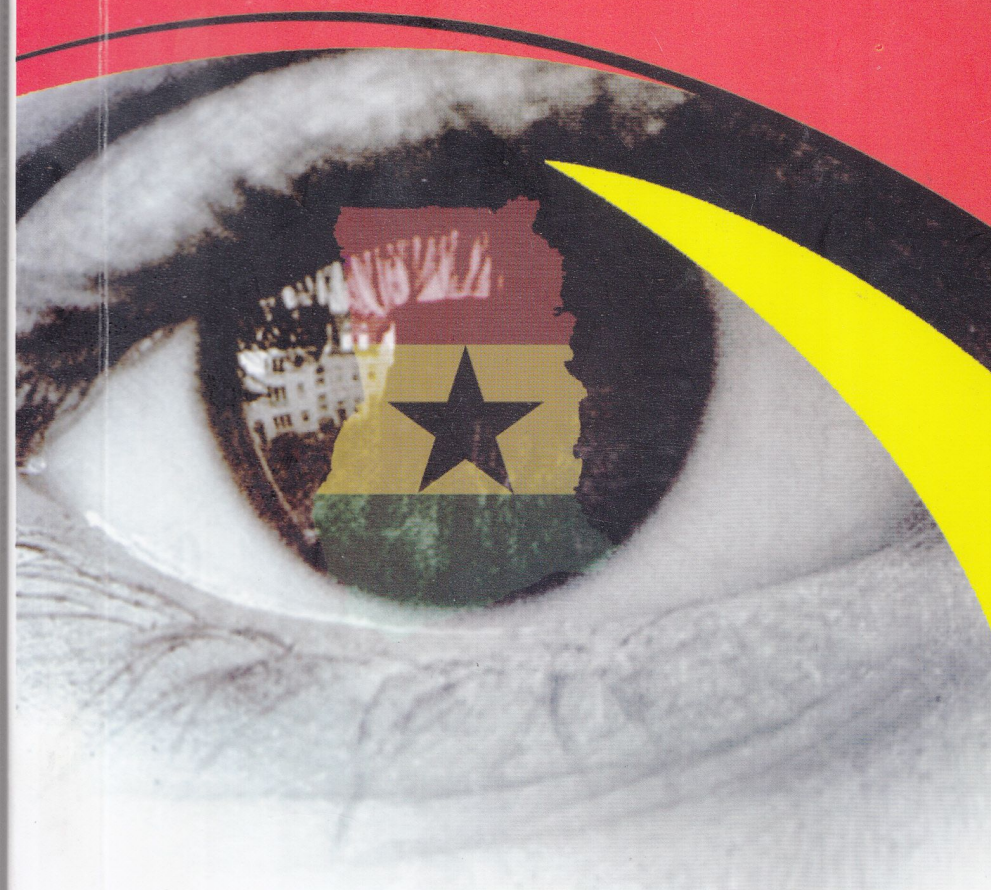


PUBLIC OPINION

ON
CORRUPTION
ACCOUNTABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE





WITH SUPPORT FROM
EUROPEAN UNION



SURVEY ON PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON THE STATE OF CORRUPTION, PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN GHANA

NOVEMBER, 2017

FOREWORD

Since its establishment in 1993 by an Act of Parliament, (that is the National Commission for Civic Education Act 1993, Act 452) the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) has contributed to the social, economic and political development of the country through researches it has conducted over the years. This is in fulfillment of the Commission's constitutional mandate to among others "assess for the information of government, the limitation to the achievement of true democracy arising from existing inequalities between different strata of the population and make recommendations for redressing these inequalities". (Section 2 of Act 452)

In pursuance of this mandate, the present study titled "Public Perception of the State of Corruption, Public Accountability and Environmental Governance in Ghana" provides a baseline data for public education on anti-corruption, enhanced accountability in public institutions and improved environmental management under an European Union (EU) funded programme dubbed "Anti-corruption, Rule of Law and Public Accountability Programme (ARAP)". This is the first of two studies to be conducted under the ARAP period.

Additionally, the study provides useful insights for engagements by partner organizations implementing ARAP such as the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO), law enforcement agencies and the Judiciary among others.

Systematic institutional and political corruption and a perceived culture of tolerance for corruption, lack of public accountability and poor environmental management has hindered the socio-economic development of our country. The Commission is therefore convinced that the survey findings provide the necessary

information to contribute to shaping the character and attitude of state institutions, public officials, business entities, businessmen/women, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the citizenry to help our nation minimize corruption; improve public accountability and promote best practices that prevent environmental degradation.

The Commission acknowledges with gratitude the significant role of following institutions: The EU for initiating ARAP and sponsoring the study, International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP), for providing both technical and financial support for the study.

The Commission is also grateful for the immense support received from Dr. Mumuni Abu, the consultant recruited to support the research work.

On behalf of the Commission we extend our gratitude to the 8,672 respondents across the country who availed their valuable time and information for this study.

Lastly, I will like to commend the dedicated staff of the Commission who despite numerous challenges in collating and analysing data, forged ahead towards the successful completion of this survey exercise. The Commission sincerely hopes that this study will inspire long lasting anti-corruption interventions, promote public accountability whilst ensuring the implementation of sustainable environmental governance.



JOSEPHINE NKRUMAH (MS)
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NOVEMBER 2017

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ARAP	Anti-Corruption, Rule of Law and Public Accountability Programme
BNI	Bureau of National Investigations
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CEPS	Custom and Excise Preventive Service
CHRAJ	Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DVLA	Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority
EOCO	Economic and Organized Crime Office
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESP	Environmental Sanitation Policy
EU	European Union
FIIAPP	International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies
GPHA	Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority
GRA	Ghana Revenue Authority
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
IEA	Institute of Economic Affairs
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
NAMDO	National Disaster Management Organization
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education,
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEP	National Environmental Policy
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
PNDC	Provisional National Defense Council
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women

KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

The obligation of public enterprises, state institutions, agencies or persons entrusted with public resources to be answerable to the public who have entrusted such responsibilities to them for the public good.

CORRUPTION

Corruption is the misuse of entrusted power for private gain which includes bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation, illegal enrichment, laundering of proceeds of crime, concealment, obstruction of justice, patronage and nepotism.

ENVIRONMENT

Environment here refers to the surroundings of human beings, including natural resources which provide conditions for development and growth.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Environmental Governance is the ‘Multi-level interactions (i.e., local, national, international/global) among, but not limited to, three main actors, i.e., state, market and civil society, to determine and act on goals and priorities related to the management of natural resources.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Governance is the way the rules, norms and actions are structured, sustained, regulated and held accountable. Good governance is therefore the processes for making and implementing decisions in a transparent and accountable manner. It’s not about making ‘correct’ decisions, but about the best possible processes for making those decisions.

RULE OF LAW

The government, its officials and agents as well as individuals and private entities are accountable under the law. The laws are clear, just, unambiguous, evenly applied and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons and property and certain core human rights.

TRANSPARENCY

The degree of disclosure to which agreements, dealings, practices and transactions are open to all for verification. People should be able to follow and understand the decision-making process. This means that they will be able to clearly see how and why a decision was made and for what purpose.

WHISTLE-BLOWER

A person who exposes any kind of information on activity deemed illegal, unethical, or any other form of wrong doing within an organisation that is either private or public. There must be a safe place where one reports government misconduct without fear, demand information and access to government documents.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The study on public perception of the state of corruption, public accountability and environmental governance in Ghana is novel in the sense that, it investigates three very important subjects of development under one study umbrella. The primary objective of the study was to assess citizens' knowledge and perceptions on the state of corruption, public accountability and environmental governance in Ghana. The findings of this study are intended to inform and shape NCCE's nation-wide education on anti-corruption, improved accountability within public institutions and in managing the environment. The study also provides baseline data for assessing progress of the ARAP by both coordinating and implementing agencies.

METHODOLOGY

The study is nationwide in character with data collected in all two hundred and sixteen (216) districts in the ten (10) administrative regions of Ghana. The study sample was determined using systematic and simple random sampling techniques. The total sample for the study was 8706 persons drawn from urban and rural areas across the 216 administrative districts. The sampling frame comprised Ghanaians aged fifteen (15) years and above. The results are presented in tables, charts and graphs with some descriptive information to enhance easy and better comprehension of the report.

STUDY FINDINGS

CITIZENS' PERCEPTIONS ON CORRUPTION

There is some level of awareness of what constitutes corruption among the respondents. Many respondents perceive corruption as embezzlement (90.2%) (i.e. stealing from resources meant for the common good) and fraud (89%) (deceiving others to take advantage of them).

In terms of personal experience with corruption, more than half (58.4%) of the respondents have ever witnessed one act of corruption or the other while a much lower percentage (22.3%) of the respondents mentioned that they have ever engaged in acts of corruption.

Bribery (53.0%) was mentioned as the most prevalent act of corruption respondents have ever witnessed and also as an act of corruption that respondents have ever engaged in (57.3%).

Approximately, 82% of the respondents agreed that men are more likely to receive bribe compared to women.

Overall, 91.4% of the respondents ranked the level of corruption in Ghana as high.

The main reason respondents think people engage in acts of corruption is greed and selfishness (46.5%). Other reasons given include, people's desire to get rich quickly, satisfying of a dire need, peer influence, family and societal pressures, economic hardships and lack of effective systems to punish corruptible acts.

More than two-thirds (68.2%) of respondents believe that the institution a person works with increases the likelihood to indulge in acts of corruption. Apart from the Ghana Police Service which was mentioned by 46.5% of the respondent as an institution exposes individuals to the risk of corruption, all other institutions such as the Judicial Service and Civil/Public Service were each mentioned by less than 10% of the respondents.

More than half (53.1%) of the respondents were of the view that corruption leads to under development and bad reputation of a country while 11.1% indicated that corruption leads to lack of basic/social amenities such as schools and hospitals.

CITIZEN'S PERCEPTIONS ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Using scenarios to test the understanding of respondents on what constitutes public accountability, an average of 80.0% of the respondents affirmed the correct scenarios while 50.0% of them rejected the wrong scenarios.

Knowledge of the existing public accountability structures at the local and national levels was very low among the respondents. A little over two-fifth (43.4%) of the respondents responded in the affirmative when asked whether they know of the public accounts committee of parliament while 68.8% of them are not aware of the legal provision of the Local Government Act 2016, Act 936 that mandates District Assemblies to publish their expenditure accounts annually to their constituents.

Participation in the accountability process was found to be very low as 96.8% of the respondents have never personally sought for the expenditure accounts of their District Assemblies.

Respondents ranked the Military as the most accountable institution in Ghana. The Ghana Police Service, the Economic and Organized Crime Office, the Judicial Service and Health Service Providers then followed respectively as the most accountable institutions in Ghana. The institutions at the bottom of the list included the Ghana Immigration Service, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority, Passport Office, Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority and the State Insurance Company.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO ADDRESSING CORRUPTION

Respondents mentioned the Ghana Police Service (32.0%), Economic and Organised Crime Office (26.5%), Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (20%) and the Law courts (15.4%) as institutions where one can go and report cases of corruption in Ghana.

A little over two-fifth (41.8%) of the respondents are of the view that the Executive arm of government should ensure that appropriate system for sanctioning/punishing corrupt officials are put in place. Also, 43.3% of the respondents indicated that the Legislature should put in stringent measures to sanction corrupt officials who are found culpable of embezzling public funds whilst 20.1% mentioned that the Judiciary should uphold the integrity of the judicial system in their line of duty.

Public Education institutions and Civil Society Organizations were called upon by respondents to organize effective public education activities to help raise awareness on anti-corruption. Respondents also suggested that the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) enact by-laws as well as enforce existing ones to combat corruption in their jurisdiction. As citizens, respondents were of the view that every Ghanaian must report any act of corruption to the appropriate authorities.

Respondents gave suggestions on how anti-corruption institutions/organizations of state (CHRAJ, EOCO, POLICE and other security services etc.) can be proactive in tackling the issue of corruption and public accountability in Ghana. More than a quarter (30.2%) of the respondents suggested that anti-corruption institutions/organizations should advocate for transparency and openness in the appointment to government and other administrative positions. Also, 21% of the respondents suggested that anti-corruption institutions/organizations should publicly expose acts of corruption at all levels whilst 14.7% mentioned the need for strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws.

PERCEPTIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

The study results show that poor sanitation (45.7%) is the topmost environmental concern in Ghana. Though poor sanitation came up as the overall major environmental concern in the country, the regional data however shows that environmental degradation caused by illegal mining activities was the environmental issue of concern in five regions namely; Ashanti (50.3%), Central (45.7%), Eastern (48.3%), Upper West (32.1%) and Western (48.9%) regions. Uniquely, the Brong Ahafo region stands out as the only region having both poor sanitation (42.0%) and environmental degradation caused by illegal mining (42.0%) as the major environmental concerns.

Majority of the respondents cited indiscipline as the leading cause for environmental degradation in Ghana. Other reasons mentioned were high unemployment rates and people's desire to amass wealth wrongfully.

More than two-thirds (76.5%) of the respondents mentioned that they know where to report issues of environmental concern within their community/locality. They named the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, the Environmental Protection Agency, Assembly members, the police station and the Traditional Authorities as places/individuals as avenues for reporting concerns on the environment. Approximately, 92% of the respondents expressed willingness and readiness to support institutions to combat environmental problems.

In assessing the performance of institutions mandated to manage the environment, more than one-third (39.9%) of the respondents assessed the institutions to be performing averagely in discharging their mandate whilst 22% indicated that they are ineffective.

To effectively combat environmental degradation, 42% of the respondents called for the organization of intensive public education/sensitization programs across the length and breadth of the country. Other suggestions included the formation of youth/watchdog groups, and institutionalization of rewards for individuals/groups who engage actively in environmental management.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction and Context

1.1 Geography, Demography and Political Economy of Ghana

Ghana is located on the west coast of Africa. It is the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to attain independence from colonial rule in 1957. Successive governments since independence have been tainted with alleged and proven acts of corruption. In the 4th Republican political administration, the issue of corruption still plays a key role in determining the next government after a term of governance (NCCE, EU & UNDP, 2016). Thus, even though, corruption plays a critical role in our political dispensation, there is a debate over what people classify as acts of corruption and levels of institutional corruption in Ghana, which is believed to have serious consequences on the economy.

The Ghanaian economy is currently a lower middle-income economy with prospects to grow in the future. The economy depends largely on natural resources such as cocoa, gold, diamond, timber and recently oil. Also, non-traditional exports such as horticulture products and tourism have equally contributed significantly to the growth of the economy. It is generally believed that Ghana's economy should have grown in similar measure to that of Malaysia and South Korea, countries that started their development agenda at the same time as Ghana. . The literature indicates that in the early 1960s Ghana was ahead of these countries in terms of development. It is believed that what has made it difficult for Ghana to grow to the levels that these countries are today are issues of corruption, good governance, accountability, and rule of law.

Demographically, Ghana can be described as a young population with capacity to continue to grow in the future. The estimated population of Ghana today is about 28 million people with about 60% of the population being below the age of 25 years. The broad-based structure of the Ghanaian population therefore requires more investments in human capital from government to prepare the young population for the future.

Over the years, unemployment has become a major problem in the country, which has compelled some of the youth to engage in livelihood activities that have serious consequences on the environment. Over the past decade, the activities of illegal chain saw operators and miners have become a major concern to government. The country's forest has been depleted and the water bodies polluted because of these activities.

Ghana's 2010 Census and other empirical studies have reported that Ghana is increasingly becoming urbanized, with majority of its population residing in urban areas. Ghana's urban population increased from 43.8 percent in 2000 to 50.9 percent in 2010 (GSS, 2012). In spite of this, the country's economy still depends largely on natural resources as a source of employment, income and tax revenue.

Even though several people's livelihoods is dependent on engaging in economic activities within the Agriculture or extractive sectors, concerns on over-exploitation of natural resources and non-adherence to working policies and regulations have been noted (Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, 2012). These have had negative repercussions on the sustainability of the environment and people's livelihoods. For example, recurrent drought and human induced behaviours has severely affected human lives and properties, agricultural activities and wildlife populations.

The youthful population structure of the country is a critical resource that can contribute significantly to transforming the economy if the right investments are made in these populations. The resources to provide these investments requires that the right policies and structures are put together to ensure public accountability of every income in the country, thereby also deterring people from acts of corruption and ensuring sustainable use of natural resources.

1.2 Policies on Corruption, Public Accountability and Environmental Governance in Ghana

1.2.1 Policies on corruption and public accountability

The fight against corruption and realizing that individuals and institutions remain accountable and transparent in their dealings has been a critical agenda in Ghana's growth and development agenda. Ghana's supreme law, the 1992 Constitution, outlines key provisions for addressing corruption and improving accountability, fairness and transparency among individuals and within institutions. For instance,

- State parties are obligated by Article 35(8) of the Constitution to take steps to eradicate corrupt practices and the abuse of power.
- Article 218(a) also "seeks to investigate complaints of violations of fundamental rights and freedoms, injustice, corruption, abuse of power and unfair treatment of any person by a public officer in the exercise of his officials duties"
- Article 286 requires specified public officials to submit to the Auditor-General a written declaration of all properties, assets or liabilities owed by such officials whether directly or indirectly to the Auditor General upon assumption of office, periodically during service and upon termination of appointments.

These provisions create the foundation for waging war against corruption and ensure that individuals and institutions remain accountable to the people.

In line with this national interest, both past and present governments of Ghana have initiated and supported efforts at curbing corruption in all its forms. In June 2007, for example, Ghana ratified two international conventions on tackling corruption through the adoption of a more holistic approach. The first was the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2003. The second is the African Union Convention on Prevention and Combating Corruption which was also adopted in July 2003. Both treaties advocate for stronger

partnership between government and different population sub-groups (women, youth, men, etc.) as well as the private sector to fight the scourge of corruption. The conventions clearly underscore the importance of the principles of transparency and accountability in managing public resources.

Relevant policies on Corruption and Public Accountability in Ghana include the “Code of Conduct” by the Public Services Commission (PSC). “The Public Services Commission as a public service organization is enjoined to develop and implement a code of conduct to regulate the conduct of public service staff. Codes of conduct for public officers typically set out values, principles and standards of acceptable ethical behavior and conduct. Such codes are important pillars for the entrenchment of good governance principles and are used to combat corruption, enhance public confidence, public accountability and integrity in the public service”. (PSC, Code of Conduct, 2014).

Anti-corruption laws enacted include the CHRAJ Act, 1993 (Act 456), Criminal Offences (Amendment) Act, 1993 (Act 458), EOCO Regulations, 2012 (L.I. 2183), Public Officers Holders (Declaration of Assets & Disqualification) Act, 1998 (Act 550) and the Whistleblower Act, 2006 (Act 720). Currently, the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (NACAP) 2012-2021, serves as the overarching policy document for initiating interventions and assessing Ghana’s progress in fighting corruption. NACAP uses a collective action and sustained coordination of efforts, as well as application of resources of relevant stakeholders to combat corruption. The document proposes the adoption of a four-pronged approach to curbing corruption - prevention, education, investigation and enforcement (CHRAJ 2011, National Anti-Corruption Action Plan – 2012-2021).

1.2.2 Policies on environmental governance

Protecting the environment of Ghana has been a crucial development interest for both governments and private entities. Most of Ghana’s development plans have outlined strategies for safe guarding the environment. To this end a number of policy documents and programs have been introduced to contribute to the sustainable management of Ghana’s environment. These include the Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (NREG) program, the National Environmental Policy (NEP), National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), and the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP). The 1992 Constitution of Ghana also provides guidance for safe guarding the environment. Article 268(1) of the constitution for instance, has provisions on required regulations for natural resource extraction. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 and 15 outlines strategies to protect the environment and natural resources. It’s specific targets include country’s achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene and strengthening local communities’ participation in improving water and sanitation management.

Additionally, some empirical studies that shed light on the themes corruption, public accountability and environmental governance have been carried out. In many of these, the focus has been on one theme or another. It has been empirically proven that corruption undermines economic development and jeopardizes the allocation of resources to sectors crucial for development. The resulting adverse effect is under development seen in illiteracy, poverty, poor health, low income, food insecurity and insanitary conditions (Enu-Kwesi, 2014). Using a sample of 1,500 Ghanaians,

the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in November 2015 also commissioned a study to understand the forms, determinants and levels of corruption in Ghana. Mensah Sam, Aboagye Kwame Addo Elsie and Buatsi Seth (2003) have also looked at Corporate Governance and Corruption in Ghana. The study sought to document corporate governance practices in Ghana, identify their deficiencies, and establish the propensity of specific governance weaknesses to serve as fertile grounds for corruption. The results reveal serious deficiencies in corporate governance in Ghanaian companies. On Environmental Governance, a recent study by Aryee (2014) has reviewed at Environmental Governance frameworks within the mining sector in Ghana (Aryee F. A., 2014). Though important, the study did not explore other concerns of the environment such as poor sanitation, oil spillage, illegal timber logging, bushfires, deforestation, illegal sand winning, noise and air pollution. Empirically, the subject of corruption, public accountability and environmental governance are mostly treated as separate entities and within the discourse of development, however, they are to some extent related. For instance, experts in development and governance have cited transparency and accountability as key ingredients for addressing corruption, realizing good governance, development and citizen's empowerment. Addressing major environmental concerns will to an extent also involve dealing with corrupt practices that affect better environmental management.

These policy interventions and knowledge generated and shared on these development concerns notwithstanding, corruption, lack of accountability in institutions and poor adherence to positive environmental practices continue to remain a challenge in Ghana. Though ordinary citizens in most instances remain the perpetrators of acts of corruption and environmental degradation, citizens have not been particularly and systematically targeted in efforts at addressing these threats to development. To ensure that citizens' enjoy the critical benefits associated with good governance devoid of increased corrupt practices and having in place individuals and institutions that remain accountable for their stewardship, insights on how these development concerns resonate with their daily lives remain crucial. The present study tried to uncover this knowledge gap by exploring Ghanaian citizens' perspectives on the subject towards enhancing the capacities of both the citizenry and institutions in addressing these developmental concerns.

1.3 Objectives

The primary objective of the study was to assess citizens' knowledge and perspectives on the state of corruption, public accountability and environmental governance in Ghana.

Specifically, the study:

1. Assessed citizens' awareness and knowledge about what constitutes corruption
2. Assessed citizens' perspectives on the causes and effects of corruption
3. Assessed citizen's perception about accountability in public institutions (public accountability)
4. Assessed citizen's perspectives on the performance of anti-corruption/public accountability institutions/organizations in Ghana.
5. Explored citizens' environmental concerns and their perceptions of institutional response to environmental management in Ghana.

1.4 The study design

The study is largely quantitative. Primary data was collected through the use of structured questionnaire. Systematic and simple random sampling techniques were employed in identifying localities, households and respondents for the study. The unit of analysis was the individual respondent and the primary sampling unit was the household. Univariate and bi-variate analysis approaches were used in computing background characteristics of respondent's and relationships between citizen's perspectives on the thematic areas of the study and selected socio-demographic characteristics respectively.

1.5 Scope and sampling

The study is nationwide in character with data collected in all two hundred and sixteen (216) districts in the ten (10) administrative regions of Ghana.

Sample for the study was determined by systematic and simple random sampling techniques. The total sample of the study was 8706 persons. However, a total number of 8672 respondents were reached and interviewed. The sample size was determined through the use of a scientifically sound and appropriate procedure. The calculation took into consideration, the following key indicators - the desired margin of error ($\pm 1.05\%$) and confidence level (95%). Regional and district sample sizes were calculated using the 2010 population and housing census regional and district population proportionate rates to allow for fair distribution of the study sample.

The sampling frame comprised Ghanaians aged fifteen (15) years and above. The age limit allows for the inclusion of both the young and the elderly in discussion on the subject. The country's economically active population also fall within this age bracket and this provides an opportunity to better understand how the economic activities people engage in can have an impact on the discourse of corruption, public accountability and environmental governance and vice versa.

In the selected study localities, the 'Day's Code' was used in identifying initial house/dwelling for beginning with interviews. The simple random sampling approach was used in the selection of both households and respondents.

1.6 Study instrument, pre-test and validation

A structured questionnaire was used in generating primary-level data for the study. The questionnaire covered the following key areas: the socio-demographic data of respondents, Citizens' knowledge of corruption in Ghana, causes and effects of corruption, Citizen's knowledge on Public Accountability in Ghana and accountability within public institutions. Other sections solicited answers on performance of anti-corruption and public accountability institutions, citizen's knowledge on major environmental concerns, measures for conserving the environment and citizen's views on the effectiveness of environmental protection institutions in Ghana

The questionnaire was first pre-tested to check for its appropriateness and completeness in providing the required information from would-be respondents. This was done one month before training of

research assistants and commencement of data collection exercise. The questionnaire was pretested by eight technical staff members of the Research Department of NCCE in eight selected districts of four regions of Ghana. The exercise provided clarity on areas of the questionnaire that needed to be reviewed to make it accurate and relevant for the study.

The draft questionnaire was also validated by two experts in academia before finalization. The validation exercise provided an opportunity to gain expert and external feedback on the validity and adequacy of the questionnaire in answering the objective(s) of the study. After these two review exercises, detailed revisions and changes were made to sections of the questionnaire to make it more appropriate and complete for the study.

1.7 Data generation, processing, analysis and reporting

In all, 226 trained research assistants collected data in all 216 districts of the country. The field work was monitored by a ten-member team from NCCE Head Office in Accra. A total of 226 research assistants drawn from cadre of staff of the NCCE were selected and trained for primary-level data collection. In terms of analysis, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was used in analyzing the data. The analysis involved the computation of percentage and mean distribution of background characteristics of respondents as well as their awareness and knowledge on the concepts of corruption, public accountability and environmental governance. Additionally, bi-variate analysis was carried out to assess the statistical association between citizens' perspectives on the key thematic areas of the study - corruption, public accountability, environmental governance and selected background characteristics of the respondents. The draft report produced from the analysis was validated with relevant institutions and sections of the population in three separate validation workshops before the report was finalized. The exercise provided an opportunity to authenticate the content of the report.

1.8 Organization of report

The report is organized into seven chapters. Chapter one provides a general overview of the study and comprises of the background, policies and studies on the subject under investigation, the research objectives and methodology employed for the study. The second chapter presents the study results on the background characteristics of the study participants. Chapter three provides feedback on respondent's knowledge on the concept of corruption, its causes and effects on society and the Ghanaian economy at large. Chapter four presents citizens' understanding of the concept of public accountability and their perspectives on how public institutions are responding to desired accountability practices. The fifth chapter explores institutional response to fighting corruption within public institutions and within extractive sectors in Ghana. Chapter six presents results on citizen's perspectives on major environmental concerns in Ghana and strategies for improving environmental governance in Ghana. Lastly chapter seven provides a summary of the key findings from the study and presents key policy and programme-related recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

2.0 Introduction

The study on public perceptions of the state of corruption, public accountability and environmental governance cannot be complete without putting the analyses into context. The background characteristics of respondents are therefore critical in providing contextual meaning to the results. This chapter presents the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents interviewed with specific emphasis on the sex, age, educational background, occupation, marital status, and religious affiliation. These characteristics are important in the understanding of the three broader themes that is being investigated. Age for instance, will provide a spectrum of understanding on how individuals at various age groups perceive issues of corruption and public accountability; and their views on environmental governance whilst sex of respondents provides information on gender dimensions of the themes investigated. The educational background, occupation, marital status and religious affiliation provide a social and cultural context to the study.

2.1 Sex of Respondents

Table 2.1 shows that out of 8672 respondents interviewed, 4601 respondents (53%) were male whilst 4074 respondents (47%) were females. The significant representation of both males and females provides an opportunity to examine the critical issues from the perspectives of both sexes. The proportion of males and females interviewed was equally spread across the place of residence of respondents. Overall, the sampled population in urban areas is male (53.3%) and females (46.7%) whilst that of the rural areas is males (52.8%) and females (47.2%).

2.2 Age of Respondents

A close look at the age distribution of respondents also revealed that the age group 25-34 recorded the highest percentage of respondents (26.6%). This was followed by the age groups 15-24, (22.5%), 35-44, (21.4%) and the age group 75+ constituting 1.5%. All age groups are well represented in the sample. The mean age of respondents was 37.1. Table 2.1 represents the demographic characteristics of the sample.

Table 2.1 Demographic Characteristics of Sample

Background Characteristics	Frequency N=8672	Percent
Sex		
Male	4598	53.0
Female	4074	47.0
Age		
15-24	1953	22.5
25-34	2311	26.6
35-44	1857	21.4
45-54	1277	14.7
55-64	797	9.2
65-74	347	4.0
75+	130	1.5
Educational		
No formal Education	1209	13.9
Non Formal Education	162	1.9
Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS)	3142	36.2
Secondary (SHS, Voc. Etc)	2236	25.8
Tertiary (Poly, Univ., College of Education)	1862	21.5
Any Other	61	0.7
Occupation		
Student	1265	14.6
Farmer/Fisherman	1471	17.0
Teacher/Lecturer	653	7.5
Civic/Public Servant	642	7.4
Entrepreneur / Industrialist	409	4.7
Trader	1641	18.9
Unemployed	1057	12.2
Artisan	980	11.3
Any Other (Specify)	554	6.4

Marital status		
Single	3221	37.1
Married	4503	51.9
Separated	211	2.4
Divorced	239	2.8
Cohabiting/Living Together	169	1.9
Widowed	329	3.8
Religious Affiliation		
Christian	6590	76.0
Muslim	1709	19.7
African Traditional Religion	206	2.4
No Religion	163	1.9
Any other (Specify)	4	.0
Place of Residence		
Urban	3900	45.0
Rural	4772	55.0

2.3 Educational Background

Education levels of individuals are very crucial as these have been found to impact positively or negatively on views of people on various issues of life. The study thus captured the educational attainments of respondents. Table 2.1 shows that more than one-third (36.2%) of the respondents attained basic education whilst 25.8% and 21.5% attained secondary and tertiary education respectively. It is important to state that about 14% of the respondents had no education.

2.4 Occupational Background

With regards to the occupation of the respondents, the results show that traders constituted 18.9% of the respondents Farmer/Fisher folks (17%) and Student (14.6%). There were 12.2% that were unemployed whilst those who are housewives, national service personnel, retirees etc. constituted 6.4% of the respondents. For the marital status of respondents, slightly more than half 51.9% were married, 37.1% were single whiles 3.8% were widowed. Table 2.1 also shows that more than half (55%) of the respondents interviewed (55%) live in rural settlements.

CHAPTER THREE

CITIZENS AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF CORRUPTION AND ITS EFFECTS IN GHANA

3.0 Introduction

Since the return to democratic rule in 1993, Ghana has made progress in consolidating its democracy and is often referred to as a success story of democratization in Africa. Several governments have shown commitments to curbing corruption since independence in 1957. As a result, the legal framework against corruption has been strengthened and made efficient to help reduce the risks of corruption in the Ghanaian society. Several anticorruption bodies have therefore, been established since the 1990s to help address the problem of corruption. Some of these anticorruption establishments include the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the Economic and Organized Crime Office, the Public Procurement Authority among others (Transparency International 2014).

The activities of these institutions have largely been directed at realizing both national and international commitments to fighting corruption. In line with realizing the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in particular SDG 16, these institutions are working towards addressing the canker of corruption by building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. In spite of these efforts, corruption still remains a major problem in Ghana and a cause of concern among the population. Some of the factors contributing to high corruption in the country include the delay in the passing of the Right to Information bill, scandals in public procurement, and long bureaucratic procedures in procurement (Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer, 2016).

This chapter therefore examines the perception of citizens on corruption, specifically, their awareness and knowledge of the concept, its causes and the effect in Ghana.

3.1 Knowledge and awareness of corruption

To measure respondents' level of understanding and knowledge on corruption, the survey presented seven (7) statements of which respondents were asked to indicate on a likert scale for each whether they agree or disagree that they represent cases of corruption. These are standard questions used to assess the knowledge of the population about corruption. Four (4) of the statements represented cases of corruption whilst the remaining three (3) do not.

