1999), emphasizing that the misuse of power often stems from a combination of opportunity, discretion, and low accountability.

4.3 Police Personnel on Corruption Activities and Offenders' Human Rights

4.3.1 Understanding of Corruption

The interviews conducted provide a nuanced understanding of how junior and senior police officers perceive and understand corruption, shedding light on the multifaceted nature of this issue. Junior police officers, as the interviews reveal, possess a profound awareness of corrupt activities. Their understanding is not limited to theoretical knowledge; they are acutely aware of the tangible manifestations of corruption in their daily operations. For instance, the act of accepting bribes during traffic stops is not merely an abstract concept for them. This aligns with the findings of Ponce et al. (2021), who noted that experiences of police corruption can lead to heightened political mobilization, suggesting that such tangible encounters with corruption have broader societal implications.

The statement by one of them provides a candid acknowledgement of corruption practices, which says:

"...most of the policemen want details to perform certain duties, like the motor traffic unit... But then they end up taking bribes when the drivers' flag some of the laws which they know is a form of extortion..."

[JO, Field interview, 2023]

This reflection implies that specific units within the police force, such as the motor traffic unit, might be more predisposed to corrupt activities than others. Malik and

Qureshi's (2020) study on the economic, cultural, and political causes of police corruption in Pakistan resonates with this sentiment, suggesting that certain systemic factors might make specific units more vulnerable to corruption.

On the other hand, senior police officers exhibit an understanding of corruption that goes beyond mere recognition. Their perspective encapsulates not only the internal dynamics of the police force but also the broader societal perception of the police service. A senior officer acknowledged this through his sentiment:

"...As we know, in Ghana, some institutions have been carrying out corruption indexes and in most of the cases emerging police are in the top institution when it comes to corruption in Ghana. Yes. So because of this, we educate our personnel about corruption and its implications." [SO, Field Interview, 2023]

This acknowledgement of the police service's reputation concerning corruption is reminiscent of the findings of Bleakley (2020), who framed organized police corruption as a seductive-recruitment process, akin to a cult's strategies. Furthermore, the senior officer's statement underscores the proactive measures taken by the police force's leadership to address corruption. This top-down approach, emphasizing education and awareness, suggests a commitment to reform and aligns with the strategies proposed by Singh (2022) to combat corruption and restore public confidence in policing.

4.3.2 Institutional Emphasis on Human Rights

In analysing the understanding of police personnel on corruption activities and offenders' human rights, one key theme that emerged was the institutional emphasis on human rights. A senior officer reiterates that there has been constant education on human rights as a form of institutional briefing in the service.

"So, whether corruption issue or human rights issues, that have been discussed every day in the police." (SO, Field Interview, 2023).

The senior officer brings forth valuable insight into the service's routine activities, where human rights and corruption are regular discussion topics.

"...the human rights are discussed at every police briefing. We do a lot of briefing for deployment. Every briefing, whether corruption issue or human rights issues, they have been discussed every day in the police." [SO, Field Interview, 2023]

This suggests an ongoing attempt within the service to keep these issues at the forefront, ensuring that officers are continually reminded of their responsibilities.

There is also an acknowledgement of the discussions and efforts within the service to address corruption. There are open meetings, collaborations with NGOs, and internal dialogues. However, the sentiment expressed suggests that these might not be enough.

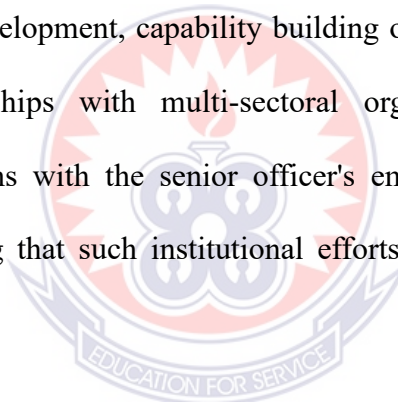
"...most of the times we organize, let's say open meetings, we go for these NGOs, they organize some meetings and talk about this kind of corrupt activities which the policemen, they are aware."