The four statements that represented acts of corruption:

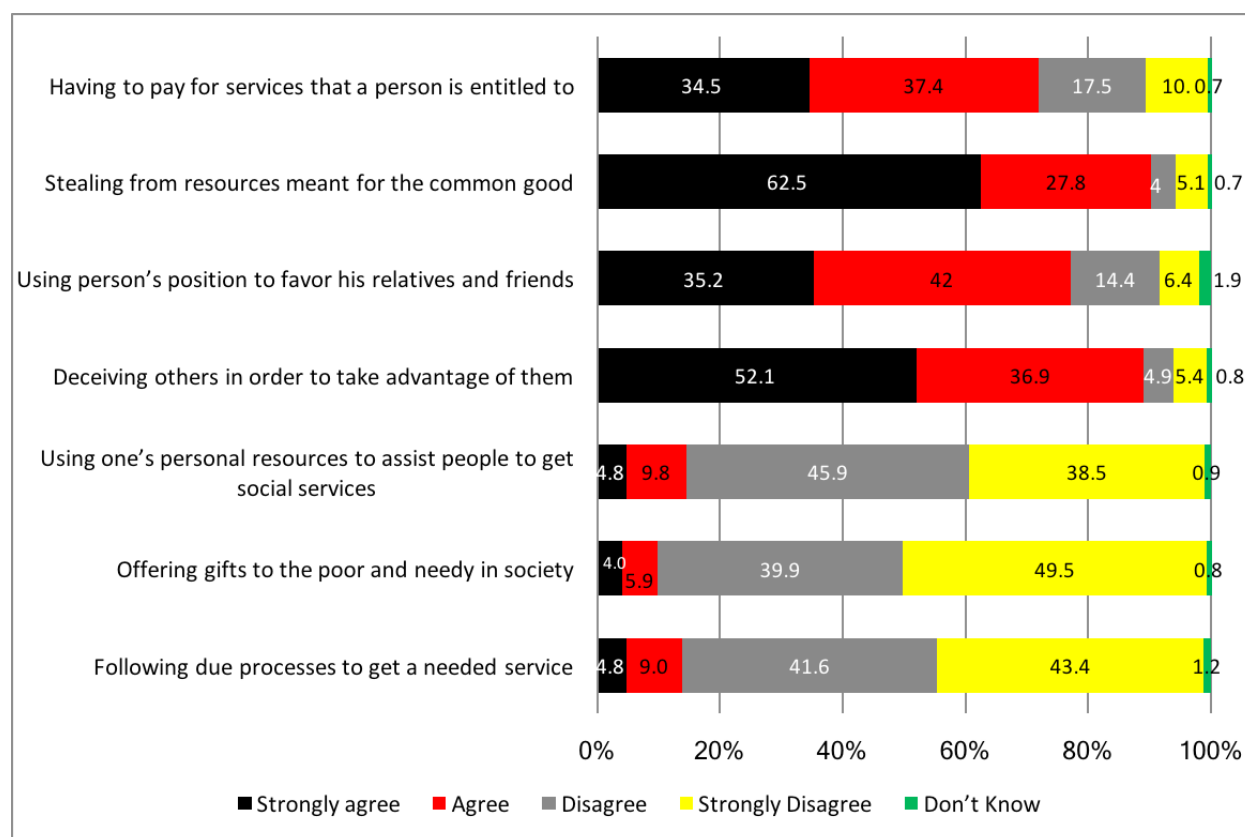
- i. Having to pay for services that a person is entitled to (i.e. Bribery)
- ii. Stealing from resources meant for the common good (i.e. Embezzlement)
- iii. Using person's position to favor his relatives and friends (i.e. Nepotism)
- iv. Deceiving others in order to take advantage of them (i.e. Fraud)

The three statements that do not represent cases of corruption:

- i. Using one's personal resources to assist people to get social services.
- ii. Offering gifts to the poor and needy in society.
- iii. Following due processes to get a needed service.

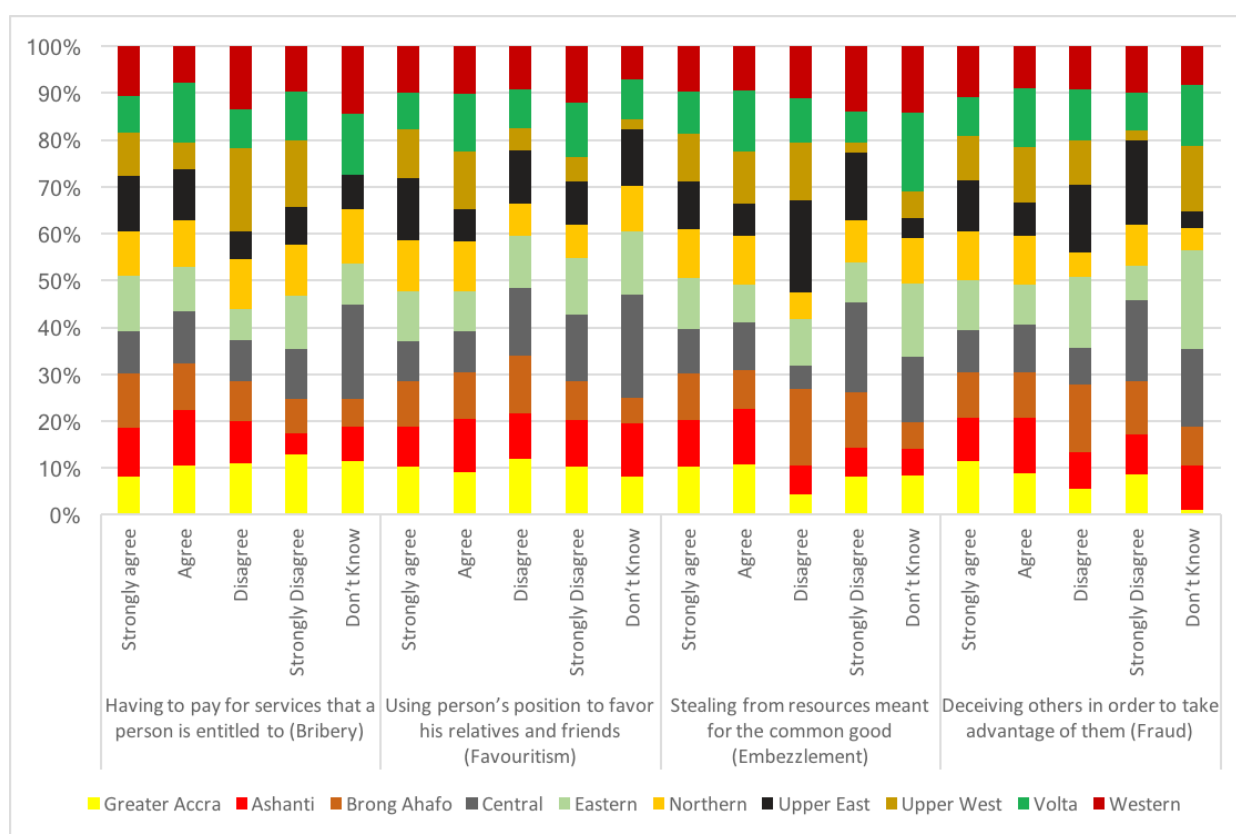
Figure 3.1 shows that there is high awareness of what constitutes acts of corruption among the respondents. More than two-thirds of the respondents strongly agree or agreed with the statements that represented acts of corruption. For instance, 90.2% and 89% of the respondents mentioned that cases of “stealing from resources meant for the common good” and “Deceiving others in order to take advantage of them” respectively represents acts of corruption. There were however, about 20% of the respondents who disagree with the view that the following constitute acts of corruption; ‘Having to pay for services that a person is entitled to’, and ‘Using person’s position to favour his/her relatives and friends. This implies that there is some level of acceptance of such behaviors among a segment of the population, which is a matter of concern that needs to be addressed in both the private and public sector.

Figure 3.1 State whether you agree or disagree that these statements are cases of Corruption



An analysis of respondent's knowledge on corruption by region showed similar pattern of agreement for the four statements presented. However in the case of 'Having to pay for service that a person is entitled to', respondents in the Upper West region were more likely to disagree that it represents an act of corruption whilst a little over three out of every ten respondents in the Western region (34.6%) of the respondents in the region disagreed with the statement as an act of corruption whilst a little over three out of every ten respondents in the Western region (34.6%), Greater Accra (33.5%) and Northern Region (30.5%) has similar views. In terms of the place of residence, respondents in the rural districts (53.8%) were more likely to disagree that 'Having to pay for service that a person is entitled to constitute an act of corruption than their counterparts in the urban districts (46.2%). The slightly high proportion among the rural residence can perhaps be attributed to the cultural acceptance of gifts or money as appreciation for services done or yet to be done.

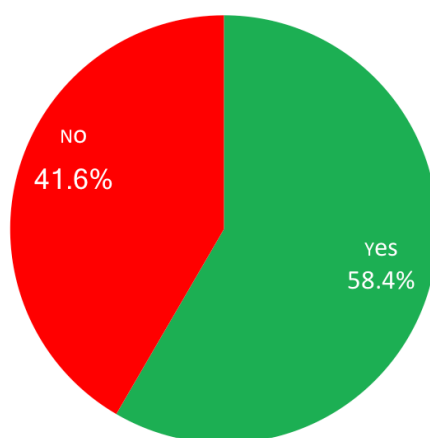
Figure 3.2 Percent distribution of knowledge of acts of corruption by region



3.2 Witness of Acts of corruption, type of corruption act and place of corruption incident

When respondents were asked if they have ever witnessed any act of corruption, a little over half (58.4%) responded in the affirmative whilst 41.6% respondent in the negative (Figure 3.3). This shows how open corrupt practices are done in the country if more than half of the respondents indicates that they have witnessed it.

Figure 3.3 Witnessing act of corruption



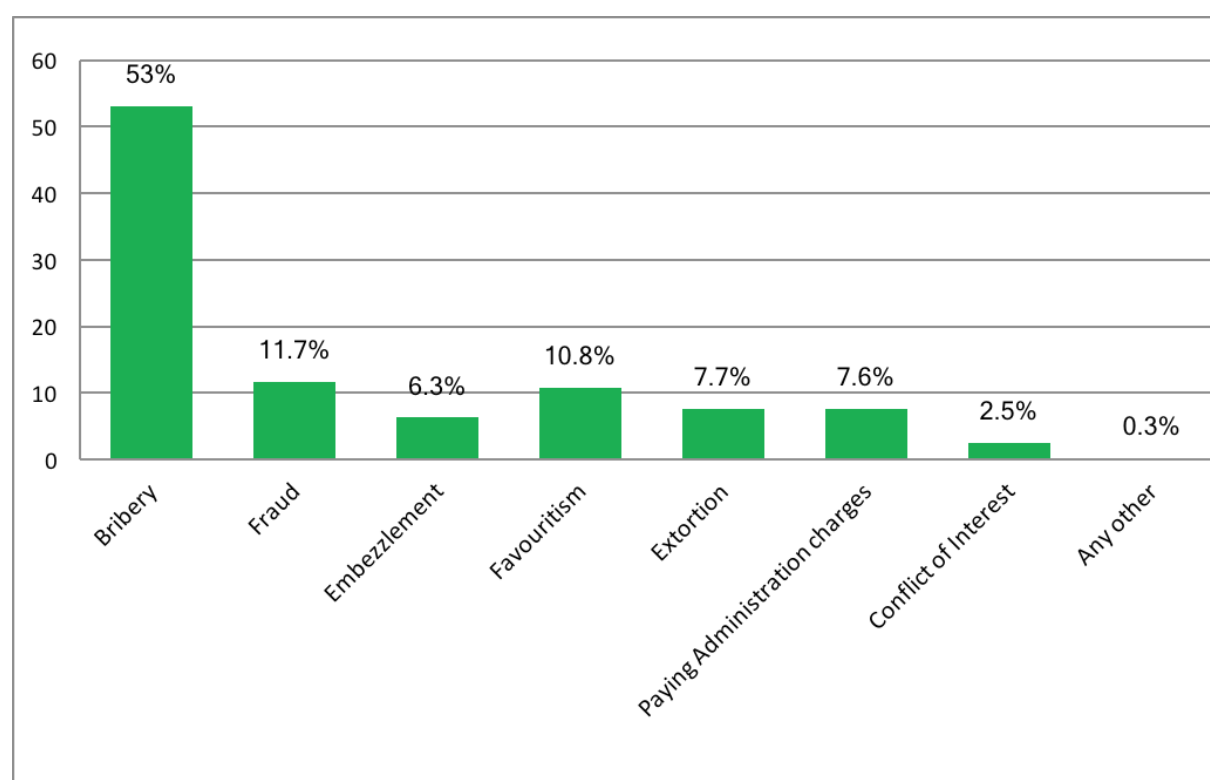
An analysis of the issue by gender, shows that more males (58.6%) than females (41.4%) have witnessed an act of corruption (Table 3.1). On regional basis, at least 50% of the respondents across all the regions have ever witnessed the act with the highest proportions coming from the Greater Accra, Ashanti, Upper West and Upper East regions. The Greater Accra region was however found to be the region where most corrupt acts had been witnessed.

Table 3.1 Witnessing an act of corruption by socio-demographic status

	Yes	No
Sex	Percent	Percent
Male	58.6	45.2
Female	41.4	54.8
N	5062	3607
Place of Residence		
Urban	47.8	41.1
Rural	52.2	58.9
N	5062	3610
Region		
Ashanti	64.1	35.9
Brong Ahafo	52.8	47.2
Central	56.2	43.8
Eastern	54.9	45.1
Greater Accra	64.7	35.3
Northern	52.1	47.9
Upper East	61.6	38.4
Upper West	63.4	36.6
Volta	51	49
Western	58.2	41.8
N	5062	3610

The survey further asked respondents who had ever witnessed an act of corruption to mention what they witnessed. Figure 3.4 shows that, out of the 5062 respondents who responded ever to have witnessed an act of corruption, bribery was the most prevalent among the respondents constituting 53.0%. Others mentioned were fraud (11.7%), favoritism (10.8%) and extortion (7.7%). A further analysis of acts of corruption witnessed by regions shows almost a similar pattern as bribery, fraud and favoritism were witnessed by a large percentage of respondents across regions and place of residence. More than half of the respondents in Brong Ahafo, Ashanti, Greater Accra, Western, Eastern and Volta regions mentioned bribery as the act of corruption they witnessed. As many as 6 out every 10 persons interviewed in the Brong Ahafo region mentioned bribery. In terms of place of residence, urban respondents who mentioned bribery as an act of corruption witnessed constituted 54.9% whilst their counterparts in the rural areas was 51.2%.

Figure 3.4 Acts of corruption witnessed



3.3 Places where these perceived acts of corruption happened

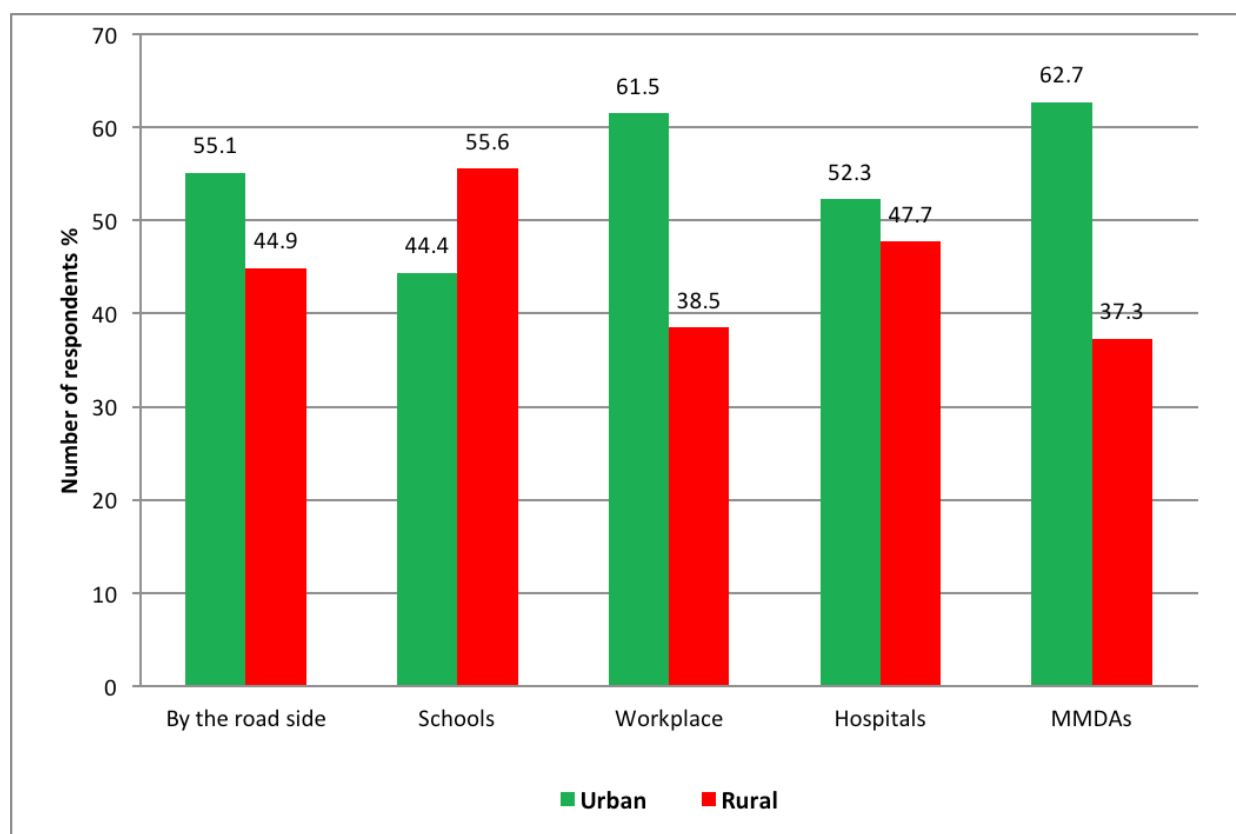
The survey also collected information on where the perceived acts of corruption witnessed by respondents happened. This question generated diverse response among respondents. Table 3.2 shows that a substantial proportion of the respondents mentioned that it happened by the road side (30.3%) whilst 18.2% stated schools, and 9.8% mentioned workplace, which included private offices, banks, construction firms, hotels amongst others. Other places that were mentioned are Hospitals (9%), Metropolitan, Municipal Department and Agencies (MMDA's) (6.6%), borders and entry points (5.3%) as well as utility service centers (4.7%).

Table 3.2 Where did you witness act of corruption?

Response	Frequency	Percent
By the roadside	1536	30.3
Schools	921	18.2
Workplaces	498	9.8
Hospitals	457	9.0
MMDAs	333	6.6
Borders and entry points	267	5.3
Utility service center	237	4.7
The law courts	193	3.8
In the Community	174	3.4
Police Station	132	2.6
Any Other	130	2.6
At Home	53	1.0
Churches/Mosque	45	0.9
Market place	42	0.8
Chief Palace	25	0.5
Parliament	19	0.4
Total	5062	100

A cross examination of where acts of corruption happened and type of place of residence shows that whilst corruption in urban areas is commonly found by the road side, workplaces, Hospitals and MMDAs, in the rural districts it is most common in schools (Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5 Top 5 places where acts of corruption happens by type of Residence



3.4 Level of corruption

In order to determine the level of corruption as perceived by the public, the survey asked respondents to rank the level of corruption in the country. The results show that majority of the respondents believed that corruption is on the rise. A little over 9 out every 10 respondents ranked corruption in Ghana very high and high whiles just 3.9% ranked it very low and low (Figure 3.6).

Analysis by place of residence shows that urban settlers were more likely to rank corruption very high and high (93.3%) than that of the rural settlers (89.8%). In terms of gender, Table 3.3 shows that more than 90% of men and more than 80% of women ranked the level of corruption in the country very high and high. On the regional level, respondents in the Western and Greater Accra regions were more likely to rank corruption very high and high as compared to other regions (Table 3.3).

Figure 3.6 Level of corruption in Ghana

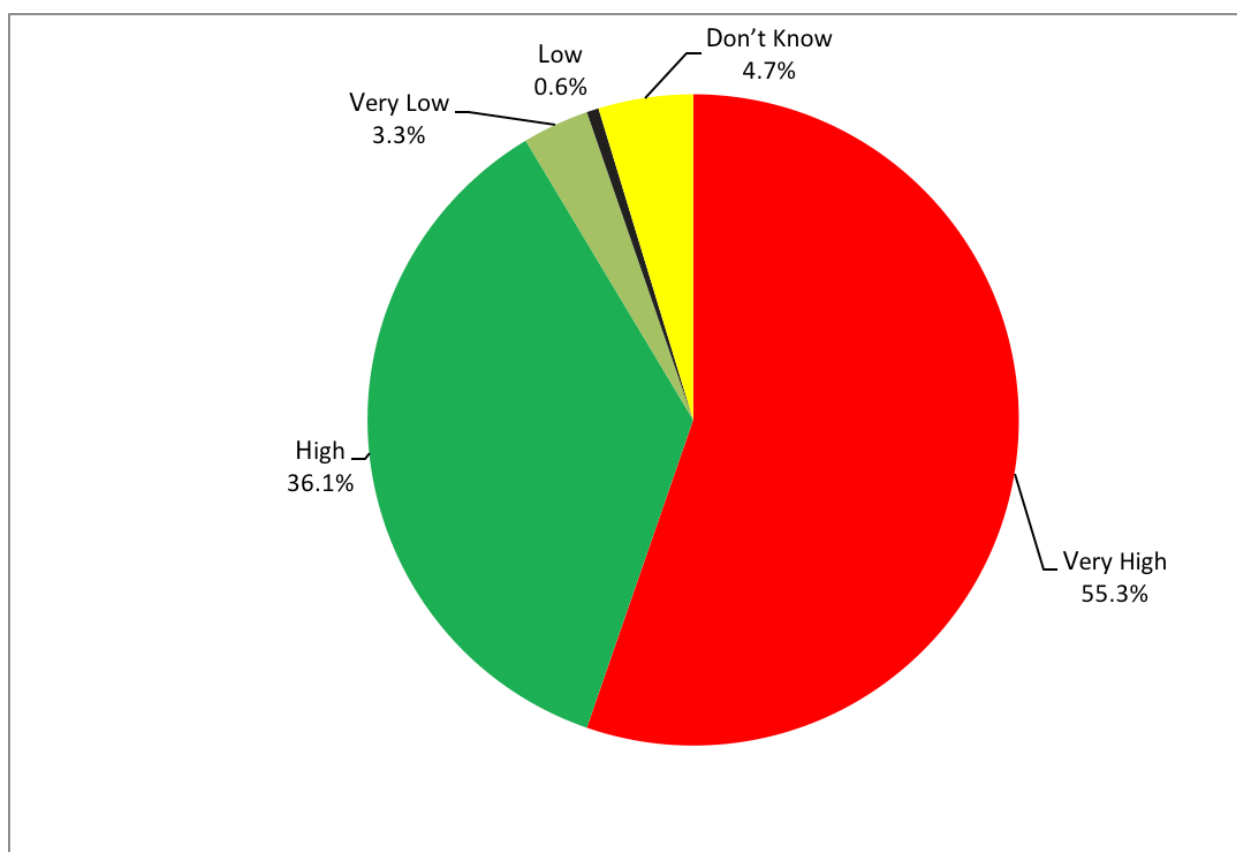


Table 3.3 Level of corruption by region and Place of residence

	Very High (%)	High (%)	Low (%)	Very Low (%)	Don't know (%)
Sex					
Male	57.3	36.2	2.9	0.5	3.2
Female	53.0	36.0	3.8	0.7	6.5
Region					
Greater Accra	64.5	30.3	2.2	0.4	2.7
Ashanti	63.8	30.7	2.8	0.2	2.5
Brong Ahafo	50.1	39.4	5.2	1.6	3.7
Central	52.3	37.2	2.8	0.3	7.4
Eastern	56.6	34.0	2.7	0.4	6.3
Northern	40.9	46.0	5.7	1.0	6.4
Upper East	42.2	48.1	2.2	.3	7.3
Upper West	35.4	53.9	3.7	2.5	4.5
Volta	45.9	38.8	4.8	0.5	9.9
Western	64.9	31.1	1.9	0.2	1.9
Place of residence					
Urban	60.4	32.9	2.7	0.4	3.6
Rural	51.1	38.7	3.8	0.7	5.7

3.5 Reasons for ranking

Out of the 7924 respondents who ranked the level of corruption very high and high, slightly more than half (55.3%) of the respondents stated that bribery before service delivery in state institutions and other places is very common as their main reason. Almost a fifth (21%) of the respondents also based their reason on the frequent media report of corruption in the various institutions, 11.9% cited frequent extortion of money and other items by security personnel while less than 10% mentioned the Auditor General's report on cases of embezzlement of public funds (Table 3.4).

Table 3.4 Reasons for Very High and High ranking of corruption

Response	Frequency	Percent
Bribery before service delivery in state institutions is very common/ It's everywhere	4384	55.3
Frequent media reports on corruption in various institutions	1664	21.0
Frequent extortion of money and other items by security personnel	945	11.9
Auditor-General's report reveals several cases of embezzlement of public funds	555	7.0
Lower levels of demand for accountability from public office holders	190	2.4
Any Other	132	1.7
Lack of job opportunity	32	0.4
Cases of inflating of cost of public projects on the increase	22	0.3
Total	7924	100.0

In contrast, out the 337 respondents who ranked the level of corruption as very low and low, 43.9% stated that service delivery by state institutions was done professionally. A little over half of that proportion (21.4%) also cited government officials use public funds judiciously while 11.6% indicated that the Auditor General's report is free of financial malfeasance. Another 8.9% of the respondents also based their reason on the view that cases of corruption are not frequently heard on the media (Table 3.5).

From the reasons given for the various rankings, it can be concluded that service delivery in state institutions is a critical area that citizens use in assessing the level of corruption in Ghana. It is therefore important for government to pay attention to address the gaps in the service delivery in the public sector.

Table 3.5 Reasons for Very Low and Low ranking of corruption

Response	Frequency	Percent
Service delivery by state institutions is done professionally	148	43.9
Government official use public funds judiciously	72	21.4
Auditor General's report free of financial malfeasance	39	11.6
It is not frequently heard on media	30	8.9
Any other specify	26	7.7
Public projects not inflated	14	4.2
No extortion by the police	8	2.4
Total	337	100

3.6 Why people engage in acts of corruption

The survey probed further to find out why respondents think people engage in acts of corruption. The result was a strong response with only 0.4% of the respondents declaring 'Don't know'. A large percentage (46.5%) of the respondents mentioned 'Greed and selfishness', 29.7% mentioned the desire to get rich quickly while 7.7% mentioned satisfaction of a dire need. Others reasons stated were Peer, family and societal pressure (7.1%) and Economic hardship (1.4%) as indicated in Table 3.6.

Table 3.6 Why people engage in acts of corruption

Response	Frequency	Percent
Greed and selfishness	4031	46.5
Desire to get rich quickly	2576	29.7
Satisfaction of a dire need	672	7.7
Peer, family and societal pressure	607	7.1
Anticipation of gifts and rewards for services rendered	476	5.5
Economic hardship	125	1.4
Any other	82	0.9
Poor Remuneration	68	0.8
Don't know	35	0.4
Total	8672	100

3.7 Ever engaged in acts of corruption

After views from respondents have been sought on why people engage in acts of corruption, the surveys next objectives was to find out if respondents have ever been engaged in any corruptible acts. Figure 3.7 shows that less than a quarter (22.3%) of the respondents mentioned that they have engaged in acts of corruption.

The result also revealed that of the 1935 respondents who responded in the affirmative, 62.7% of the respondents were males whiles 37.3% were females, 52.4% were urban residence as compared to 47.6% who were rural residence. Moreover, 62.2% were in the age group 44 years and below years whiles 38.8% were over 45 years. In terms of education, 87.8% had formal education as compared to 12.2% who had no formal education (Table 3.7)

Figure 3.7 Have you ever been in a position where you influenced other people's actions/decisions in your favour by engaging in an act of corruption?

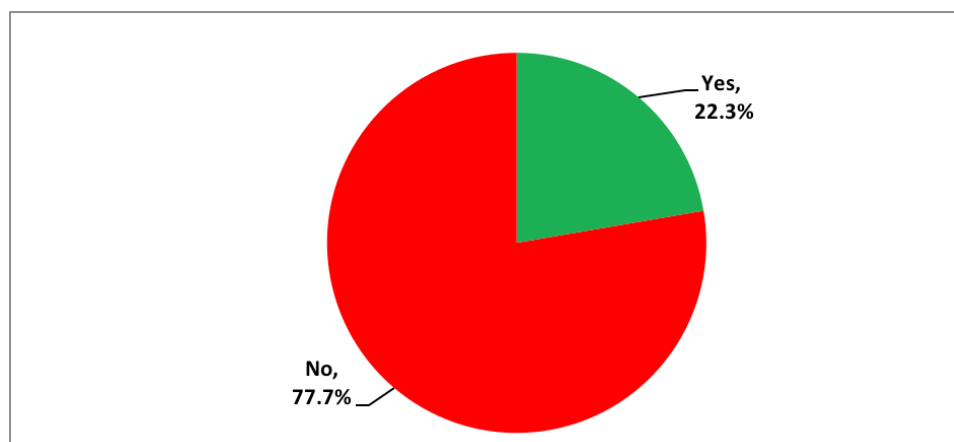


Table 3.7 Respondents who influenced others to engage in corruption by sex, age, education and place of residence

	Yes (%)	n =1935
Sex		
Male	62.7	
Female	37.3	
Total	100.0	
Age		
15-24	14.6	
25-34	30.7	
35-44	23.9	
45-54	15.6	
55-64	10.2	
65-74	3.9	
75+	1.4	
Total	100.0	
Education		
No formal	9.9	
Non-formal	1.8	
Basic	28.9	
Secondary	27.6	
Tertiary	31.3	
Other	0.5	
Total	100.0	

Place of residence	
Urban	52.4%
Rural	47.6%

In terms of the forms of influence respondents were engaged in, Figure 3.8 shows that the most frequent acts of corruption cited was bribery (57.3%). Other forms of corruption mentioned are favoritism (16.1%), paying for administration charges (13.5%), fraud (5.1%) additionally; respondents indicated where they influenced others to engage in corrupt acts. Among the popular places mentioned by the respondents as where these acts occurred are the road side (30.3%), schools (18.2%) and the workplaces (9.8%)

Figure 3.8 Percent distribution of acts of corruption engaged in by respondents

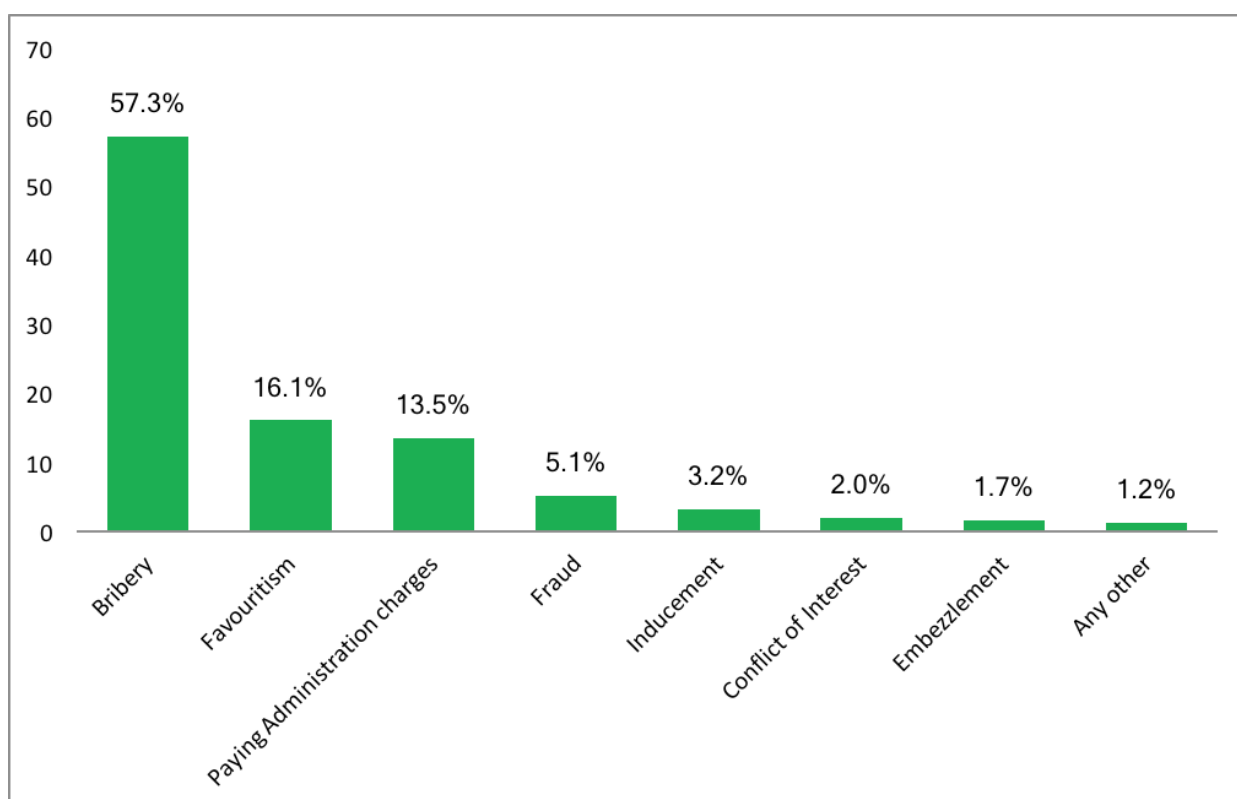
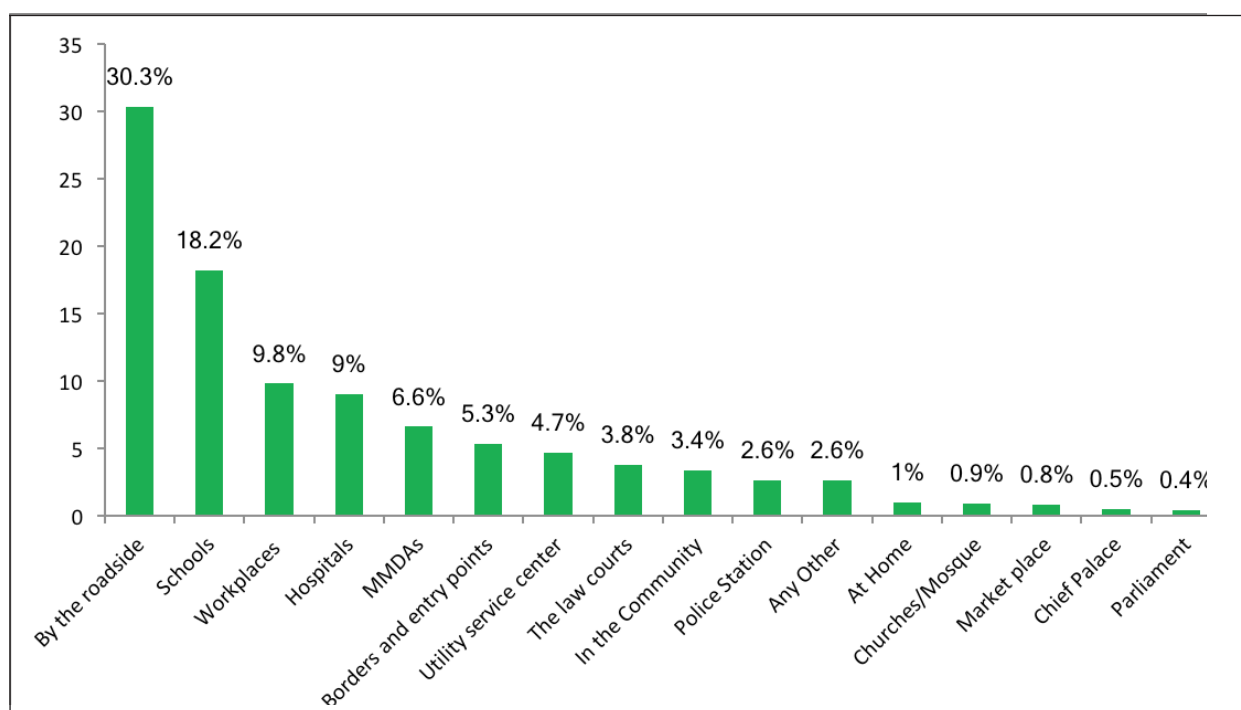


Figure 3.9 Percent distribution of places where acts of corruption took place



3.8 Ever taken a bribe and reasons for the action

Since corruption involves both a giver and a receiver, the study further asked respondents whether they have ever been given money or any item of value that influenced their actions or decisions to do what they would not have done. In all, more than three quarters (83.2%) of the respondents indicated that they have never been engaged in such acts whilst 10.9% affirmed that they have been engaged in such acts. Also, 5.9% of the respondents indicated that they were offered money or gift but did not accept it.