[SO, Field Interview, 2023]

While there's an appreciation for these efforts, the underlying tone suggests that more needs to be done, especially in terms of effectiveness and reach.

The regular discussions on human rights during daily briefings indicate an institutional effort to engrain the importance of these rights in officers' daily activities. This continuous education may aim to combat corrupt tendencies and instil respect for individual rights among the personnel. Thus, the intertwined discussions on corruption and human rights suggest an acknowledgement that corrupt practices can be a significant hindrance to upholding human rights.

Building on this, the study by Macabeo (2022) underscored the importance of institutional policy development, capability building on human rights protection, and strengthening partnerships with multi-sectoral organizations for human rights compliance. This aligns with the senior officer's emphasis on daily human rights discussions, suggesting that such institutional efforts are not isolated but part of a broader global trend.



4.3.3 Police Awareness of Human Rights Implications

Officers, during the interview, exhibited a discerning awareness of potential human rights infringements within their operations. While there is a palpable recognition that corrupt activities inherently contravene human rights principles, a chasm often exists between this acknowledgement and the manifestation of corrective actions. This dichotomy may be attributed to a myriad of factors, including institutional inertia, perceived powerlessness against entrenched systems, or the allure of personal enrichment (Macabeo, 2022).

A poignant reflection from an officer underscores the multifaceted repercussions of police actions on the human rights of the accused:

"And this has a lot of implications on the human rights of the offender." (SO, Field Interview, 2023)

The intricate relationship between police malpractices and the erosion of the justice system is further elucidated in the literature. Landström & Naarttijärvi (2020) emphasized the imperative of ensuring legality, compatibility with human rights, and predictability for citizens within police operations. The insinuation by a participant that the fairness of trials could be compromised by corrupt practices accentuates the profound ramifications corruption poses to the sanctity of the justice system. This sentiment resonates with Bachore's (2021) findings, which highlighted the challenges faced by African governments in upholding the rule of law and human rights.

"Uh, an officer dealing with the offender can abuse and also deprive him or her right of a fair trial at the courts." (JO, Field Interview, 2023).

The socioeconomic disparities in the treatment of offenders, as hinted by the participant, are emblematic of the systemic biases that plague many justice systems. Those endowed with financial resources or influential connections may circumvent the rigours of the law, thereby exacerbating inequalities (Hwang, 2020).

4.3.4 Impact on Human Rights

The intricate relationship between corruption within the police force and the erosion of human rights has been a focal point of scholarly discourse. The senior officer's insights offer a profound understanding of this dynamic, emphasizing the detrimental effects of

corruption on the procedural rights of individuals. These procedural rights, which form the bedrock of a just legal system, include being informed about the reasons for arrest and ensuring the sanctity of fair trial processes. One senior officer's sentiment poignantly underscored the cascading effect of corruption.

"...Because if I'm arrested and then the police fail to tell me the offence, I have committed... then within 48 hours I'm still in custody because the police demanded money and I don't have the money... So, corruption leads to human rights abuses, no doubt about it," (SO, Field Interview, 2023)

This narrative resonates with the findings of Ponce et al. (2021), who highlighted the tangible encounters with corruption and their broader societal implications. In this context, an individual's rights are not just violated at a singular point but are continuously infringed upon at multiple junctures due to corrupt practices.

The ramifications of corruption within the police service extend beyond merely tarnishing its reputation. It has direct, tangible consequences on the rights of offenders and the general populace. The bail process, a fundamental right enshrined in many legal systems, becomes particularly vulnerable to these corrupt practices. Malik and Qureshi's (2020) study on police corruption in Pakistan elucidates how systemic factors can distort such essential legal processes, turning them into commercial transactions. The senior officer's observation exemplifies this distortion:

"...let's say somebody is arrested then instead of the police to maybe grant bail, they will demand some money from the person... that person ends up being incarcerated in the cell for more than the 48 hours which the laws of the country stipulate," (SO, Field Interview, 2023).