A further analysis of bribe taking among respondents by socio-demographic status revealed that more males (64.6%) had engaged in the act than females (35.4%). In addition, respondents who were in the age bracket 25-34 (29.3%) as well as those who had tertiary education (29%) had the highest proportion of people who were engaged in acts of corruption (Table 3.8). Overall, a higher proportion of respondents who had some level of education were involved in acts of corruption compared to their counterparts who had no formal education suggesting that educated people are more likely to accept bribes than the uneducated. In terms of regional distribution, respondents in the Greater Accra (21.6%) and Ashanti (18%) regions had a higher proportion of respondents engaged in the acts of corruption compared to those in the other regions. There was not much difference between urban (51.6%) and rural (48.4%) respondents, an indication that the act of taking bribe is not limited only to the urban area.

Table 3.8 Incidence of accepting a bribe by sex, Age, Education, regions and Place of residence

Yes (%) <i>n</i> =945	
Sex	
Male	64.6
Female	35.4
Total	100.0
Age	
15-24	20.0
25-34	29.3
35-44	22.6
45-54	13.1
55-64	9.1
65-74	4.3
75+	1.5
Total	100.0
Education	
No formal	11.0
Non-formal	2.0
Basic	28.4
Secondary	28.8
Tertiary	29
Other	1.0
Total	100.0
Region	
Greater Accra	21.6
Ashanti	18.0
Brong Ahafo	9.1
Central	10.0
Eastern	10.2
Northern	6.1
Upper East	4.5
Upper West	3.0
Volta	6.0
Western	11.3
Total	100.0

Place of residence	
Urban	48.4
Rural	51.6
Total	100.0

On why respondents accepted bribes, Table 3.9 show that a large proportion of respondents cited pressure from the giver (23.1%), hard pressed for money to fulfill personal needs (20.3%) while 14.2% indicated that it was a common practice at the workplace.

Table 3.9 Reasons for taking bribe

Response	Frequency	Percent
Pressure from the other party (i.e. the giver)	218	23.1
Hard pressed for money to fulfill personal needs	192	20.3
Common practice at the workplace/Peer pressure	134	14.2
Pressure to help a relative or a friend	131	13.9
To help speed up service delivery	107	11.3
Could not resist the amount or item offered because it was huge or valuable	59	6.2
Facilitate the processing of national documents (e.g. Drivers' License, Passport, NHIS card, Voter's ID etc.)	40	4.2
Any other	36	3.8
To offer admission to an educational institution	19	2
To leak examination questions/facilitate the passing of an exam	9	1
Total	945	100

Amongst respondents who stated that they were offered bribe but did not accept it, almost half (47%) said it was against their beliefs, values and principles in life, 30.2% also thought they were performing their duties hence they did not think bribe was necessary, 5.1% mentioned shyness whilst 1.9% did not take the bribe because they felt the offer was too small (Table 3.10).

Table 3.10 Reasons for not taking a bribe

Responds	Frequency	Percent
It is against my beliefs, values and principles of life	241	47
I was performing my duties so didn't think bribe was necessary	155	30.2
The person offering it is a relation	41	8
I was shy of the person making the offer	26	5.1
Any other	23	4.5
There were people around	17	3.3
The offer was too small	10	1.9
Total	513	100

3.9 Corruption and gender

The survey asked respondents to indicate in their view which gender is more likely to take a bribe. Figure 3.10 show that more than three quarters (81.5%) of the respondents cited men as more likely to take bribe, with less than 10% mentioning women. Additionally, Table 3.11 show that slightly more than half of the male respondents indicated that men were more likely to take bribe as compared to 47.2% of female respondents who said so. On regional basis, Ashanti region topped the proportion of respondents (19.5%) who indicated men as more likely to accept bribe, this was followed by Greater Accra and Eastern regions with 16.1% and 10.5% respectively (Table 3.11)

Figure 3.10 Between Men and Women who is more likely to take a bribe?

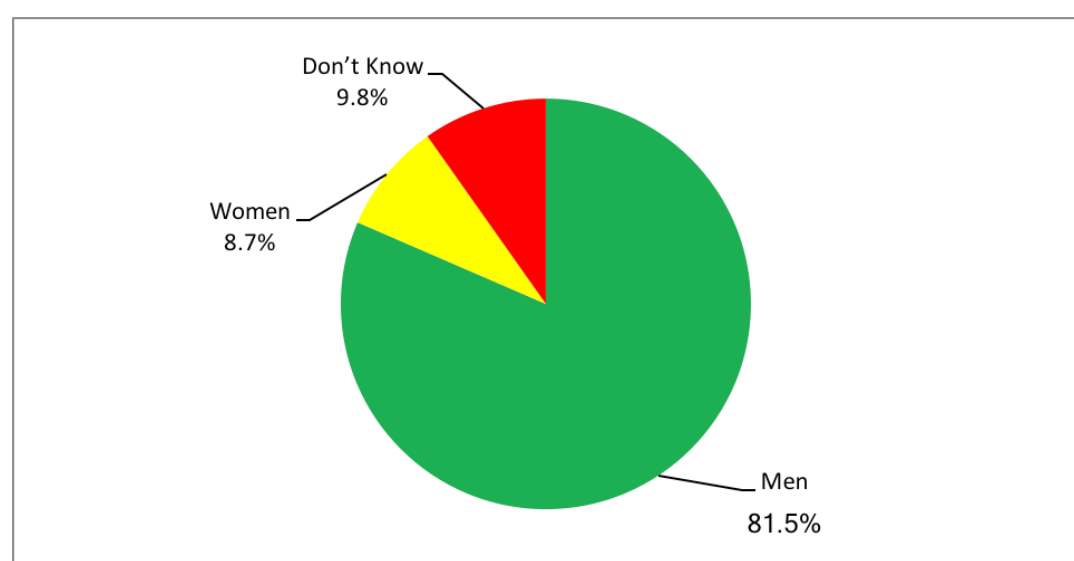


Table 3.11 Who is more likely to take bribe by sex, region and Place of residence

	Men	Women	Don't know
Sex			
Male	52.8%	61.2%	47.6%
Female	47.2%	38.8%	52.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Region			
Greater Accra	16.1%	15.3%	16.0%
Ashanti	19.5%	15.2%	18.9%
Brong Ahafo	9.5%	10.2%	9.6%
Central	8.9%	9.1%	8.9%
Eastern	10.5%	10.0%	13.5%
Northern	10.4%	9.4%	10.2%
Upper East	4.2%	5.8%	3.9%
Upper West	2.6%	5.9%	1.3%
Volta	8.3%	9.6%	10.2%
Western	9.9%	9.5%	7.7%
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Place of Residence			
Urban	44.8%	41.6%	49.6%
Rural	55.2%	58.4%	50.4%
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

When asked about what motivates men or women to accept bribes, of the 7068 respondents who stated that men were more likely to accept bribe, a little above one-fifth (22.9%) of the respondents mentioned greed as the highest motivator. Other reasons include maintaining their lavish lifestyle (18.7%), social recognition associated with wealth (15.4%), and maintenance of family (15.8%). (Figure 3.11).

On the other hand, what was mentioned as motivation for women to accept bribes include maintaining lifestyles (28.5%), satisfaction of a need (19.3%) while 17.3% also cited greed as the reasons. (Figure 3.12)

Figure 3.11 What motivates men to take bribe?

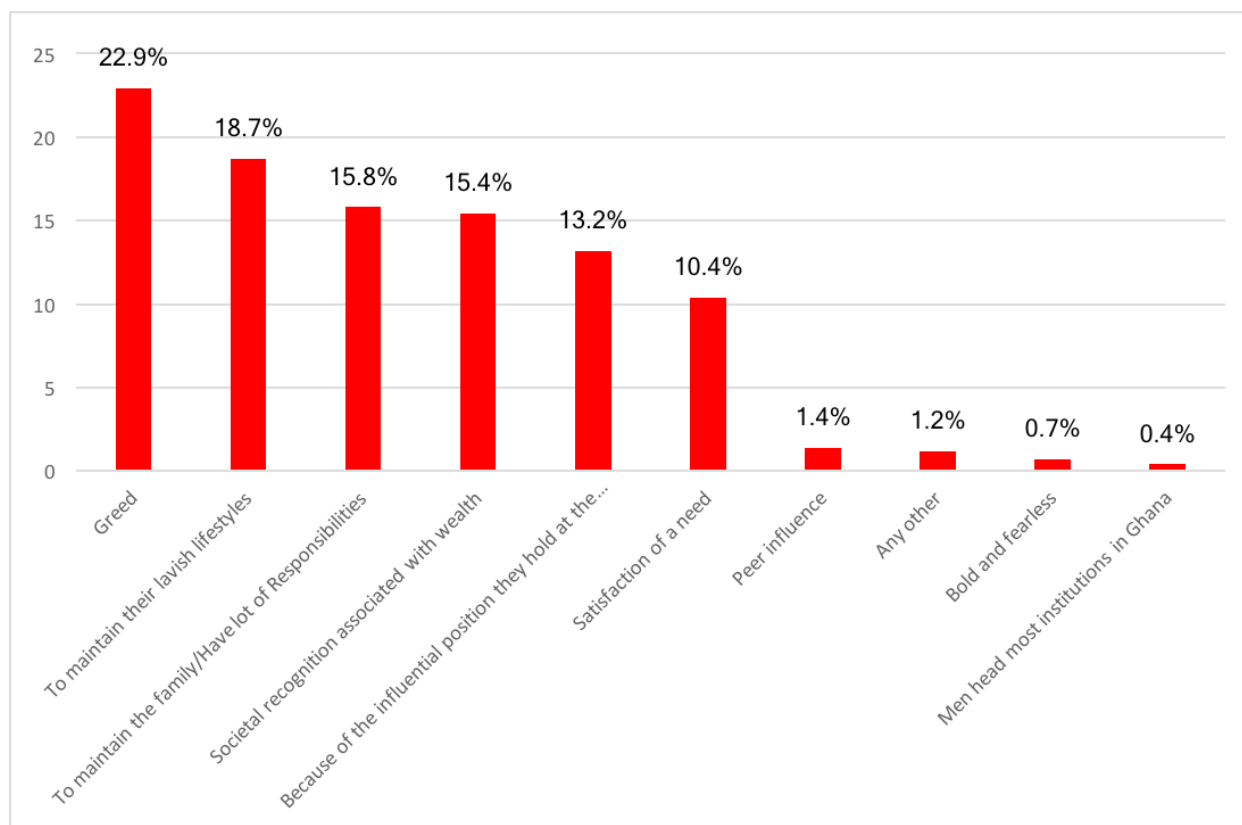
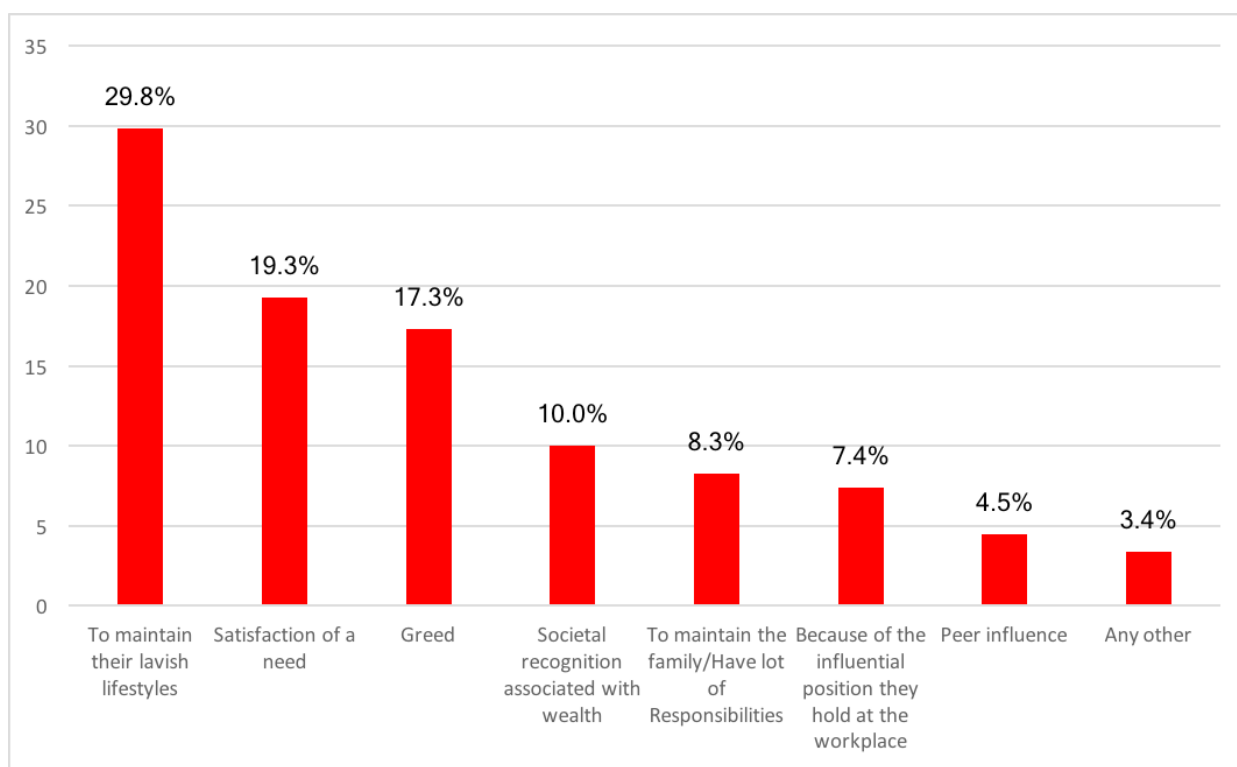


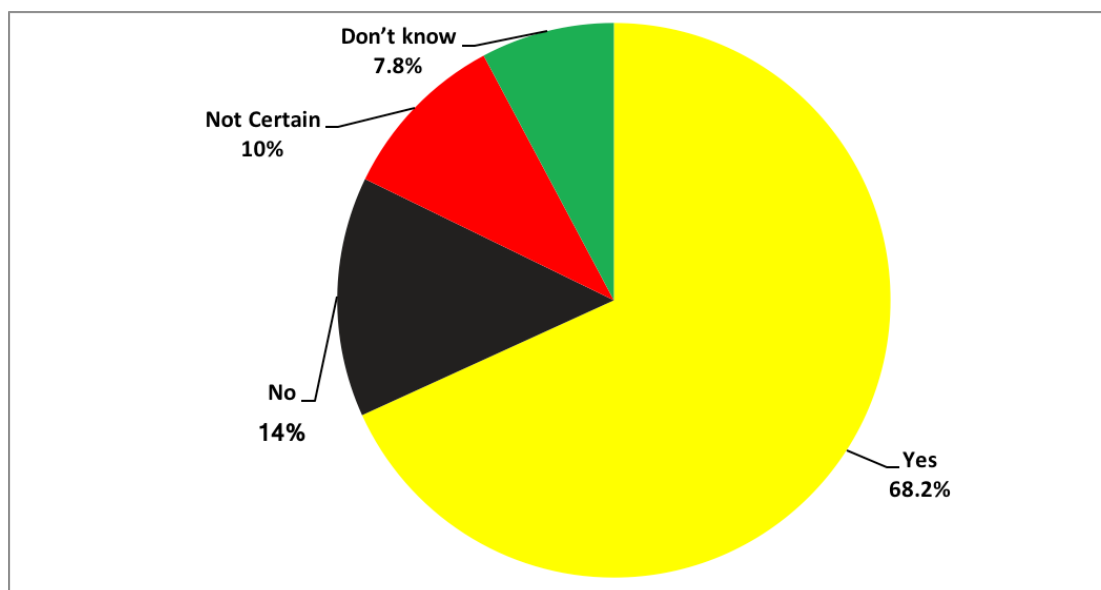
Figure 3.12 What motivate women to take bribe?



3.10 Place of work and exposure to corruptible acts

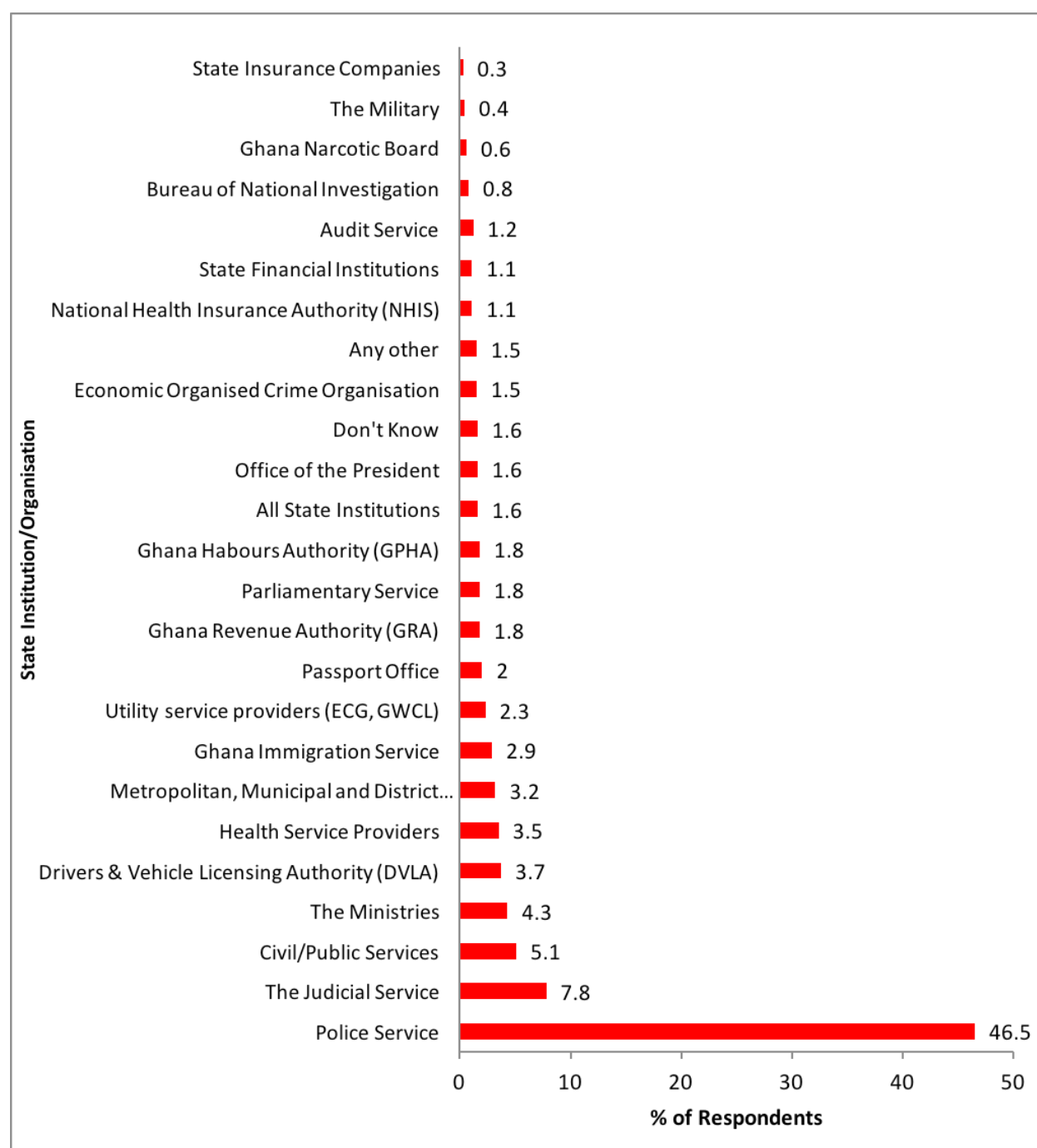
The debate on whether the type of institution one works with exposes or influences people to engage in corruptible acts was assessed in this survey. Figure 3.13 shows that slightly more than two-thirds (68.2%) of the respondents believe it does, whilst 14% believe otherwise.

Figure 3.13 Does the institution one work in expose him or her to corruptible acts?



The survey also sought from respondents about state institutions or organizations that are more prone to acts of corruption. Figure 3.14 shows that the most frequently cited institution was the Police service (46.6%), followed by the Judicial service and Civil/Public service with 7.8% and 5.1% respectively.

Figure 3.14 State Institutions that are more prone to acts of corruption



For the top five state institutions mentioned (i.e. the Police, Judiciary, Civil/Public service, the ministries and the Drivers, Vehicles, and License Authority), one key reason that topped all reasons given by the respondents for each institution was the fact that these institutions provide essential services to the public hence staff takes advantage of desperate customers/clients.

The second most frequent reason cited for the Judiciary, Ministries and the DVLA was that these institutions demand illegitimate payment before documents are processed or signed. However, for the Police service and the Civil/Public service the reason was the lack of effective monitoring and supervision of the activities of these agencies.

Table 3.12 Reasons why some state institutions engage in corruption

Response	Frequency	Percent
The Police		
Provide essential services hence take advantage of desperate customers/clients	1087	39.5
Lack of effective monitoring and supervision	449	16.3
Demand illegitimate payments before documents are processed/signed	330	12
Activities of organization not monitored	328	11.9
Poor remuneration or poor conditions of service	179	6.5
Due to the amount of money that passes through their hands	175	6.4
Their frequent engagement with the public	78	2.8
Any other	45	1.6
Peer pressure	42	1.5
Greed	33	1.3
Don't know	6	0.2
Total	2752	100

The Judiciary		
Provide essential services hence take advantage of desperate customers/clients	203	43.8
Demand illegitimate payments before documents are processed/signed	97	21
Lack of effective monitoring and supervision	54	11.7
Activities of organization not monitored	42	9.1
Due to the amount of money that passes through their hands	40	8.6
Poor remuneration or poor conditions of service	19	4.1
Their frequent engagement with the public	4	0.9
Any other	2	0.4
Peer pressure	1	0.2
Greed	1	0.2
Total	463	100

Civil/Public Service		
Provide essential services hence take advantage of desperate customers/clients	120	39.9
Lack of effective monitoring and supervision	46	15.3
Demand illegitimate payments before documents are processed/signed	43	14.3
Poor remuneration or poor conditions of service	33	11
Activities of organization not monitored	27	9
Due to the amount of money that passes through their hands	27	9
Their frequent engagement with the public	2	0.6
Peer pressure	1	0.3
Any other	1	0.3
Greed	1	0.3
Total	301	100

The Ministries		
Provide essential services hence take advantage of desperate customers/clients	108	42.2
Demand illegitimate payments before documents are processed/signed	43	16.8
Due to the amount of money that passes through their hands	26	10.2
Lack of effective monitoring and supervision	22	8.6
Activities of organization not monitored	20	7.8
Poor remuneration or poor conditions of service	16	6.2
Their frequent engagement with the public	9	3.5
Any other	5	2
Greed	4	1.6
Don't know	2	0.7
Peer pressure	1	0.4
Total	256	100

Drivers, Vehicles and License Authority	Frequency	Percent
Provide essential services hence take advantage of desperate customers/clients	112	51.1
Demand illegitimate payments before documents are processed/signed	41	18.7
Due to the amount of money that passes through their hands	32	14.6
Lack of effective monitoring and supervision	21	9.6
Activities of organization not monitored	7	3.3
Poor remuneration or poor conditions of service	2	0.9
Peer pressure	2	0.9
Their frequent engagement with the public	2	0.9
Total	219	100

3.11 Most significant effect of corruption in Ghana

Corruption has devastating effect on the economic advancement of any country. Table 3.13 presents information on respondents' perceived effects of corruption on Ghana. More than half (53.1%) of the respondents believe corruption leads to under development and bad reputation of a country. Slightly more than a fifth (22.3%) believes it increases the poverty level of a majority of the citizens, whilst 11.1% indicated that corruption leads to lack of basic social amenities such as schools and hospitals

Table 3.13 Opinion on the most significant effect of corruption on Ghana

Response	Frequency	Percent
Under development of the country/Bad reputation of the country	4605	53.1
Increases the poverty level of majority of the citizens	1930	22.3
Lack of basic/social amenities	959	11.1
Increases the debt of the country	285	3.3
Lowers government investment opportunities	226	2.6
Poor road network	193	2.2
Poor medical facilities	127	1.5
Lowers foreign direct investment	95	1.1
Increase in crime rate and violence	92	1.1
Any other	90	1
Increase the level of unemployment	70	0.8
Total	8672	100

3.12 Minimizing corruption and the impact on the lives of women

The survey sought from respondents their opinion on how to minimize corruption in Ghana and its impact on women. Table 3.14 shows that, more than a quarter (27.1%) believe minimizing corruption will improve women's socio-economic life, 18.6% believe it will create equal opportunity for them to hold public office whilst 14.7% indicated that it will improve their access to quality education.

Table 3.14 Opinion on how minimizing corruption in Ghana would impact the lives of women

Response	Frequency	Percent
Improve women's socio-economic life	2348	27.1
Create equal opportunity to hold public office	1609	18.6
Access to quality Education	1272	14.7
Access to better Health care	1059	12.2
Access to soft loans for business	953	11.0
Equal opportunity for women within the political environment	552	6.4
Don't Know	388	4.5
Freedom of speech	160	1.8
Access to information	154	1.8
Access to more job opportunities	94	1.1
Any Other	83	1.0
Total	8672	100.0

3.13 Summary

This chapter tackled the perception of citizens on corruption specifically their awareness and knowledge, causes and the effect of corruption in Ghana. From the analysis, it is evident that, though corruption has several elements, corruption as perceived by the citizenry is largely limited to embezzlement and fraud.

The data also revealed that majority (58.4%) of the respondents have witnessed an act of corruption with bribery being the most frequent act witnessed. Subsequently, places where these acts were commonly witnessed were by the road side, schools and workplaces.

In determining the level of corruption in Ghana, respondents perceived corruption to be on the rise as 91.4% of the respondents ranked the level of corruption very high and high. This is not surprising considering that slightly more than half of the respondents have ever witnessed the act. Despite the

fact that majority of the respondents have witnessed acts of corruption being committed less than a fifth have actually ever engaged in the act or ever taken a bribe.

Regarding reasons adduced for engaging in corruptible acts, majority of the respondents (46.5%) believe greed and selfishness is the number one reason that influences a person to be corrupt. This was followed by the desire for people to get rich quickly.

On the issue of which gender is more likely to accept bribe, males came top with a substantial proportion (81.5%) of the respondents citing them. Interestingly, 52.8% of male respondents did mention men as more likely to accept bribe than women. Additionally, greed and maintaining lavish lifestyle and family were perceived to be main reasons that motivate men to take bribe.

In relation to institutions and corruption, majority of the respondents perceived that working in particular institutions expose them to corruptible acts with the police cited as the institution that is most prone to acts of corruption.

Lastly, on the effect of corruption on Ghana, majority of the respondents believe corruption leads to a bad reputation for the nation (53.1%), increases poverty level (22.3%) and results in lack of basic social amenities (11.1%) such as schools, hospitals, good roads. Again, as women are more likely to be negatively affected by the consequences of corruption, respondents believe minimising corruption in Ghana will help improve women's socio-economic life (27.1%), create equal opportunity for them to hold public offices (18.6%) and improve their access to quality education.

CHAPTER FOUR

VIEWS ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

4.0 Introduction

This section focuses on public accountability among public institutions. Public accountability is the hallmark of modern democratic governance. Ghana is a member of the international community and hence a party to several international treaties and conventions. One such commitment is the achievement of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims at promoting Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions among member states by developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels of national development in respective countries.

4.1 Definition of public accountability

The study assessed respondent's knowledge of the concept of public accountability. The operational definition of public accountability adopted in this study is; the obligation of state enterprises, agencies and persons entrusted with public resources to be answerable to those who entrusted such resources to them.

Various scenarios were created around this operational definition and those scenarios were then used to test respondent's understanding of what is meant by public accountability. Comparing all the scenarios to the operational definition stated, scenarios C, D and E are adjudged as having met the requirements to be considered as what is truly meant by public accountability. The scenarios A, B and F therefore are the incorrect definitions of public accountability among the list of possible definitions provided.

Table 4.1 Result on the assessment of respondents understanding of what is meant by Public Accountability

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total
	Scenario	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Frequency
<i>Incorrect</i>	A	6.6	16	47.5	24	6	8672
	B	13.1	17.4	38.8	28.7	1.9	8672
	F	13.1	15.6	38.7	29.7	2.9	8672
<i>Correct</i>	C	38.5	50.2	5.6	3.7	2.1	8672
	D	44	47.5	3.7	3.4	1.5	8672
	E	39.9	49.8	4.6	3.3	2.4	8672

Accountability

- Scenario A* – Having more men than women in public office or vice versa
- Scenario B* – A public official using working hours to do his or her private business
- Scenario C* – An obligation to render accounts for one's actions/inactions as a public appointee
- Scenario D* – The act of bringing public officials to judgment as a result of their actions and inactions during and after tenure in office
- Scenario E* – The obligations of public enterprise and agencies (who are entrusted with public resources) to be answerable to those who have assigned such responsibilities to them
- Scenario F* – Using public office to satisfy the needs of his or her friends and relatives.

From the table above, it can be deduced that majority of the respondents are well informed on what public accountability is. The proportion of respondents who affirmed the right scenarios as well as the proportion of those who rejected the wrong scenarios were consistently higher in each case as depicted in the table 4.1.

A regional assessment of the concept in Table 4.2 shows a high level of knowledge among respondents in all the regions. On the average, 80.0% of the respondents across the regions affirmed the correct scenarios and 50.0% of the respondents rejected the wrong scenarios.

Table 4.2 Regional assessment of respondents understanding of the concept of public accountability

INCORRECT							
		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know	Total
Scenario A	Region	%	%	%	%	%	N
	Greater Accra	6.30	15.60	48.70	24.80	4.60	1390
	Ashanti	5.40	9.10	52.80	26.50	6.20	1654
	Brong Ahafo	7.20	17.70	40.50	30.40	4.10	829
	Central	10.30	24.30	37.90	16.50	11.00	774
	Eastern	5.50	12.00	43.30	28.60	10.70	935
	Northern	2.20	16.20	52.90	25.30	3.40	893
	Upper East	5.90	16.70	48.90	25.30	3.20	372
	Upper West	14.00	16.90	54.70	11.10	3.30	243
	Volta	5.00	14.00	55.30	19.30	6.40	745
	Western	10.60	26.30	39.80	19.40	3.90	837
Scenario B							
	Greater Accra	12.70	18.10	39.90	26.70	2.70	1390
	Ashanti	11.50	17.20	44.40	24.80	2.20	1654
	Brong Ahafo	14.20	13.60	43.20	27.60	1.30	829
	Central	13.70	24.20	27.60	31.50	3.00	774

	Eastern	15.80	13.90	40.40	28.20	1.60	935
	Northern	10.20	9.20	42.60	37.00	1.10	893
	Upper East	17.7	16.70	34.10	31.20	0.30	372
	Upper West	7.00	12.30	48.10	32.10	0.40	243
	Volta	10.20	25.90	37.20	24.70	2.00	745
	Western	17.40	21.10	27.40	31.70	2.40	837
Scenario F							
	Greater Accra	12.50	13.80	40.30	29.60	3.70	1390
	Ashanti	12.70	15.60	43.40	24.80	3.40	1654
	Brong Ahafo	12.20	12.70	47.60	26.30	1.20	829
	Central	11.00	24.70	31.10	29.20	4.00	774
	Eastern	14.50	13.20	38.50	30.60	3.20	935
	Northern	9.20	7.50	40.40	41.40	1.50	893
	Upper East	23.70	14.00	25.30	36.60	0.50	372
	Upper West	7.80	11.90	39.90	39.90	0.40	243
	Volta	10.70	21.20	39.20	25.00	3.90	745
	Western	19.40	21.50	28.40	27.60	3.10	837
CORRECT							
Scenario C							
	Greater Accra	38.20	53.20	3.40	2.50	2.70	1390
	Ashanti	35.60	53.80	5.00	4.40	1.30	1654
	Brong Ahafo	45.60	40.20	6.40	5.30	2.50	829
	Central	31.40	55.90	5.20	3.00	4.50	774
	Eastern	43.5	46.50	4.00	4.60	1.40	935
	Northern	44.30	45.90	6.40	2.60	0.80	893
	Upper East	46.80	43.50	4.00	1.90	3.80	372
	Upper West	41.60	51.40	5.80	0.40	0.80	243
	Volta	31.10	54.50	8.70	4.40	1.20	745
	Western	34.30	50.10	8.70	4.30	2.60	837
Scenario D							
	Greater Accra	42.50	50.80	2.20	2.90	1.60	1390
	Ashanti	43.20	49.00	3.40	3.40	1.00	1654
	Brong Ahafo	47.30	41.60	5.20	3.70	2.20	829
	Central	39.90	49.20	5.40	2.50	3.00	774
	Eastern	51.80	42.60	1.70	3.10	0.90	935
	Northern	48.70	44.90	4.00	2.20	0.10	893
	Upper East	52.40	42.50	1.30	1.90	1.90	372
	Upper West	38.70	55.10	3.70	1.20	1.20	243
	Volta	35.40	52.10	5.50	5.20	1.70	745
	Western	39.90	47.20	4.50	6.00	2.40	837

Scenario E							
	Greater Accra	40.00	51.50	3.50	2.90	2.20	1390
	Ashanti	38.90	52.50	3.60	3.10	1.90	1654
	Brong Ahafo	44.40	43.40	5.70	3.10	3.40	829
	Central	32.80	56.80	4.00	2.30	4.00	774
	Eastern	46.50	44.90	2.60	3.40	2.60	935
	Northern	41.20	47.40	6.80	3.00	1.60	893
	Upper East	46.00	47.60	2.20	2.40	1.90	372
	Upper West	36.60	54.30	5.30	2.50	1.20	243
	Volta	35.80	55.80	3.50	3.00	1.90	745
	Western	36.90	43.70	10.00	6.30	3.00	837

- Scenario A* – Having more men than women in public office or vice versa
- Scenario B* – A public official using working hours to do his or her private business
- Scenario C* – An obligation to render accounts for one's actions/inactions as a public appointee
- Scenario D* – The act of bringing public officials to judgment as a result of their actions and inactions during and after tenure in office
- Scenario E* – The obligations of public enterprise and agencies (who are entrusted with public resources) to be answerable to those who have assigned such responsibilities to them
- Scenario F* – Using public office to satisfy the needs of his or her friends and relatives

An assessment of the understanding of the concept of Public Accountability by place of residence shows that the level of understanding of the concept is consistently higher in the urban areas than the rural localities as shown in the Table 4.3

Table 4.3 Assessment of respondents understanding of the concept of public accountability by locality

SCENARIO A					
Location	Strongly agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total
	%	%	%	%	N
Urban	5.40	46.90	25.80	7.10	3900
Rural	7.50%	47.90	22.50	5.10	4772
SCENARIO B					
Urban	12.40	39.10	28.90	2.40	3900
Rural	13.70	38.60	28.50	1.60	4772
SCENARIO C					
Urban	39.40	4.50	3.50	2.40	3900
Rural	37.80	6.50	3.80	1.80	4772

SCENARIO D					
Urban	45.40	3.20	2.90	1.40	3900
Rural	42.80	4.10	3.80	1.60	4772
SCENARIO E					
Urban	42.30	3.70	2.80	2.20	3900
Rural	37.90	5.40	3.70	2.50	4772
SCENARIO F					
Urban	12.50	40.70	29.20	3.10	3900
Rural	13.60	37.00	30.10	2.70	4772

- Scenario A – Having more men than women in public office or vice versa
- Scenario B – A public official using working hours to do his or her private business
- Scenario C – An obligation to render accounts for one's actions/inactions as a public appointee
- Scenario D – The act of bringing public officials to judgment as a result of their actions and inactions during and after tenure in office
- Scenario E – The obligations of public enterprise and agencies (who are entrusted with public resources) to be answerable to those who have assigned such responsibilities to them
- Scenario F – Using public office to satisfy the needs of his or her friends and relatives

Table 4.4 shows that respondents with higher levels of education had a better understanding of the concept of public accountability than those with low or no level of education.

Table 4.4 Assessment of respondents understanding of the concept of public accountability by level of education

SCENARIO C						
No formal Education	36.70	52.40	4.80	2.90	3.20	1209
Non-Formal Education	30.20	54.30	8.60	3.70	3.10	162
Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS)	40.50	48.00	5.00	3.20	3.30	3142
Secondary (SHS, Voc. Etc)	38.10	51.70	4.40	3.80	2.10	2236
Tertiary (Poly, Univ., College of Education)	49.40	44.80	2.80	2.60	0.40	1862
Any Other	41.00	52.50	3.30	3.30	0.00	61
SCENARIO D						
No formal Education	41.90	50.10	3.00	3.20	1.80	1209
Non-Formal Education	38.30	49.40	5.60	5.60	1.20	162
Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS)	43.10	46.70	4.20	3.90	2.10	3142

Secondary (SHS, Voc. Etc)	42.30	49.00	3.90	3.30	1.60	2236
Tertiary (Poly, Univ., College of Education)	49.40	44.80	2.80	2.60	0.40	1862
Any Other	41.00	52.50	3.30	3.30	0.00	61
SCENARIO E						
No formal Education	36.70	52.40	4.80	2.90	3.20	1209
Non-Formal Education	30.20	54.30	8.60	3.70	3.10	162
Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS)	40.50	48.00	5.00	3.20	3.30	3142
Secondary (SHS, Voc. Etc)	38.10	51.70	4.40	3.80	2.10	2236
Tertiary (Poly, Univ., College of Education)	49.40	44.80	2.80	2.60	0.40	1862
Any Other	41.00	52.50	3.30	3.30	0.00	61

SCENARIO A						
No formal Education	6.00	15.90	48.40	20.60	9.10%	1209
Non-Formal Education	9.30	16.00	46.90	18.50	9.30%	162
Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS)	7.10	17.00	44.80	23.80	7.30%	3142
Secondary (SHS, Voc. Etc)	7.20	15.90	47.40	24.60	4.90%	2236
Tertiary (Poly, Univ., College of Education)	5.00	14.60	51.30	26.30	2.70%	1862
Any Other	6.60	11.50	52.50	24.60	4.90%	61
SCENARIO B						
No formal Education	13.00	15.80	39.50	28.20	3.60%	1209
Non-Formal Education	21.00	18.50	35.20	24.10	1.20%	162
Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS)	13.40	18.00	37.20	29.10	2.20%	3142
Secondary (SHS, Voc. Etc)	13.80	17.60	39.20	27.60	1.80%	2236
Tertiary (Poly, Univ., College of Education)	11.10	17.10	40.80	30.20	0.80%	1862
Any Other	13.10	14.80	47.50	24.60	0.00%	61
SCENARIO F						
No formal Education	12.30	16.20	37.60	30.20	3.60	1209
Non-Formal Education	16.00	17.90	33.30	27.80	4.90	162
Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS)	14.20	16.00	37.30	29.00	3.50	3142
Secondary (SHS, Voc. Etc)	13.10	16.50	38.90	28.40	3.10	2236

Tertiary (Poly, Univ., College of Education)	11.80	13.30	41.80	32.10	1.00	1862
Any Other	6.60	18.00	44.30	31.10	0.00	61

- Scenario A* – Having more men than women in public office or vice versa
- Scenario B* – A public official using working hours to do his or her private business
- Scenario C* – An obligation to render accounts for one's actions/inactions as a public appointee
- Scenario D* – The act of bringing public officials to judgment as a result of their actions and inactions during and after tenure in office
- Scenario E* – The obligations of public enterprise and agencies (who are entrusted with public resources) to be answerable to those who have assigned such responsibilities to them
- Scenario F* - Using public office to satisfy the needs of his or her friends and relatives

4.2 Access to information held by public institutions

The results of this study again shows that access to information from public institutions is difficult as a total of 84.4% of respondents said access to public information is either very difficult (40.8%), difficult (28.3%), somehow difficult (5.5%) and not accessible (9.8%).

Though a high percentage of respondents (39.5%) were of the view that gender has an influence on accessibility, a near equal percentage (38.7%) were also of the view that gender does not have any impact or effect on accessibility to public information.

Respondents were made to elaborate on reasons for their choice of responses above. For respondents who were of the view that gender has some effect on accessibility, they enumerated reasons such as; women hear information faster than men (22.0%), men have more time than women to listen to news items (21.2%), most women are not interested in such information (10.3%) and a higher population of women are illiterate hence do not understand the information (10.2%) as depicted in the figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1 Gender differentials in access to information

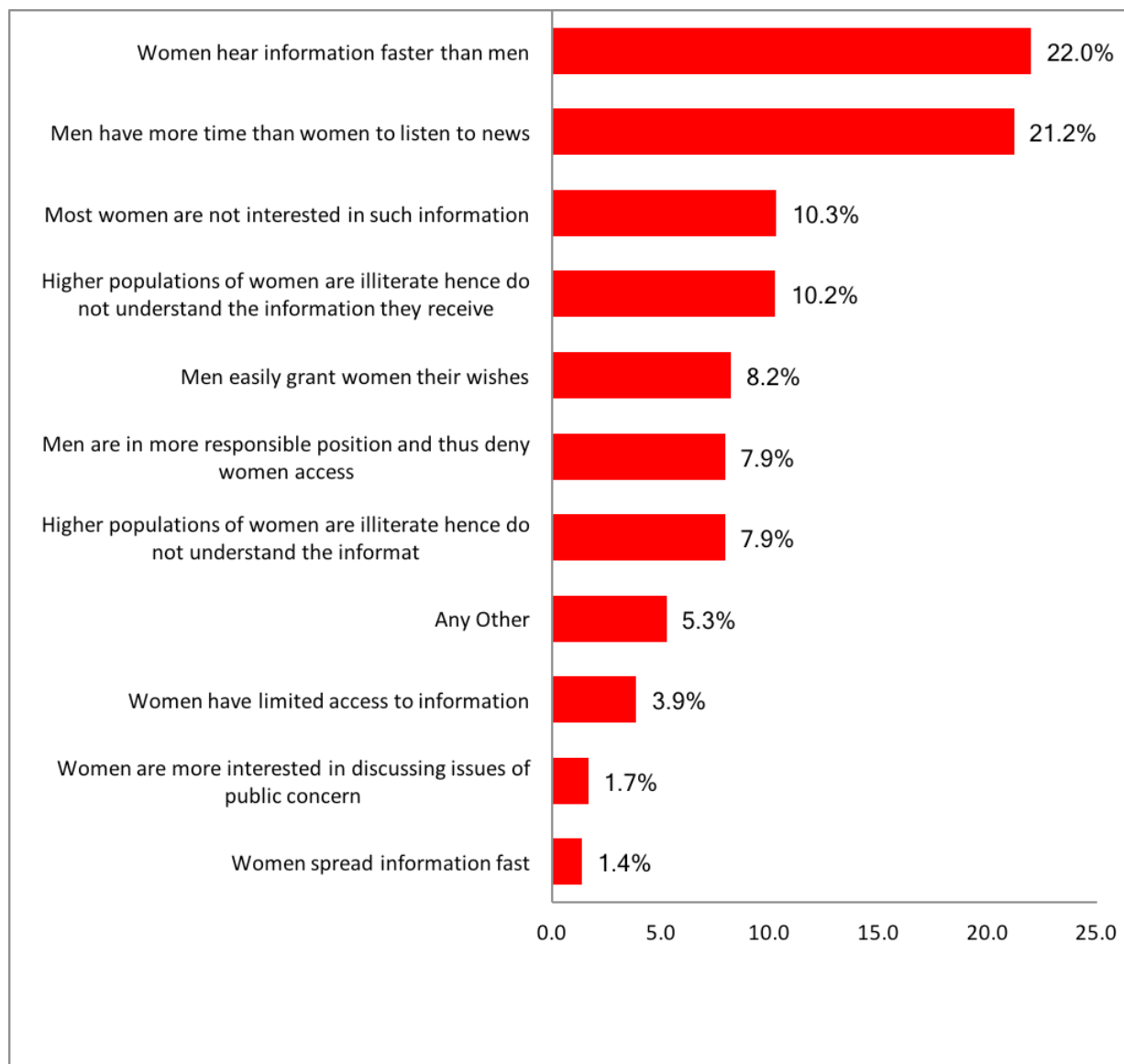
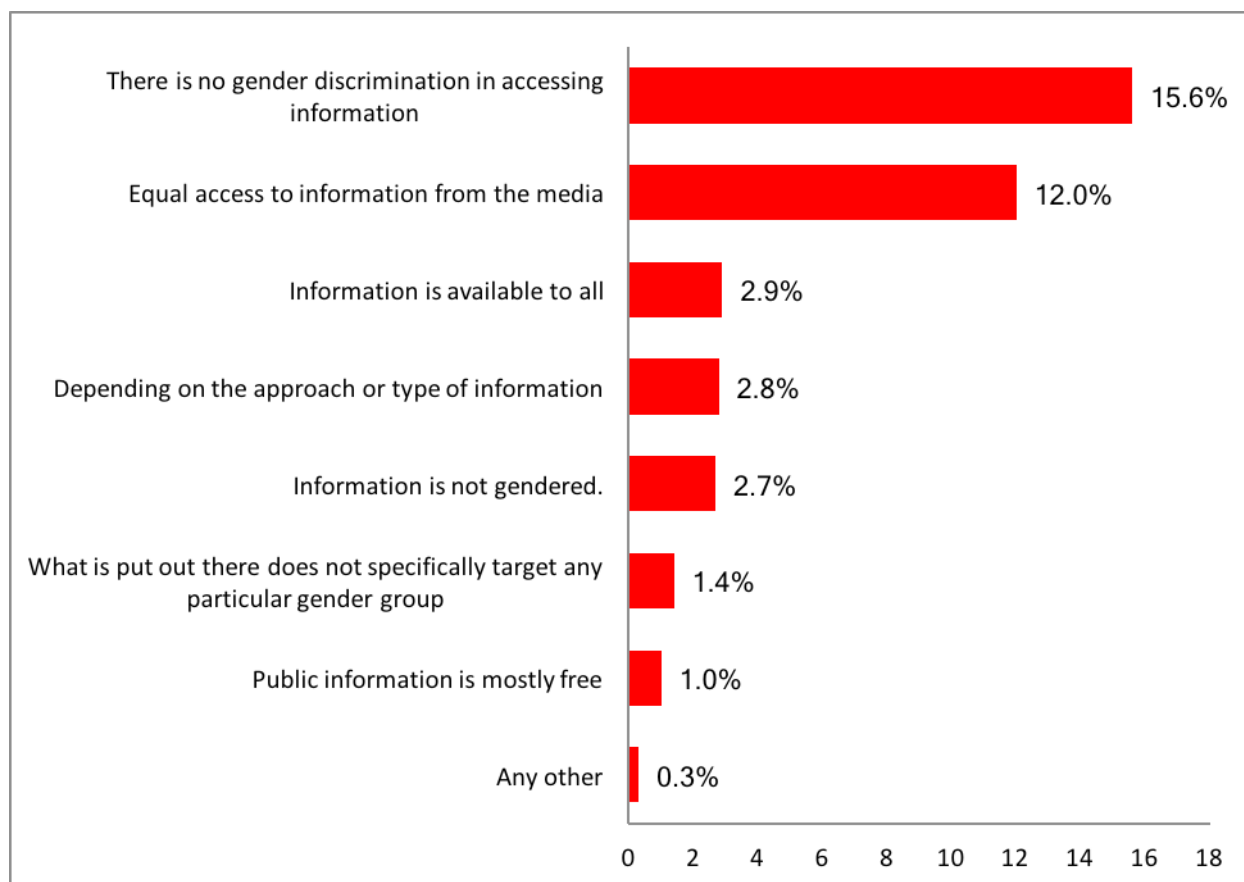


Figure 4.2 shows that, respondents who were of the view that gender did not have any effect on accessibility of public information outlined reasons including; there is no gender discrimination in accessing information (15.6%), there is equal access by both gender to information from the media (12.0%) and also the fact that information is available to all (2.9%).

Figure 4.2 Reasons why respondents think gender has no impact on the accessibility to public information



In pursuant of the ideals of a truly democratic state where there is mass participation in the administration of the country, the Ghanaian legislature is currently considering the Right to Information bill to be passed into law. This bill, when passed into law, will among other things ensure greater access to public information and hence promote public accountability. The study therefore sought people's views on this bill.

In terms of awareness of the existence of this bill, the results show that majority of respondents are not aware of this bill as 67.2% of respondents are not aware of the existence of this bill. Only 32.8% of respondents said they are aware of the existence of the Right to Information bill. The respondents who indicated that they were aware of the bill provided further information about what they think are the functions of the bill. From table 4.5, it can be deduced that 73.7% of respondents who were aware of the existence of the right to information bill are well informed on the purpose of the bill.

Table 4.5 Perceived functions of the right to information bill

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
It is a bill that grants freedom to access public information	1780	62.6
I have heard about it, but I don't know what it is	451	15.9
A bill intended to allow access to data held by government bodies	316	11.1
It is a law that seeks to give more voice to the Ghanaian citizens	117	4.1
It is a bill that intends to give the public access to assets of public office holders	109	3.8
Any Other	62	2.2
The law is meant to open more media houses	7	0.2
Total	2842	100.0

On how soon this bill should be passed into law, the results show that majority (67.4%) of respondents want parliament to pass the bill very soon whilst the 20.6% also called on the legislature to pass the bill soon. Together, these two group of respondents constituted 88.0% of the total respondents in this section whereas the composite percentage of those who called on parliament to pass this bill at a much later time was only 3.9%.

Further, respondents were asked about their expectation of this bill in terms of promoting public accountability in Ghana. Notably, most respondents were of the view that the bill will increase public participation, which will consequently promote accountability (35.5%). Others (33.6%) were also of the view that the bill will help reduce corruption among public institutions while some (16.0%) indicated that the provisions of the bill will open government businesses to public scrutiny. In addition, 10.8% suggested that the bill will remove obstacles to promoting accountability within public institutions. There were 4.0% of respondents who mentioned some expectations that could not be categorized under the major response options provided. These include: it will bring freedom, it will help the country, it will make public office holders more careful, and it will reduce poverty.

The study further assessed the existing public accountability measures within the Ghanaian governance structure. Firstly, accountability at the local level was investigated. Most respondents (68.8%) are not aware of the legal provision of the Local Government Act 2016, Act 936 that mandates District Assemblies to publish their expenditure accounts annually to their constituents. Although very few respondents (31.2%) are aware of the mandate of the district assemblies to publish their expenditure accounts, very few respondents out of this percentage (28.9%) have ever witnessed the publication of such an account at various places such as the district assembly's notice (54.0%), radio (19.6%), television (6.1%) and newspaper (5.6%).

At the level of the individual respondents, the study investigated the involvement or the experience of respondents in the public accountability process within their respective districts. 96.8% have never personally sought for the expenditure accounts of their district assemblies. The reasons outlined for this high level of reluctance on the part of respondents include; lack of knowledge on the fact that the general public can go for such a document (48.1%). The fact that respondents have nothing to do with the expenditure accounts of their respective district assemblies was the reason why 33.4% of respondents never sought for the expenditure accounts of their district assemblies. Another 11.6% also said they do not have the time to go for it. For some unknown reasons, 4.9% of respondents feel that they would be denied the expenditure accounts of their district assemblies when they go seeking such information.

Table 4.6 Reasons why respondents did not seek for the expenditure accounts of their respective District Assemblies

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
I have no idea the general public can go for such a document	4040	48.1
I have nothing to do with such a document	2807	33.4
I do not have the time to go for it	975	11.6
I would be denied access to such information	410	4.9
Any Other	73	0.9
Fear of victimization/intimidation	52	0.6
It is the work of the Assembly to publish it periodically to their constituents	29	0.3
Right to information bill is not yet passed	7	0.1
Total	8393	100.0

The few respondents who had ever sought the expenditure accounts did so for reasons such as; it being their right as citizens (43.0%), to have a view of how the assemblies uses their funds (30.8%) and also for official reasons (22.2%). There were other reasons that constituted 3.9% of total responses received. Examples of such responses include: respondents seeking for the account from District Chief Executives because they are assembly members, chancing upon it at the District Assembly office, and having it from friends. At the national level, majority of respondents are not aware of the existence of the parliamentary machinery for ensuring public accountability within the Ghanaian public sector. As low as 43.4% of respondents responded in the affirmative when asked whether they know of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

In terms of the functions of the Public Accounts Committee of parliament, 54.9% of the respondents said the Committee's mandate is to investigate or inquire into the activities and administration of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs). Also, 35.1% said the Public Accounts Committee examines audited accounts of the MDAs. There were other functions of the public accounts committee which were mentioned by respondents and they include: check public officials and their accounts; examines the accounts of Ghana; examines government budget and in charge of all public accounts.

Sharing their views on what they perceive has been the impact of the Public Accounts Committee on accountability of state institutions, respondents shared diverse views as depicted in table 4.7

Table 4.7 Respondents view on the impact of the Public Accounts Committee of parliament

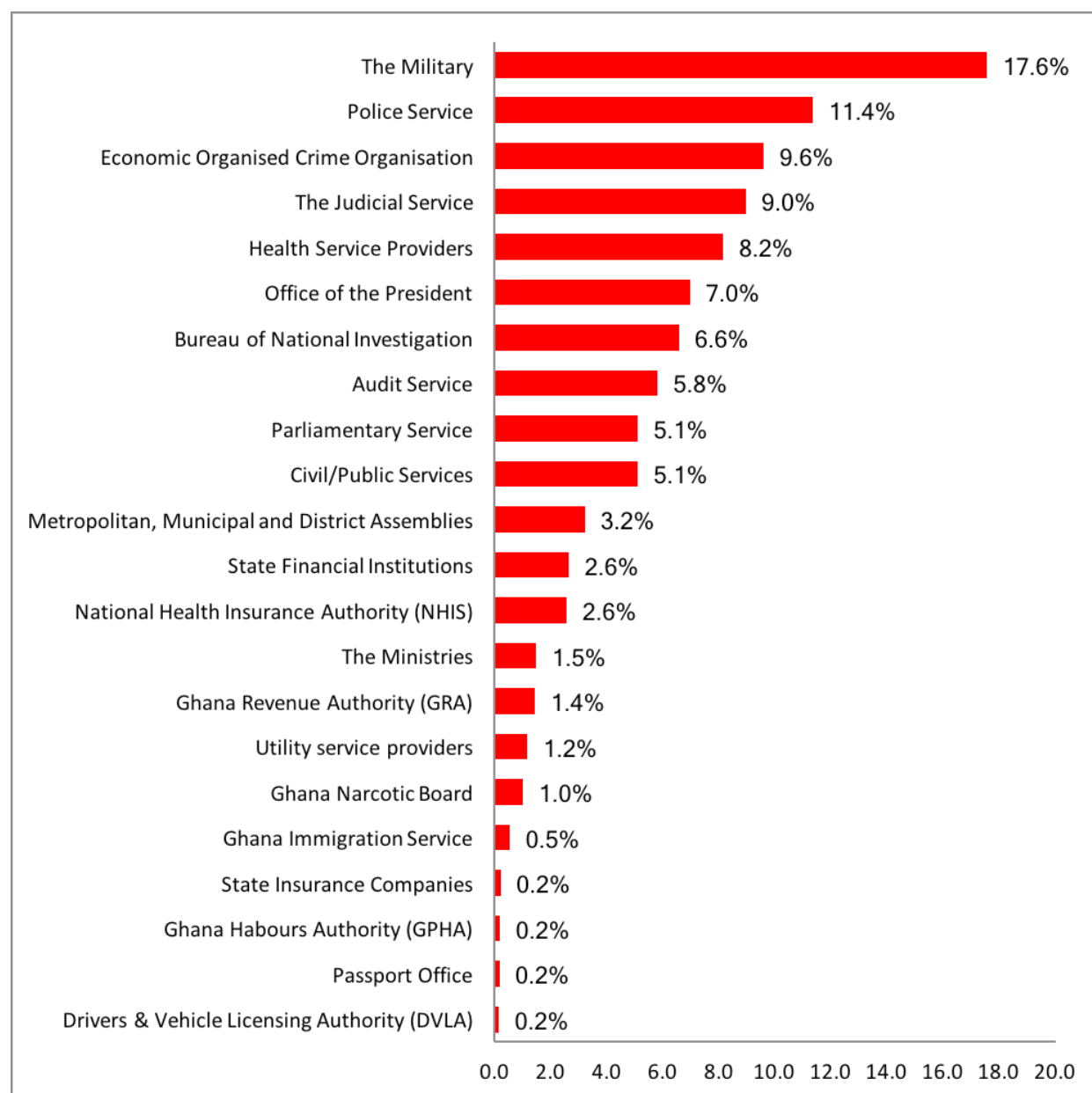
Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
It has helped exposed corruption in some public institutions	2023	53.8
Its activities has helped minimize the frequency and level of corruption	576	15.3
The committee's activities have helped improve transparency in public administration	454	12.1
It has helped guard the public purse	187	5.0
Any Other	521	13.9
Total	3761	100.0

4.3 Accountability in state institutions

Using predefined assessment criteria such as openness of operations, transparency about accounts, making appointments on the basis of merits and then listening and responding to complaints, respondents were asked about which public institution has been the most accountable. Figure 4.3 presents the overall analysis of the response obtained from respondents. A careful look at the first five institutions of the result shows a diversity of institutions though the security services seem to dominate the top spot of the rank. The governance and health institutions were also represented in the top five.

At the bottom of the list is also a reflection of the diversity of state or public institutions as seen in the top five positions. The institutions at the bottom of the list again include the security institutions, insurance companies, the Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority (GPHA) and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority (DVLA).

Figure 4.3 Ranking of level of accountability in some public institutions by respondents



In assessing the performance of the various institutions under the individual assessment criteria, Figure 4.4 shows that the military was consistently adjudged by majority of respondents as the public institution which is most open in its operations, transparent about its financial accounts and makes appointments on the basis of merits. They only came second to the Ghana Police Service in the area of listening and responding to complaints.

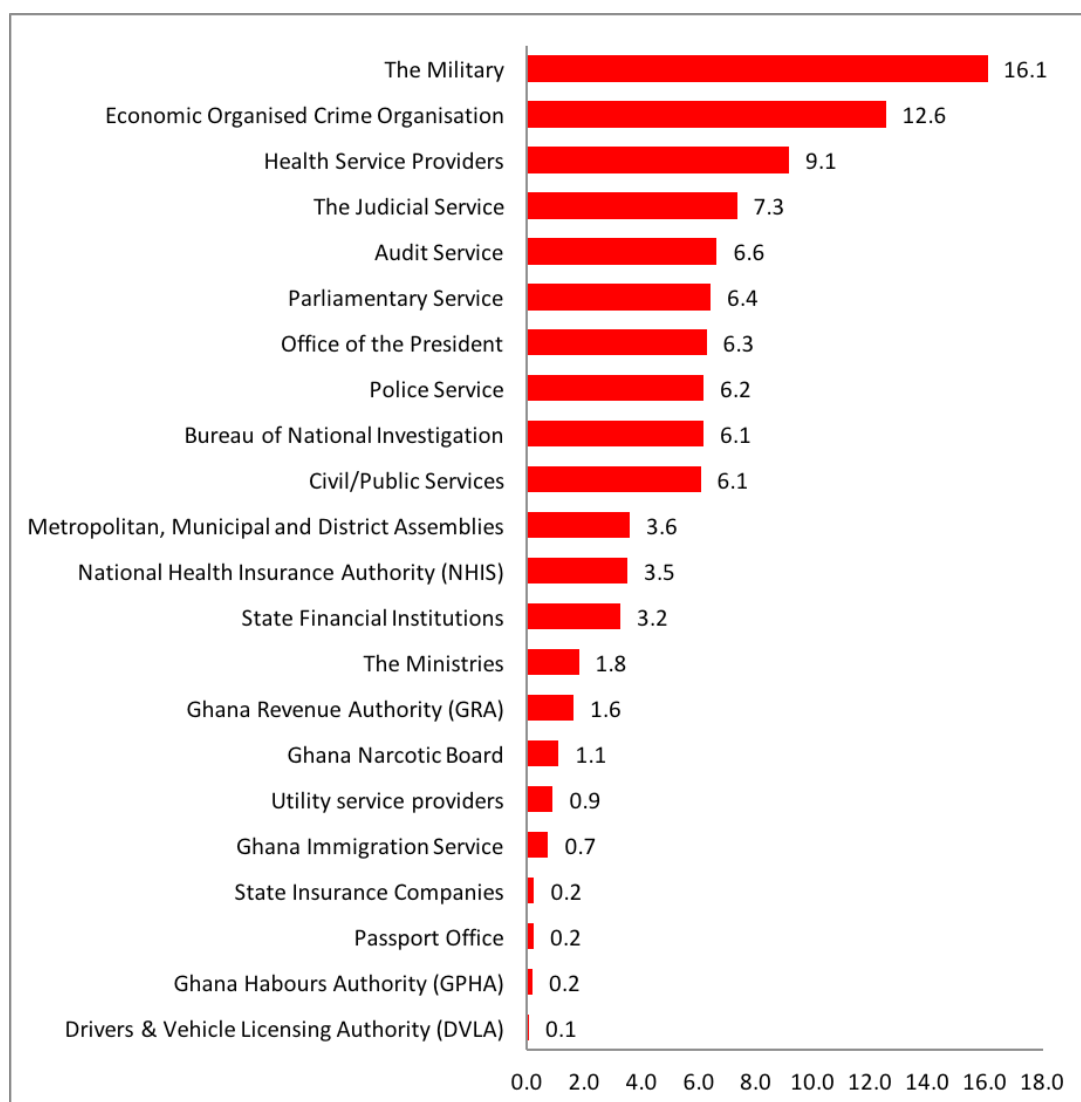
A look at the second position across all the assessment also shows that the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) was ranked by 12.6% of the respondents as the public institution which is open about its operations whiles the Audit Service was also ranked by the second largest group of respondents as the institution that is transparent about its accounts. The judicial service and the

military were ranked second in terms of making appointments on the basis of merit and listening and responding to complaints respectively.