Rather than serving as a protective measure to uphold an individual's entitlement to freedom, bail can be exploited as a means of coercion, resulting in protracted and inequitable imprisonment. The study conducted by Bleakley (2020) sheds light on the phenomenon of organized police corruption, highlighting the significance of the seductive recruitment process inside law enforcement agencies. This research underscores the potential consequences of systemic corruption, which may manifest in the form of extensive violations of human rights. The infringement upon the fundamental human right to liberty occurs when individuals are unlawfully detained for extended periods of time as a result of their incapacity to satisfy illicit financial requests, as outlined in numerous international human rights treaties.

4.3.5 Laws & Regulations

In the domain of law enforcement, strict compliance with procedural laws and regulations is of utmost importance. The aforementioned rules are not merely suggestions, but rather fundamental concepts that serve to safeguard the rights of individuals during their encounters with law enforcement entities. However, as the senior officer's report emphasizes, there is a disturbing tendency of breaches of these procedural norms, mostly driven by corruption.

The remark made by the officer offers a compelling depiction of the seriousness of the situation.

"...If a person is arrested and he's not told of the offence he has committed, as sometimes happens... And sometimes even in civil cases, a person comes to the police saying, 'I gave goods to Mr. X. He owes 3000', and policemen arrest him for the debt. That's a clear abuse of the person's rights," [JO, Field Interview, 2023]

These occurrences are not simply anomalies but rather indicative of a more profound systemic issue impacting the law enforcement system. The practice of apprehending an individual without providing them with information regarding their alleged wrongdoing, or more notably, detaining them about civil disputes, is a significant departure from traditional legal conventions. The phenomenon not only diminishes the reliability of the law enforcement agency but also erodes the confidence of the general public in the fundamental establishments established to protect them. Based on the scholarly investigations undertaken by Ponce et al. (2021) and Malik & Qureshi (2020), it becomes apparent that police corruption, as observed in several settings, carries significant ramifications. These studies emphasize the impact of corruption on the integrity of law enforcement, resulting in a societal environment where the infringement of individual rights is normalized. The acknowledgement made by the senior officer regarding the tendency for corrupt activities to lead to the denial of a fair trial serves to further emphasize this issue. As the officer rightly points out,

"We also have a right to a fair trial... an offender is being handled in a way that an officer being to the offender is abused and also deprived of the right of a fair trial at the courts." [SO, Field Interview, 2023]

The right to a fair trial is a cornerstone of any democratic society and is incorporated in various international human rights documents. When this privilege is violated, it affects not only the individual offender but also the entire legal system. The repercussions are numerous. On the one hand, it has the potential to result in miscarriages of justice, with innocent people being unfairly convicted. On the other hand, it may result in genuine offenders evading the legal process, undercutting the whole aim of the judicial system.

4.4 Legal and Ethical Implications

4.4.1 Lack of Accountability

Accountability stands as a pivotal pillar in the architecture of any robust policing system. It serves as a bulwark against potential abuses of power, ensuring that those vested with authority operate within the ambit of both legal and ethical paradigms. Goldsmith (2010) astutely observed that the void created by the absence or ineffective application of accountability mechanisms can pave the way for rampant abuse of power.

A poignant reflection from a community member encapsulates this concern:

"Sometimes those in authority don't respect us, the civilians. So they do what they like. And when you question, they said, Ah, why should you question me? I'm an authority. So you have no right to question me." [OM, Field Interview, 2023].

This narrative underscores the perceived sense of invulnerability that some officers harbour. Such entrenched attitudes, if left unchecked, can germinate a culture where officers perceive themselves as being beyond the purview of the law. This not only leads to potential human rights infringements but also precipitates a significant erosion of public trust. Stone & Ward (2000) emphasized that this runs counter to the ethos of democratic policing, which is anchored in the tenets of transparency, respect, and unwavering service to the community.