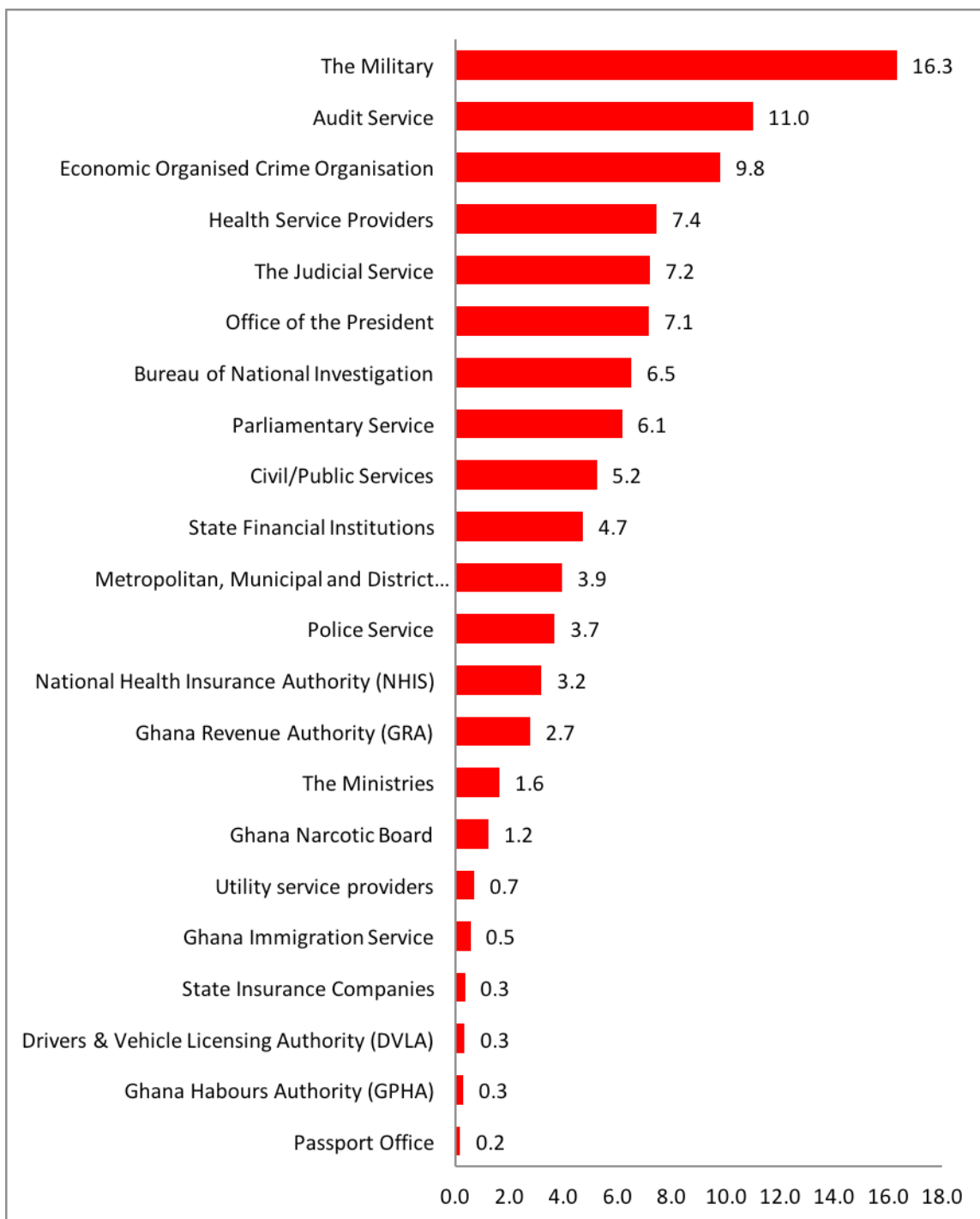
The Ghana Health Service was ranked third as the public institution which is most open about its operation. In all 9.8% of the respondents mentioned as being transparent about its accounts while 9.6% of the respondents mentioned the Office of the President as the public institution that makes appointments on the basis of merit. One out of every ten (10.5%) respondents mentioned the Judicial Service as an institution that listens and responds to complaints.

Figure 4.4 Respondents assessment of accountability among various public institutions

i. Openness about its operations



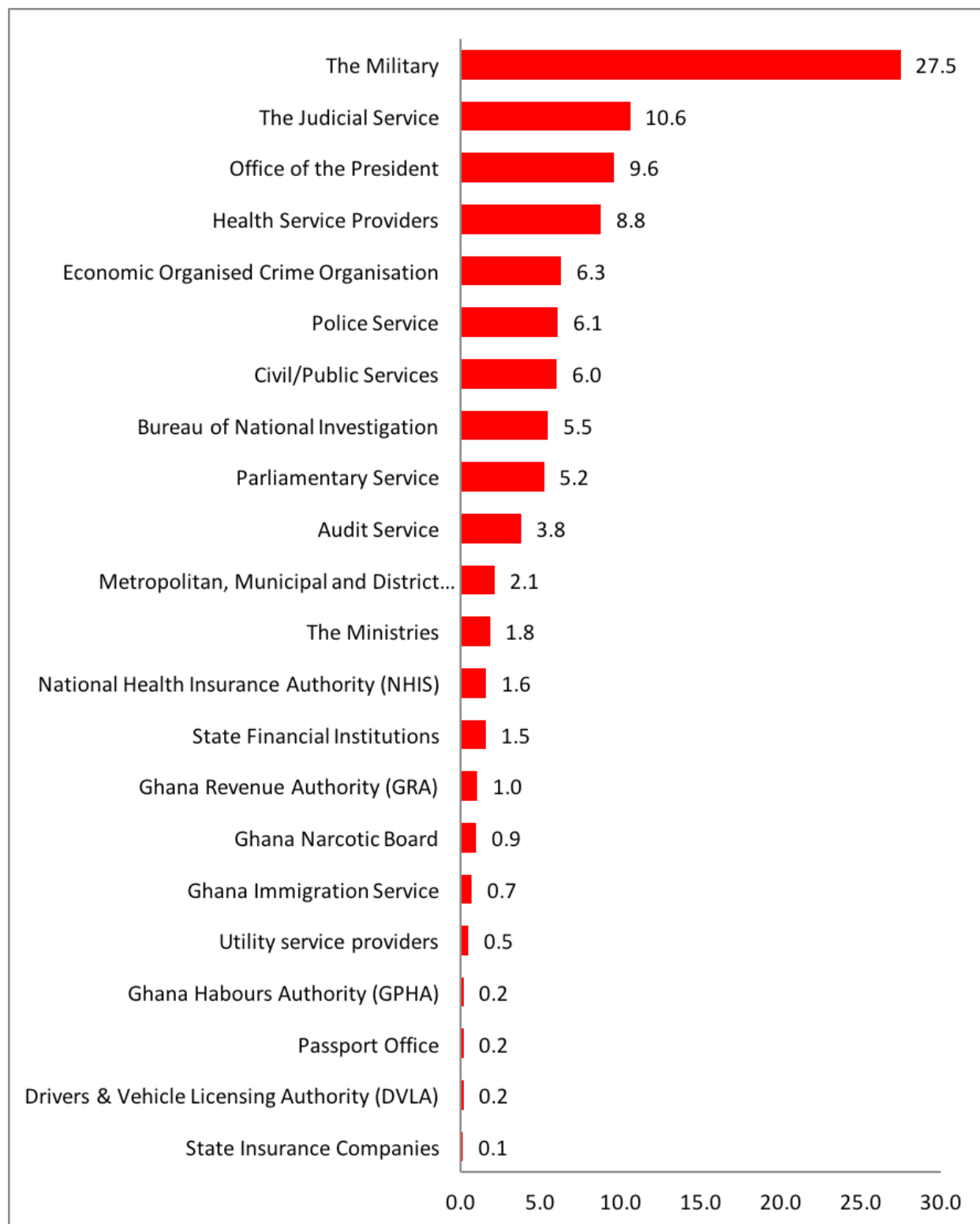
ii. Transparent about its account



iii. Appointments on the basis of merit



iv. Listening and responding to complaints



Though respondents were able to enumerate public institutions which in their view have been accountable, they also acknowledged that the practice of public accountability in Ghana was not without challenges. To this end, respondents identified some factors which they perceive were constraints to the achievement of highly accountable and transparent public sector institutions. More than one-third of respondents (35.4%) identified political partisan influence in the activities of public institutions as the factor that constrains the achievement of accountable institutions. Lack of information was also mentioned by 15.3% as the factor that restrains the actualization of full public accountability in public institutions whilst another 13.8% mentioned long bureaucratic processes as the limiting factor to the attainment of public accountability. Other factors mentioned include resource constraints (12.1%) and then delays in parliamentary proceedings in passing bills (7.8%).

To overcome the challenges identified, respondents suggested ways to promote public accountability among public institutions in Ghana. Table 4.8 presents respondents' suggestions on how to improve public accountability.

Table 4.8: Suggestions on how to improve accountability among public institutions in Ghana

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Political partisan influences on institutions should be stopped	3262	37.6
Provide adequate resources/Remove resource constraints	2175	25.1
Any Other	1071	12.4
Parliament should hasten the process of passing bills that promote public accountability	988	11.4
Long bureaucratic processes in institutions must be shortened	876	10.1
Pressure from cabinet must also be stopped	300	3.5
Total	8672	100

CHAPTER FIVE

ASSESSMENT OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY INSTITUTIONS IN GHANA

5.0 Introduction

The National Anti- Corruption Action Plan (NACAP, Ghana 2012-2021) defines corruption as the misuse of entrusted power for private gain which includes bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation, illegal enrichment, laundering of proceeds of crime, concealment, obstruction of Justice, patronage and nepotism.

In dealing with these ills of the society, the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Article 6 entreats state parties, in accordance with their legal systems, to ensure the existence of a body or bodies as appropriate to prevent corruption.

Article 6(2) further entreats state parties to grant such entities the necessary independence to enable the body or bodies carry out its function effectively and free from any form of undue influence.

The 1992 Constitution of Ghana provides for the establishment of the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). Article 218(a) gives CHRAJ the mandate to investigate complaints of violations of fundamental rights and freedoms, injustice, corruption, abuse of power and unfair treatment of any person by a public officer in the exercise of his official duties.

Besides the CHRAJ, the Ghana Police Service, the Bureau of National Investigations, the Economic and Organised Crime Office, civil society organisations, the media amongst others continue to play various roles aimed at improving mechanisms for anti-corruption and enhancing transparency at all levels through several means.

Accountability on the other hand ensures actions and decisions taken by public officials are subject to audit to guarantee that government initiatives meet their stated objectives and respond to the needs of the community they are meant to be benefitting. The activities and performance of these institutions to a large extent remains critical for realizing SDG 16 which entreats nations to work towards building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

This Chapter therefore assesses citizens' opinions on the effectiveness of measures taken to reduce corruption and improve public accountability in public institutions, as well as assess citizens' perceptions of the performance of anti-corruption institutions and public accountability institutions in Ghana. Additionally, it highlights citizens' views on the role of the three arms of government in fighting corruption and upholding the rule of law.

5.1 Minimizing corruption in Ghana

The drive to rid the society of corruption cannot achieve the desired results if persons are not able or unwilling to provide information on any of such acts they are privy to or might know of. It is important therefore that persons who provide such information or ‘blow the whistle’ be shielded so as to ensure their safety. This will equally encourage other persons to willingly to provide information where necessary as they know their identity would not be disclosed and the needed protection accorded them is assured.

Protecting Whistle-blowers is essential to encourage the reporting of misconduct, fraud and corruption. The risk of corruption is significantly heightened in environments where the reporting of wrongdoing is not supported or protected. This applies to both the public and private sector environments, especially in cases of bribery: Protecting public sector whistle-blowers facilitates the reporting of passive bribery, as well as the misuse of public funds, waste, fraud and other forms of corruption. Protecting private sector whistle-blowers facilitates the reporting of active bribery and other corrupt acts committed by companies

Providing effective protection for whistle-blowers supports an open culture in an organisation where employees are not only aware of how to report but also have confidence in the reporting procedures. It also helps businesses prevent and detect bribery in commercial transactions. The protection of both public and private sector whistle-blowers from retaliation for reporting in good faith suspected acts of corruption and other wrongdoing is therefore integral to efforts to combat corruption, promote public sector integrity and accountability, and support a clean business environment.

Protection of Whistle-blowers-Study on Whistle-blower Protection Frameworks, Compendium of Best Practices and Guiding Principles for Legislation, G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan.

5.1.1 Where to report cases of corruption in Ghana

The risk of corruption and lack of accountability particularly in the public sphere is heightened if persons have no knowledge of specific institutions or places where they could go to and blow the whistle on any acts they suspect to be bordering on corruption. The knowledge of places, persons or institutions to report matters that border on corruption are therefore important if any significant progress would be made in dealing with the canker. The 8672 respondents in this survey therefore were asked if they know of places to go to and report such acts of corruption.

In all, 64.7% of the respondents indicated that they do know of where to report matters of corruption whilst 35.3% of them said they did not know.

Table 5.1 presents respondents level of education and awareness of places to report issues of corruption. More than half (52.4%) of persons who have never had any form of formal education are aware of where to go to and report cases of corruption. Although respondents who have attained tertiary education are the majority (79.6%) amongst those who are aware of where to report cases of corruption, it is significant to note that as many as 20.4% of them do not know of any place to report acts of corruption despite their level of education.

Table 5.1 Knowledge of where one can go and report a case of corruption by educational qualification

Level of education	Knowledge of where to report cases of corruption		
	Yes	No	N
No formal Education	52.4	47.6	1211
Non-Formal Education	59.9	40.1	162
Basic (Primary, Middle, JHS)	59.1	40.9	3143
Secondary (SHS, Voc. Etc)	67.5	32.5	2232
Tertiary (Poly, Univ., College of Education)	79.6	20.4	1858
Any Other	60.9	39.1	69

On the exact places or institutions to report cases of corruption, more than half (57.3%) of the respondents mentioned the Ghana Police Service. Table 5.2 further shows that 18.3% of the respondents mentioned CHRAJ whilst 3.0% mentioned the news media. It is curious that persons are inclined to report cases that border on corruption to the Ghana Police Service rather than CHRAJ which is the ombudsman in dealing specifically with such abuses. This could be attributed to the visibility of police stations in the various communities whereas CHRAJ does have offices in all the districts. It is pertinent therefore for CHRAJ to intensify its education activities to aid in carrying out one of its core mandate.

Table 5.2 Knowledge on where to report acts of corruption

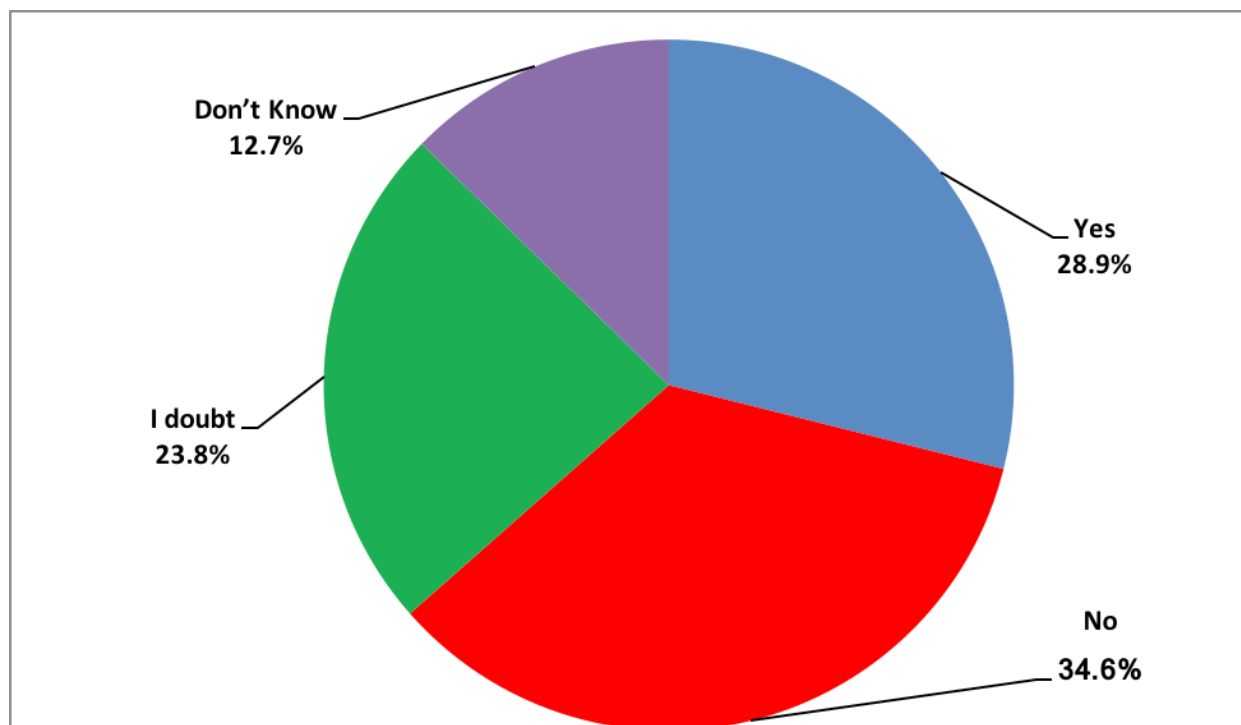
Response	Frequency	Percent
Police Station	3214	57.3
Commission on Human Rights and Administration Justice (CHRAJ)	1026	18.3
Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO)	469	8.4
Bureau of National Investigation (BNI)	229	4.1
The Media	171	3.0
The Judiciary / Courts	169	3.0
Metropolitan /Municipal and District Assembly (MMDAs)	150	2.7
Anti-Corruption NGOs	26	.5
Traditional Authorities	83	1.5
Religious leaders	11	0.2
Heads of the institutions/ Presidency	65	1.2
Total	5613	100

5.1.2 Whether identities of persons who report cases of corruption are or will be well protected by anti-corruption agencies

In Ghana, the Whistle-blower's Act, Act 720 was passed in 2006 to provide a mechanism by which individuals, acting in the interest of the public may disclose information that relates to unlawful or other illegal conduct or corrupt practices of others. The act also provides for the protection against victimisation of persons who make these disclosures, rewards individuals who make the disclosures and for other related matters.

Since the Whistle-blowing Act was passed in 2006, its implementation has witnessed a lot of controversies mainly due to a lack of understanding on the part of individual whistle-blowers and the organizations that handle or are supposed to handle the information provided by whistle-blowers. Citizens need to be aware of, understand and apply the law in a manner that makes it possible to achieve the purpose for which it was passed. A lack of understanding of the purpose of whistleblowing tends to put the individual at risk. Any individual who blows the whistle should be very clear about the positive and negative challenges she or he is likely to face and be prepared physically, psychologically and emotionally to deal with those challenges.

Figure 5.1 Whether identities of persons who report cases of corruption are or will be well protected by anti-corruption agencies



This survey elicited from the respondents whether the identity of persons who report cases of corruption are or will be well protected by anti-corruption agencies. Of the 8672 respondents interviewed, 28.9% indicated that they believe anti-corruption institutions will protect the identity of persons who report cases of corruption. The reasons they assigned for this trust in anti-corruption institutions include: informants are not exposed (69.1%), informants are made to

feel secure by signing a form and action taken by the agencies (6.9%), and increase in informants' level of confidence (11.6%). On the other hand, 34.6% of the respondents categorically stated that whistle-blowers in Ghana are not given any form of protection by anti-corruption institutions.

Figure 5.2 Reasons for stating that people who report corruption cases are protected

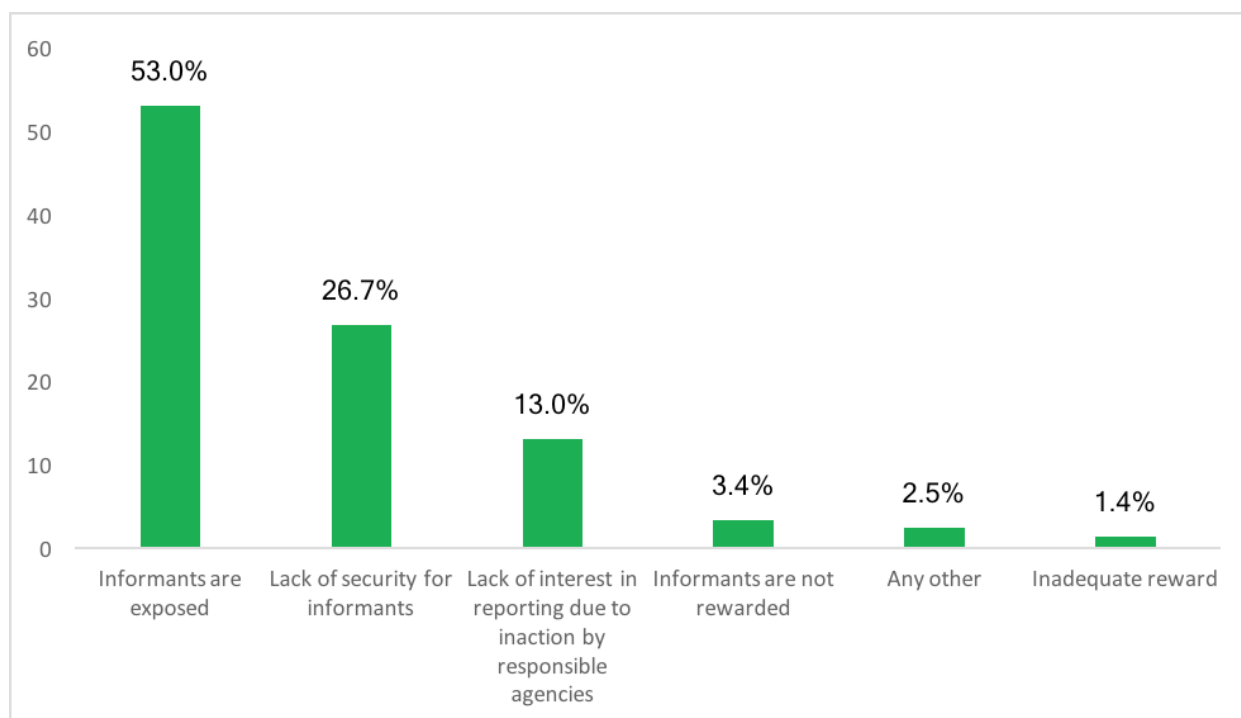
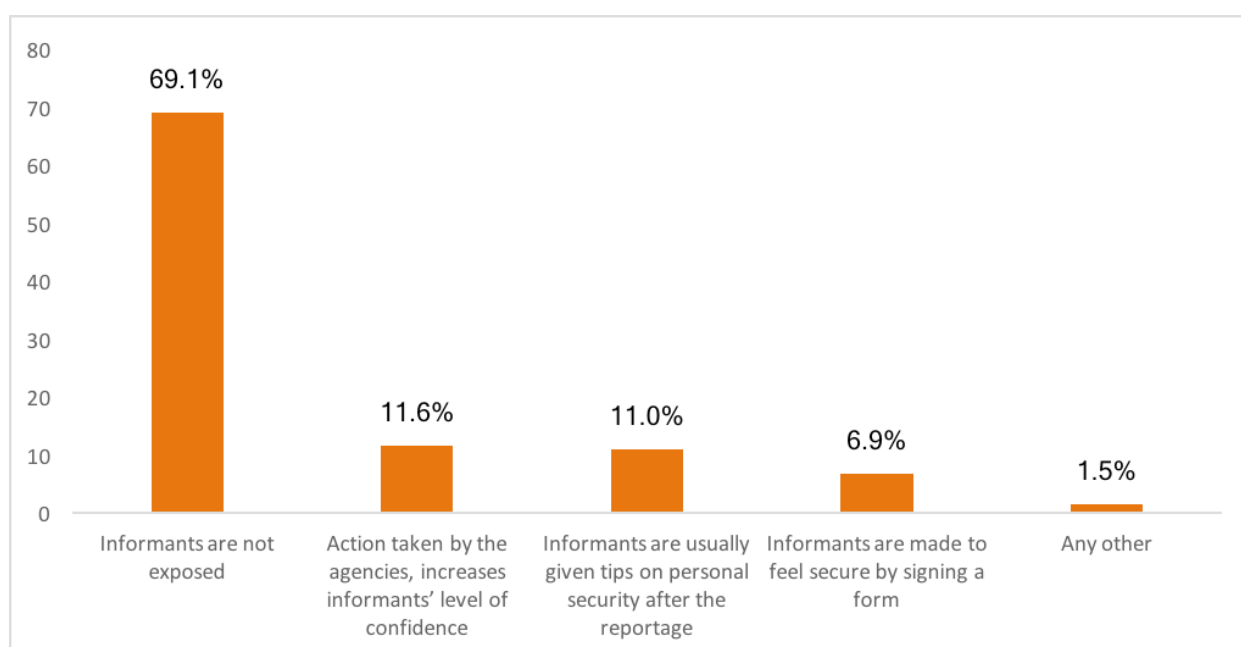


Figure 5.3 Reasons for stating that people who report corruption cases are not protected



5.1.3 Respondents' views on how the various arms of Government can help fight corruption

Respondents indicated how in their view specific institutions, arms of government, institutions of State and others can help tackle the issue of corruption. Emphasis was placed on the Executive arm, The Legislature, The Judiciary as well as Metropolitan/ Municipal/District Assemblies and Institutions that engage in Public Education.

On suggestions to help the Executive arm of Government tackle corruption was the need to ensure that an appropriate system for sanctioning/punishing corrupt officials is put in place as suggested by 41.8% of the respondents. Also 16.5% of the respondents indicated that the Presidency particularly must not be seen to be involved in shielding corrupt officials. Further, the need for the Executive arm to ensure that appointees and other persons who hold public office declare their assets was emphasised by 12.9% of the respondents. Other issues that were mentioned by the respondents are: the appointments and promotion of people to public office must be based on merit (12.2%), members of the Executive arm of Government must eschew all forms of corruption (7.4%), the need for the use of ICT in monitoring and evaluating the activities of government departments and agencies was mentioned by (4.2%) of respondents, adequate remuneration for public servants (2.7%) and the importance of whistle-blowers (2.2%) in the success of the anti-corruption drive.

5.1.4 Respondents' views on how the legislature can help fight corruption

In relation to the Legislature and suggestions to help in the fight against corruption, 3755 representing 43.3% suggested that stringent sanctions need to be put in place through legislation to deal with corrupt officials who are found culpable of embezzling public funds. Scrutiny of the activities of public institutions was suggested by 1258 of the respondents representing 14.5%, whereas 1215 respondents representing 14.0% have suggested that parliamentarians must declare their assets as required by law. A thousand and Eighty Six (1086) respondents also suggested that the legislative arm of government must ensure that its Public Accounts Committee acts appropriately on the Auditor General's report. The need for Parliamentarians themselves to be worthy role models and lead by example was suggested by 787 representing 9.1% of the respondents. Five hundred and Seventy One (571) respondents indicated that there is the need for the legislative assembly to show some urgency in the passage of the Right to Information bill.

Table 5.3 Responses for Legislature

Response	Frequency	Percent
Sanction officials who are found culpable of embezzling public funds	3755	43.3
Scrutinize the activities of public bodies	1258	14.5
Ensure parliamentarians declare their assets as required by law	1215	14
Ensure that Public Accounts Committee acts on Auditor-General's report	1086	12.5
Any Other	787	9.1
Should pass the Right to Information Bill	571	6.6
Total	8672	100

5.1.5 How the judiciary can help tackle the issue of corruption

The fight against corruption cannot succeed if the Judiciary does not carry out its work effectively or is not seen to be adjudicating on acts of corruption thereby sending a strong signal that acts of corruption are not countenanced in the Republic of Ghana.

Topmost among the suggestions was the need for persons involved in the judicial system to dispassionately apply the law in the administration of Justice. This was suggested by 2935 representing 33.8% of the respondents. Following is the suggestion that the Judiciary should uphold the integrity of the judicial system in their line of duty. This in the opinion of 1747 representing 20.1% of the respondents would facilitate the fight against the canker of corruption.

The need to establish special courts to deal with cases of corruption was mentioned by 1370 representing 15.8% of the total respondents.

Table 5.4 Responses for judiciary

Response	Frequency	Percent
Uphold the rule of law by remaining impartial during the administration of justice	2935	33.8
Uphold the integrity of the judicial system in dispensing of justice	1747	20.1
Establish special courts to deal with corruption	1370	15.8
Ensure the administration of justice to culprits	1296	14.9
Remain firm in the face of pressures/influence from politicians	1018	11.7
Any Other	306	3.7
Total	8672	100

5.1.6 How the public education institutions can help tackle the issue of corruption

The essence and significance of Public education in the affairs of the nation Ghana is not lost on respondents. On suggestion to help Public Education institutions in dealing with the issue of corruption 5688 of the 8672 respondents representing 65.6% postulated that it is pertinent for Public Education Institutions to organise much more effective public education activities to help raise awareness of the types, causes and effects of corruption on the community within which they live, their respective regions, nation as a whole and the world at large. Following distantly was the suggestion for innovative ways of dealing with corrupt acts as suggested by 1076 representing 12.4% of the respondents.

Table 5.5 Responses for Public Education institutions

Response	Frequency	Percent
Organize public education on corruption	5688	65.6
Come out with innovative ways of dealing with corrupt acts	1076	12.4
Advocate for transparency in government activities	910	10.5
Advocate for better remuneration of workers	463	5.3
Advocate for prompt, effective and efficient service delivery	374	4.3
Any Other	161	1.9
Total	8672	100

5.1.7 How the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies can help tackle the issue of corruption

The role of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) as the government at the local level cannot be overemphasized, to help the local assemblies work effectively in dealing with the menace of corruption. 37.3% suggested that MMDAs enact by-laws as well as enforce existing ones to combat corruption in their jurisdiction. The need for the MMDAs themselves to be transparent in the award of contracts in their jurisdiction was suggested by 31%. Again the need for the assemblies to regularly publish their expenditure accounts for public view and scrutiny was the suggestion given by 20.9% of the respondents.

Table 5.6 Responses for MMDAs

Response	Frequency	Percent
Enact by-laws as well as enforce existing ones to combat corruption in their jurisdiction or area	3232	37.3
They should be transparent in the award of contracts in their jurisdiction or area	2692	31
Regularly publish their expenditure accounts for public view and scrutiny	1814	20.9
Any Other	934	10.8
Total	8672	100

5.1.8 How the Citizenry can help tackle the issue of corruption

The Citizenry have a role to play in ensuring that corruption is curtailed to the barest minimum. This is a civic duty every citizen must play and do so effectively. Majority (3726) constituting 43.0% of the respondents in this survey indicated that to help deal with the issue of corruption in Ghana, the citizenry must report any act of corruption to the authorities. This was followed by 1402 respondents representing 16.2% of the respondents who indicated that there is the need for the citizenry to avail themselves to join anti-corruption watchdogs, groups, organisations and social networks.

Table 5.7 Responses for Citizenry

Response	Frequency	Percent
To report any act of corruption to the authorities	3726	43
Willingness to join anti-corruption watchdogs groups, organizations and social networks	1402	16.2
Resist the temptation to offer gifts to public officials	1182	13.6
Participate in anti-corruption fora, gatherings and programmes	1162	13.4
Uphold one's integrity and social values	942	10.8
Any Other	258	3
Total	8672	100

5.1.9 How Civil Society Organisations can help tackle the issue of corruption

Regarding what the Civil Society Organisations can do to deal with the canker of corruption, 40.1% indicated that Civil Society Organisations should embark on and intensify their public education activities on the subject.

In relation to the necessity to put in place effective monitoring mechanisms to effectively monitor and deal with matters of corruption, 30.7% of the respondents suggested that there is the need for CSO's to collaborate effectively with government agencies for effective monitoring of acts that might amount to corruption. On the issue of existing interventions and programmes already rolled out by government and its agencies, 11.2% of the respondents indicated that CSO's must put in place the necessary mechanism to assist in monitoring the implementation of such anti-corruption interventions and programmes.

Table 5.8 Responses for the role of Civil Society Organisations in fighting corruption

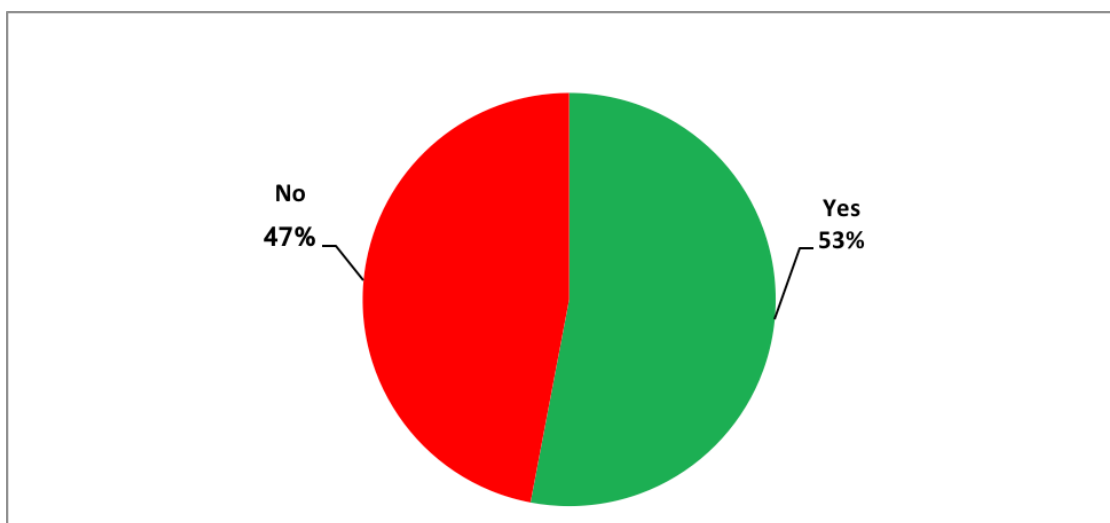
Response	Frequency	Percent
Embark on public education on the subject	3479	40.1
Collaborate with government agencies for effective monitoring of corrupt practices	2598	30
Assist in monitoring the implementation government Anti-corruption plans and programmes	972	11.2
Point out publicly to government shortcomings in anti-corruption plans and programmes	539	8.7

Act as watch dogs	413	4.8
Assist in research and monitoring corrupt acts and its effects	236	2.7
Any other	220	2.5
Total	8672	100

5.2 Knowledge of institutions established by law to tackle corruption.

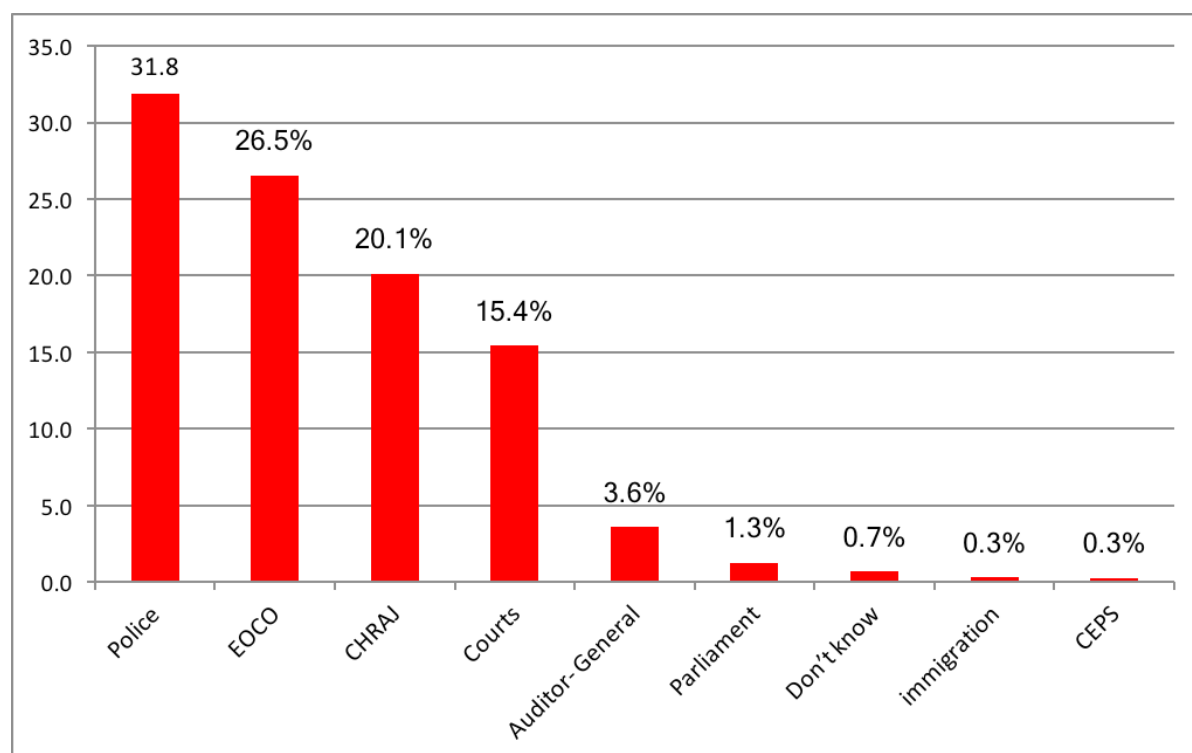
Respondents were asked whether they know of institutions established by law to tackle corruption and to ensure public accountability in Ghana. Of the 8672 respondents, 4596 representing 53% of the respondents indicated that they know of such institutions. On the other hand 4076 representing 47% indicated that they do not know of any institution established by law to tackle corruption.

Figure 5.4 Knowledge of institutions established by law to tackle corruption and to ensure public accountability in Ghana.



Of the respondents who indicated that they have knowledge of institutions established by law to combat corruption, 32% of them mentioned the Ghana Police Service. The second institution mentioned is the Economic and Organised Crime Office with 26.5%. the third institution is CHRAJ also with 20% and the fourth institution mentioned is the Law courts as mentioned by 15.4%. The details are as illustrated in the figure 5.5.

Figure 5.5 State institution established by law to combat corruption



5.3 Assessing institutions established by law to combat corruption

Four main benchmarks were used in assessing institution established by law to combat corruption, these were: Public Trust, Promptness in Service Delivery, Prosecution of Cases of Corruption, and Pro-activeness in Identifying Cases of Corruption.

5.3.1 Public trust by institutions

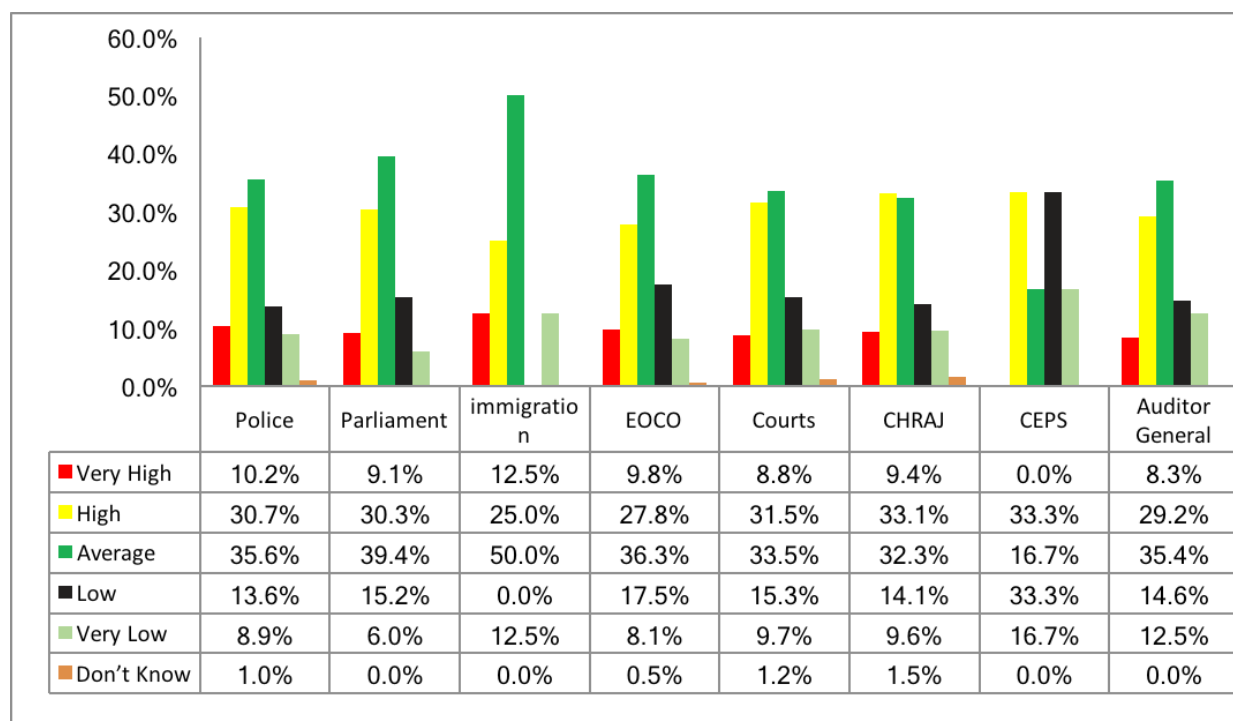
For respondents who stated the police service 35.6.5% ranked them average in terms of public trust, 31.8% of the respondents rate the Police Service High and 13.6% rate Public Trust in the Police Service as low.

On the Economic and Organised Crime Office, 17.5% indicated that its Trust level in dealing with acts of corruption and public accountability is Low. Those who indicated that EOCO's trust level is average were 36.3% with 27.8 % indicating that Public Trust is High.

The CHRAJ which came up as the third prominent institution had 20.1% indicating that their trust in the Commission was High, 32.3% indicated that their level of trust in the Commission was average. Those who ranked it very low constituted 9.6%.

In assessing public trust in the law courts, 15.3% indicated that their trust in the law courts is Low, whereas 33.5% indicated that their level of trust in the law courts is High. Figure 5.6 shows the details of public trust in selected institutions.

Figure 5.6 Public trust for institutions



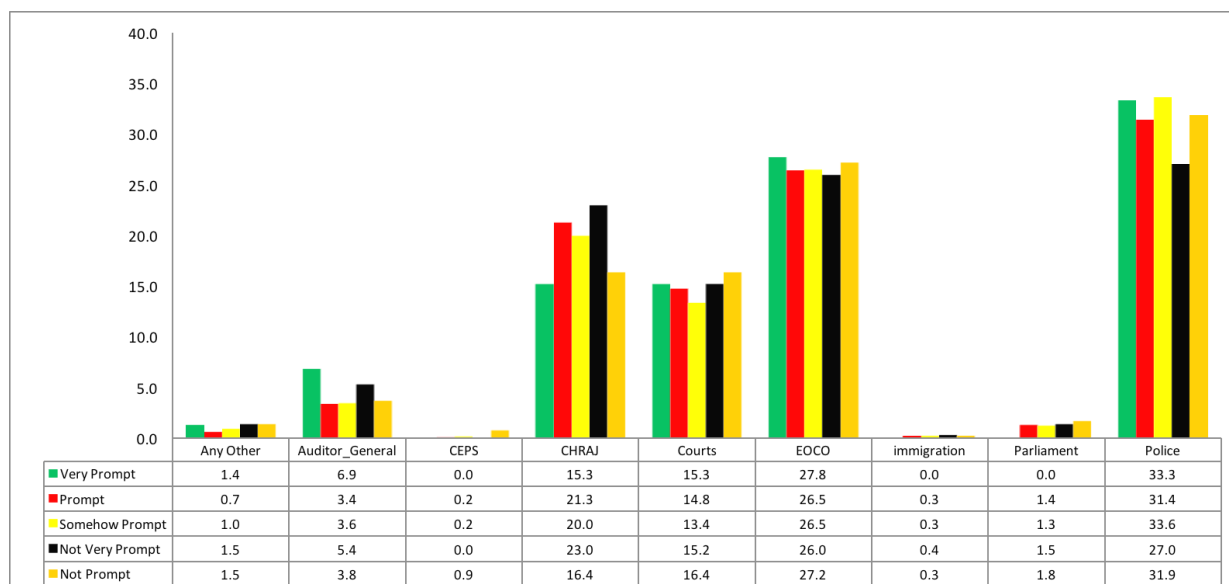
5.3.2 Promptness in service delivery

On the issue of promptness in service delivery, 40.0% indicated that the Police is somewhat prompt in its service delivery. 24.1% stated that the service delivery of the police is prompt while 16.6% indicated that the police service is not very prompt in its service delivery.

In relation to EOCO's service delivery, 37.2% of the respondents stated that EOCO is somewhat prompt in its service delivery with another 24.0% indicating that EOCO is prompt in its service delivery. Those who indicated that EOCO is not very prompt in its service delivery were 18.8%.

In respondents rating of CHRAJ, 37.3% indicated that CHRAJ is somewhat prompt in its service delivery whereas 22.2% indicated that CHRAJ was not very prompt in its service delivery. Figure 5.7 depicts the details on this benchmark.

Figure 5.7 Promptness in service delivery

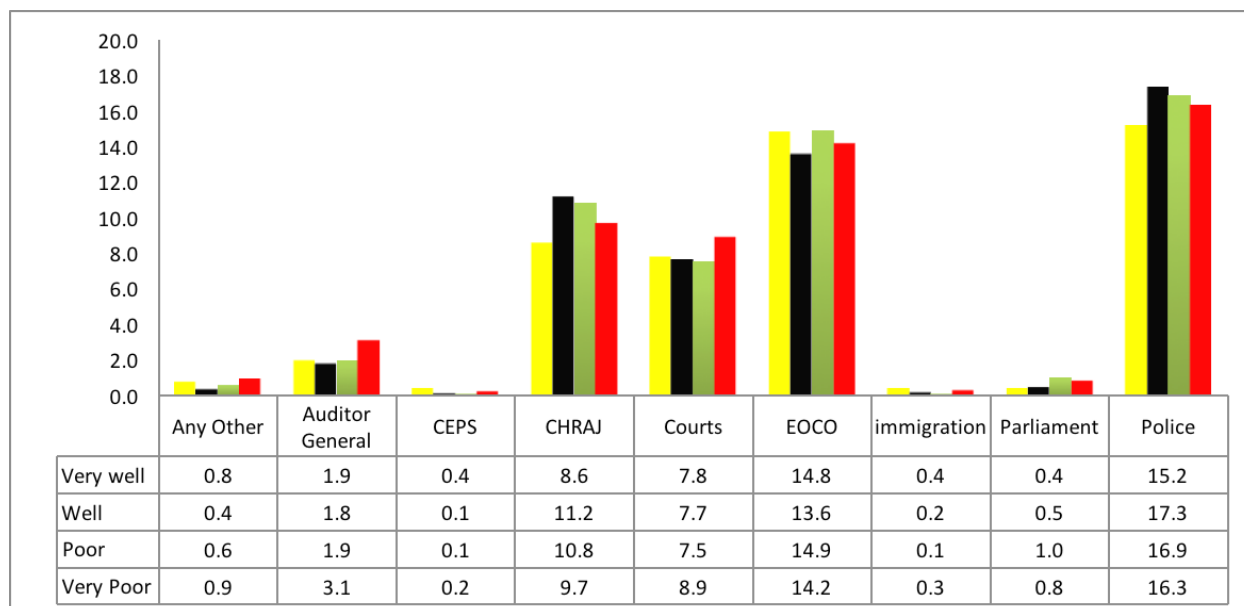


5.3.3 Prosecution of cases of corruption

Generally, 38.1% of the respondents indicated that the police do well in prosecuting cases of corruption whereas 20.9% of the respondents indicated that the police is performing its role very poorly. It is important to recognise that the police perform this prosecutorial role for the Attorney General who is vested with such a responsibility.

With the significant role assigned to the EOCO in dealing with matters of organised and economic crimes, it is important they play their roles effectively. In rating its prosecutorial function, 35.5% indicated that EOCO is doing well whereas 21.5% indicated that it is performing very poorly in this regard.

Figure 5.8 Prosecution of Cases of Corruption



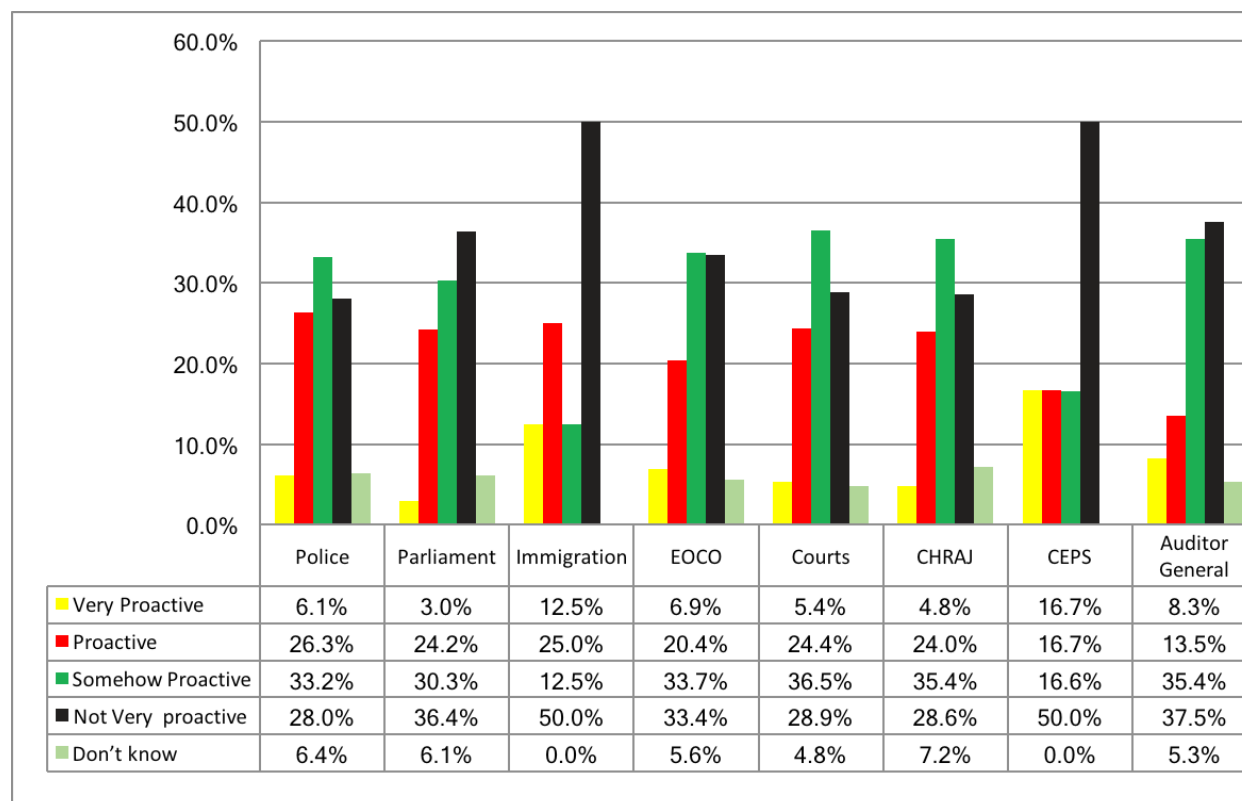
5.3.4 Pro-activeness in identifying cases of corruption

The ability of institutions mandated to deal with matters of corruption to identify cases that border on corruption is important.

For the police service, 26.3% indicated that the police is proactive in identifying cases of corruption whereas 28.0% indicated that the police is not very proactive in this regard. However, 33.2% indicated that the police service is somehow proactive.

In relation to EOCO, 33.4% indicated that EOCO is not very proactive whereas 20.4% indicated that EOCO is proactive. 33.7% however, indicated that EOCO is somehow proactive. Figure 5.9 depicts the details.

Figure 5.9 Pro-Activeness in identifying cases of corruption



5.4 Suggestions to help anti-corruption and public accountability institutions work pro-actively.

Respondents proffered suggestions on how anti-corruption institutions/organizations of state including CHRAJ, EOCO, POLICE and other security services can be proactive in tackling the issue of corruption and public accountability in Ghana.

Majority of the respondents representing 30.2% suggested that anti-corruption institutions/organizations should advocate for transparency and openness in appointment to government and other administrative positions. This was followed by 21% of respondents who suggested that anti-corruption institutions/organizations should publicly expose acts of corruption at all levels. The need for strict enforcement of anti-corruption laws was suggested by 14.7% of the respondents. Table 5.9 shows the details

Table 5.9 Suggestions on how anti-corruption institutions/organizations can help tackle the issue of corruption and public accountability.

Response	Percent
Advocate for transparency and openness in appointment to government and other administrative positions	30.2
Publicly expose acts of corruption at all levels	21.0
The enforcement of strict anti-corruption laws	14.7
Advocate for better conditions of service for staff	14.0
Advocate for passage of bills to provide anti-corruption campaigns	9.4
Build the capacity of institutions to fight corruption	7.1
Improved technological systems for tracking activities of institutions.	3.6
Total	100.0

CHAPTER SIX

CITIZEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

6.0 Introduction

The conservation of the environment is one of the major global issues of our time. Attempts to address environmental degradation have led to the issuing of various declarations and laws at both international and local levels to ensure sustainable development across the world.

Two important declarations have been issued by the United Nations (UN) to tackle environmental issues. These are: Conference on the Human Environment (the 1972 Stockholm Declaration) which was the first major attempt at considering the global human impact on the environment. The objective was to address the challenge of preserving and enhancing the human environment. This gave birth to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The second, was the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, a document produced at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), known as the Rio Earth Summit. The Rio Declaration intended to guide future sustainable development around the world. This summit also created the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. In the midst of all these, the concept of environmental governance aimed at tackling the overwhelming environmental issues by engaging key actors like governments, business entities and civil society towards sustainable development. This among other ideas is believed to have impacted on the development of United Nations' (UN) global agendas, particularly, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2015 - 2030) which has 10 environmental related issues out of the 17 goals.

In Ghana, five legal and policy documents make provisions for the sustainable management of the environment. These are the (i) 1992 Constitution of Ghana, (ii) the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP); (iii) the National Environmental Policy (NEP); (iv) the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP); and (v) the Environmental Sanitation Policy (ESP). The specific issues in the legal and policy documents are stated below:

1. Article 41 (g & k) of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana enjoins every citizen to contribute to the well-being of the community in which she or he lives; and to protect and safeguard the environment.
2. The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) of 2014 demonstrates Ghana's holistic response to climate change.
3. The National Environmental Policy (NEP) of 2014 presents a road map for addressing the major environmental factors which threaten the natural and common resource base of the country.
4. To be able to operationalize the NEP, Section 6.3 of the Policy provides for the establishment of a new National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP).
5. The Environmental Sanitation Policy (ESP) published first in 1999 was revised in 2010 to update its scope to meet current development objectives, address aspirations of sector actors and incorporate national and international development priorities.

However, such environmental laws will remain unenforceable if officials of perceived corrupt countries can easily be bribed. This is one of the ways by which corruption facilitates environmental degradation and destruction in many countries (Manej Bala, 2009).

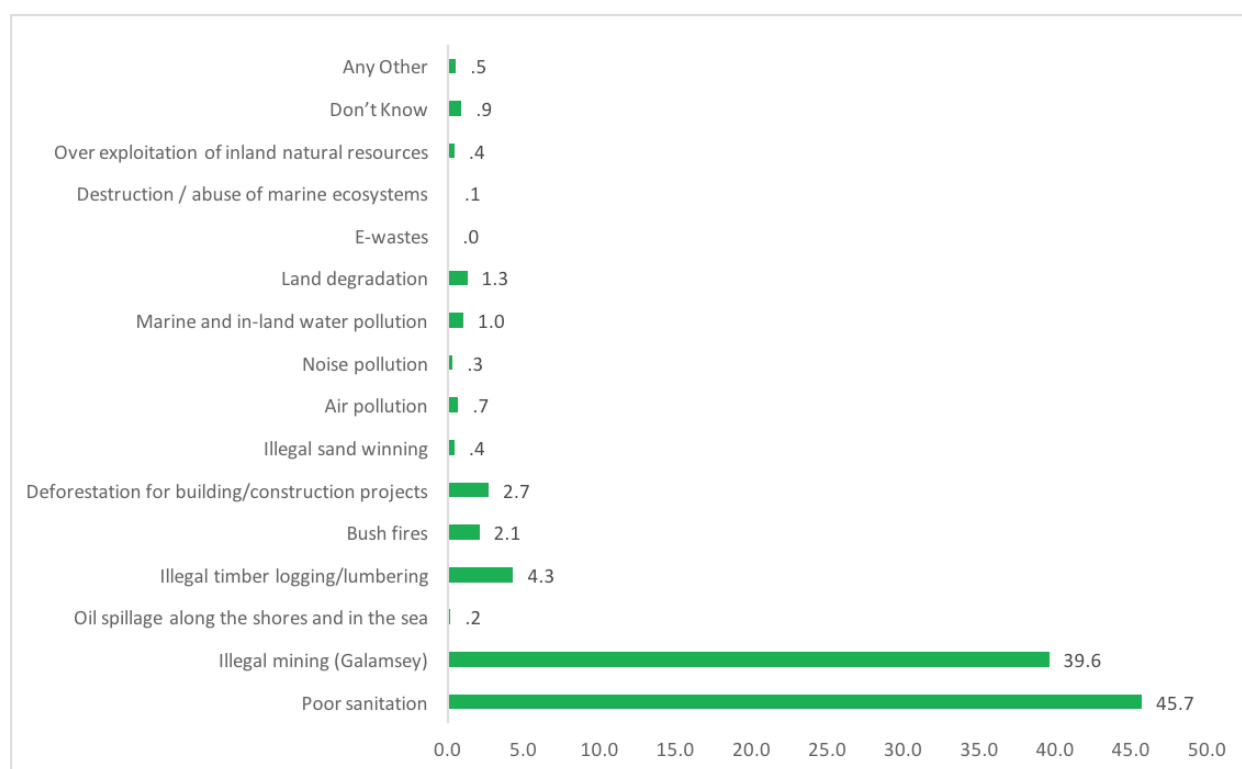
Environment here refers to the surroundings of a living organism, including natural resources and other living things, which provide conditions for development and growth as well as of danger and damage.

This chapter presents respondents' level of knowledge on the major environmental concerns in Ghana, their causes and effects, how to protect/preserve the environment from degradation as well as their views on institutional response to addressing disturbing environmental concerns.

6.1 Knowledge of environmental concerns Ghana

The study sought the views of respondents on the major environmental concerns across Ghana as against the peculiar environmental situation at specific communities/localities in the country. In ascertaining the major environmental concerns in Ghana, majority of the respondents (45.7%) poor sanitation. This was closely followed by illegal mining (Galamsey) (39.6%), whilst illegal timber logging/lumbering attracted 4.3% responses. The rest of the environmental concerns mentioned are enumerated in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1 Citizens views on key environmental concerns



Though poor sanitation came up as the major environmental concern in the country, further analysis of this issue by region however portrayed that the major environmental concern in five regions is illegal mining (Galamsey). They include; Ashanti (50.3%), Central (45.7%), Eastern (48.3%), Upper West (32.1%) and Western (48.9%) regions. Whilst Brong Ahafo region stands out as the only region having at par both sanitation (42.0%) and illegal mining (42.0%) as their major concerns, the rest, Greater Accra (66.2%), Northern (53.2%), Upper East (47.3%), and Volta (41.7%) have to contend with poor sanitation. These variations in regional environmental concerns could be attributed to the economic activities and the natural resource base of a given region. Table 6.1 presents results on the environmental concerns in the country by region.

Table 6.1 Environmental Concerns across the country by Region

Response	GAR	AR	BAR	ER	NR	UER	UWR	VR	WR	CR	N
Poor sanitation	66.2%	40.0%	42.0%	35.7%	53.2%	47.3%	31.7%	41.7%	38.9%	43.3%	3962%
Illegal mining (Galamsey)	28.5%	50.3%	42.0%	48.3%	20.9%	38.7%	32.1%	37.2%	48.9%	45.7%	3432%
Oil spillage along the shores and in the sea	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	14%
Illegal timber logging/ lumbering	0.4%	2.6%	6.3%	4.9%	7.1%	1.9%	5.3%	7.9%	7.2%	3.0%	371%
Bush fires	0.1%	0.7%	5.3%	1.3%	6.7%	3.5%	12.3%	3.6%	0.4%	0.3%	179%
Deforestation for building/ construction projects	0.9%	1.9%	2.7%	2.4%	7.3%	1.6%	7.8%	3.2%	2.3%	1.0%	229%
Illegal sand winning	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	1.2%	0.9%	0.4%	1.0%	36%
Air pollution	1.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	58%
Noise pollution	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	1.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%	27%

Marine and in-land water pollution	0.1%	1.7%	1.3%	1.9%	0.2%	0.0%	0.8%	0.9%	1.6%	1.7%	88%
Land degradation	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	1.9%	1.8%	1.6%	5.4%	0.7%	3.0%	0.3%	110%
Destruction / abuse of marine ecosystems	0.1%	0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	9%
Over exploitation of inland natural resources	0.2%	0.5%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	1.2%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	35%
Don't Know	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	1.9%	0.9%	4.0%	1.2%	1.5%	0.5%	0.6%	75%
Any Other	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	1.1%	0.0%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.9%	46%
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	8672

6.2 Main Environmental Concern within the Communities/Localities

An enquiry into the main environmental concern within the specific communities/localities shows that the three main environmental concerns followed the same trend as obtained for the country as a whole. Table 6.2 shows that 66.8% of the respondents mentioned poor sanitation as their community/locality's main environmental concern, followed by illegal mining (8.8%), and then illegal timber logging/lumbering (8.2%). Environmental issues such as electronic waste and noise pollution were barely mentioned as problems by the respondents.

Table 6.2 Main environmental concern at study communities/localities

Responses	Frequency	Percent
Poor sanitation	5792	66.8
Illegal mining (Galamsey)	761	8.8
Oil spillage along the shores and in the sea	13	0.1
Illegal timber logging/lumbering	708	8.2
Bush fires	375	4.3
Deforestation for building/construction projects	265	3.1
Illegal sand winning	97	1.1
Air pollution	86	1
Noise pollution	74	0.9
Marine and in-land water pollution	43	0.5
Land degradation	110	1.3
E-wastes	4	0
Destruction / abuse of marine ecosystems	11	0.1
Over exploitation of inland natural resources	20	0.2
Don't Know	112	1.3
Any Other	201	2.3
Total	8672	100

A cross tabulation of major environmental concerns within the specific communities/localities by rural/urban setting revealed that poor sanitation is more prevalent in urban areas (51.9%) than in rural areas (48.1%) whilst illegal mining (Galamsey) (57.4%) is more prevalent in rural areas than in urban areas (42.6%). On illegal timber logging/lumbering, it is more common in rural settings (71.2%) as against urban settings (28.8%) as indicated in Table 6.3.