From a jurisprudential perspective, the vacuum created by the lack of accountability mechanisms or the reluctance to enforce extant ones becomes a fertile ground for corruption to flourish. Rose-Ackerman (1999) contends that in the absence of rigorous checks and balances, officers embroiled in corrupt practices operate with a sense of

impunity, thereby subverting the very essence of the rule of law. Another community member remarked:

"Without giving them the money, they say arresting fee, they do not go," exemplifies this. Such a practice of levying an "arresting fee" [OM, Field Interview, 2023]

This remark devoid of any legal foundation epitomizes a system where officers can circumvent the law for pecuniary benefits. These actions not only contravene domestic legal norms but also flout international standards of justice and equitable treatment.

The principle of accountability is not merely a theoretical construct; it is a foundational legal and ethical tenet that mandates those wielding power to be held accountable for their actions. The deliberate evasion or circumvention of accountability mechanisms can engender a pervasive culture of impunity.

Reflecting on this, a Junior Officer opined:

"What I want to say is... Anyone caught with the corrupt act must be dealt with... the IGP should put his feet down..." [JO, Field Interview, 2023]

Another Community Member/Opinion leader added:

"Because if I'm arrested and then the police fail to tell me the offence, have committed or have me arrested, then within 48 hours I'm still in custody because the police demanded money and I don't have the money." [OM, Field Interview, 2023]

These sentiments underscore a palpable demand for stringent measures against corrupt officers, suggesting an intrinsic understanding among junior officers of the dire need

for accountability. It also hints at an acute awareness of the potential legal ramifications of unchecked corrupt practices, which can culminate in human rights transgressions and erode the sanctity of the rule of law (Transparency International, 2013).

The narratives shared by participants illuminate the profound legal and ethical ramifications of police corruption within the Ghana Police Service's Central East Region. From infringing upon the right to a fair trial to fostering a potential culture of impunity, these ramifications accentuate the pressing need for holistic reforms. Such reforms should be multifaceted, encompassing the fortification of legal frameworks, the enhancement of accountability mechanisms, and the inculcation of a culture steeped in integrity and respect for human rights within the police force. Addressing these multifarious challenges is not merely a legal and ethical obligation but is quintessential for rejuvenating public trust and ensuring the justice system's efficacious operation.

4.4.2 Breach of Professional Ethics and Erosion of Public Trust

Policing, as an institution, is deeply rooted in the tenets of integrity, impartiality, and unwavering commitment to community service (Miller, 2015). The very essence of these principles is to ensure that the police force remains a beacon of trust and reliability for the public. However, the infiltration of corrupt practices into this institution not only contradicts these foundational principles but also poses a significant threat to the ethical fabric that should underpin police conduct.

A junior police participant's observation underscores the pervasive nature of corruption, suggesting a systemic ethical deterioration.

"No, it's not only in the central; it's a national issue," [JO, Field Interview, 2023]

Such endemic corruption indicates a significant deviation from the foundational values of policing, precipitating a legitimacy crisis. This crisis is not merely a localized issue but resonates on a national scale, reflecting broader systemic challenges that transcend regional boundaries. The sanctity of the justice system is anchored in the principle of a fair trial, a cornerstone that ensures the equitable administration of justice. However, when the tendrils of corruption entangle this principle, it erodes the very bedrock of justice. This erosion manifests in various forms, from the unjust conviction of innocent individuals to the acquittal of guilty parties due to evidence tampering or bribery. Such miscarriages of justice not only undermine public confidence in the legal system but also contravene international human rights standards.

Officers embroiled in corrupt practices face a dual threat of legal repercussions. Internally, they may be subjected to disciplinary actions within the police force. Externally, the broader judicial system might impose legal sanctions, ranging from lawsuits and penalties to criminal indictments. As an officer highlighted,

"For example, in our Constitution, they say we should not detain a suspect or offender for more than 48 hours. So, if you do that, they detain the person. The person can sue you and you have to pay a penalty for it." [SO, Field Interview, 2023]

Such legal provisions underscore the importance of adhering to constitutional safeguards, with violations attracting punitive measures.

However, the gravest challenge emerges when corruption is institutionalized, suggesting systemic vulnerabilities that not only permit but might inadvertently encourage corrupt practices (Klitgaard, 1988). The sentiment from an opinion leader

underscores the ubiquity of corruption, emphasizing the need for sweeping institutional reforms.

"To me, that poor country that is every sector of the country.

Corruption affects every aspect of the country. The issue of corruption with the police is not only within the Central, but the entire service," [OM, Field Interview, 2023]

From a legal perspective, these reforms might encompass statutory amendments, enhanced oversight mechanisms, and rigorous punitive measures for corrupt officers. Ethically, there's an imperative to revisit and fortify the guiding principles of the police service, with a renewed focus on integrity, community service, and human rights adherence.

Sunshine and Tyler (2003) astutely observed that public trust is integral to the effective functioning of the police force. A force bereft of public trust grapples with operational challenges, as citizens become increasingly reticent to collaborate or liaise with law enforcement. This statement from an opinion leader encapsulates this trust deficit, highlighting the need for community-centric policing initiatives:

"The police administration... should get near to the civilians and then ask them the problems at hand so that they can solve the problems between the police and the civilians,"[OM, Field Interview, 2023]

Furthermore, the manipulation or fabrication of evidence to further corrupt interests poses a grave threat to the justice system. Such practices can culminate in judicial

travesties, where the scales of justice are tipped not by evidence but by corrupt influences. This not only jeopardizes the rights of individuals but also exacerbates societal inequalities, as those with financial clout might wield undue influence over judicial outcomes.

4.4.3 Financial Coercion and Unlawful Detention

The act of leveraging financial coercion to unlawfully detain individuals represents a profound transgression of both domestic legal frameworks and international human rights conventions. Such practices not only contravene the tenets enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Articles 3, 9) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 9) but also erode the foundational principles of justice, equity, and human dignity (UN General Assembly, 1948; UN General Assembly, 1966).

A poignant observation by a victim/offender sheds light on the commodification of justice.

"The police collect money before granting bail to offenders.

And if they don't have money, they are detained until they are released when they get money," [VO, Field Interview, 2023]

This commodification, where one's liberty is contingent upon their financial prowess, starkly undermines the sacrosanct principle of equality before the law. Feeley (1979) posited that such practices not only raise significant ethical quandaries but also challenge the very essence of a justice system where rights and freedoms should be universally guaranteed, irrespective of one's economic stature.

Central to the ethos of any democratic legal framework is the right to a fair trial. This right serves as a bulwark against potential miscarriages of justice, ensuring that individuals are accorded just and equitable treatment during legal proceedings. However, the infiltration of corrupt practices within the policing apparatus can severely jeopardize this right. The statement by a victim underscores the unsafe landscape where corrupt practices, such as soliciting bribes or tampering with evidence, can distort legal outcomes:

"We have a right to fair trial... an offender is being handled in the way that... deprived of the right of fair trial at the courts,"

[VO, Field Interview, 2023]

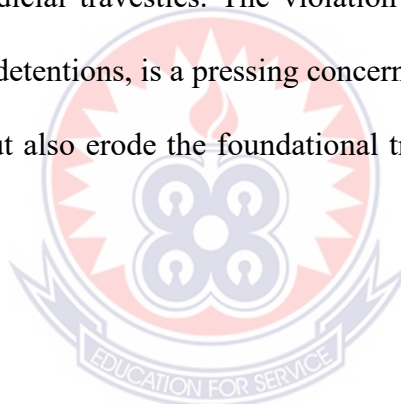
Such malpractices not only contravene domestic legal norms but also flout international human rights standards, particularly the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 14) (UN General Assembly, 1966).

The ramifications of prolonged detention without trial extend beyond mere legal violations. Detainees subjected to extended periods of confinement, especially in the absence of compelling evidence or due to corrupt motivations, grapple with a myriad of challenges. These challenges span the spectrum from mental and physical health repercussions to socio-economic ramifications stemming from prolonged absences from their communities or workplaces. Such detentions epitomize a flagrant abuse of power by law enforcement agencies, undermining public trust and confidence in the justice system.