Table 6.3 Community/locality main environmental concern by rural/urban

Issue	Count	Urban(%)	Rural(%)
Poor sanitation	3962	51.9	48.1
Illegal mining (Galamsey)	3432	42.6	57.4
Oil spilling along the shores and in the sea	14	50	50
Illegal timber logging/lumbering	371	28.8	71.2
Bush fires	179	20.7	79.3
Deforestation for building/construction projects	229	28.8	71.2
Illegal sand winning	36	27.8	72.2
Air pollution	58	62.1	37.9
Noise pollution	27	63.0	37.0
Marine and in-land water pollution	88	23.9	76.1
Land degradation	110	27.3	72.7
E-wastes	1	0	100
Destruction / abuse of marine ecosystems	9	33.3	66.7
Over exploitation of inland natural resources	35	34.3	65.7
Don't Know	75	25.3	74.7
Any Other	46	39.1	60.9

6.3 Knowledge of the causes of environmental concerns in Ghana

Table 6.4 shows that 24.9% of the respondents mentioned indiscipline among citizens the major cause of environmental concerns in the country. Furthermore, 20.0% indicated unemployment, whilst 13.4% indicated that the desire to amass wealth by individuals and organizations was the principal factor driving the various environmental concerns that affect the nation

Table 6.4 Causes of environmental concerns across the country

Response	Frequency	Percent
Indiscipline	2155	24.9
Unemployment	1731	20.0
Individuals and industries desire to amass wealth	1159	13.4
Lack of knowledge among citizen	870	10.0
Lack of sanitary facilities	776	8.9
Non enforcement of environmental laws	633	7.3
Poor socialization from home and schools	415	4.8
Apathy towards environmental cleanliness	211	2.4
Insensitivity on the part of business entities	146	1.7
Illegal mining	103	1.2
Lack of good governance	83	1.0
Construction of poor drainage system	64	0.7
Corruption	44	0.5
Lack of maintenance culture	41	0.5
Industrialization	15	0.2
Don't know	78	0.9
Any other	148	1.6
Total	8672	100

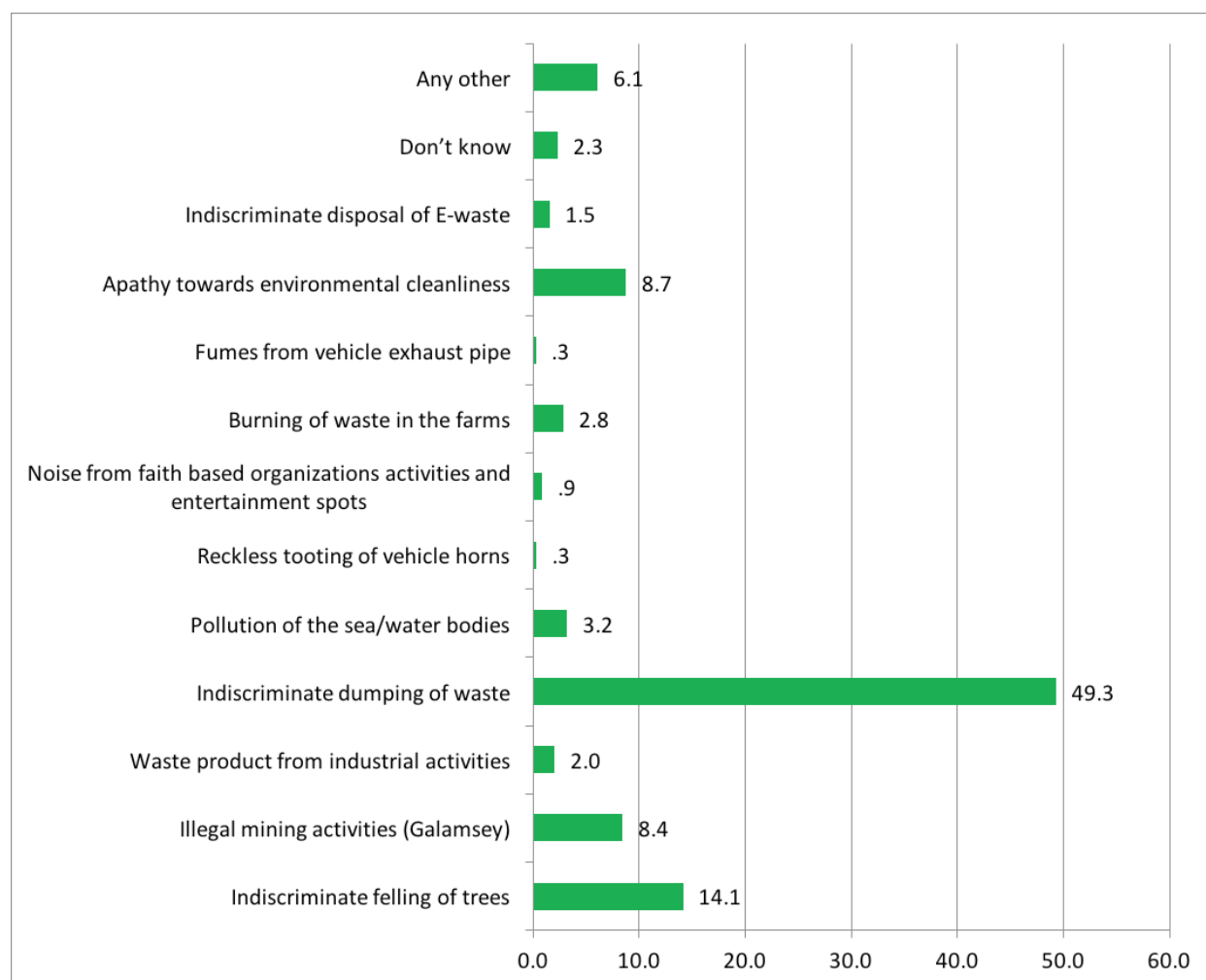
At the national level, a cross examination of major environmental concerns nationwide revealed that indiscipline (41.8%) is the chief cause of poor sanitation, whereas unemployment (44.5%) is the underlying factor driving illegal mining (Galamsey) in the country.

In addition, 37.2% of the respondents indicated that the illegal timber logging/lumbering is driven by individual's and industries desire to amass wealth at the expense of best environmental practices. Conceivably, intensive public education is likely to address the perceived indiscipline among the populace.

6.4 Activities/behaviors that affect the environment within communities/localities

Close to 50.5% (49.3%) of respondents mentioned indiscriminate dumping of waste as the activity or behaviour that negatively affects the environment. This was followed by indiscriminate felling of trees (14.1%), and their apathy towards environmental cleanliness (8.7%). The figure 6.2 gives the details on the responses obtained on this issue.

Figure 6.2 Percent distribution of community activities that affect the environment



6.5 Citizens' views on illegal mining in Ghana

6.5.1 Introduction

Illegal small-scale mining (Galamsey) operation is the combination of scientific practices like the use of mercury and cyanide and traditional mining techniques to recover gold (Ofosu-Mensah Ababio) 2011). Unlike multinational mining companies and registered small-scale mining firms who operate under license with a swift legal regime, observing best mining practices in the context of good health, environmental protection and payment of tax, the illegal miners (Galamseyers) operate with total disregard to such ideals. The menace posed by illegal mining (Galamsey) has reached alarming heights with the resultant effect being serious land degradation and pollution of water bodies across the country.

The overall legislative framework for the mining industry in Ghana is provided for by the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703), which has subsumed the regulation of artisanal gold mining

which is set forth in the Small-Scale Gold Mining law, 1989(PNDC Law 218). It provides for small scale mining and specifies procedures for acquiring license for small scale mining, qualification of applicants, conditions for the grant of a license and its duration as well as issues bordering on operation regulations and powers of the Minerals Commission.

It has however been observed that corruption lowers the compliance of actors to such environmental regulations as government agencies and officials tasked to enforce the laws usually succumb to enticing influences/pressures (Manoj Bala, 2009).

This section of the chapter which focuses mainly on mining activities in Ghana, is limited to views of respondents who indicated that mining is the main environmental concern in their communities. The section thus presents information on knowledge of the illegal mining, awareness on the procedures for acquiring gold mining license, the key actors in illegal mining activities in the country and the effect of illegal mining on the environment.

6.5.2 Knowledge of the term illegal mining

As earlier indicated, a total of 761 (8.8%) of respondents mentioned illegal mining as the major environmental concern in their communities. Respondents views on the meaning of illegal mining was sought, of this total, a significant number of them 66.1% indicated that mining without license constitutes illegal mining, whilst, 8.0% stated that it is mining without a legal concession. This level of understanding among the respondents presupposes that those engaged in illegal mining are likely to be aware that they are operating contrary to the mining laws of the country. There is therefore the need for a combination of measures to address the illegal mining situation. This could include intensive education on the menace and having in place a stricter legal regime plus stiffer penalties with adequate policing to ensure that people do not engage in illegal mining. Of equal importance is the need for relevant bodies to act and fight corruption. The rest of the responses on the understanding of what illegal mining is captured in table 6.5.

Table 6.5 Meaning of illegal mining among respondents

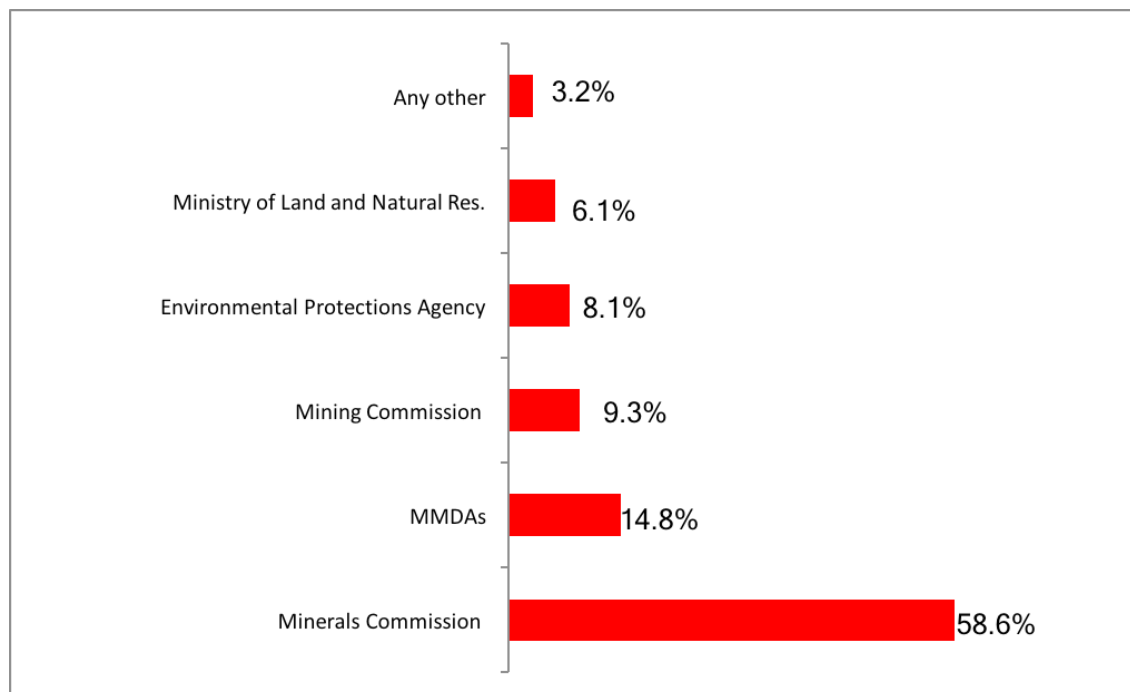
Meaning	Frequency	Percent
Mining without license	501	66.1
Mining without legal concession	61	8.0
Use of inappropriate mining technology	60	7.9
Mining close to water bodies	45	5.9
Mining under cover	22	2.9
Unorthodox mining techniques	19	2.6
Operating under environmental unfriendly mining practices	16	2.1
Mining with expired license	12	1.6
Mining under dangerous conditions	12	1.6
Any other	11	1.4
Total	761	100

A question on the procedure for acquiring legal mining concession, revealed the lack of knowledge on acquisition procedures among the people living in mining communities in the country. More than a half of the respondents (54.7%) said were not aware of the procedures for acquiring a legal mining concession, 45.3% affirmed that they were aware.

Of those who were aware of the process for acquiring concession, 58.6% correctly stated that such license are to be obtained from the Minerals Commission. The rest of the respondents (41.4%) are not well informed about the appropriate institution where one can acquire a legal concession. This therefore emphasises the need for intensive public education by the NCCE on the procedures for acquiring licenses on concessions in Ghana.

Figure 6.3 presents the rest of the institutions that respondents mentioned. These wrong responses constitute 41.5% of the total responses. This is quite alarming thus the EPA, Minerals Commission and NCCE must intensify education on the procedures for acquiring mining licenses or concessions.

Figure 6.3 Knowledge on institutions that issue mining license



6.5.3 Occurrence of illegal mining, key actors and effects

As far back as 1417 before the Portuguese landed in Gold Coast, Ghanaians were already engaged in serious gold mining business using traditional methods. With the influx of Europeans, multi-national gold mining companies and the introduction of the scientific methods, gold mining was monopolized and the indigenes were relegated to the background. Small scale artisanal mining (Galamsey) thus became a way out for the indigenous miners (Ofosu-Mensah, 2011). Given this historic antecedent of illegal mining (Galamsey) in Ghana, it was not surprising to note that quite a high majority 77.4% out of the 761 respondents frankly admitted that people carry on illegal mining in their communities. However 22.6% of respondents answered “No” to the question on illegal mining activities in their communities.

The study confirms the belief that most of the people who are illegally digging the ground in search of gold are just fronting for their pay masters. Indeed, out of the 689 respondents who admitted that illegal mining occurs in their community, they also mentioned the key actors involved. Forty-four percent (44.0%) of respondents indicated that traditional leaders play active role in illegal mining activities in the country. Other actors cited were indigenes (23.3%) and foreigners (12.3%).

Table 6.6 highlights respondents views on the negative effect of illegal mining. More than a half (52.1%) of the respondents bemoaned the extent to which water bodies in the country have been polluted. Other effect mentioned were: land degradation (25.6%) and high school drop out rate (6.1%) among others. Respondents complained that illegal mining has led to a number of children dropping out of school in search of gold. This is a real adverse socio-economic impact that affects the life of the ordinary citizen.

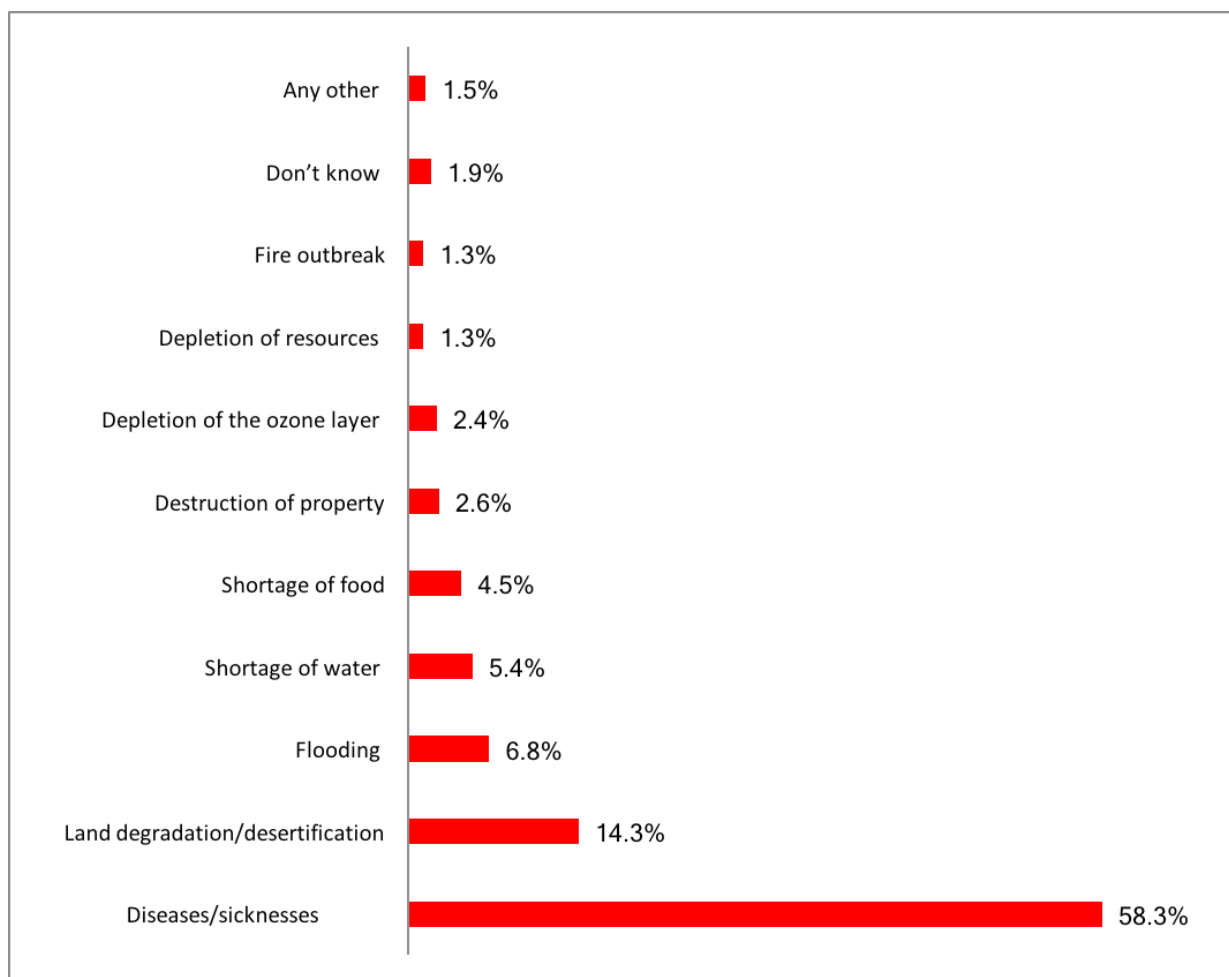
Table 6.6 Negative effect of illegal mining in the communities

Issue	Frequency	Percent
Water pollution	307	52.1
Land degradation	151	25.6
School of dropouts	36	6.1
Loss of lives	29	4.9
Loss of farm lands	25	4.2
Promotes social vices	11	1.9
Reduces food production	10	1.7
Reduces the youth desire to engage in farming activities	8	1.4
Promotes deforestation	3	0.5
Any other	6	6.8
Total	589	100

6.6 Knowledge of the effect of environmental degradation

When respondents were asked about the negative effect of environmental degradation in their communities/localities, more than half (58.3%) identified disease/sickness as the major negative effect of environmental concerns in their communities/localities. In addition, 14.3% indicated land degradation and 6.8% mentioned flooding as indicated in Figure 6.4.

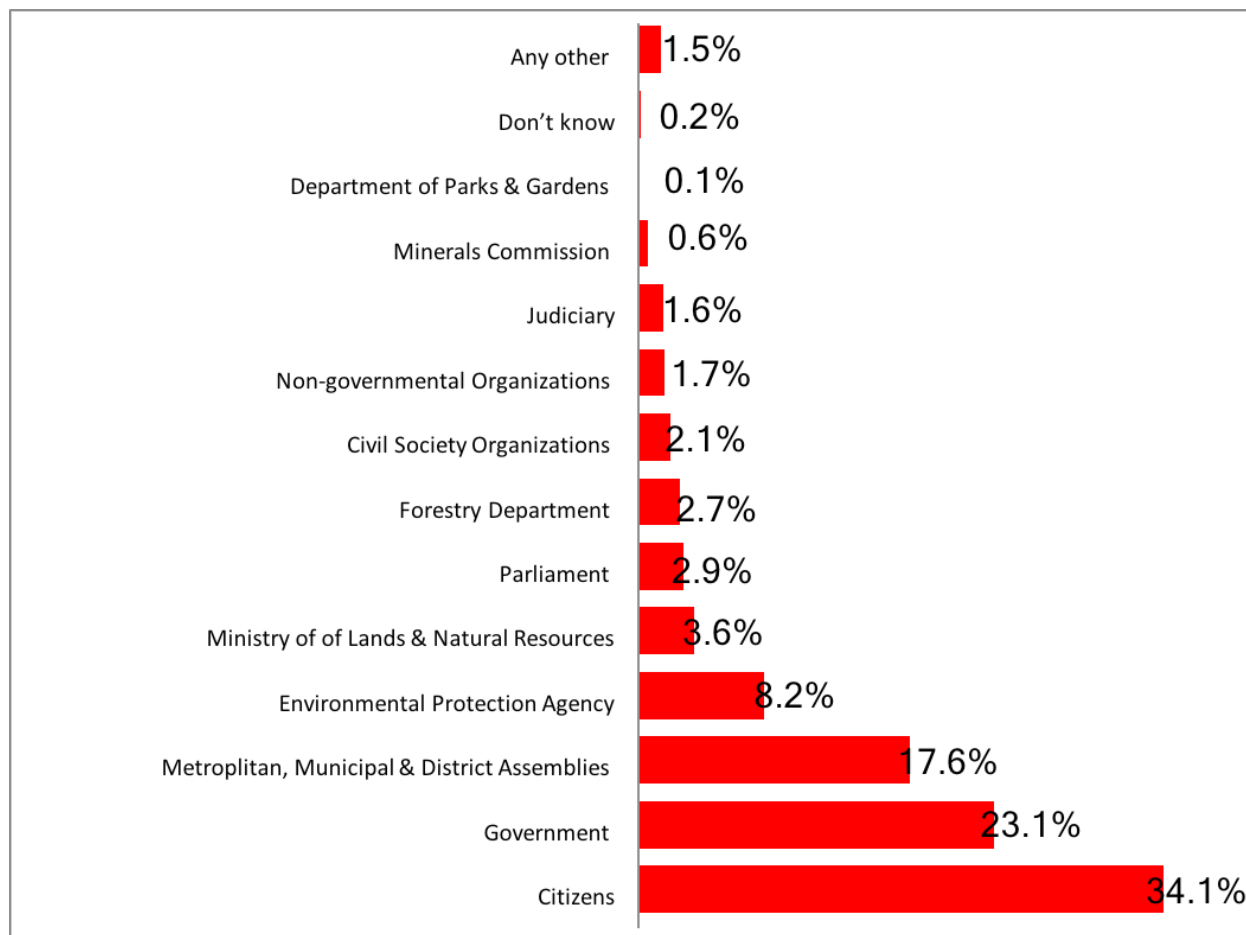
Figure 6.4 Effect of Environmental Degradation



6.7 Protection/preservation of the environment

Both international and local environmental laws recognize and demand a collective approach towards the sustenance of the environment. Hence, respondents' views were sought on who they consider as responsible for the protection/preservation of the environment from destruction and degradation. A little over one-third of the respondents (34.1%) stated that the onus lies on the citizenry. The other bodies mentioned by the respondents were government (23.1%), followed by the Metropolitan, Municipal & District Assemblies (MMDAs) (17.6%) as shown in Figure 6.5.

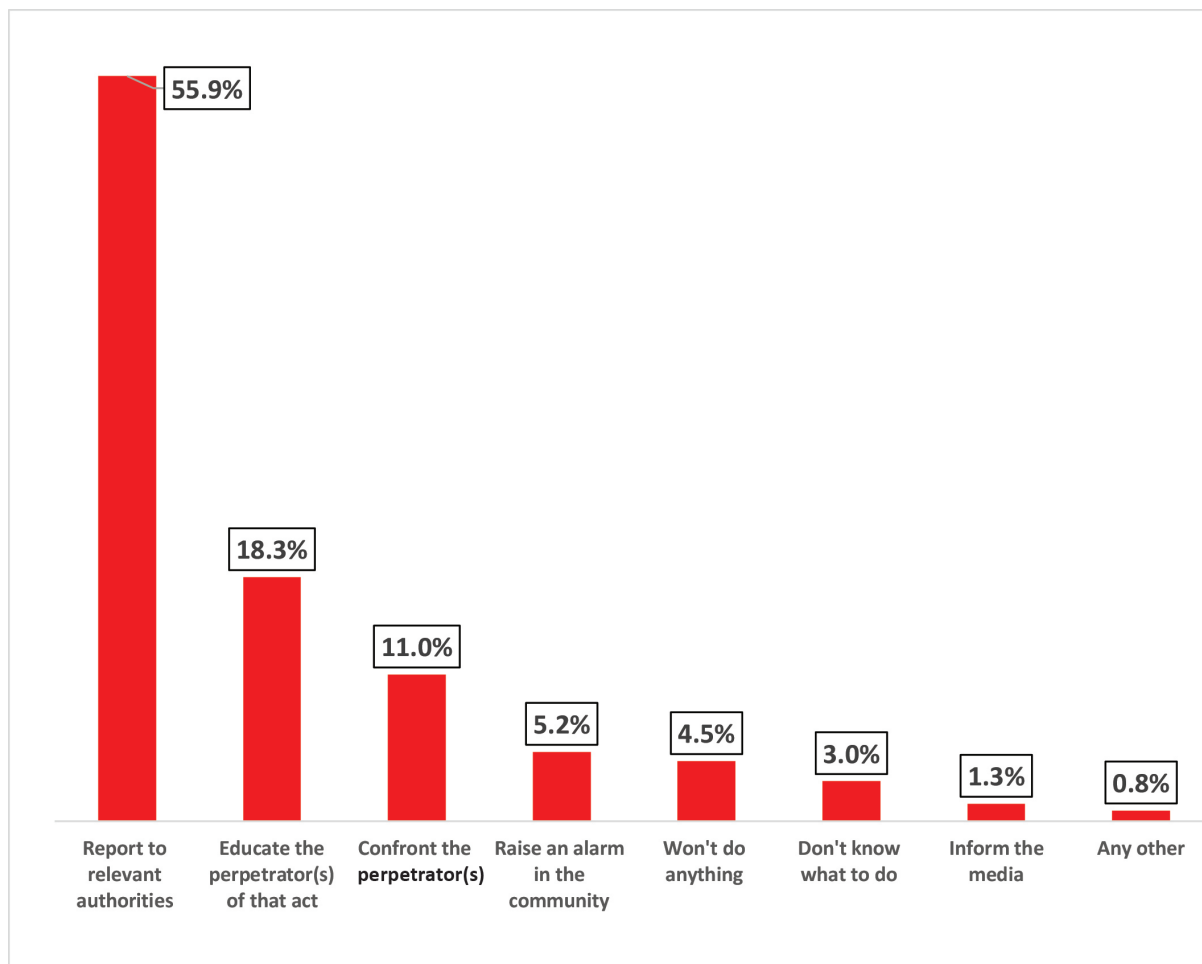
Figure 6.5 Those Responsible for the Protection/Preservation of the Environment from Degradation



6.8 Reaction towards those who pollute/overexploit the environment

Figure 6.6 show that more than half (55.9%) of the respondents expressed their readiness to report any individual/business entity that pollutes/overexploits and destroys the environment to the relevant authorities. Also, 18.3% indicated that they will educate the perpetrator(s) to desist from such acts in order to safeguard the environment.

Figure 6.6 What to do when an individual/business entity pollutes/overexploits the environment



An analysis of respondents' reaction towards individuals/business entities by sex and place of residence portrayed the readiness of both male (61.4%) and their female counterparts (58.1%) in the rural areas unlike those in urban areas to report individuals/businesses whose behaviors/activities negatively affect the environment to the relevant authorities (Table 6.7).

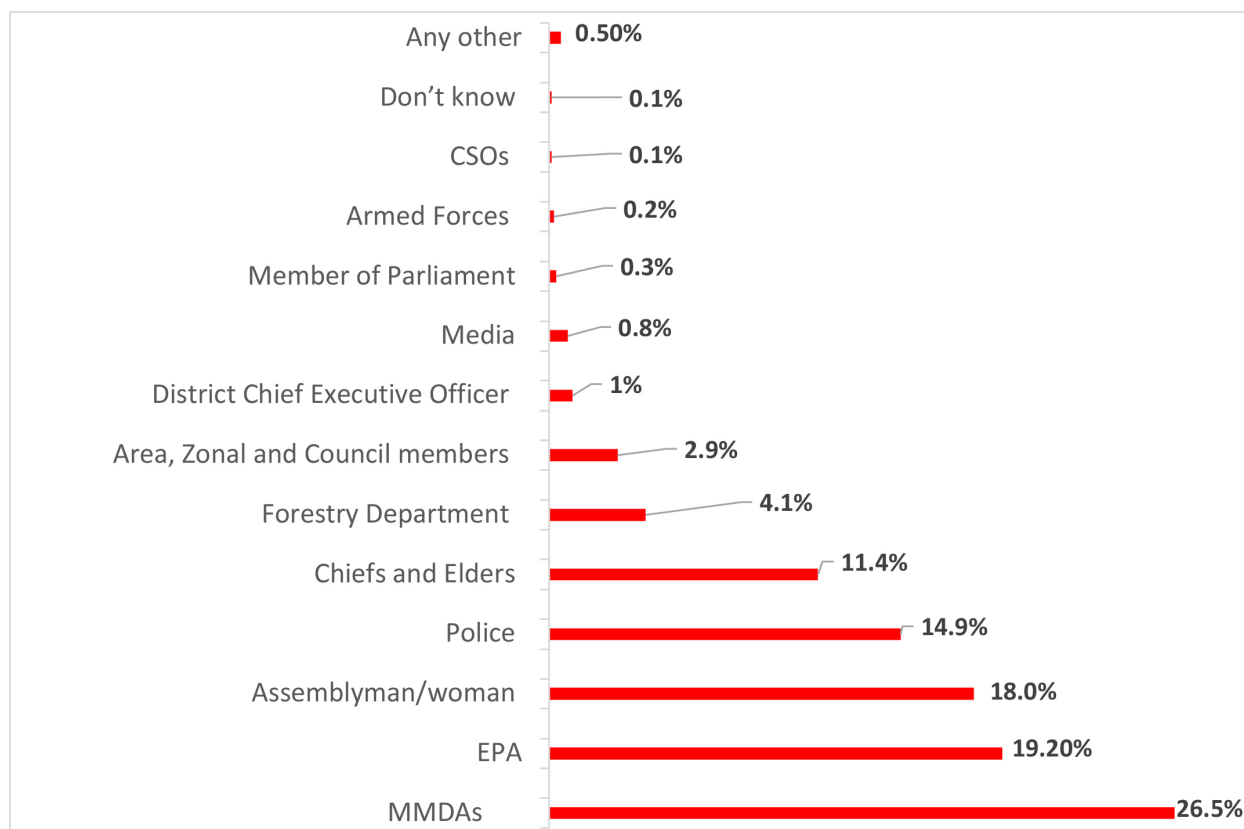
Table 6.7 Respondents' reaction if they witness individuals/businesses entities polluting/overexploiting the environment by sex and urban/rural settings

Response	Male	Female
Urban – 3900	2079	1821
Report to the Relevant Authorities	53.2%	48.9%
Raise an Alarm in the community	3.2%	3.7%
Educate the perpetrators of that act	19.4%	20.2%
Inform the Media	1.5%	1.0%
Confront the Perpetrators	15.5%	16.4%
Won't do anything	4.1%	4.9%
Don't know what to do	2.4%	3.8%
Any other	0.6%	1.0%
Rural – 4772	2519	2253
Report to the Relevant Authorities	61.4%	58.1%
Raise an Alarm in the community	5.7%	7.5%
Educate the perpetrators of that act	18.3%	15.9%
Inform the Media	1.5%	1.3%
Confront the Perpetrators	6.6%	7.3%
Won't do anything	3.6%	5.3%
Don't know what to do	2.1%	3.7%
Any other	0.9%	0.8%

6.9 Knowledge on Where to Report Environmental Cases

A very high number of respondents ie. 76.5% out of the 8672 affirmed that they know where to report issues on environmental concern within their community/locality whilst 23.5% indicated otherwise. Out of the 76.5% of respondents who said they know where to report environmental concerns, 26.5% mentioned the Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) whilst 19.2% mentioned the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The other institutions mentioned are assemblyman/woman (18.0% the Police (14.9% and Chiefs and Elders (11.4%); as indicated in Figure 6.7.

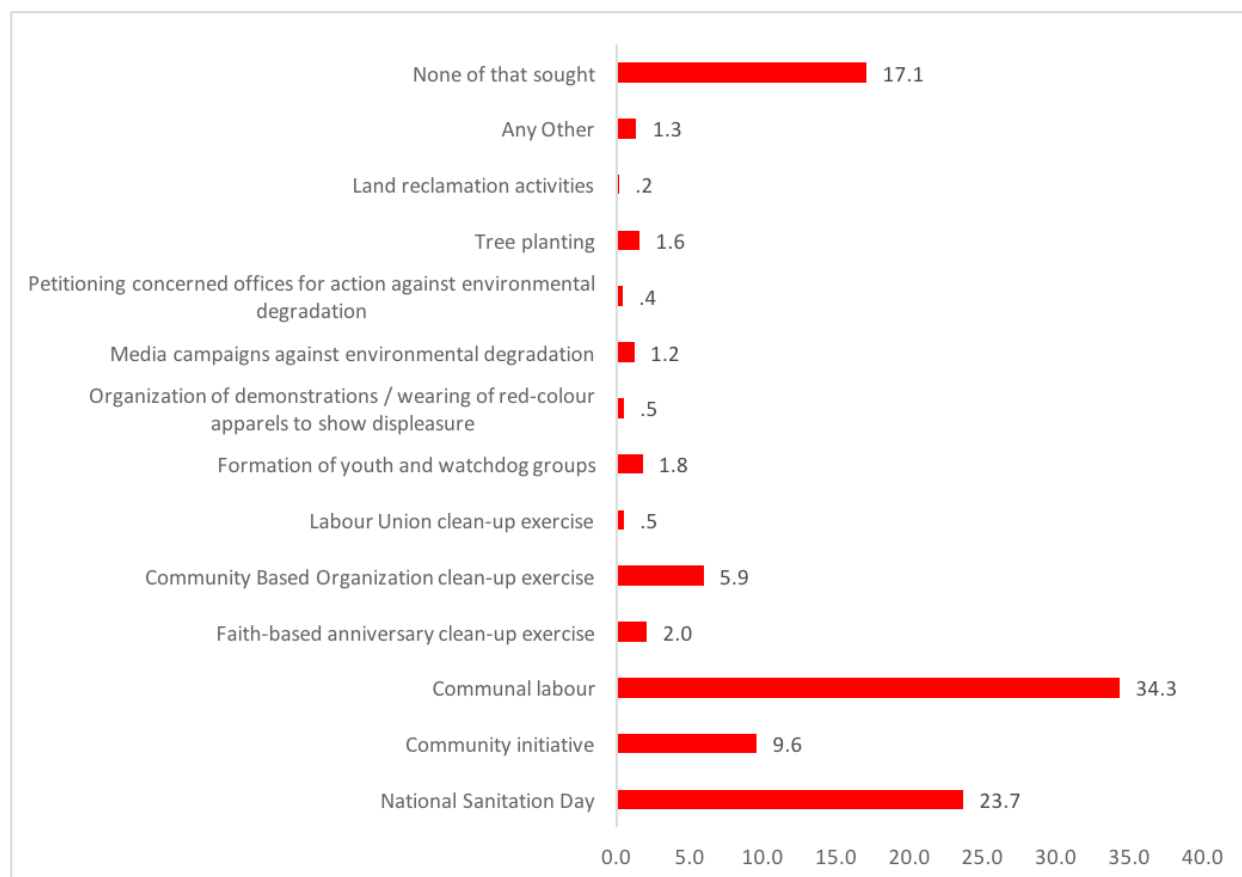
Figure 6.7 Where to report issues on environmental degradation activities



6.10 Environmental programmes held at the communities/localities

It is believed that most communities in Ghana are noted for organising self-help programmes/activities. It was therefore imperative to find out if some of these programmes/activities are geared towards environmental preservation activities. Programmes mentioned by respondents include communal labour (34.3%), National Sanitation Day (23.7%) and clean up exercise (5.9%) organized by Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

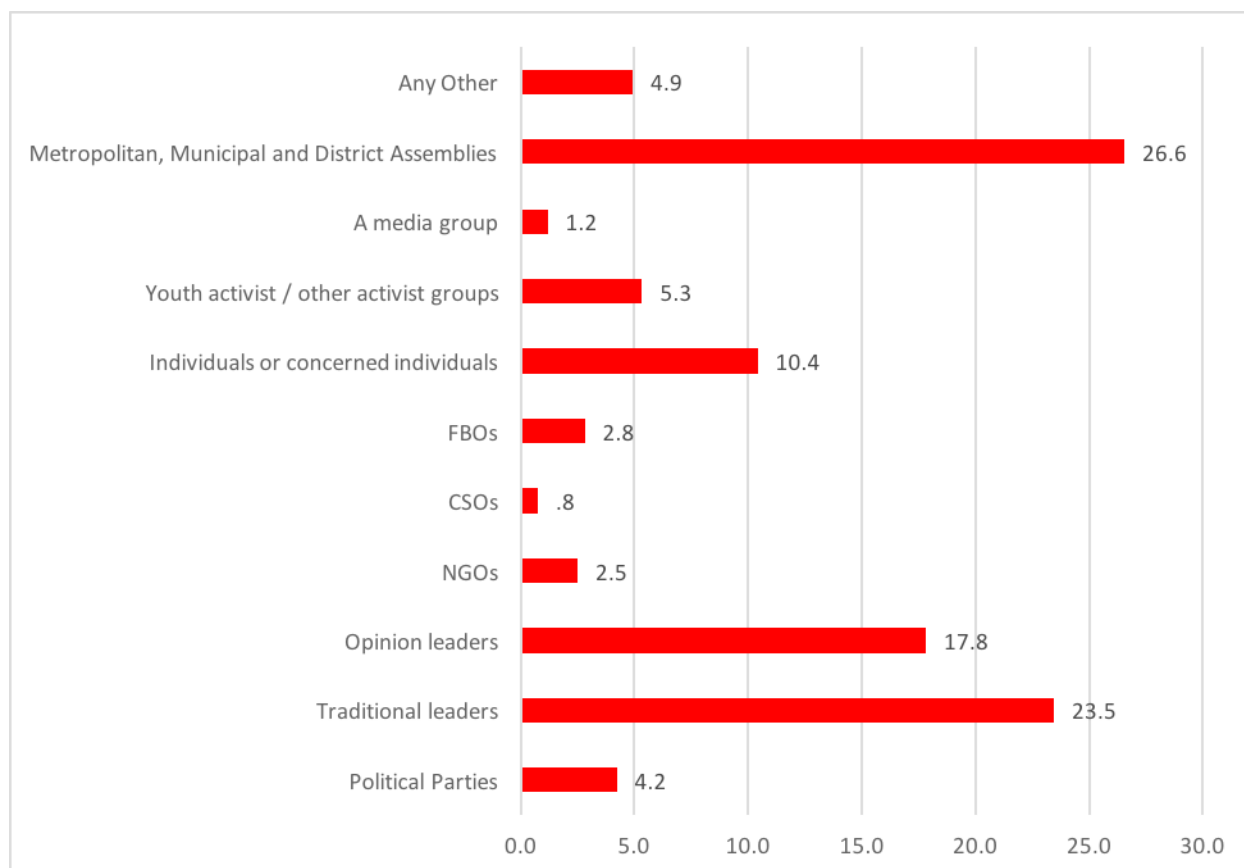
Figure 6.8 Percent distribution of environment programmes organized at the community level



6.11 Environmental intervention programmes organized by individuals/groups

Upon further enquiry, respondents who said environmental intervention programmes/activities have been organized in their community/locality disclosed the organisations/groups/individuals who initiated it. Of the 7192 respondents, 26.6% mentioned the MMDAs, followed by traditional leaders (23.5%), opinion leaders (17.8%), concerned individuals (10.4%) and then youth/other activist groups (5.3%).

Figure 6.9 Percent distribution of organisations that initiated environmental programmes



Respondents were also asked if they will participate in programmes/activities designed to protect the environment from degradation. A little over 9 out of every 10 respondents (90.6%) responded in the affirmative. There were however, 5.6% who said they were not willing to participate in such a programme whilst 3.8% said they don't know what they will do. Though this willingness among respondents to participate in environmental programmes is high, it however conflicts with media report on the low turnout during the National Sanitation Day programme held monthly under the auspices of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

6.12 Measures to combat environmental challenges

The study went further to solicit ideas on how citizens, civil society organizations and business entities can support to address environmental degradation in Ghana.

For citizens to effectively combat environmental degradation, 42% of the respondents called for the organisation of intensive public education/sensitization programmes across the length and breadth of the country. Additionally, 21.3% proposed the formation of youth/watchdog groups whilst 14.2% proposed organization of communal labour. Others were of the view that: appropriate authorities must act promptly and provide reward for individual who support environmental management. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were called upon to focus a bit more on addressing environmental

related issues in Ghana. A significant number of respondents (47.6%) think CSOs must invest in educational programmes in order to equip the citizenry with the requisite knowledge to bring about the necessary attitudinal change. Furthermore, 25.4% called on CSOs to actively engage in advocacy activities on environmental management.

The negative impact of most business activities particularly manufacturing companies on the environment cannot be overemphasized. Thus, 40.9% of the respondents called on environmental protection agencies to ensure that business entities/organizations observe the best environmental practices to ensure a clean environment in Ghana. In addition, 24.2% demanded supervision/monitoring of the activities of business entities in the country by bodies such as the MMDAs and EPA.

6.13 Citizens views on the effectiveness of environmental protection institutions in Ghana

In the fight towards protecting the environment of Ghana for posterity, several laws have been passed, policies formulated and conventions ratified. For the laws and conventions to be binding on the people of Ghana there is the need to put in place effective and efficient institutions and organizations whose duty it is to ensure that the people of Ghana adhere to the laws on the environment and also protect the environment from degradation.

One of the primary objectives of this study was to explore citizens' perceptions of institutional response to environmental management in Ghana. The chapter analyses citizens' knowledge of the organizations or institutions mandated to manage affairs of the environment in Ghana, how such institutions have performed over the years and challenges they encounter. It also looks at suggestions which can assist State organizations/institutions, citizens, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and business entities/organizations to address environmental degradation in the country.

6.14 State Organizations/Institutions Mandated to Manage Affairs of the Environment in Ghana

Table 6.8 shows that about 84.0 percent of respondents were able to mention one state organization/institution mandated to manage the affairs of the environment in Ghana. Although a high number of them (37.2%) mentioned Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), closely followed were those who mentioned the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) with 36.1 percent. Other organizations mentioned were the Forestry Commission (6.4%), Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (3.4%), Minerals Commission (0.7%) and Department of Parks and Gardens (0.1%). Other actors mentioned were Zoomlion Company Limited, Chiefs and Elders, National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), Fire Service and Security Agencies.

Table 6.8 State Institutions/Organizations mandated to manage the affairs of the Environment in Ghana

Response	Frequency	Percent (%)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	3222	37.2
Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs)	3130	36.1
Minerals Commission	58	.7
Forestry Commission	558	6.4
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources	291	3.4
Department of Parks and Gardens	11	.1
Don't Know	1156	13.3
Any other	246	2.8
Total	8672	100.0

There is a similar trend across the urban-rural composition in respect of which state institution is mandated to manage the affairs of the environment in Ghana. There are however, higher proportions of citizens mentioning MMDAs (41.9%) in the urban locality than in the rural locality (31.3%). Males in the urban localities were unaware of the department of parks and gardens as an institution to manage the environment. Generally, there is the need for citizens to be educated on the work of various institutions which have the mandate to protect the environment.

Table 6.9 organization/institution mandated to manage the affairs of the environment by sex and locality

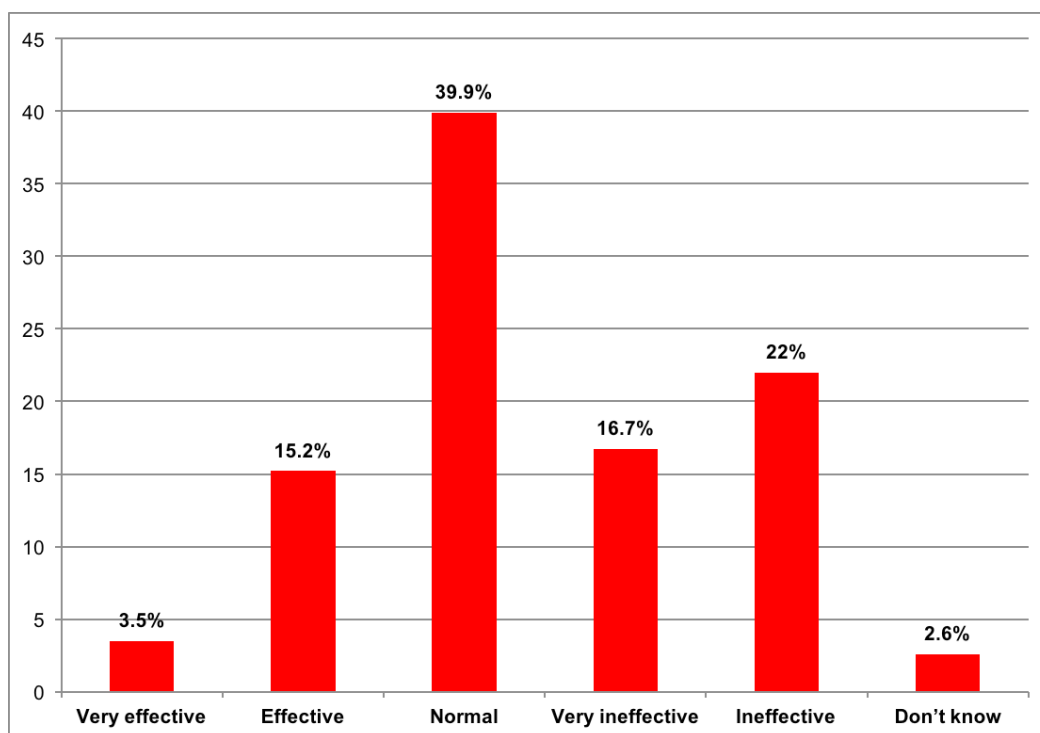
Organizations/Institutions mandated to manage affairs of the Environment/Locality	Total	Male	Female
Urban	3900	2079	1821
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	35.6	41.2	29.3
Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs)	41.9	38.1	46.2
Minerals Commission	0.4	0.3	0.4
Forestry Commission	3.3	3.7	2.9
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources	2.9	3.5	2.4
Department of Parks and Gardens	0.1		0.2
Don't Know	12.6	9.6	16.0
Any other	3.1	3.6	2.6

Rural	4772	2519	2253
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	38.4	44.7	31.4
Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs)	31.3	27.9	35.2
Minerals Commission	0.9	1.0	0.8
Forestry Commission	9.0	9.6	8.3
Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources	3.7	3.9	3.5
Department of Parks and Gardens	0.1	0.1	0.2
Don't Know	13.9	10.6	17.6
Any other	2.6	2.2	3.1

6.15 Performance of State organizations/Institutions mandated to manage the affairs of the environment

From Figure 6.10, a high proportion of respondents (39.9%) assessed the institutions to be normal in discharging their mandate. Another 22% indicated that they were ineffective with 16.7% qualifying their ineffectiveness to be very high. This result should be a matter of concern to the country and the various institutions with the duty to manage the environment.

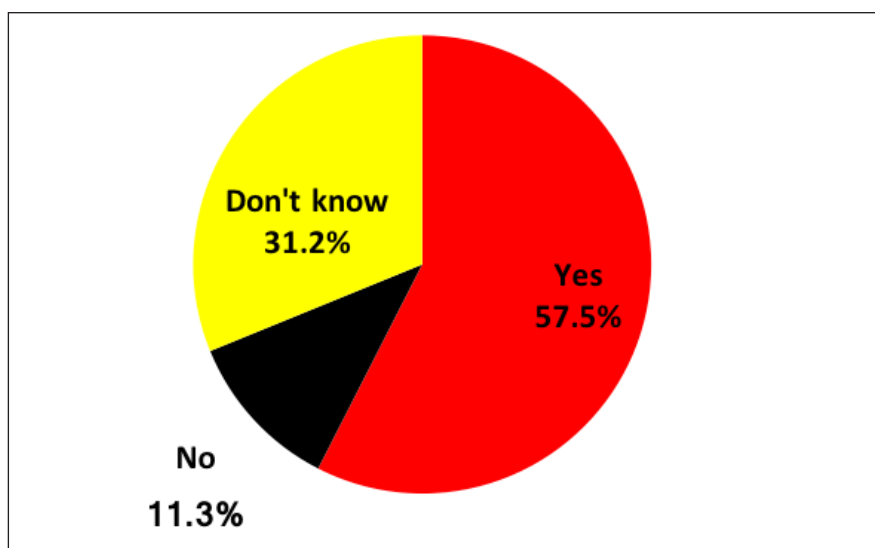
Figure 6.10 Effectiveness of State institutions mandated to manage the affairs of the environment



6.16 Do state organizations/institutions mandated to manage the affairs of the environment encounter challenges?

A relatively high proportion (57.5%) of respondents think state institutions/organizations mandated to manage the environment encounter some challenges. (Figure 6.11)

Figure 6.11 Whether institutions in environmental management encounter challenges



Some of the challenges mentioned were inadequacy of equipment/facilities, lack of funding opportunities, political interference, inadequate staff, lack of qualified staff, lack of training and political appointment of heads.

6.17 Citizens opinions on improving institutional response to environmental management

Respondents gave suggestions which in their view can enable state organizations / institutions to effectively discharge their mandate to minimize/stop environmental degradation in Ghana.

The suggestions given include;

- Providing institutions with modern equipment/facilities.
- Building the capacity of the staff of such institutions so as to enhance the capacity of the institutions as a whole in undertaking their task.
- Recruiting competent staff to work effectively at helping the institutions carry out their mandate.
- Reducing political interference in the work of the institutions. With political authority appointing heads of these institutions, the politicians tend to unduly influence the appointees thereby affecting the institutions' ability to discharge their mandate effectively and dispassionately.
- Equipping the organizations and adequately remunerating staff to whip up their enthusiasm so far as their total commitment is concerned.
- Staffing the institutions adequately. There is the need for these institutions to have the requisite number of staff needed to carry out their mandate.
- Ensuring that these public institutions are able to carry out their mandate without any external influences. Respondents did suggest that the Public Service Commission should be given the authority to appoint their heads.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.0 Introduction

Past and present governments of Ghana have continued to put in place interventions to address corruption, accountability within public institutions and among public servants as well as better management of the environment. Aside the numerous policy interventions that have been put in place to address these, a number of studies have also been carried out to assess the impact of these on nation-building and development. In most instances, the three themes are treated as separate subjects; though addressing one would require giving some attention to the other. For instance, people's engagements in corrupt acts contribute to their inability to account for their stewardship in whichever sector they find themselves. Efforts to improve accountability among individuals and within institutions would therefore require tackling any perceived corrupt behaviours. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which Ghana is signatory to, clearly underscores this assertion. The targets for achieving SDG 16 on building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions include that of substantially reducing corruption and bribery.

Strategies adopted to address these developmental concerns have largely been institutionally driven. The country has tried to address development challenges by either establishing institutions, constituting committees or formulating policies to provide directives for addressing them. Enhancing the capacities of the citizenry to support and participate in addressing these issues has been minimal. Citizens can participate in addressing these development concerns if there is an understanding on how these developmental concerns resonates with the daily lives of citizens. The present study therefore used a questionnaire survey to assess citizens' knowledge and perspectives on the state of corruption, public accountability and environmental governance in Ghana. The study findings would assist in identifying strategies for addressing the issues and also guide in public education and engagements on the subject.

7.1 Summary of findings

The study sought to explore citizens' perception on three distinct but interrelated themes on development; corruption, public accountability and environmental governance. This section presents a summary of key findings emerging from the study.

7.1.1 Corruption

The study looked at citizens' awareness and knowledge of corruption, its causes and effect in Ghana. Majority of the respondents perceived embezzlement (stealing from resources meant for the common good) as the main form of corruption and over half of the respondents acknowledged to having witnessed an act of corruption mainly in the form of bribery (53%), fraud (11.7%),

favouritism (10.8%), extortion (7.7%), paying administration charges (7.6%), embezzlement (6.3%) and conflict of interest (2.5%). Gender analysis shows that, more males (58.6%) than females (41.4%) have witnessed an act of corruption. The 5,062 respondents who indicated that they have witnessed an act of corruption cited among others; the road side (30.3%), schools (18.2%), workplaces (9.8%) and hospitals (9.0%) as places where these acts of corruption happened. A cross analysis of where the perceived acts of corruption happened and type of locality shows that in urban localities corruption usually happens by the road side, workplaces, hospitals and MMDAs whilst in rural localities corruption usually happens in schools.

Corruption in Ghana is believed to be endemic with 91.4 percent ranking the level of corruption in the country as high. The report found that bribery for service delivery in state institutions remained one of the key determinants of corruption in Ghana.

The push factors or causes of this phenomenon is however innate in nature (83.9%) such as greed and selfishness, desire to get rich quickly and satisfaction of a dire need. The other intrinsic attributes mentioned were peer, family and societal pressure, anticipation of gifts and rewards for services rendered, economic hardship and poor remuneration.

The perception that males are more likely to engage in acts of corruption as reported in this study is corroborated by the fact the though few respondents (22.3%) confessed to have engaged in on act of corruption or the other, the majority (62.7%) were males whereas the remaining lie (37.3%) were females. However, the most frequent act of corruption this group of respondents engaged in was bribery (57.3%)

Aside the gender dimension, the research established that the institution one works can expose him or her to corruptible acts. Institutions such as the police service, judicial service, public/civil services and the ministries were more prone to acts of corruption than the State Insurance Company, military and the Ghana Narcotic Board. A key reason respondents gave on the institutions that were more prone to corruptible acts was that they provide essential services hence take advantage of desperate customers.

Though the police service is the institution seen to be most prone to corruptible acts, it was the same place mentioned by majority of the respondents (57.3%) as the institution they would go to report cases of corruption. This could be attributed to the fact that, police personnel are visible and the police service is known to be the institution that handles most wrong doings in the Ghanaian society.

Corruption has several adverse effects and respondents indicated some of them. To this end, they mentioned development of the country, giving the country a bad reputation, rise in poverty levels, lack of basic and social amenities, increases in the debt of the country, lowers government and foreign direct investment, poor road network, poor medical facilities, increase in crime rate, violence and unemployment levels.

With regards to the measures taken to reduce corruption, slightly more than half of the respondents report a case of corruption as they do not think the identity of persons who report cases of

corruption are or will not be protected by anti-corruption agencies. Among the reasons given were that informants were exposed and there was lack of security for informants. Additionally, there is lack of interest in reporting due to inaction by responsible agencies.

7.1.2 Public Accountability

The research established citizens perception about accountability in public institutions. Respondents generally agreed with the definition of public accountability as an obligation to render accounts for one's actions/inactions as a public appointee and the act of bringing public officials to judgment as a result of their actions and inactions during and after tenure of office. Promoting public accountability requires access to public information. However, 84.4 percent of respondents declared that access to public information is either 'Very Difficult', Difficult, Somehow Difficult or Not Accessible.

To make public information accessible to the public, Ghana is considering the Right to Information bill to be passed into law. Close to seventy percent of respondents are however not aware of the existence of this bill. Respondents who were aware of the existence of the bill said it is a bill that grants freedom to access public information (62.6%) whereas 15.9 percent said they have heard about it, but do not know what it is. Eighty-eight percent of respondents called for Parliament to pass the bill into law soon as practicable. It is expected that the bill will increase public participation which will consequently promote accountability (35.5%), reduce corruption among public institutions (33.6%) and open government businesses to public scrutiny (16.0%) and enhance transparency.

Assessing citizen's knowledge on Public Accountability structures at the national level, the study enquired about respondent's knowledge of the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament and its activities. On the role of the committee, 54.9% of the respondents mentioned that, the committee investigates the activities and administration of MDAs/MMDAs with 35.1% saying that, the committee examines audited accounts of the MDAs. On the impact of the committee's work on accountability in state institutions, more than half of the respondents (53.8%), felt that, their activities has helped exposed corruption in some public institutions, helped minimize the frequency and level of corruption (15.3%), helped improve transparency in public administration (12.1%) and also helped guard the public purse (5.0%).

With respect to citizens' perception about accountability within district assemblies, only 31.2 percent of respondents were aware of the mandate of the assemblies to publish their accounts. Fifty-four percent of respondents who have ever heard or noticed the publication of such accounts mentioned the district assemblies' notice board as their source of information. Almost all (96.8%) had never sought for the expenditure accounts of their district assemblies. To many, they are ignorant of the fact that they can request for the expenditure accounts of their districts assemblies. Assessment of accountability among various public institutions shows a high number of respondents indicating the military as more open about its operations, transparent about its accounts and appointments on the basis of merit. Also a high number of them mentioned that the police listens and responds to complaints by the public.

The major challenge to public accountability in Ghana as mentioned by 35.4 percent of respondents is the influence of political parties in the activities of public institutions, lack of information (15.3%), long bureaucratic measures (13.8%), resource constraints (12.1%) and delays in parliamentary proceedings in passing bills (7.8%) were other reasons given.

7.1.3 Environmental Governance

Under the study, the research sought to establish citizens environmental concerns and their perceptions of institutional response to environmental management in Ghana. Close to half of the respondents (45.7%) cited poor sanitation as their major environmental concern. Others mentioned illegal mining (39.6%) and illegal timber logging/lumbering (4.3%). On regional basis five regions namely Ashanti, Central, Eastern, Upper West and Western postulated illegal mining as their major national environmental concern whereas the Greater Accra, Northern, Upper East, Volta regions indicated poor sanitation as their major national environmental concern.

More than half of the respondents who mentioned illegal mining as the major environmental concern in their locality were not aware of the licensing procedure for acquiring a legal mining concession whereas 77.4 percent of them mentioned that illegal mining was taking place in their communities with traditional leaders playing a lead role in the activity. For those who were aware of the procedure, more than half of them mentioned the Minerals Commission as the institution that issues out licenses to small scale mining companies.

From the perspective of respondents, their three major causes of environmental concerns mentioned were indiscipline on the part of Ghanaians, unemployment and individuals/industries desire to amass wealth. Activities and behaviors which affect the environment negatively were indiscriminate dumping of waste, indiscriminate felling of trees and apathy towards environmental cleanliness which according to 58.3 percent of the respondents results in diseases and sicknesses. On citizens perspectives on institutional response to environmental management, 76.5% of respondents interviewed knew where to report cases on environmental concern. For 26.5% of them the MMDAs was the place to report issues regarding the environment, followed by the EPA (19.2%). Another 18% mentioned the Assembly man/woman with 14.9 percent indicating the police. Also, programmes such as communal labour, national sanitation day, community based organization clean-ups, faith based anniversary clean-up exercises have been held by individuals and groups like the MMDAs, traditional leaders, opinion leaders, FBOs and youth activist in addressing environmental related issues in Ghana.

Urban localities had a high number of respondents citing the MMDAs as the organization/institution mandated to manage the affairs of the environment in Ghana while rural localities had a higher proportion of them mentioning EPA.

7.2 Conclusion

The concept of public accountability has a direct relationship with corruption. Thus, with transparency and good public accountability measures, the problem of corruption can be addressed (Leitao, 2016). The same relationship cannot be said of environmental governance. The concept of environmental governance does not have a direct relationship with corruption. The literature suggests that two partial effects can be distinguished in terms of corruption and environment relationship. On the one hand, corruption may reduce the stringency of environmental regulation (Lopez and Mitra 2000, Damania et al. 2000) or the effectiveness with which environmental regulation is enforced (Hafner 1998, Lippe 1999), thus leading to higher environmental degradation. On the other hand, corruption has been found to reduce prosperity (Mauro 1995, Hall and Jones 1999, Kaufmann et al. 1999), which according to another strand of literature (Welsch, 2003; Grossman and Krueger 1995), may lead to lower land degradation at some income levels and to higher land degradation at others. Thus, even though corruption is related to environmental issues, the relationship is a bit complex.

Nevertheless, good environmental governance cannot be achieved in a society where corruption is on the rise and individuals and institutions do not adhere to public accountability measures. The Ghanaian economy is largely dependent on natural resources. The livelihood of a substantial proportion of the population depends on the environment. It was therefore not surprising that, environmental concerns associated with illegal mining was ranked second in the list of environmental concerns identified by respondents in this study.

The role of chiefs and families in managing some natural resources in Ghana further complicates the issue of environmental management. Government has limited control over environmental resources in the country, which are mostly controlled by chiefs or family heads. The respondents in this study mentioned traditional leaders as the most critical actors in illegal mining in Ghana. If there is lack of accountability on the part of government, as well as, chiefs and family heads on environmental resources, issues of corruption will set in.

The response and contribution of the citizenry in addressing complexities of these phenomena cannot be ignored. One of the causes of environmental degradation mentioned by some respondents in this study was the desire of individuals and industries to amass wealth for themselves. This behaviour has been established as one of the push factors of corruption.

The continued prevalence of corruption in all its forms, low trust in public institutions/actors to fight corruption and address poor environmental practices calls for refocusing attention on strengthening both individual and institutional responses to addressing these issues. Policy interventions and institutional engagements may not be sufficient in addressing the issues. Citizens of Ghana need to be better informed and empowered to desist from acts of corruption, uphold principles of accountability and eschew acts that negatively affect the environment and participate in addressing the negative effects of these in building the country of Ghana.

To help tackle the issue of environmental degradation, 47.6% of respondents called on CSOs to invest in educational programmes. In addition, 42% called for the organization of intensive public education/sensitization programmes for citizens with 40.9% of them indicating that the environmental protection agencies must ensure that business entities/organizations observe the best environmental practices.

Addressing the problem of corruption, public accountability and environmental governance in Ghana are critical to achieving SDGs 6, 15 and 16. There is the need for targeted and rigorous education of Ghanaians on the issues particular as it relates to the country's realization of targets set under the SDGs, a major development framework for the country.

7.3 Recommendations

To conclude, a set of recommendations in the following areas have been outlined.

- Public education institutions, CSOs and local government structures should take up the responsibility of educating Ghanaians on the different dimensions of corruption. This will contribute to not only enhancing the capacities of citizens to eschew corruption in all its forms but also constructively support to fight the canker. Citizens also need to be educated on how to demand accountability from their district assemblies and other public institutions. Additionally, there is the need for intensive public education/sensitization programmes on good environmental practices. The EPA must ensure that business entities/ organizations observe best environmental practices. Institutions that violate required regulations should be given stiffer punishments.
- One major policy recommendation from the study is that, there should be nation-wide education by public education institutions on structures and mechanisms put in place to enhance accountability within Ghana's public sector. This intervention among others will contribute to improving accountability within public institutions.
- The study participants also called on parliament to as a matter of agency pass bills that promote public accountability like the Right to Information bill and reduce the long bureaucratic processes in institutions.
- The findings of the study support the need for intensification of government's efforts at addressing poor sanitation through active involvement of citizens.
- The results also support the need for government to adequately resource and strengthen institutions which have the mandate to tackle corruption and protect our environment from degradation or over-exploitation.
- The study participants observed that service delivery in state institutions is seen as a key avenue for corruption and therefore need proper management. To this, the Executive arm of government is expected to tackle the issue of corruption in Ghana by ensuring that appropriate system for sanctioning/punishing corrupt officials are put in place. The Legislature must also see to it that stringent measures are put in place to deal with corrupt officials who are found culpable of embezzling public funds. For the Judiciary it is expected that, the integrity of the judicial system is upheld in dispensing justice on corrupt cases.

A holistic approach is recommended for addressing corruption, public accountability and environmental governance in Ghana. People may become corrupt in order to exploit environmental resources or provide/receive services. It is therefore critical for Ghana to have good accountability structures to help address corruption and disturbing environmental concerns. Overall, the country needs to adopt an integrative approach which targets all relevant actors, including citizens to address corruption, public accountability and environmental governance issues.

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