A senior police participant's reflection summarizes the profound ethical and legal dilemmas posed by corrupt practices within the police force.

"Corruption affects offenders. Then justice, as I said, is sold to the highest bidder. When in the full glare of a situation, the facts are twisted to favour the one who is deemed to be rich in pockets to offer any amounts to run away from justice," [SO, Field Interview, 2023].

This narrative underscores a system where justice is auctioned to the highest bidder, leading to potential judicial travesties. The violation of human rights, especially in terms of fair trials and detentions, is a pressing concern. Such violations not only harm individual offenders but also erode the foundational trust society places in its justice system.



CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Introduction

It is key to address and conclude the issue of police corruption and its impact on the human rights of offenders and victims. A concise summary and conclusion not only highlight the key facts of police inappropriate conduct but also provide a clear understanding of the implications for human rights. This chapter served as the research's conclusion, tying together the issues mentioned in the preceding chapters and providing a comprehensive review of the study's contributions to comprehending the significance of the impact of police corruption on human rights.

5.2 Summary

Police corruption is a global issue with various forms like bribery, extortion, and abuse of power, that affect legal integrity, public trust, and law enforcement efficiency. While studies have explored its complexities worldwide, including its societal implications and connections to organized crime, there's a distinct lack of research on its dynamics in Ghana. Historical analysis links Ghana's police corruption to British colonial governance, with modern manifestations influenced by societal expectations and economic pressures. Such corruption can infringe on human rights, leading to wrongful arrests and unjust imprisonments. Despite the broader understanding of this issue, there's a notable gap in research on the relationship between police corruption and human rights violations of offenders in Ghana, necessitating further investigation for informed policymaking and scholarly exploration.

The literature review encompasses theoretical frameworks, historical perspectives, types of police corruption, and their impact on human rights: corruption is systemic, rooted in the culture and structure of police organizations, leading to human rights violations; police corruption violates the social contract, undermining public trust and state legitimacy; visible signs of disorder encourage crime, often leading to aggressive policing tactics that violate human rights.

The study was carefully designed with several goals. Firstly, it was to classify the different types of police corruption that affect individuals who have committed offences. Secondly, it sought to assess law enforcement officers' understanding of corrupt behaviours and their awareness of the human rights of offenders. Lastly, it aimed to examine the legal and ethical implications of police corruption on the rights of offenders. The primary objective of this study is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the extent and nature of police corruption in the Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service, as well as to examine its impact on the human rights of individuals engaged in criminal behaviour.

A qualitative research approach, supplemented by a case study design, was used in this study to delve into the intricate nature of police corruption and its ensuing effects on offenders' human rights. Rigorous semi-structured interviews with a diverse group of individuals were methodically conducted. This group included community members'/opinion leaders, senior law enforcement officers, and their younger counterparts, all of whom were carefully selected using purposeful sampling techniques. Following data gathering, a thematic analysis using coding was carried out to distil the findings and encourage scholarly discussions. Throughout the research procedure, strict ethical protocols were strictly followed. The primary goal of the results

in this study is to critically examine the legal and ethical impacts of police corruption and to explain how it affects both offenders as well as criminals.

5.3 Key Findings

(a) Types of Corruption in the Central East Region of the Ghana Police Service

1. Bribery, particularly in traffic situations, is prevalent in the Central East Regional Police Command.
2. The imposition of unofficial fees, like the "arresting fee," blurs lines between legitimate police actions and corrupt behaviors.
3. There's a discriminatory practice where foreigners are targeted for extortion.

(b) Understanding of Police Personnel on Corruption Activities and Offenders'

1. Officers are aware of the potential human rights infringements within their operations. There is a recognition of the detrimental effects of corrupt activities on the human rights of the accused.
2. There's a violation of procedural rights, including being informed about reasons for arrest and ensuring fair trial processes. The bail process becomes a means of coercion due to corrupt practices, leading to prolonged and unjust imprisonment.

(c) Legal and Ethical Implications

- (1) There's a perceived sense of invulnerability among some officers, leading to potential human rights infringements and a decline in public trust.
- (2) The sanctity of the justice system, particularly the right to a fair trial, is being compromised by corrupt practices, leading to potential miscarriages of justice.

- (3) Prolonged detention without trial, especially motivated by corruption, has a myriad of adverse effects on detainees, ranging from mental and physical health repercussions to socio-economic challenges.
- (4) There's a significant legitimacy crisis faced by the police force due to the erosion of public trust.

Police corruption in the Central East Region of Ghana significantly impacts human rights, particularly the rights to a fair trial and protection from unlawful detention. Addressing this issue requires robust community policing, independent oversight, and systemic reforms to rebuild public trust and uphold democratic policing principles.

5.4 Theoretical Implications

The findings reveal that the abuse of power within the police service is potentially rooted in socio-cultural norms, indicating a deep-seated systemic issue. This necessitates interventions aimed at cultural shifts within the force. The narratives further suggest a need to assess how societal norms and power dynamics within the police intersect and shape behavior. The eroded public trust observed aligns with the Social Contract Theory, emphasizing a breached contract between the police and the public. Therefore, trust restoration measures, focusing on transparency and community engagement, are vital. The findings also show the operational relevance of the Broken Windows Theory, emphasizing the importance of addressing minor infractions to prevent larger systemic issues. Prioritizing order and discipline become crucial.

Moreover, the findings highlight the interconnectedness of these theories: abuse of power impacts public trust, which in turn can amplify minor breaches. This suggests that interventions must adopt a comprehensive approach, encompassing multiple theoretical perspectives.

As societal dynamics, institutional practices, and community perceptions change, so should the theoretical frameworks used to interpret them. The findings from the Ghana Police Service's Central East Region suggest that while existing theories provide a valuable lens, there might be room for evolving these theories or introducing new perspectives that cater specifically to the unique challenges and nuances of the region.

5.5 Conclusion

Based on the research findings, the study draws the following conclusions:

The Ghana Police Service's Central East Region displays deep-rooted exacerbated by weak checks and balances. Also, corruption and breaches in professional ethics have significantly eroded public trust in the police, challenging the core of democratic policing. Finally, corrupt practices, like financial coercion and unlawful detentions, compromise the justice system, making it appear as though justice is for sale.

5.6 Recommendations

The study outlined the following research recommendations based on the study findings:

- (1) The introduction of regular integrity training for officers and the establishment of an anonymous reporting system for both police personnel and civilians to report instances of bribery.
- (2) Implementation of regular assessments to ensure understanding and compliance with human rights standards in police operations.
- (3) Promotion of a culture of accountability where the actions of officers are regularly reviewed and audited. This can be achieved by implementing a whistleblower protection policy to encourage reporting of unethical behaviour.

- (4) Development of joint training programs for police and judiciary personnel on ethics and anti-corruption.

5.7 Study Limitations

The study primarily focused on the Ghana Police Service's Central East Region. While this provided in-depth insights into the region's specific context, the findings may not be entirely generalizable to other regions or countries with differing socio-cultural and institutional dynamics. Given that the study employed qualitative methodologies, particularly interviews, there's an inherent risk of subjectivity. Participants might have been influenced by social desirability bias, providing responses they believed were expected rather than their genuine perspectives. While the study employed multiple theoretical frameworks to interpret the findings, the complexity of corruption and its interplay with societal norms might require a broader or evolving set of theories for a more comprehensive understanding.

5.8 Suggestions for Future Studies

To enhance the generalizability of findings, future research could conduct comparative studies across multiple regions within Ghana or even juxtapose the Ghana Police Service with similar institutions in other African countries. This would provide a broader understanding of the corruption phenomenon and its nuances. Complementing the qualitative methodology with quantitative methods could provide a more holistic picture than the former method alone.

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